

Belmont Energy Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
March 11, 2015

2015 MAY -5 PM 2: 27

Attending: Ian Todreas, Tony Barnes, Jacob Knowles, Roger Colton, Gerald Boyle (guest), Lauri Mancinelli, Jan Kruse, Donald Mercier, Phil Thayer (guest) James Booth (guest)

8:07 a.m: Co-chair Ian Todreas opened the meeting.

Ian welcomed new business representative member Don Mercier and introductions were made.

January 2015 minutes were reviewed and approved with one abstention.

Belmont Greenhouse Gas Inventory: Ian gave background regarding compiling the greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory. Contacts of other entities in town were suggested for some projects listed along with contacts for each of those entities. Jan Kruse volunteered to contact Belmont Farmers Market and Belmont Hill School. Ian Todreas said he'd contact the Belmont Interfaith Religious Committee re: houses of worship actions. Gerry Boyle to check with Fred Dominici regarding any upgrades for the Belmont Public Schools.

The group then had a discussion regarding defining completed actions and short to midterm and long-term actions. that the Energy Committee could undertake (working with others in the community). The short to midterm recommendations and long-term recommendations for the Energy Committee to pursue were discussed. Don Mercier noted he has some recommendations to add to increase energy efficiency of systems for residents.

It was noted that we are looking at a baseline of 2007 (based on the previous baseline performed by Sustainable Belmont in coordinating the initial Belmont Climate Action Plan.

There was general agreement that recommendation #51 (the single most important step that the leadership of the Town can take is to make clear to both residents and employees — by word and deed — that it is committed to the goal of reducing GHG emissions to 80 percent below 2007 levels by 2050) was more of a mission statement than a task and everything else on the goal list supports #51 recommendation.

Lauri Mancinelli suggested we broaden the scope of energy efficiency activities and continue to highlight the importance.

Jake Knowles suggested that we need a happy balance between broad goals and specific items.

Also there was general agreement that for housing, there should be a distinction between single-family structures and multifamily housing.

All agreed that the Energy Committee should do more to work with the business community similar to the Better Homes Belmont energy efficiency improvement initiative for residents. Roger suggested that we could push energy audits for small businesses. Jan recommended that we also extend that to institutions (houses of worship and private schools and hospitals). Ian Todreas noted that he would volunteer to assist with that measure.

Re: recommendation #51: Jacob Knowles suggested that we look into obtaining signage or labelling of town buildings that are energy efficient or considered green buildings with a standard term or tagline that promotes Belmont as a green community. The group thought that was a good idea; will discuss how to define the term at a future meeting.

Jan noted that the Energy Committee could do much more to publicize its work and to reiterate its charge to work with the Belmont community to reduce its carbon emissions 80% by 2050. She suggested periodic presentations before the Board of Selectmen, Town Meeting members, and other groups.

Don Mercier suggested that we focus on attic insulation (25% return) and noted that CAM (Common Area Maintenance) costs that residents/businesses have to pay.

Roger suggested that we ensure that Green Communities audit results and labeling should include promotion of the goal.

Don - put information into continuing education?

Re: long-term goals, Lauri Mancinelli suggested that the transportation sector was underrepresented.

Roger Colton suggested that recommendation #108 (work with Belmont Light on rate structure) should be added as a long-term goal. Lauri noted that we would need AMI to do this, there was lots to sort out and there is concern about cost effectiveness.

Ian suggested we look into regional coordination for transportation and consider groups such as the transportation management association (TMA)

Roger suggested that we promote Cushing Square development progress on transportation and could look at sponsoring an adult education class per year?

Tony Barnes offered to present a summary of our intentions to adopt priority items at the next meeting.

Co-chair Ian Todreas closed the meeting at 9:10 am.

For the record, below are the goals and recommendations that the group reviewed and discussed:

**Top Importance Nominees:**

#4-8 - promote energy efficient appliances in the residential sector

#9-13 - promote alternative heating sources in the residential sector

#44 - promote energy audit and conservation measures to landlords in the C&I sector

#90 - in winter weather conditions, ensure pedestrian access to safe walkways throughout the town

add to #114 - promoting purchasing of open-market RECs.

#51 - The single most important step that the leadership of the Town can take is to make clear to both residents and employees—by word and by deed—that it is committed to the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 80 percent below 2007 levels by 2050

**Suggested Long-Term Goals**

#97 - adopt LEED's Guidelines for Neighborhood Development

#119 - compost food and yard waste

#101 - new building and renovation projects reduce life cycle cost of projects

#51 Town leadership to reinforce commitment to 80% GHG reduction by 2050

#84 encourage bikes and walking

#94 teaching by example in the schools

Additional activity: supporting enforcement of commercial energy code compliance for new construction and renovation projects

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Jan Kruse.*