

Energy Committee

2018 MAY -9 AM 10:07

Minutes

April 11, 2018

Attending: Roger Colton, Don Mercier, Travis Franck, Marty Bitner, James Booth, Jenny Marusiak

Meeting start: 7:37 pm

Announcements:

- Colton announced he would step down as Chair at year-end so that a new chair could step up. He will remain on the committee. He feels like much positive change is in the air and that a new chair with enthusiasm and knowledge would be useful. The Committee Chair is appointed within the Committee. He noted that there is talk of expanding the Light Board to include the Chair of the Energy Committee, although there is no solid action in that direction yet.
- Colton announced that Jenny Marusiak is moving and will need to be replaced. He would like to strive for diversifying the Committee.
- Franck asked for clarification on vacancies within the Committee. Fred has left his position and no longer fills a school position. Colton suggested we can find someone on a school green team, and that we should be able to find someone given the changes taking place. Mercier suggested a letter to the editor to ask for volunteers. Colton would like us all to seek out new people. Booth's term will expire this year; he is appointed by the Superintendent as a school appointee.

Approval of Minutes

February and March minutes were approved.

Review actions for Belmont Climate Action Roadmap (Booth/ Marusiak)

- The Roadmap identifies three main tracks for Town to focus on. (Note that other actions will be happening too.) Heat pumps, EVs, getting electricity clean.
- Mercier mentioned we needed to be opportunistic about getting information out. Brokers should hand out information. The Building Department could hand out information when people apply for permits. BL could provide information when it gets new accounts.
- Incentives will be important too. Bitner mentioned some people have looked into incentives and they're not enough. Note that Alternative Energy Credits work for heat pumps, but people aren't familiar with them.
- At section 4, clarify that to meet target, we have to go fossil free. Also do this on fact sheet and in executive summary.
- Mercier said you need to make financial case using payback. Bitner noted that some incentives may be necessary at this stage.
- Bitner stressed that Belmont needs to look at incentives—make sure they're enough and that Belmont Light and residents are taking advantage of available resources.
- Franck: Clarified that the current question is "Are we comfortable taking these three main recommendations to our first round of stakeholders?"

- Colton: We need people to understand that what we've been doing so far isn't working. Also, we have to make sure people understand electricity has to decarbonize as we increase our use of electricity to replace other end uses.
- Colton: This provides clear direction where the Climate Action Plan does not.
- Franck: We used the new BL procurement trajectory, but we could pick something more ambitious.
- Booth: We could recommend a much more aggressive target.
- Colton: Goal should be best in class.
- Franck: We are behind, so we should be making up for lost time. Let's suggest 100% by 2022 as a starting point. (about 20% per year). (chart)
- Delay causes 30% more damage.
- Use accumulation charts side by side.
- Use appendices if we need more detail on parts.

Roadmap next steps:

- Add new steps and complete unfinished pieces.
- Marusiak will circulate draft to Committee on 4/18
- Send comments to Marusiak by April 25
- Present at Town Meeting if we get time from Mike Widmer

Proposal for curbside compost:

Bitner and Colton met with Priya and school composting group about curbside composting. Colton contacted the state about grant program to make sure a curbside grant would not prohibit the school composting grant. He also contacted Garbage to Garden about curbside composting. The South Portland pilot coordinator interested in talking to us. Colton will keep us uprised. He called Jay Marcott, but hasn't heard back. Marusiak will provide Colton with contact information for town volunteers working on curbside composting.

Town Meeting proposal to ban plastic bags:

Colton- does the plastic bag ban fall within our mandate? Does the Energy Committee want to make a recommendation on the proposal? Booth: He doesn't think this should be our role. Colton: doesn't want us to fall into the trap of weighing in on everything. Franck moved to have the Energy Committee take no position on warrant article. Marusiak seconded. 1 abstention, 5 in favor.

Colton asked Travis if he could have the new BL GM come to a meeting.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday May 8th at 7:30 PM (art gallery in the Homer Building). June meeting will be Tuesday, June 5th at 7 (unless we can't get a room at 7.)

Meeting adjourned at 9:30.