

Belmont Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

2018 FEB 14 PM 2:08

January 10, 2018

Present: Travis Franck (Acting Chair), Marty Bitner, Tony Barnes, James Booth, Donald Mercier, Jenny Marusiak

Start: 8:05

The minutes for the December 14, 2017 Energy Committee meeting were accepted.

The purpose of the meeting was to prepare for the joint Light Board Advisory Council (LBAC) meeting on January 18th. This joint meeting was primarily to discuss Belmont Light's approach to renewable energy and energy procurement in general. The group noted that LBAC would set the agenda, and that Energy Committee members would join the discussion without any pre-determined Energy Committee recommendations or stances.

To inform Energy Committee members' thinking going into the joint LBAC meeting, the group discussed the Committee's role with regards to the Climate Action Plan, as well as an approach that would get the Town on track to meet its target of an 80 percent reduction in overall emissions by 2050. Belmont Light will need its own target, and that will be determined by the Town with public input. To engage stakeholders--and the public in general--in that decision, the Energy Committee can provide a draft roadmap. This roadmap will lay out in more detail the implementation of the Climate Action Plan--including Belmont Light's responsibilities. This draft can serve as the basis for discussions with other committees, town entities, and other stakeholders. Listed below are considerations and requirements for the roadmap that were raised throughout the meeting.

- The timeframe for rolling out the roadmap is roughly six months, potentially in time for a Town Meeting presentation
- The Town could consider signing on to existing clean energy initiatives (e.g. "We Are Still In," "Ready for 100," or the Massachusetts towns passing 100 percent renewable resolutions).
- We need to define the relationship of the roadmap to the Climate Action Plan: the Climate Action Plan is a highly flexible laundry list of recommendations to reach the target. Rather than replacing or revising the Climate Action Plan, the roadmap will provide a more structured and comprehensive approach to meeting the Climate Action Plan target.
- The roadmap needs to have quantitative, measurable interim goals that can be communicated to the broader public on an ongoing basis and over the long term.
- The roadmap will need more than a one-time outreach; it will have to be widely publicized and used to inform decision-making in town.
- The general public will need higher awareness of decarbonization measures (e.g. electrify everything, the importance of heat pumps, etc.)
- The town will need to find ways of reaching residents at opportune moments such as when house renovations are done (when applying for permits) or when heating systems need replacing. (Existing rebates for heat pumps aren't enough).

- Regarding Belmont Light measures, the community needs a better understanding of what's in their rates.

Action Items:

- Travis, James, and Jenny will put together a first cut of the Roadmap and bring it to the next Energy Committee meeting for discussion
- Jenny will develop a preliminary draft stakeholder engagement plan for the roadmap: encompassing both targeted stakeholder outreach and a broader publicity campaign.

Adjournment: 9:10

Next meeting: February 14, 2018