

Belmont Energy Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2015

2015 AUG 25 PM 2: 34

Attending: Ian Todreas, Tony Barnes, Jacob Knowles, Roger Colton, Gerald Boyle (guest), Donald Mercier, Andy Healey, James Booth (guest)

8:00 a.m: Co-chair Ian Todreas opened the meeting.

March minutes read and approved as amended.

Tony Barnes led discussion regarding defining completed actions and short to midterm and long-term actions that the Energy Committee could undertake (working with others in the community). Tony began with a discussion of the "charge" to the Energy Committee. The Charge is a formal charge adopted by the Board of Selectmen, based on action by Town Meeting calling for the creation of the Energy Committee. Ian noted that while the Committee is named the "Energy Committee," the Charge is actually to pursue those actions that address climate change generally.

A discussion occurred on whether the community remains interested in pursuing climate change. A discussion occurred on the value of surveys and whether surveys lead to actionable items or support for actionable items. Roger volunteered to research (and collect where possible) existing community surveys asking the public whether they remain "on-board" with actions to be taken to address climate change and what individuals feel they are personally doing to address climate change.

A discussion occurred regarding how best to re-do the greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory that was used in developing the original Climate Action Plan for the local community. Ian indicated that the software that was previously used (from ICLEI) is no longer available (and would no longer be considered state-of-the-art in any event). Ian and James to follow-up on the available software to use.

Tony continued to lead the Committee discussion through short-, medium- and long-term actions. Don Mercier handed out a paragraph (reproduced below). Ian asked Don to compile and present available research that supported the statements made in his paragraph. No discussion occurred of Don's handout, other than to indicate that it was "too specific" and did not relate to the broader goals and activities that the Committee was seeking to address.

Two process questions were discussed. First, at Jake's suggestion, the Committee agreed that Tony should be authorized to do those edits, including consolidation of the various lists of potential actions, to present. The group concurred. Second, at Roger's suggestion, there was a general agreement that the next meeting (and possibly the next two meetings) should be evening meetings so that the Committee was not confined by the de facto one hour limit on discussion of 8:00 morning meetings. Agreement was reached that future meetings will be scheduled for Tuesday evenings at 6:00, to be scheduled and noticed for May and beyond.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05am.

Minutes taken by Roger Colton.

Reproduction of Don Mercier handout

I will comment on the advantages of using an electric clothes dryer. In the heating season, the clothes exhaust can be used to help heat the house. The heat gained will reduce the required heat needed from the main house heating furnace. You'll need the proper device to divert the exhaust to the inside or the outside of the house. The proper diverter will have a filter on it when exhausting the exhaust into the house. The moist air from this exhaust will help reduce the need for a humidifier, thus reducing your energy bill. When the exhaust is vented to the outside this energy is wasted. The air required to be supplied to the clothes dryer will be supplied by infiltrated air throughout the house and down your chimney this means you are using the house heat through this infiltration to supply the dryer which is also wasted energy. Gas clothes dryers cannot be used in this fashion because you cannot exhaust gas fumes into the house.