Meeting Minutes of the Belmont Information Technology Advisory Committee

Subcommittee on Technology, Cybersecurity, and Public Health

Date: Thursday, February 28, 2019, 6:30-7:30pm
Location: Conference Room 4, Belmont Town Hall, 455 Concord Avenue, Belmont MA 02478

Present: Dan Ellard, Cheryl Fletterick, Charlie Smart, Glenn Wong (chair)

Minutes:
- At 6:39pm the meeting was called to order.
- Minutes from the January 30, 2019, were approved unanimously.
- Glenn emailed the Belmont Drives Electric group (belmontdriveselectric@gmail.com); got response from Marty Bitner saying he was interested to learn more.
- Glenn also found a MIT researcher that recently taught a course on driverless cars, identified two local companies that work in the field, and found some interesting articles about the field:
    - MIT researcher on machine learning: Lex Fridman
        - https://lexfridman.com/
        - https://selfdrivingcars.mit.edu/
    - nuTonomy (https://www.nutonomy.com/)
    - Optimus Ride (https://www.optimusride.com/)
    - https://www.wired.com/story/massachusetts-boston-self-driving-car-rules-regulations/
    - https://www.wbur.org/bostonomix/2018/06/21/autonomous-vehicles-massachusetts-testing
    - Notable quotes from the articles above include:
        - *"Come to Massachusetts to test your cars, we have bad roads, worse weather, even worse drivers," state Transportation Secretary Stephanie Pollack said.*
        - *The 15 cities and towns that signed onto the agreement are: Arlington, Boston, Braintree, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Newton, Revere, Somerville, Weymouth, Winthrop and Worcester.*
        - *Somerville Mayor Joseph Curtatone said autonomous vehicle testing is a priority for him, and will help with city planning.*

- Charlie reported that Jim had reached out to nuTonomy, but was unaware if he had received a reply. In our group discussion we learned nuTonomy was bought about 2 years ago by Aptiv and is now part of the autonomous mobility team, and has partnered with Lyft in Las Vegas, clocking over 25,000 paid rides by the end of 2018.
- Cheryl checked for driverless car resources at her employer, PWC, but only found reports on impact for specific industries (e.g., trucking / transportation and self driving boats; nothing at consumer level).
- We discussed possible formats and event types for providing an educational opportunity to the public, including
  - A public talk
  - Selling raffle tickets to benefit the Friends of Belmont Education
  - An event to coincide with Belmont's Town Day
  - Co-event with a Belmont Drives Electric vehicle test drive day
- Follow ups
  - Glenn will ask belmont drives electric whether they will do a electric car drive day again soon?
  - Charlie will check w/Jim to see if there's been follow up on nuTonomy. Charlie will also contact Tesla to see if they might be interested to participate
  - Cheryl to check w/Lyft to see if they have test vehicles in Boston
  - Cheryl will also check w/Optimus Ride
  - Dan will find out when Town Day is this year
- We agreed to hold our next meeting on Thursday March 21, at 7:30pm
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm