

Belmont Energy Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2013

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Attending: Ian Todreas, Roger Colton, Jacob (Jake) Knowles, Lauri Mancinelli, and Jan Kruse

8:15 am: Co-chair Ian Todreas opened the meeting in room 4 at Town Hall.

First on the agenda: review of July 17, 2013 meeting minutes. Ian made the motion to approve and Roger Colton seconded it. All approved and motion passed unanimously.

Next was selection of officers for the year. After discussion, Jan made the motion to re-appoint Roger Colton and Ian Todreas as co-chairs; Jake seconded the motion and all approved. For vice-chair, Ian Todreas made the motion to re-appoint Jan Kruse as vice-chair and Roger seconded it; all approved.

Roger Colton suggested that we create a list of projects that the Energy Committee is working on and all agreed. [Note: the person who spoke on the project may not be the only person working on it but gave a general recap of committee work]

Jake said he'd like to see all new municipal buildings be net-zero energy buildings, beginning with the new Underwood Pool (he has been acting as an advisor to the pool committee on this endeavor).

Roger & Lauri: Working with Belmont Light and its Advisory Board on the Belmont Light Energy Efficiency Policy to ensure it is approved and deadlines for this next year are met. This includes final approval of the policy and a budget approved as well as an outside consultant (or internal point person) to create a Demand Side Management program and to determine which energy efficiency programs should be implemented.

Roger: The Belmont Light Distributed Energy Policy.

Jan: Goal to have Belmont apply to become a Green Community for the October 2014 cycle.

Ian:

- 1) Had wanted to form a committee to pursue funding for energy and environmental initiatives but it never got off the ground.
- 2) Transportation sub-committee goals:
 - a. 2 additional Zip (or equivalent) cars placed at Waverley Square
 - b. work with the Belmont Office of Community Development on improving bike infrastructure in town (sharrows, etc.)
 - c. Belmont Center train station enhancement

- d. Board needed at Waverley train station
- 3) Better Homes Belmont residential energy savings program
 - a. promoting home energy assessments for homes heated with gas, oil, electricity or propane.
 - b. Assessments of oil and electric heated homes for min-split heat pumps.
 - c. Next year: would like to target hard-to-reach populations, such as tenants and elders for the BHB program

Roger:

1. Solar panels installed at the Wellington school
2. Seeking EPA community energy challenge technical assistance money to create a greenhouse gas emissions baseline for the Belmont community (a criteria to become a Green Community)
3. ESCO 2 for municipal buildings
4. Various energy saving projects for the schools that Fred is coordinating

Next, Ian gave an update re: Better Homes Belmont update

We are now at about 830 home energy assessments (HEA) in Belmont nearing our goal of 1,000 HEA for 2013. There was a boost of about 30 requests after Meet Belmont and Belmont Light included a flyer about HEA with tax bills. Sagewell's Tim Souza had several suggestions for getting the last 170 HEA to meet our goal. These included: a. door hanger campaign, donation to a local charity for each HEA; small gift card to the individual to a local business (cost would be split with the business) for signing up for an HEA, and another push through the schools.

In July, Next Step Living did canvassing of several hundred homes for the mini-split heat pump initiative. They also held an informational event at the Belmont library which drew 7 people. They did 45 assessments in total and half (23) need follow-up. Of the other 23 homes, 7 signed deals, which is a 2-3% conversion rate.

Ian recommended that we speak with Sagewell re: further outreach. To begin with, we should do another email through the schools and also look into a donation for the Belmont Food Pantry. Jan agreed to assist Ian.

October meeting agenda items: 1. Belmont Light Energy Policy, 2) status of Green Community application (project coordinator Rebecca Rosen is checking to see if Belmont is eligible to apply through NStar); 3) follow up with Chris Starr re: Cushing Village's sustainability plan and his commitment to plant 100 trees in the Cushing Sq. area over 5 years.

9:05 am: Ian adjourned the meeting.

Minutes respectfully written by Jan Kruse.