

Town of Lyme
12175 NYS Route 12E, Chaumont, NY 13622

September 13, 2025

Solar Law Public Hearing 10:00 a.m.

Call to Order

Supervisor Millington opened the public hearing at 10:05 a.m.

He read the notice of Public Hearing out loud:

Proposed Local Law: Solar Law for the Town of Lyme

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Local Law has been introduced before the Town Board of the Town of Lyme to repeal and replace its current Solar Law within the Town.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing in connection with the proposed legislation will be held at the Chaumont Fire Hall, located at 11385 NYS Route 12E, Chaumont, New York on September 13, 2025, at 10:00 AM. An opportunity to be heard in regard thereto will then and there be given to all persons interested in this proposed legislation.

Supervisor Millington explained that each person who signed up to speak will be given three minutes. After everyone has had a chance to speak once, individuals are welcome to speak again.

Resident & Public Comments

Michael Docteur

- Resident of Cape Vincent, with land on Robinson Road and Old Town Springs Road.
- Expressed strong opposition to solar development in the Town of Lyme.
- Thanked the Town for its efforts to protect residents.

Paul Lobisenski

- Raised a concern: "If solar is allowed near the bird sanctuary, will the sanctuary eventually become a solar site?"

Paul Carr (Commented Twice)

- Stated the current law is ineffective as written.

- Urged the Town to embrace wind and solar development responsibly, including large-scale solar.
- Cited definitions from the New York State Constitution and NYSEERDA supporting renewable energy.
- Authored a white paper with his opinions and recommendations.
- Warned that banning solar in agricultural districts will not hold up legally — NYS could override the Town.
- Proposed amendments to strengthen the law, particularly regarding co-utilization (agrivoltaics) — the dual use of farmland for both crops and solar.
- Recommended that solar farms should follow international building codes.
- Pointed out that AES promotes co-utilization on their website and should be held to that standard.

Sullivan Moles (Commented Twice)

- Stated he is deeply invested in the land and future of the community.
- Supports renewable energy in general, but not in favor of projects like Limestone Solar and Riverside Solar.
- Supports the new draft solar law.
- He stated that Daniel Postal, said that most of the energy produced by this solar project will go to urban areas like New York City.

Karen Greene

- Resident of Chaumont for 20 years.
- Raised a question about long-term maintenance of the solar facilities if they are approved.

Ted Smith

- Retired Senior Wildlife Biologist.
- Lived in Chaumont since 1966, highly familiar with local wildlife.
- Emphasized that the Town of Lyme has the best wildlife habitat in all of NYS.
- Spoke in detail about local species and ecosystems.

- Urged the Town to pass the solar law to protect these natural resources.

Kris Mangone

- Resident for 30 years, living directly across from the proposed solar site.
- Already noticing negative impacts on wildlife.
- Supports responsible wind and solar, but believes the current proposals are not responsible.
- Asked: If damage occurs to homes or property, who is accountable?
- Found no provisions in the current law addressing this issue.
- Suggested that NYS needs to better evaluate the placement of solar farms.

Kelly Sanford

- Lifelong resident of the Town of Lyme; lived on Route Road for 25 years.
- Concerned about the disruption to wildlife and natural beauty.
- Thanked the Town for its efforts to protect residents.
- Stated she would be surrounded by solar if current projects are approved.

Sara Freda

- City resident who purchased property on Three Mile Point.
- Has worked for Jefferson County and helped develop solar laws in other towns.
- Offered her expertise to assist the Town of Lyme.
- Suggested hosting work sessions to improve the solar law.

Jim Hayes

- Spoke against solar farms.
- Highlighted potential decline in home values.
- Noted that many people moved here to escape city life, and solar farms would diminish rural appeal.
- Believes few residents actually support these solar projects.

Keri Young (Commented Twice)

- Seasonal resident planning to retire in the Town of Lyme.

- Moved from Leray to avoid solar development.
- Later clarified the need for a moratorium on small-scale solar projects.

Shirley Williams

- Long-time resident.
- Spoke about the Town's rich history and past projects that were rightfully denied.
- Urged the community to fight for what they want.

Closing Statement:

Supervisor Millington said that the meeting has been very informative, and the Board will take the comments and concerns into consideration. He said that the residents should also contact their local legislators.

Deputy Supervisor Bouquin thanked everyone for coming. He also thanked the Chaumont Fire for their services.

Resolution 2025-213: Councilmember Bourquin made the motion suspend the public hearing until the regular board meeting October 8, 2025, at 6:10 p.m. at the Chaumont Fire Hall; seconded by Councilmember Jerome; all were in favor, and the motion was carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ariana Henderson

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Town Clerk