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BELMONT, MA**

DATE: March 12, 2026
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DRAFT

Energy Committee Meeting 2026-01-21 Minutes

Participants

- Brian Kopperl (Co-Chair)
- Roger Wrubel (Co-Chair)
- Claus Becker (Scribe)
- John Kolterman
- Marty Bitner
- Kevin Bleau
- Peter Dizikes
- Robin Kazmier
- Srishti Kar
- John Moon, Guest (high school student)

Absent:

- Gregory Piotrowicz
- Marlene Loyall

Minutes

December 17th, 2025, were approved by all, as amended, except by Mr. Bitner who abstained due to his absence on that day.

Climate leader update. (Peter and John)

Peter Dizikes informed the committee about the continuing efforts to get support from town leaders, especially the Select Board by making them aware of benefits of the Climate Leader designation.

Committee Reports

Wellington Solar

Kevin Bleau told the committee of an upcoming early February meeting with school department town administrator and facilities to discuss It discuss interest in Belmont light constructing and owning a solar array on the Wellington School

Communications: Peter Dizikes discussed his intent to write an article for the Belmont Citizens Forum on the town's new solar arrays along Concord Ave.

Committee discussed value and obligations associated with creating a bi-monthly newsletter. Robin Kazmier has experience with such communications and warned about too frequent communication leading to disengagement from public. We might be able to use town infrastructure to get a newsletter distributed.

We also discussed updating the EC website (Belmont Climate Action) and the possibility to moving it onto the town website rather than being independent.

Belmont Light

Belmont Light will be increasing its charges for electricity in 2026. The rate will increase by 6% for residential commercial, and municipal and about 1% for TOU customers.

Kevin explained that transmission charges in Massachusetts have gone up 50 % over the past three years and have to be passed on

Roger Wrubel and Brian Kopperl reported having met with David Beaver and Brian Klionsky, from Belmont Light (BL). They discussed a town-wide expansion of time-of-use (ToU) pilot. Some billing issues are being resolved presently to enable this to happen.

Belmont Light plans to open the ToU program to more customers. Because not all have the right meter, not all customers will be eligible. A calculator will be made available so eligible households can see what they would save by switching to ToU. Three hundred households currently participate in the ToU pilot. BL might begin to offer opt-in to interested people starting in March 2026.

The committee learned that the Middle and High schools are now on ToU.

Other Committee Reports

Library Building Committee

Construction of the library finished on time and on budget. EV chargers have been purchased and will be installed as planned as three 19.2kW and three 7.6kW devices

Roof is finished, and solar PV (100kW AC) has been installed.

Comprehensive Capital Budget Committee

Meetings have been going on with department heads for budget planning purposes. The CCBC is preparing to write report, recommending capital expenditures.

Climate Club

Srishti Kar and John Moon discussed the state of their analysis of the value of installing energy storage at the schools. Committee members offered to help getting usage and production numbers and doing the spreadsheet analysis. Committee also discussed with students possible inexpensive initiatives such as saving energy by turning off monitors.

Next Meeting

Next meeting is planned for February 25th at 19 o'clock.

Meeting adjourned at 20:48 o'clock.

