

Belmont Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

19:00 o'clock on January 20, 2021

Opening

The regular meeting of the Belmont Energy Committee Meeting Minutes was called to order at 19:00 o'clock on January 20, 2021 as a virtual meeting and by Marty Bitner.

Present

- Marty Bitner – Co-chair
- James Booth – Co-chair
- Cabell Eames
- Travis Franck
- Brian Kopperl
- Don Mercier
- Greg Piotrowicz
- Ben Thiverge
- Alex Thurston
- Roger Wrubel
- Claus C Becker (note taker)
- Phil Thayer (guest)

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the December 16, 2020 meeting was approved unanimously after minor amendments.

Open Issues

Advocacy

On January 28th, Roger Wrubel will present the work of the Belmont group (Brian Kopperl, James Booth, Marty Bitner, Phil Thayer) participating in the Rocky Mountain Institute's Building Electricity Accelerator workshop, to the other 16 Massachusetts municipal groups.

<https://rmi.org/our-work/building-electrification/>

Outreach

Committee started planning of a virtual outreach event to provide background for the public for the non-binding resolution re emission-free buildings. Goal is to educate Belmontonians regarding performance of electrified utilities and to counter common misperceptions, e.g. that heat pumps don't work in cold weather.

Committee agreed with James B's suggestion that we should provide use cases/ testimonials. Work was divided as follows:

Claus B: Solar Hot Water

Marty B: Heat Pump Hot Water

Roger W and Brian Kopperl: Induction stovetops

James B: Heat pumps

Adrienne: Propose three different dates for the event

Suggestions to be discussed at next meeting.

Other business

- No news re McClean

- Phil Thayer reported that progress on the Chenery solar roof is blocked by the installer's not being allowed access to Belmont Light and the solar installers to the roof. School committee might be able to help

- Long-term capital committee member, Claus B, reported that a process is being developed to scan the horizon for upcoming projects and to prioritize them

according to various metrics, including adherence to strategies adopted by Town Meeting

- Travis F reported that the Structural Change Committee had met twice. Their mandate is to look for permanent ways to save Belmont money
- Travis F reported that the Lightboard Advisory Committee discussed how time-of-use charges could be used to support goal of strategic electrification. Also, the discussion of best use of the landfill site continues. Options for use depend on capping the site which is expensive. Once the area has been capped, ownership could be transferred to Belmont.

Support for climate bill S2295

The committee voted to support the passage of S2295, a landmark climate action bill that passed the legislature with clear support and was vetoed by the governor. The vote on giving James B and Marty B “authority to sign on to advocacy for s2295 Next Gen Roadmap for MA on behalf of Energy Committee.” passed with three abstentions, zero “no” votes, and five “yes” votes.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 20:20 o'clock by Marty Bitner.