

Energy Committee Minutes - January 9, 2020

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Attendees: Roger Colton, Erin Lynch, James Booth, Adrienne Allen, Don Mercier, Yvonne Brown, Marty Bitner, Greg Pietrovicz, Travis Frank, Cabell Eames
Guests: Steve Klionsky, Dave Beavers, Phil Thayer, Rahul Ramakrishnan

Topic 1: Next month we'll vote on Nov, Dec, Jan minutes.

Topic 2: Time of use rates

Steve Klionsky, chair of light board advisory

Significant change in way people will be billed.

Time of use rates idea: the rates should reflect the cost at the time they're being incurred.

What's held it back:

- Technology of the meters, need to calculate usage in different time periods. Belmont has these smart meters.
- Details of time periods, peak and off-peak rates
- Customer expectation / information issue

Possible incentives for residents:

- Addresses an argument against EVs.
- Could reduce energy use if people are more aware
- Could have a climate impact if can reduce need for backup power plants (which are often dirtier)
- Could pass savings on to resident during peak usage times. Example: reduce 1 hr during peak usage in summer, resident gets 20 cents back but Belmont Light gets \$200. Could align incentives to transfer more of that savings to resident.

PROBLEM TO SOLVE: What should differential be to incent behavior?

2/3 of electricity usage in Belmont is residential.

Modeled: on-peak: 29 cents / kwh, 14 cents / kwh

Any effect on solar tariff? Payback would likely be higher.

How are the residents who just went all electric affected?

Low income impact?

As Belmont moves more portfolio from renewables, how does that affect the analysis?

As Belmont increases self-generation (new solar at old incinerator site), how does that affect the analysis?

Can you include a focused answer on the 3 parts of our roadmap?

What is the ask?

Dave: Are there other folks we should model? Any other goals we should consider as we model rate structures?

In other places, time of use is being used politically to hinder strategic electrification.

Timeline: months to run these models. But 2020 priority for Chris Roy.

Topic 3: Special electric rates for all electric multi-family buildings (McLean)

Proposal to develop 50+ condos / single family on McLean land, talking to developer to incorporate as much sustainability as possible.

What can be done for developers (McLean, town library) willing to make an all electric building. What could Belmont Light do to incentivize?

Topic 4: Fee for paper bags

Guest: Rahul Ramakrishnan, planned proposal at town meeting

Sustainability relating to energy and water. Cambridge has tried and tested solution. Belmont has banned single use plastic bags in stores. Paper bags use 3 times as many carbon emissions to be produced.

In Cambridge there's a 10 cent fee given to the stores. As a result the consumption has gone down +80% according to Rep Livingston.

It doesn't matter what material is used on your bag, is that you REUSE it.

File "home rule" to state legislature if town meeting passes it.

Reason to bring to EC has seen similar legislation passed. Looking for advice on how to proceed forward.

Topic 5: Belmont Vision 21 plan - Energy committee representation

Vision 21 Committee, working on 10 year plan. Consider town-wide issues (traffic, housing, etc). Wanted to make sure it reflected our roadmap.

Bicycles, walkability - something they might put in their longer term plan?

Maybe a meeting a month.

Proposal: unofficial advisor / contact. Yvonne. Greg. Define your own involvement.

AI: Marty to give Ira the two emails

Topic 6: Belmont Drives Electric: Partial electrification (plug-in hybrids?)

How to track progress of a plug-in hybrids? How do we promote plug-in hybrids?
Something with a plug is the minimum requirement to be considered electric by us.

Decision: just talk about electric in our pitch, must have a plug.

Travis: Waiting to hear from Will Brownsberger chief of staff would get us data.

Topic 7: Belmont Composts! - Chenery

Composting pilot. Talked to custodians, trash is down substantially (counting # of bags, less weight on trash pickup). Kids sit at the stations. Working well. No rats seen by custodians. Cabell identifying grants for this for middle school. Long term would be \$16K - \$20K for pickup, bins. A segment will be done on it for Belmont Journal. Black Earth is the vendor.

Topic 8: Reports

a)McLean / meeting with Jack

- i)Adrienne talked about the health effects of fracked gas. Needs to go to trade meeting to educate them. Got to default electric and option for gas.
- ii)HEET is doing an induction roadshow.

<Erin's computer died, James steps in :) >

AI: Adrienne going to talk to Board of Health about gas risks.

AI: Future Act – Cabell meeting will meet in next couple of weeks about it with Adam Dash.

Zoning review: Roger has not heard back from Harvard yet.

Warrant article needs to be finalized by March.

Belmont Drives Electric: MOR-EV program was restored.

Heat Smart Belmont is wrapping up January 31. Final event is an Open House event on January 25th. Materials from the campaign are being rebranded for future use by Belmont Light.

Chenery project is moving ahead; need to get in front of Planning Board before summer

High School: Phil: next key meeting of building committee is Feb. 7th – receiving contractors' bids. If above estimates, solar is potentially in jeopardy. Committee will need to vote in 2-3 days.

Ice rink: RFPs went out this week. One assumes town builds own; other assumes town leases property and has public-private partnership. Emissions reduction language was included in RFP.

New state building codes: Glen Clancy attended IECC meeting. They approved new building codes which would result in ~10% improvement in efficiency, which MCAN characterized as a good result.

Social media followers: 115 Facebook, 85 Instagram, 24 Twitter

AI: Talk with young people about getting on board. Erin will be distributing cards with handles.