

## **Belmont Energy Committee Meeting Minutes**

19:00 o'clock on September 8, 2021

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TOWN CLERK  
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: October 21, 2021  
TIME: 9:01 AM

### **Opening**

The regular meeting of the Belmont Energy Committee Meeting Minutes was called to order on September 08, 2021 at seven in the evening as a virtual meeting led by Marty Bitner.

### **Present**

- James Booth – Co-chair
- Marty Bitner – Co-chair
- Jon Marshall Assistant Town Administrator
- Alex Thurston
- Don Mercier
- Gregory Piotrowicz
- Brian Kopperl
- Roger Wrubel
- Claus Becker (note taker)
- Judith Ananian Sarno (guest)
- Phil Thayer (guest)
- Lisa Oteri (guest)
- Bonnie Friedman (guest)

### **Updates**

1) Two slots are open on the Energy Committee. There was a short discussion about desirable attributes for new members. There was agreement that the new member should reside in Belmont and preferably be female since all of our committee members are male.

2) Jon Marshall presented on the topic of town vehicle fleet to set up the committee conversation about town vehicle electrification. Belmont has approximately hundred and fifty vehicles of varying sizes. Some are specialty vehicles like firetrucks, but the greatest proportion are pickup trucks. The majority of vehicles are parked in one of two fleet yards.

We would expect the transition to EVs to happen in phases. Ten to twelve town vehicles are replaced every year. Belmont has a few electric vehicles in service already for light duty, including several Nissan Leafs and a Chevrolet Bolt.

In addition to vehicles that the town owns directly, Belmont is also able to influence the choice of vehicles from contractors who provide services such as garbage collection and school-bus transport.

Committee discussed the benefits of working with other towns to develop regional plans for electrification of such services to allow contractors scale benefits. The importance of working with Belmont Light to maximize the economic benefit to Belmont of electrification was emphasized.

Next step: Jon Marshall will provide an inventory of vehicles and their replacement schedule. This will provide the basis for a roadmap for electrification of the town fleet.

3) Cityside Subaru (CS) is applying for the construction of a new building on Pleasant Street. The committee discussed how to propose decarbonization goals, such as LEED certification similar to Wellesley dealership. The committee voted unanimously to support Marty Bitner reaching out to Planning Board recommend an all-electric building; tight insulation with high R-value materials to reduce heating load, that CS maximize roof-top solar; explore geothermal heating and cooling; and LEEDs certification similar to the Toyota dealership in Wellesley, MA.

<https://www.greenneedham.org/blog/2018/11/meet-wellesley-toyota-the-first-leed-certified-dealership-in-new-england/>

This includes careful consideration of where HVAC equipment is located to maximize space available for solar PV panels and solar hot water. We also recommend a Western orientation of the panels, if practical, to maximize the economic value of the power generated, keeping in mind the coming introduction of time-of-use charging from Belmont Light.

4) Phil Thayer reported that the build-out of the solar array on Chenery Middle School was delayed by the discovery of damage to the roof near where the solar array was to be built. The size of the solar array will be reduced by approximately 5% to allow future

repair of the roof. This should allow construction to move forward and the array should be fully commissioned well before July 2022 which is necessary to avoid the loss of a \$30,000 grant received from the state of Massachusetts.

5) the new Belmont middle and high school will be equipped with a 1 MW array of solar panels, to be built when the old high school has been torn down. The committee agreed unanimously that Brian Kopperl would reach out to Bill Lovallo (chair of the middle- and high school building committee) to offer our assistance.

6) Committee members agreed unanimously to settle on the third Wednesday of each month for future meetings of the Energy Committee. Meetings to start at 7 o'clock in the evening.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 20:30 o'clock by Marty Bitner.