

Belmont Energy Committee

June 15, 2022

Opening

The regular meeting of the Belmont Energy Committee was called to order at 19:00 o'clock as a virtual meeting led by Marty Bitner.

Present

- Marty Bitner – Co-chair
- James Booth – Co-chair
- Francesca Kitch – Select Board Appointee
- Greg Piotrowicz – Select Board Appointee
- Alex Thurston – Select Board Appointee
- Roger Wrubel – School Dept. Appointee
- Claus C Becker – Select Board Appointee and Scribe
- Travis Franck – Light Board Appointee
- Brian Kopperl – Select Board Appointee
- Phil Thayer (guest)
- Vincent Stanton (guest)
- Shea Brams (guest)
- John Kolterman (guest)

Absent

- Ben Thivierge - Belmont Light
- Don Mercier

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved by all as distributed.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the April 13, 2022 was approved unanimously as distributed, with the exception of Travis Franck who did not attend the May 18 meeting.

Open Issues

Virtual open house

Distribution of roles among committee members for the virtual open house was agreed upon. Each person to discuss specific green technology (electric cars, heat pumps, solar hot water,...) . Agreement to deliver a combination of video or live presentations followed by Q and A. Event will take place Thursday June 23 at 19:00 o'clock.

Light Board

Travis Franck discussed thoughts on future of the transfer station land that was added to Belmont. Tract could be host to Belmont Light energy storage facility or solar, or other use. Glenn Clancy had communicated to Travis Franck that deciding on the future of that land could take two to three years.

Community path solarization

Vincent Stanton proposed that parts of the community path could be used for solar array, which could be facing south. Between Brighton st and Belmont center the path is up to seventy feet wide leaving room for an installation. The proposal was that Belmont Light would pay the MBTA rent for the property. In the future, the power might support electrification of the train service. Brian Kopperl discussed the potential issues of shading, and interference with a service road and offered to read Mr Stanton's proposal.

Town fleet electrification

Select board liked Roger Wrubel's proposal for vehicle electrification during a May 25th meeting and suggested continuing the conversation after the scrutiny by key committees. Claus Becker to ask Chris Doyle if we can get on the agenda's of the Long-Term Capital Committee to discuss the proposal for electrification.

Shae Brams, a recent graduate from Belmont High, and an intern with Highland Electric Fleet (www.highlandfleets.com) presented ideas for accelerating the electrification of Belmont's school bus fleet in a cost-competitive way. Vehicle(here:bus)-to-grid is a potential source of revenue for the town. Committee discussed possibility for regional approach. Next step is to reach out to Superintendent Phelan.

High and middle school

June 23, the solar design will be presented. Committee discussed the importance of getting the orientation of the panels right for maximum effect. This may not be maximizing the kWh production but emphasizing afternoon production when the economic value of the electricity is much higher than midday and when the electricity production is the dirtiest.

Library

Committee discussed benefit of having battery storage as source of backup power instead of a diesel generator.

Membership

Francesca Kitch will be leaving the Energy Committee. Ellie Lesser, a high school student, has applied to be on the committee.

Travis Franck will be leaving the Energy Committee by the end of June. Going forward, Ben Thivierge will be a voting member of the Energy Committee. He will be able to report Light Board progress.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 21:10 o'clock. Next meeting will be after summer at a time tbd.