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Belmont Energy Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
June 24, 2015

Attending: Roger Colton, Donald Mercier, James Booth, Fred Domenici, Jan Kruse and Phil Thayer (guest)

6:33 p.m: Co-chair Roger Colton opened the meeting.

1. April minutes read and approved.
2. **Solar flagpoles:** Fred Domenici informed the committee that, with the permission of the Belmont Public Schools Superintendent he is running a pilot with a flagpole at the Chenery Middle School powered by a solar light (cost about \$200) to keep the flag illuminated at night to comply with the law. If successful, he hoped to implement lights on the flags at the other schools. Don Mercier has some concerns about how long the battery would last and suggested Fred do some research on battery and maintenance prior to purchasing other lights. Jan Kruse asked Fred if had done an assessment of the energy efficiency programs that he has implemented at the schools. He noted that he had not yet done the assessment but needed to do so. Fred noted that he hoped to create a co-generator or stand-alone energy efficient boiler to heat the high school pool and athletics facility to capture wasted energy. Fred noted it would cost about \$250,000 to implement but payback would be just five years. Roger Colton suggested that Fred check with Town of Belmont Facilities Manager Gerry Boyle to see if part of the savings from the Green Communities Act could be directed toward a co-generator or stand-alone system for the high school athletic facility. Roger then asked if solar thermal would be a viable option to help heat the pool. Guest Phil Thayer noted that it would likely be viable but would need to be assessed professionally.
3. **Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory Update.** James Booth noted that a volunteer from Sustainable Belmont was gathering information on the municipal sector in order to update the 2007 inventory. He also noted that Lauri Manicynelli from Belmont Light had gotten him the electricity usage from 2014 and it was almost exactly the same as in 2007. Residential use was down 1.5%, municipal use was up 4%, and business and institutional use was up 3%. (The 2007 inventory showed that electricity usage was increasing an average 1.4% annually.) James also noted that the town population in 2007 was 25,641 people versus 22,967 residents in 2014.

Next up was a discussion of how to measure the transportation sector for the updated GHG inventory. James noted that one possibility was to get a list of vehicle identification numbers (VINs) and plate numbers through the Mass. Dept. of Transportation which would let us know exact miles driven by cars in town. Alternatively, we could use the same methodology as the 2007 inventory (which documented the number of vehicles in town and compared it to average mileage in the state). James said more research was needed to make an informed assessment as to which was the best method to use. James also noted that he hoped the updated inventory would be completed by the end of 2015.

Roger Colton adjourned the meeting at 7:55 pm.

*Minutes taken by Jan Kruse.*