

MAY 16 3 06 PM '14

**Belmont Energy Committee Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2014**

Attending: Lauri Mancinelli, Andy Healy, Roger Colton, Jan Kruse, Fred Domenici, Jacob Knowles, and Gerald Boyle (guest)

Co-chair Roger Colton opened the meeting at 8:08am.

1) The March 2014 minutes were unanimously approved.

2) Green Community application: Belmont Director of Facilities Gerald Boyle reported that 4 of the 5 criteria (1, 2, 4, and 5) are either completed or making good progress toward completion. The third criteria, which requires the Town to do a baseline audit of municipal buildings and commit to 20% reduced energy use of town buildings within 5 years, is also moving forward. They have met with three potential vendors (Guardian, Prism, and Horizon) with previous experience with other nearby municipalities (Winthrop, Cambridge, and Boston). The team is now putting together a RFQ for bids with no obligation on the town's part. He anticipates the RFQ will go out within a month. There are 3 parts to the RFQ. First, would be a level 1 audit of town buildings that are submitted to the state with the town's Green Community application (this is the baseline). If our application is approved, a level 2 audit is completed that includes specific energy improvement recommendations along with savings and payback time. Gerry noted that there are 2 ways that the work could then be completed: 1) The vendor who did the level 1 audit would do the energy renovations, taking a percentage from the town's savings over the expected lifetime of the improvements, similar to how the town's first ESCo (Energy Saving Company) project worked; or 2) A utility-approved auditor would do improvements based on the initial grant (expected to be approximately \$150,000) that the town would receive after being approved as a Green Community. After being approved as a Green Community, the town would then be eligible to apply for other Commonwealth grants open only to Green Communities.

Roger asked what the prospects are of obtaining additional grants. Gerry noted that thus far, the money sat aside has exceeded the applications so prospects are very good at this time.

Jan asked what would happen if the town did not meet the 20% energy reduction. He said they had spoken with the State and the intent is to show a good-faith effort and not be punitive (such as taking back the initial \$150,000 grant).

Jan asked what counts toward the 20% reduction; would it encompass more than just buildings, such as switching the street lights to more energy-efficient LEDs? Gerry said that Belmont Light actually owns most of the street lights in town and charges the town a fee for use. He said he would check with the State re: how other Green Communities have done that. Gerry noted that 15% of the reduction needed to be documented and 5% could be more "squishy," such as expected to gain through behavior change.

Gerry concluded with next steps: to complete the spreadsheet with information related to town vehicles and get the RFQ out.

3) Update on Better Homes Belmont residential energy initiative. Jan noted that the new website is done (www.betterhomesbelmont.org) and that Tony Barnes said that Next Step Living had issued a check for \$1,400 to purchase 7 trees to be planted at Town Field by the Dept. of Public Works. This was the agreement that the Energy Committee had negotiated with the company that they would donate the cost of a tree to be planted in Belmont for each heat pump they sold.

4) Update on knithbombing project at Belmont Center train station. Jan reported for Ian Todreas that the project has been completed thanks to a few terrific and dedicated Belmont knitters and it adds a colorful element to attract attention to the train stop.

5) Wellington Solar Panels: Roger Colton reported that last night (April 8) the School Committee voted to cancel the contract with Broadway Renewable Resources. Roger also noted that there was misinformation stated during the selectmen's race about the process for the panels and he apologized if it affected any members of the Energy Committee.

Going forward, Roger noted that Belmont is a member of the MAPC (Metropolitan Area Planning Council) and that consortium is in process of choosing a solar vendor which we might tap in to if Belmont chooses to add solar in the future. Also the incoming school supt. has had experience with installing solar PVs on the schools in Milton so his expertise could be helpful. Finally, he said a bid would be more attractive to a vendor if the town was interested in adding solar to multiple buildings as some other towns have done. Gerry Boyle noted that concern around noise held back the Wellington solar project so hopefully that issue could be considered in the future.

6) Net-zero energy use of Underwood pool. Jacob Knowles has been doing research. He noted that there's a net-zero energy pool in Waltham and he's spoken with their engineering team. He said he will attend the meeting with the Underwood Pool committee on April 10 as he needs to get more information regarding the timeline.

7) Zipcar for school employee use. Fred Domenici noted he's still trying to find a workaround with Zipcar on their requirement of a credit card.

8) Announcements/ New Business:

A. Lauri Mancinelli noted that Belmont Light has hired a communications person who is also Jim Palmer's executive assistant. The new hire is someone who Lauri worked with at Synapse.

B. Gerry Boyle noted that many other towns have an Energy Manager and he requested that the Energy Committee work with him to advocate for such a position for the FY 16 budget. Jan noted that it would be important to illustrate how the position would pay for itself. Gerry, Fred Domenici, and Andy Healy all noted just having HVAC expertise alone would likely offset to the salary. Andy noted that McLeans has two fulltime HVAC experts. Andy agreed to work with Gerry Boyle on this project.

9) Roger Colton closed the meeting at 9:02am.

Minutes taken and written by Jan Kruse, vice chair.