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Belmont Energy Committee Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2015

Attending: Jacob Knowles, Roger Colton, Ian Todreas, Donald Mercier, James Booth, Fred Domenici and Jan Kruse. **Guests:** John Marzec and Roy Epstein.

Co-chair Roger Colton opened the meeting at 8:00AM.

1. **June 2015 meeting minutes** were unanimously approved.
2. **Leadership positions:** Roger Colton noted that Ian Todreas is stepping down as co-chair at the end of Dec. Roger said he was still willing to serve as co-chair or sole chair or turn the role over to someone else on the committee. Jan Kruse was still willing to serve as vice-chair or step aside. John Marzec (who will be a new town representative and works for the facilities department) expressed interest in serving in a leadership position. The committee decided to vote on leadership roles at our January meeting.
3. **Roger** introduced John Marzec who is Supervisor of Contracts Management for the Belmont Facilities Department and will become a town representative to the Energy Committee. Previously, John was the Energy Manager for Staples North American properties, including all stores, fulfillment centers and offices amounting to over 1700 buildings and 33 million square feet of space for 4.5 years and helped Staples achieve Energy Star Partner of the year for three years and the Platt's Global Energy Efficiency Program of the year in 2011. Previously, John served as the Director of Administration for Facilities at Middlesex Community College. Over a 17-year tenure, he was responsible for the Clean State Initiative, sustainability, energy management, capital planning, purchasing, and project management.
4. **James Booth** gave an overview of the town's greenhouse gas inventory history from the initial inventor created in 2009 and is working on an update. He said the update is in good shape, noting that a volunteer from Sustainable Belmont (Brittany Doherty) was assisting and Town Facilities Director Gerry Boyle was getting municipal numbers; we had electricity numbers as of Dec. 2014 provided by Lauri Manicelli at Belmont Light; and transportation numbers through 2011 through the state's vehicle census and that another update for numbers through 2014 would be available in a couple of months. He hasn't been able to get a contact at National Grid to establish national gas numbers. Jan Kruse said she would send James Joanne Bissette's contact information. Bissette works for the Commonwealth's Green Communities Division and was helpful in getting a contact for the first GHG inventory and might be able to assist this time as well. James noted he would like to normalize the natural gas numbers through National Grid; John Marzec suggested using the EPA's Portfolio Manager to more easily run the numbers. Ian Todreas asked how we would present the updated information once we had it finalized and what should be the key takeaways (improvements made and any policy and public recommendations) and suggested we discuss this at our next meeting. James mentioned that the Committee needed to decide what we should do about the commercial (business) survey and how to redo it and we could discuss it at the next meeting. James said he's still hopeful that we are on target to complete the inventory by early January 2016.
5. **Solarize Belmont program.** Roger noted that Board of Selectmen Chair Sami Baghdady had sent an email to Roger and Ian on behalf of the Board of Selectmen acting as the Belmont Light Board whether the Energy Committee would oversee a Solar Belmont

campaign but as individual members rather than an initiative of the Energy Committee. This would involve reaching out to various potential installers and then selecting a installer. Roger noted that a working group had convened including individuals from the Energy Committee, Sustainable Belmont, Mothers Out Front the Belmont Solar Tariff group, and Belmont Light. The informal group has met a couple of times and will meet next week to discuss an informal process for criteria for installers, marketing plan, and budget. Roger asked Roy Epstein (who was chair of the solar net metering working group) if he could give an update re: the status of the solar tariff. Roy noted that the tariff was approved by the Board of Selectmen, acting as the Belmont Light Board, and the tariff was filed with the state, effective Nov. 1, 2015. He said that the tariff is 11 cents through December 2017 and then adjusted annually. They recommended asking Sagewell to assist with the solarize Belmont campaign. Roger said they will.

6. Roger noted that in selecting the installer it would not be a formal public process (RFP) but one preferred installer would be chosen to run a solar campaign in Belmont. He further explained that there are 9 installers who have done solarize campaigns in Massachusetts municipalities and the group would contact those installers to see if any were interested in giving the committee proposals regarding an average installed price to install solar electricity rooftop panels in Belmont. The hope is that a single vendor would leverage economic efficiency to get a better price for solar systems. Don Mercier asked if we could bring in multiple vendors so people could compare options. Roger said a big concern is that the federal tax credit of 30% for rooftop solar ends on Dec. 31, 2016 and our campaign is starting late; many communities have already done a similar campaign. Ian noted that the group is not recommending a specific vendor but simply vetting a vendor to get a better price and people can still choose whichever vendor they want. John Marzec noted that it would be good to remind people that it's good to put solar on a building that is already as green as possible and that energy efficiency is most important. Roger said that is why the Energy Committee had focused on weatherization through the Better Homes Belmont campaign over the last three years. Roger also noted that Belmont Light has agreed to pay for support of Sagewell (their energy efficiency vendor) for discrete asks to work on the Belmont Solar campaign. Sagewell will do an assessment of potential homes in Belmont for solar and those who might be most likely to purchase solar PV. Ian asked whether commercial and municipal buildings could participate. Roger said yes.
7. **Energy Committee goal-setting exercise and collection of info/date on accomplishments for new CAP.** Agenda item tabled for this meeting due to absence of member Tony Barnes.
8. **Continued discussion on waste from electric dryers as a heat source.** Don Mercier led a discussion of capturing heat from electric dryers to help heat homes through a filtering system. He thought it would be good to inform the public through electric bills on using this process with electric dryers could help reduce heating bills. He explained that a pipe blows heat back into the basement rather than outside. Ian asked if there were any public health concerns. Don said if you use dryer sheets, no, but he didn't know if there were other health issues. Roger suggested sending an email to Becca Keane at Belmont Light to see if Belmont Light would want to promote this program. Roger said he would follow up with Becca. (Don submitted a statement that he asked to be added to the minutes on this issue; see below for the statement).

9. Green Communities grant for the town. John Marzec said he would give an update at the November 2015 meeting re: progress toward meeting the energy efficiency grant from the state.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15AM by Roger Colton.

Minutes written and submitted by Jan Kruse.

Statement submitted on October 21, 2015 from member Don Mercier re: electric dryers as a source to help provide heat:

I will comment on the advantages of using an electric clothes dryer. In the heating season the clothes dryer exhaust can be used to help heat the house. The heat gained will reduce the required heat needed from the main house heating furnace. You'll need the proper device to divert the exhaust to the inside or the outside of the house. The proper diverter will have a filter on it when exhausting the exhaust into the house. The moist air from this exhaust will help reduce the need for a humidifier, thus reducing your energy bill. When the exhaust is vented to the outside this energy is wasted. The air required to be supplied to the clothes dryer will be supplied by infiltrated air throughout the house and down your chimney this means you are using the house heat through this infiltration to supply the dryer which is also wasted energy. Gas clothes dryers cannot be used in this fashion because you cannot exhaust gas fumes into the house.