

Belmont Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

19:00 o'clock on November 18, 2020

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BELMONT, MA**

DATE: January 4, 2021

TIME: 10:41 AM

Opening

The regular meeting of the Belmont Energy Committee Meeting Minutes was called to order at 19:00 o'clock on November 18, 2020 as a virtual meeting and by Marty Bitner.

Present

- Marty Bitner – Co-chair
- James Booth – Co-chair
- Adrienne Allan
- Claus C Becker (note taker)
- Travis Franck
- Brian Kopperl
- Don Mercier
- Greg Piotrowicz
- Alex Thurston
- Roger Wrubel (guest)
- Phil Thayer (guest)
- Brian Sapier (guest)
- Aidan Leary of Belmont Light (guest)
- Ben Thivierge of Belmont Light (guest)

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the October 21, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously

Open Issues

Social Media

- Feedback was provided to the www.belmontclimateaction.org website, including a discussion of the scope of the site. Greg Piotrowicz was thanked for his efforts.
- Channel strategy was discussed including the value of Instagram, Facebook, Discord as outlets for Energy-related communications. To be reviewed further.

-Contact with Belmont High School Climate Club was encouraged as a way to bring sustainability issues to their attention to amplify EC's impact: This year's leader is Shay Brams

- BL's Aiden Leary confirmed their new communication plan is an email providing a billing and benefit overview of BL policies and electric programs, etc. as part of a BL "welcome package" for all new BL accounts.

- Discussion of Belmont Light Communications to encourage electrification. BL plans January 2021 bill inserts for the 8,000 BL bills sent by mail, which will focus on new year's continuation of incentive programs for EV chargers and electric Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHPs), among other items.

- Discussion to encourage BL to reach out to homeowners and contractors about home electrification, ASHPs, and electric kitchen appliances when the Town receives a building permit, as this permit phase is the key moment when appliance and infrastructure choices are being made and BL can influence those choices before they get locked in. BL seemed a little unsure about how to organize this effort.

Reducing or eliminating carbon footprint in Belmont construction

- Comments were provided by Committee members on the proposed *emission-free building non-binding resolution*, which the Committee plans to put before the Select Board with the aim of getting approval at Town Meeting in the spring. The goal is to put this proposal to Town Meeting as a warrant article in 2021. The Energy Committee has worked to streamline the proposal and to consider Attorney General Maura Healey's July 2020 ruling on Brookline's bylaws re construction and major renovation.
- Progress was reported on two aspects of the construction of the new Middle and

High School. 1) Installation of solar panels are part of the high school budget and their installation is expected to go forward. 2) Ground source heat pump wells have been dug. Both will help Belmont meet CO2 emissions and financial goals.

- The main contractor for the new ice rink has left the project, leaving the project in limbo.

- Brief discussion of the uncertainty of whether the new proposed rental and town house project at the McLean Hospital zone 3 site would proceed to be all or mostly electric, including ASHPs and electric kitchen appliances. Members of the EC have encouraged BL to reach out to the developer of the project to share the cost of BL service hookup charges for the project and other ASHP incentives that BL has prepared for 2021 with the project in mind.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 21:05 pm by Marty Bitner.