

Belmont Energy Committee (BEC) Meeting Minutes – June 8, 2010

Attendees: *Glenn Clancy, Jan Kruse, Tony Alcorn, Christine McVay, Ian Todreas, Roger Colton, Peter Castanino, Bob Martin*

Roger opened the meeting at 8:05 PM and asked for a reading of the minutes of the last meeting. The minutes were read, corrected and accepted.

Roger distributed a three page summary, *“Draft Objectives (with illustrative action steps) –August 4, 2010”*, that he and Ian composed. This summary organized the objectives voiced at the last meeting (see minutes) under these six categories:

- 1 Transportation
- 2 Municipal
- 3 Residential
- 4 Commercial (including institutional)
- 5 Non-Energy emission reductions
- 6 Reserved (a yet undefined category)

This organization reflects the categories seen and voiced by Glenn at the last meeting. Roger led the discussion of the objectives and action steps in each category, asking for correction and general feedback. At the end of the discussion of each category, Roger asked for and was given consensus on the objectives and action steps by all meeting members. There were clarifications and questions as follows:

- Glenn clarified that the Belmont Zoning By-law allows power generation at a particular property only if the power is used at the property. For example, solar electric power generated at the reservoir would have to be used by the reservoir.
- Tony pointed out that in the Sustainable Belmont business survey, all the businesses responded that they contract out their waste disposal, and that cardboard was the largest part of the disposal stream.
- In response to several question about how the town handles waste, Peter summarized how trash is hauled to a trash burning plant, which uses the heat energy to generate electricity, which is sold to the grid. Garden waste is collected and processed at a composting facility in Woburn. Peter also pointed out that the old incinerator site has an ash pit which is now being recapped.
- Peter noted that there is a very active group in town dealing with recycling and they are dealing with many of the questions being raised here.
- Ian asked if the Climate Action Plan dealt with, and should we, the Belmont Energy Committee, address non-CO₂ gases that on a unit weight basis, cause much greater global warming than CO₂. These are methane, refrigerant fluids and others.

Roger stated that each member should prioritize what objectives give the largest emissions reduction and what we should do first.

Chris suggested we form sub-groups for each of the main categories.

Roger asked if forming subgroups was acceptable and received unanimous consent to do so.

In the discussion of how the subgroups will function, Roger pointed out that the Open Meeting Law may apply. This means that each subgroup meeting will require a public notice with an agenda, will have to be in a public place, and will have minutes. Glen volunteered to look into this and see if the Open Meeting Law applies to subcommittee meetings.

Roger led the formation of the subgroups by asking for preferences and suggesting assignments in some cases.

- Transportation - Jan, Chris, Peter and Glenn
- Municipal - Roger, Bob and Peter
- Residential – Roger, Tony and Jan
- Commercial – Andy, Tony and Allan

Roger related that Jan and Ian have sent him several notes on fund raising sources.

Roger then asked for, and was granted, the authorization to approach the town with grant initiatives. Roger then led the formation of a funding subgroup consisting of Jan, Ian and Roger, which is authorized to pursue funding and grants.

Chris asked what now exists by way of grants and funding opportunities. Jan related that the EPA has announced grant opportunities in the \$50,000 to \$150,000 range in one group, and \$600K to \$1 million in another group. These are aimed at implementing climate change initiatives.

Jan discussed how the funding subgroup would work.

Roger related that Mr. Haskell Werlin, a solar electric contractor, has requested to be on the BEC agenda to discuss solar electric on municipal facilities. After some discussion, Roger suggested that he attend a municipal subgroup meeting instead.

Roger asked to have the subgroups meet before the September meeting.

Next meeting will be on Sept 3.

The meeting adjourned 9:05 am.

Recording Secretary,

Tony Alcorn

*Attachment: Belmont Energy Committee Draft Objectives (with illustrative action steps)
August 4, 2010*

