

Belmont Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2021

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DATE: January 20, 2022
TIME: 9:12 AM

Opening

The regular meeting of the Belmont Energy Committee Meeting Minutes was called to order at 19:00 o'clock on November 17, 2021 as a virtual meeting by Marty Bitner.

Present

- Marty Bitner – Co-chair
- James Booth – Co-chair
- Travis Franck
- Brian Kopperl
- Francesca Kitch
- Greg Piotrowicz
- Ben Thivierge
- 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 October 16, 2021 meeting was approved unanimously after minor amendments.

Open Issues

Bel Mont (McLean) rental units: Debrief after planning board meeting last week. James Booth and Brian Kopperl summarized. Agreement that outcome was somewhat positive in regard to furthering electrification. The roof is not flat which makes it less simple to install solar. Brian Kopperl provided a spreadsheet that showed a payback of around seven years for the investment in solar. If the developer won't be required to do so, we have suggested that the roof at least be made solar ready.

Roger Wrubel noted that there is no resolution on wiring all parking spots to enable charging for electric vehicles. Current plan is that 20% of spots will be wired for charging. Committee recommended that the co-chairs reach out to the Planning Board.

- solar economics w less than 8-year payback,
- solar-ready bylaw for townhouses,
- add conduits for all EV spots to ensure ready to install charger,
- electric water heating,

Goal is to get an all-electric building at the McLean site.

Marty Bitner informed us that if the committee forms a small group to pursue a project, then that subgroup is subject to open meeting law, including requirements to write minutes. Individuals can pursue projects on their own and can share documents, articles and videos with other committee members, without it becoming part of the public record.

Social Media Strategy discussion:

We have Twitter (?), Facebook (www.facebook.com/belmont.climate), Instagram (@BelmontClimate) and YouTube (Belmont Climate Action) accounts. These have been used these to promote events, like HeatSmart Belmont. We don't have metrics for traffic, but sometimes people reach out after reading a posting. Significant potential to do more.

Town vehicle electrification

Infrastructure bill has funding for School buses. Belmont should look at getting some of those funds. Francesca Kitch volunteered to reach out to Superintendent Phelan.

Reports:

- Chenery Solar project: Roger Wrubel reported that the solar installation is progressing and that several teachers had expressed an interest in using the array for teaching purposes. Phil added that early January is most likely time when array can start producing energy.
There was agreement that a celebration should be organized to celebrate this event which is long in the making.
Phil Thayer's role in this success was recognized.
- Structural Change Impact Group: Travis Franck reported progress in writing a final report by end of the year. 84 meetings this year. There will sections on town vehicle electrification, expansion of solar, and use of the landfill.
- Long-Term Capital Planning Committee: Claus Becker had no updates to present.
- LBAC: Travis Franck reported that that committee is moving forward towards the change in organizational structure.
- Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) grant: James Booth reported that interviews are progressing slowly. Goal is to understand how outreach has been going regarding climate action and identifying impediments.
- BMHS solar procurement: Brian Kopperl reported that there is a risk that the solar array may be removed from the budget. This would happen in December. The committee discussed ways to ensure that decision-makers understand the revenue implications of dropping solar investment.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 21:00 o'clock by Marty Bitner. Next meeting is December 15th.