

Belmont Energy Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2014

2014 SEP 19 AM 9:04

Attending: Tony Barnes, Peter Castanino, Gerald Boyle (guest), Andy Healy, Ian Todreas, Roger Colton, Fred Domenici, Phil Thayer (guest), Jan Kruse

8:03 am: Co-chair Ian Todreas opened the meeting.

1. Review of April minutes, which were unanimously approved with no changes.
2. Possible \$50,000 as energy efficiency improvements for Belmont municipal buildings. Jan Kruse mentioned that Dave Rogers had sponsored a one-time line item in the FY 15 state budget for a \$50,000 energy efficiency grant for Belmont municipal buildings; the bill has passed the House and Will Brownsberger will shepherd it through the Senate. Gerry Boyle said that he would be interested in applying the money for energy improvements as part of the work that would be done through the audit for Green Communities application. Jan noted that Dave said the money would have to be spent by June 30, 2015.
3. Better Homes Belmont: Ian Todreas noted that a subcommittee had met with Sagewell to discuss A. how to support oil heated homes through the BHB program, B. mini-split pump program, and C. targeting hard-to-reach homes that were most likely to make energy efficiency improvements to their homes. Sagewell committed to looking for vendors who would be willing to bundle services to save money for Belmont oil customers who made EE improvements. Ian also noted that the Better Homes Belmont website was launched recently. We hope to continue making improvements to the website. The BHB program has gotten some coverage in the Belmont Citizen-Herald with photos in two editions with a rep. from Sagewell and from the Energy Committee presenting a donation to the Belmont Food Pantry. Sagewell had agreed to give \$10 to the Food Pantry for every home energy assessment completed. Ian has also written 3 articles about different aspects of the BHB program that he will submit to local media outlets. He will also contact the Belmontonian to see if they will also run some of the articles. Andy Healy asked about whether there had ever been any analysis of cost comparisons with Green Choice program of the different sources of power (wind, small hydro, etc.) Ian and Jan replied that they did not think so.
4. Check for trees from Next Step Living. Tony Barnes reported that NSL had sent a check for \$1400 to the town as part of the company's agreement to pay for a tree to be planted in Belmont for each mini-heat pump system they sold in town. Peter Castanino said one of the trees had been planted at Town Field and the tree warden was assessing locations for the other trees to be planted. Peter will let Peter know when the others will be planted so the committee can arrange for a photo opp. Peter said the process went smoothly and every tree is appreciated.
5. CPA proposal. Jan Kruse noted that applications for next year would be available in June and would the Committee be interested in sponsoring or co-sponsoring a proposal for FY 15? Some thoughts were to possibly work with Community Path Advisory Committee to improve bike infrastructure or safety; or perhaps approach

the traffic advisory committee, housing trust, economic development group, recreation committee, or Belmont Schools re: a walk to school effort. Roger Colton liked the idea of working with another committee and said that we should do more to work with other committees in town. Peter Castanino suggested speaking with Treasurer Floyd Carment to ensure that CPA money could be applied toward a bike proposal. Other ideas: work with the Belmont Housing Authority to put solar on roofs at Belmont Housing Trust properties or solar thermal at Waverley Woods. All agreed it would be good to meet with other committees. Jan said she would speak with Jeff Roth of the CPAC to see if they were indeed planning on submitting a proposal and if they might be interested in the EC possibly cosponsoring a proposal.

6. Increase recycling at the schools. Jan Kruse mentioned that someone in Sustainable Belmont has asked whether the recycling contract would allow for weighing the tonnage of recycling done at each school. Some of the PTA/PTOs might be interested in sponsoring a competition between the schools to encourage more recycling but right now that would be difficult since they are not individually measured. Peter Castanino said the recycling coordinator had initiated more recycling at the schools and the initiative has been successful. They recently renegotiated the contract and saved \$100,000 on the contract due to a lower bid. He said tracking each school's tonnage separately would be too expensive to do permanently but perhaps they could figure a way to track recycling via weight for a few weeks and then extrapolate for the year. Perhaps the PTOs might be willing to do this.
7. Green Communities application. Gerry Boyle said he expected to have the RFP for review to the GC committee within a week. This would be the scope of the work to be done to fulfill criteria 3 of the application (doing a baseline energy audit of municipal buildings and prioritizing energy efficiency improvements. The town vehicle spreadsheet is almost done. He noted the GC is also reviewing the timeline to ensure they are on track for applying in October 2014.
8. Zero-net energy for Underwood Pool renovation. Gerry Boyle said he made a presentation on the infrastructure that would be needed to support solar PV in the future as the numbers don't work right now.

9:05 am: Co-chair Roger Colton closed the meeting.

Minutes written and submitted by Jan Kruse.