

Energy Committee Notes - October 9, 2019

2020 JAN 13 AM 9:19

Attendees: Erin Lynch, Marty Bitner, James Booth, Adrienne Allen, Don Mercier, Travis Franck, Roger Colton, Cabell Eames

Welcome Cabell! Newly appointed to Belmont's Energy Committee. eamesme@gmail.com

We still have one vacant seat from the school committee. They are allowed to appoint two people. James is one. If you know others.

Motion to approve last month's minutes except for edit:

- Cash flow positive instead of cash flow process

New business

MAPC email Oct 9th. State program directed towards communities with muni light plans with purpose of reaching underserved populations (eg low income, rental population). Competitive grant process. Parallel to appliance suggestion by Don last month. Authorize someone with an interest to run by Belmont Light, Board of Selectman and drive this. Rental in Belmont is 45%, huge part of population. Low income not sure.

What is leverage on renters to have the owners do anything? That's the difficulty.

Heat Smart like campaign. Dec 2020 rates of installations must be 10% higher than 2019 rates.

AI: Adrienne to talk to Ben to apply for this. ¼ of town has oil. Is this worth it? If yes, who to write grant? Let Marty / Roger know before next meeting.

Adrienne: Propose for next meeting

How to track our goals / targets:

- EVs - how many? How do we know?
- Heat pump conversions, especially post-campaign. Town permits?

AI: Roger add to agenda for Nov.

Social media updates

23 followers on Twitter
107 followers on Facebook, growing every time we post
70 followers on Instagram

How to link in to the town's Twitter feed.

AI: Erin to email Matt Haskell about how to get town to post our most important things.

AI: Erin to bring in postcards with our social media handles.

Town meeting 2020

Goal: an approval from committee to move to next step in bringing bylaws to town meeting, to move to powers that be.

Next step:

- Send to Patrice, town admin (which means sending to board of selectmen)
- Send to town council
- Send to bylaw review committee for form and placement, doesn't review the policy (often rewrites things)

Bylaws looking to pursue:

1. Sustainable building bylaw
2. Home energy disclosure bylaw

1) Emission free new construction standards

- Roger will add / edit definition of level 2 charging stations
- James - central goal is no fossil fuels. A few things are nice to have (and may attract more pushback than its value). Eg chargers for non-res buildings (20% figure) are nice to have but won't drive electrification.
- James - in exemptions part "if cost exceeds xxx%". Roger: now it is 15% of the overall cost of the covered project. The capital, up front cost. 15% came from Chris Roy.
- James - typo - two sentences that need to be one sentence.
- Solar ready roof question - Chris recommended it says west, southwest or south. It's aligned with Belmont telling people where to put their front doors so this is in line with that
- Roger - we want to incentivize people to charge at home, off peak. So non-residential parking spots are not the primary focus.

Motion to pass on the emission free new construction standards for further review to relevant town officials. We will get the bylaw back before we submit to the town. **UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.**

2) Home energy disclosure

Motion to pass on the home energy disclosure for further review to relevant town officials. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

3) Idling

Background: in March Kate Bowen talked with our committee and we voted to draft an employee policy on anti-idling to pass on to the town administrator. Developed policy, has been passed on to Patrice. No need to approve, we have done what we promised to do.

AI: Roger to start process of socializing the two new bylaws with relevant town officials.

Reports on current projects

Belmont Drives Electric

- Still answering requests, helping town members
- Agree with Adrienne we need to track how many new EVs. In past we've done public requests with the RMV.

Heat Smart

- Fairly busy right now
- Program through end of Oct for having visits, might extend, contracts must be signed by January and installations done within the year

Middle/High School

- Cut \$19mIn from budget, solar panels were mentioned as a candidate but fortunately kept in budget for the time being
- Must stay vigilant, likely to need to cut again
- Geo-thermal was never on the chopping block
- Still set to be Class D zero net energy

Chenery solar

- \$45K ready in town coffers to put solar on Chenery
- Phelan announced at school committee, Chris Roy has been facilitating since Town Facilities is stretched for another project
- Hoping for spring get it moving again

New building codes

- Working with Sierra Club ahead of Nov vote, Glen registered to vote. Some time before the vote we'll figure out what items we should ask Glen to vote for.
- Cabell can help with this, Marty will loop her in. Veena Darmaraj.

Zoning review work

- Sept meeting, going to start going through Belmont bylaw line by line. First meeting to look at part 1 from a climate change perspective is on Oct 21st.
- Decided to approach this task two ways (a) review line by line and (b) look for other innovative bylaws that have been developed.

Ice rink

- Jeff Wheeler included Marty/Roger in process of Request for Proposals
- RFP language added that in selection process we prefer ZNE, solar, heat pumps
- Composition of the selection committee who will select winning bidder, one person from Energy Committee will be in the room to see proposals

McLean

- Appeared to be on a fast track for fall town meeting, it was put off.
- Winter town meeting was just cancelled.
- Earliest for proposed rezoning will be spring.
- Patrice is aware EC wants to talk with McLean about energy issues in same way the housing trust has been talking about affordable housing issues.
- Will continue to be on our agenda to make sure we touch base every month.

Vision 21 Implementation Committee

- New committee long term urban planning, Travis having phone call next week
- Starting long term planning, similar to MAPC

- Want regular EC input

LBAC

- Meeting next week
- Presentation from energy storage, startup in Somerville, incinerator site earmarked for a storage project.
- Demand side management / Virtual Peaker platform discussed. If you're signed up to get email notifications when a peak energy experience + you have a registered smart EV device with them and they see you did turn off, get few bucks off their bill as reward for lowering town's total peak usage. Currently in pilot.

Other news

James starting a new carbon inventory, to get data from National Grid. Ties to Adrienne's point.

For people interested and doing YouTube, Belmont Media Center has channel with 11-12 stories for Belmont Journal: Environmental News.

AI: Erin post this on social media.

Next meetings - shifting a bit

Wed, Nov 6th

Thurs, Dec 5th

AI: Erin to email everyone on this