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Belmont Energy Committee Meeting Minutes –9/13/12

Attendees: Jan Kruse
Anthony Alcorn
Ian Todreas
Lauri Mancinelli
Chris McVay
Roger Colton
Peter Castanino

Ian Todreas opened the meeting at 8:10am

The minutes of the 8/09/12 BEC meeting were reviewed. Roger Colton moved to accept the minutes and Chris McVay seconded.

Roger presented an update on the solar initiative as follows.

- The RFP was released in mid-July and bids were received from three firms by August 20. These are Broadway Electric, Solar Solutions and IRC (International Roof Company) who did the Belmont Hill School solar installation. We interviewed these firms last Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, made a decision and forwarded a recommendation to Dr. Kingston.
- The expectation is that the solar installation will be complete by the end of the current school year.
- Roger noted that the sizes of the proposed solar installations varied from 900 KW to 1.5 MW as the different firms elected to use different amounts of the candidate roof areas.
- The cost of to the schools for the solar array generated electric power varied from 8.5 cents/kwh to 11 cents/kwh across the three proposals. This contrasts with 15 cents/kwh for electric power from BMLD.
- Under the BMLD Net Metering policy, excess power generated by the solar array is sent to the grid and BMLD pays the schools 5 cents/kwh for that power.
- Jan asked if the installation can be intermixed with school time. Roger responded saying that cranes can be brought in on the weekends and most of the materials moved to the roofs in off school time.
- Roger noted that the PPA (Purchase Power Agreement) includes the price of new roofs on the schools (but not in the Broadway Electric proposal).
- Jan asked if there was any tracking and reporting of the solar array performance to which Roger replied there was a guarantee that 80% of the potential solar electric

power will be delivered and that there will be a kiosk that will report real time and aggregated power production data.

- Roger noted that in the IRC proposed there is an incentive rebate for other buildings and schools in town to install solar array systems.
- Roger noted that Roger Kliansky headed an advisory group for Dr. Kingston

Jan suggested that a local media article be published at the time the solar array installation contract is awarded.

Ian reported on the Transportation Subcommittee:

- The town has signed an agreement with NewRide, a program under MassRide, which provides traveler rewards and incentives for town employees, to take effect in September. The town is in a position to extend this to the schools.
- Jan noted that in the CAP (Climate Action Plan) survey 90% of responding school personnel said they would prefer a different way to get to work other than their personal autos.
- Ian noted that there is other outreach to the high school, the Belmont Hill School, banks and others. Jan said she would contact John McAlpin at the Belmont Hill School about the program.

Home Energy Efficiency Improvement Program (HEEP)

- Roger and Ian met with Sagewell to discuss the program. Roger distributed the Sagewell brochure.
 - The blower door test is now part of the home energy audit.
 - 136 households have signed for the energy audit since mid-August..
 - Roger asked Peter if he would hand out the Sagewell brochure to employees in his division. He said yes.
 - Nava at the COA (Counsel on Aging) related to Roger that many elderly do not use the internet and so could not sign up for the energy audit that way. Roger suggested that the BEC have a presence there for a three day period to help folks sign up for the energy audit.
 - Ian suggested we have a goal of 1,000 audit requests by Thanksgiving.
 - Sagewell forwards audit requests from oil users to BMLD for their free audit.
 - Roger noted that Mass Save does air sealing and will arrange for an insulation installer contractor and financing all on site during the energy audit.
 - Ian noted that we will have a weekly call into Sagewell to get an update on the program.
- Tony suggested that the report show:
- Energy audit requests,

- Energy audits completed
 - Energy efficiency contacts signed
 - Energy efficiency projects completed
- Chis suggested she distribute the Sagewell brochures to her real estate customers.
- Roger suggested we dedicate our next meeting entirely to outreach for the Energy Efficiency Program and that we move it up one week given we are moving into the fall when a high percentage of energy efficiency improvement projects are done. We agreed to meet on October 4.

Tony suggested he write a memo to the BEC on solar screens.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08am

Submitted by Tony Alcorn, Recording Secretary