

Belmont Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes

WHO: Glenn Clancy
Jan Kruse
Jen
Jim Palmer
Steve
Anthony Alcorn
Ian Todreas
Chris McVay

WHEN: October 14, 2010

WHERE: Belmont Town Hall

AGENDA ITEMS

Administrative

- The committee unanimously approved the minutes from the last meeting, pending minor changes.
- As recording secretary, Anthony will take responsibility for posting agendas, scheduling, and securing a meeting spot.
- Next meeting was scheduled for Nov 17, 2010. Andy will be unable to attend the meeting but everyone else is available.
- All subcommittee chairs should copy Ian and Roger on dates of their scheduled meetings.

General

- Ian asked the subcommittees to identify 3-4 objectives/goals which they could realistically complete or at least make progress on between now and June 2011 and send those goals/objects to Ian and Roger before the next meeting (Nov 17)..

Municipal Subcommittee

- Steve presented a summary of items discussed at the Muni subcommittee (Bob, Peter and Steve). The subcommittee identified an issue that needs addressing, namely that costs for new buildings and renovations focuses on capital costs, not long-term operational or life cycle costs. As a result, energy efficiency improvements that lower life cycle costs but increase up front costs are not favored. Peter also suggested that maintenance line items tend to be cut first when costs need to be reduced, which often results in less than optimal building energy performance over the long term.

Jan reported that Sustainable Belmont had been assured that life cycle costs were reviewed when building costs were evaluated. Glenn and Chris suggested that

perhaps there is a communications gap between the Building Committee, the Warrant Committee and other stakeholders. Glenn will follow up with Mark and Pat regarding how costs were evaluated for the Wellington School project.

Andy offered the McLean includes maintenance estimates and contracts for specialists for the first 10 years of the building's operation into the cost to account for life cycle cost increases in building budgets.

Ian asked whether BMLD could provide assistance or expertise to help the town evaluate how life cycle costs and long term energy usage could affect new building or building renovation projects.

Commercial/Industrial Subcommittee

- This subcommittee has not met yet but will do so soon. Tony presented some findings from the Sustainable Belmont Commercial Energy Usage Survey.

Residential Subcommittee

- Jan provided an update on the Residential Subcommittee's activities. Jan is investigating how other town's have adopted the stretch code. She reported that the subcommittee is also investigating strategies to increase shade trees, such as soliciting donations from residents on tax bills for a shade tree fund, requiring shade tree replacements when lost during construction, developing a partnership with private sector partners to provide trees at a discount, etc.

Transportation Subcommittee

- Ian provided an update on the Transportation Subcommittee's activities. He reported that the committee is working on a map of bike friendly routes, encouraging the creation of a citizen's bike advocacy group, and an inventory of bike racks. Depending on bike rack needs, the committee could apply for funding for racks. He also mentioned that one school is pursuing safe routes to school activities, including training parents in walking school buses, and will furnish the committee with specific related recommendations. Finally he mentioned that he will be contacting the T to pursue benches on the outbound side of the Town Center station for riders.
- Data on Belmont Transit Ridership follows:
Waverly – 125 commuter rail riders/day, 1550 bus riders/day
Belmont Center – 140 commuter rail riders/day, 160 bus riders/day
Cushing Sq – 430 bus riders/day

Submitted by Ian Todreas, Co-Chair Belmont Energy Committee

