

**Joint Meeting of the
Light Board Advisory Committee
and the
Energy Committee**

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Meeting Minutes

Minutes of Meeting held on January 18, 2018
Belmont Town Hall
7:15 pm

Attending members: Chair Steve Klionsky, Bob Forrester, Sarah Jackson, Mark McVay, Travis Franck

Attending Energy Committee Members: Roger Colton, Jenny Marusiak, Don Mercer, James Booth, Tony Barnes, Marty Bitner, Travis Franck

Non-attending LBAC members: Ralph Jones, Roy Epstein

Non-attending Energy Committee Members: Fred Domenci, Andrew Healy

Belmont Light (BL) attending: Acting General Manager Craig Spinale, Aidan Leary, Becca Keane

Also Attending: Light Board Member Adam Dash

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Called to order by the Chairs at 7:18pm.

II. BELMONT LIGHT 2017 CUSTOMER SATISFACTION STUDY RESULTS

- TOPIC: Review the results of the customer survey that was conducted for Belmont Light by consultant Great Blue during August 2017.
- Spinale presented the results of the survey summarized in presentation slides. Some of the highlights that were mentioned:
 - Customers were generally satisfied with Belmont Light's service.
 - ~80% of the respondents knew that BL was community owned.
 - ~55% felt that BL should consider community goals before simply operating a utility according to normal industry practices.
 - ~75% believe the electricity rates are fine.
 - There is more room to expand awareness about BL's energy efficiency and DSM opportunities; Green Choice isn't well known.

- More than half of respondents were willing to pay more per month for renewable energy; only 30% weren't willing to pay more.
- Barnes suggested that BL proactively reach out to customers who pull building permits as a point of engagement for letting residents know about energy efficiency and greening options.
- Dash stated that the Light Board felt that the Willingness to Pay for Renewable Energy results suggest that LBAC and Energy Committee should look into adding more renewables to Belmont Light's energy portfolio; when the Light Board reviewed the survey results (Dec 2017), they interpreted this result as interest and willingness to have more renewables in the Town.
- Bitner suggested that, along with the ~54% of people willing to pay more for renewable energy, the ~16% that replied "Don't Know" didn't choose the "\$0" choice, so the percentage willing to pay more might be higher than 54%.

III. BELMONT LIGHT POWER SUPPLY POLICY DISCUSSION

- TOPIC: Review and comment on a new Power Supply Policy (draft provided) that would give guidance to Belmont Light's power purchasing decisions.
- Forrester would like to clarify that Belmont's Climate Action Plan (CAP) covers Town-wide emissions, not just the electric sector that BL has more direct control of.
- Dash suggested that the Policy allow for collaboration among LBAC, Energy Committee, and Light Board. Collaboration is key to community involvement (Section V of draft policy).
- Franck wanted to ensure that the 5-year energy budget duration didn't restrict consideration from longer-term renewable standards, and longer-term purchasing contracts. Consensus was that the draft policy didn't restrict these options.
- There was group discussion about Public Policy vs. Operational decisions, and the extent that Belmont Light's General Manager can unilaterally make these different types of decisions. The general sentiment was that the LB and LBAC should consult on all Policy decisions, and whenever possible on Operational decisions.
- Contractual Transparency was agreed upon by attendees. Meeting participants agreed that transparency should be goal. Franck suggested that language be added to encourage BL to review contracts for opportunities to minimize confidential sections.
- Marusiak suggested that the burden of contract redaction be place on the energy supplier; that the supplier should provide a redacted contract to post publicly.
- Marusiak suggested Section IX allow for increased electricity demand, which will likely be required as Belmont residents electrify heating and transport. Electrification is important to do as Belmont meets its CAP goal.
- Forrester wanted a letter or glossary to help explain the intent of the policy for the general public. (The group agreed this policy should be posted publicly upon approval.)

- Colton explained that the draft policy directs BL to meet the new State IOU's clean energy standards (CES) 2018 renewable target. BL should then incrementally increase the renewable target according to the State's CES policy in subsequent years.
- In 2018, BL's current contracts would achieve approximately 18% clean energy. (~10% wind RECs and 8% hydro)
- Barnes and McVay would like to know what the cost of buying RECs is, so that the Committees could evaluate what the monthly bill cost would be to, for example, double Belmont's renewable energy.
- Marusiak wondered that we'll need 100% target, since electricity is the easier sector to reduce (compared to transport and home heating).
- Bitner wondering about new buildings and solar such as the new high school. The forthcoming high school is an example of new renewable energy opportunities for Belmont Light.
- Next actions: The Policy would be revised to make sure the intent of the policy is to follow the CES (or more aggressive) in 2018 and continue into the future years, until this policy is revised again.
- Franck asked if Green Choice RECs count toward this goal. Yes, the limited RECs purchased via Green Choice have been included in BL's reporting.
- Franck noted that the CES includes more than solar and wind. Nuclear, biomass, and other energy sources are also included. The topic of which sources Belmont would like to purchase its power from could be reviewed in future Policy revisions.
- McVay would like 'modest' rate increase to be defined (a phrase in the draft Policy). No decision was made.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

- Adjourned 9:28pm