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Belmont Energy Committee Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2016

Attending: Roger Colton, Ian Todreas, Donald Mercier, James Booth, Jan Kruse and Tony Barnes.
Guest: Phil Thayer

Co-chair Roger Colton opened the meeting at 8:10 AM.

1. **January 2016 meeting minutes** were unanimously approved with amendments.

Discussion re: electric dryer heat waste as an Energy Committee priority

project: Roger asked Don Mercier to give a brief overview of his proposal and why it should be a priority for the Committee to pursue. Tony Barnes noted that appliance efficiency is a good thing and since 1981 washers and fridges have reduced energy use to roughly one-third but clothes dryers are same efficiency as in 1981. According to U.S. EPA estimates, reducing dryer vent heat loss saves consumers between \$100 and \$300 over the lifetime of a dryer and for such a small portion of an average electric bill, he didn't think people would do it. Barnes also noted that people could save as much by adjusting the setting control or much more by line drying clothes. He thought that we should instead focus on all appliance efficiency. Ian Todreas noted that he thought the committee should focus more carbon intensive programs. James Booth agreed with Barnes's assessment. Committee Chair Roger Colton said he wanted to move forward with a vote but first wanted to note 2 points: dryers have not made efficiency gains since 1981 and he then volunteered to write something for the Belmont Light newsletter encouraging people to look at options to reduce electric dryer waste and offer ways to do that. Ian said we should get others in town to spearhead some of these issues. Roger agreed but said that it could take more time to reach out to others than to simply write an article. Colton also noted that he thought appliance efficiency should be something that the Committee encourages. He noted that at the last Belmont Light Board meeting, they were reconsidering appliance rebates and perhaps we should make a recommendation to the Light Board. Unanimous vote to have Colton write an article for Belmont Light newsletter. Barnes agreed with Todreas that it would be good to get others involved.

2. **Committee vacancies.** Chair Colton and Vice Chair Jan Kruse reviewed the various 12 member positions on the Committee. Currently open is one residential representative, one town employee representative and the Belmont Light position. Colton agreed to check with Andy Healey to see if he was still interested in being the institutional representative and also to check with Jim Palmer regarding the Belmont Light appointee. Tony Barnes noted that we need people appointed to the committee who will contribute and not just attend meetings. Roger Colton also noted that Belmont Selectman Mark Paolillo had been appointed as the Belmont Board of Selectmen liaison to the Energy Committee. Colton asked that next month committee members come with names for some potential candidates for the residential vacancy. Todreas said that he knew a couple possible institutional candidates from Belmont houses of worship if Andy was not interested in continuing in his role.
3. **Committee leadership.** Roger Colton was unanimously elected as Chair and Jan Kruse was unanimously re-elected as Vice Chair.

4. **Belmont Goes Solar campaign.** Colton noted that 45 homeowners have signed contracts for rooftop solar panels through the BGS chosen installer Direct Energy Solar. A key state financial incentive (State Renewable Energy Certificates) could be sold out by April 1 or sooner unless the legislature acts.
5. **Energy Committee Project priorities.** Chair Colton said we need to decide how to proceed in setting priorities for 2016 and beyond. Kruse: Should we have a 2-hour evening meeting or perhaps a sub-committee discuss and come back to the full committee with recommendations? Don Mercier noted that he thought appliance efficiency should be a project priority. Colton noted that he thought we also needed to focus on action steps as well as establish projects. Roger asked members to send action items for the next year or two to Tony Barnes. Tony agreed to create a google doc. that people could add items to prepare for our discussion. Colton asked if we could vote on our three top priorities for 2016 as previously discussed. These were:
 - 1) **Communications**
 - 2) **Support solar**
 - 3) **Select targeted, measurable, visible projects**The committee unanimously approved these three high level goals.

Chair Colton closed the meeting at 9:20am.

Minutes written and submitted by Vice Chair Jan Kruse.