

Energy Committee Notes - November 6, 2019

2020 FEB 18 AM 9:29

Attendees: Erin Lynch, James Booth, Don Mercier, Travis Franke, Yvonne Brown, Adrienne Allen

1 Review and approve October minutes

Travis move to approve the minutes. Fully approved.

2 Update on Town Meeting 2020 warrant articles

Travis talked briefly to LBAC today about bylaws. Most just absorbed, Roy Epstein is the liaison from Light Board to LBAC, provided feedback about bylaws asking that we ensure we follow the right process and engage right people.

Perhaps engage with board of selectman again, last time was Feb 2019. We are a select board committee and should review with them. Warrants due around February so final agenda of town meeting is decided in April for the town meeting in May.

AI: Travis will talk to Roger and Marty about strategy for engaging selectman about bylaws

AI: Travis to digitally share our "charter" with Erin to add to minutes as a constant refresher

AI: Roger to add our selectboard liaison to the agenda email so he can join when topics are of interest

AI: Roger to add Ben from Belmont Light to our monthly agenda email

3 Report on current projects

Many topics skipped because point of contact absent.

HeatSmart (James)

Into last couple of weeks until Nov 15th out doing them. Deadline for signing contracts isn't until Jan, big list of people who got quotes. General experience is often long delays or no response but when they are they very informative but then no followup after that. Can still get a rebate even after Jan from Belmont Light.

Had an open house day in fall but want to do one in Jan, likely third weekend in Jan after MLK weekend.

When we have a cold day this winter we should feature someone who is completely heat pump on social media. And have town cross share. Maybe Marty?!

4 Tracking of our climate action goals - how can we track EV adoption and heat-pump adoption

Survey Belmont population to understand what they drive and how they heat their house. Home assessments are not up to date.

Adrienne tried to get excise tax data from town was they don't collect car type and we must get them from the state.

James got something from the tax office listing of manufacture and model year, eg Toyota 2014 don't know if Sequoia or Prius. From RMV, they sent Ben a list by number. Not too reliable as they separate pure electric but unfortunately lump internal combustion and plug in hybrid into the same bucket. James listened to a meeting in Cambridge about their inventory also struggle getting good data from the RMV and Mass Vehicle Census haven't updated since 2014. Talked to data head there they are struggling with problems with the data.

Ben would like to identify them. Belmont Light would like to know this.

Ideas for getting this data:

- Town census, add more questions
- Belmont Light consultant already slicing and dicing data, could they guesstimate EV cars based on usage
- Get high schoolers to help us canvas at least their population of homes as a sample
- Work with all school committees to have a checklist distributed, perhaps in conjunction with Earth Day 2020 (April 22)

AI: Travis will talk to Ellen to see if we can add energy question to town census

5 Belmont World Film event Saturday Jan 18

Got an email through website asking if we want to participate (eg get involved in the screening, promote heat pumps, EVs), annual family world film festival. One about a 10 year old girl with asthma helped shut down coal burning in Bridgewater, movie about banning plastic straws, a boy cultivates monarch butterflies, depicts earth as a sick patient in doctor's office, animated film how animals hibernate and what is needed to sustain their habitat.

Travis propose we promote via our website and social accounts. Also plan to send delegate(s) to have a table on our committee mission, EVs, heatpumps, solar.

AI: Yvonne to respond yes about Belmont World Film event that we'll promote the event on our website/social, we'd like to have a table and we'd love a chance to talk for 5 minutes if possible.

AI: Erin to send around the file used for the postcards to see if we can print it on canvas.

6 Report from LBAC (Light Board Advisory Committee)

Discussion points:

- Time of use pricing is coming. Will be talked about next month. Will be important for us to understand as a committee - lots of home use implications.
 - Right now your first 500kw hrs "block" is one price, beyond is something else. >1600 even higher rate. Qualified low income pay a lower rate but still with blocks.
 - Time of use: instead of paying for different amounts used, pay for when you use it. For everyone it'll be cheaper at night. Discussion of whether this will be opt-in. System peak in Belmont is 6pm when people get home from work.
- Fine prints on tariff and rate structure.
- Slightly adjusting the low income rate. Ready that subsidy for time of use pricing.
- Meets on the 18th

7 New business

Erin shared the postcards of our roadmap and our website, social handles. Will be putting them around town and will bring again next month so everyone has a stack.

Erin shared that Matt Haskell will repost any of our most important posts to Belmont Twitter account if I email.