

**Belmont Energy Committee Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2017**

2018 FEB 14 PM 2:08

Present: Tony Barnes, Marty Bitner, James Booth, Roger Colton, Travis Franck, Jenny Maruziak, Don Mercier. Guest: Steve Klionsky.

Chair Roger Colton opened the meeting at 8:05 AM.

1. **Minutes.** The meetings from the November meeting were approved.
2. **Presentation to the High School Building Committee.** Marty Bitner described that he had given a presentation on a history of sustainability efforts in Belmont and the work of the Energy Committee at the Dec. 7 public meeting of the High School Building Committee that was focused on sustainability. Bitner noted that many present at the meeting were pushing for a zero-net energy (ZNE) building, and that the presentation from the design team was encouraging in terms of their expertise in this area. He noted that points were raised in the conversation about interaction with Belmont Light (on integrating solar), and that he emailed the chair of the building committee to encourage them to be in dialogue with Belmont Light, as there may be unique opportunities by virtue of Belmont having a municipal light department.

Travis Franck raised the idea that it would be desirable for the new high school to be not only ZNE, but also fossil-fuel free (no onsite use of fossil fuels), as is planned for the new Hastings Elementary School in Lexington. It was noted that this goal, while potentially complementary to ZNE, is a different goal; ZNE does not imply fossil-fuel free, or *vice versa*. Roger Colton expressed his concern that there be a process for discussion within the energy community in Belmont about these different potential goals, to ensure that it speaks with one voice. Jenny Maruziak confirmed that it would be part of the conversation going on within Mothers out Front.

3. **Belmont Light Energy Efficiency Planning.** Colton reported that he and Steve Klionsky had met with Acting GM Craig Spinale and Becca Keane of Belmont Light to discuss energy efficiency planning. At Keane's request, Colton wrote a memo on this; she is currently pulling together parts to put together a plan.
4. **Belmont Light REC retirement.** Franck reported that LBAC recently heard that in Quarter 2, Belmont Light retired RECs, such that around 10% of electricity in Q2 can be considered renewable. This is to his knowledge the first time that Belmont Light has retired RECs.
5. **Belmont Light Resource Procurement.** Steve Klionsky reported that Belmont Light needs to have guidance on what its goals should be vis-a-vis renewables, and how to move toward a renewable portfolio. In particular, it will be important to decide how to define what constitutes "green" energy.

Motion: It was moved that there be a joint meeting of the Energy Committee and the Light Board Advisory Committee, to be held on Thursday January 18th, to discuss these issues. The motion passed.

It was noted by several members that it will be important to obtain public input, especially if rate changes are involved.

6. **Climate Action Plan outreach.** Travis Franck made a case that we need to engage a new public conversation on implementation of the Climate Action Plan, to work toward a more holistic vision of what is required to achieve our goals. It was felt by several members of the committee that the goal of the Climate Action Plan, of 80% reduction in emissions by 2050, is too distant and amorphous for many people, and there needs to be a plan developed for reaching this goal, including the definition of interim targets. One question raised was whether this would best proceed by engaging an external consultant (as was done with the Community path). It was also noted that cost should be part of the discussion.

It was agreed that in addition to the joint meeting with LBAC, the Energy Committee will hold its regular January meeting on January 10, and that the meeting will be devoted to continuing this discussion.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:04 AM.

Minutes written and submitted by James Booth