

Belmont Energy Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2014

2014 DEC 15 AM 8:52

Attending: Tony Barnes, Gerald Boyle, Andy Healy, Ian Todreas, Roger Colton, Lauri Mancinelli,

8:06 am: Co-chair Ian Todreas opened the meeting.

1. Review of September 2014 minutes, which were unanimously approved with no changes.
2. Green Communities application. Gerry Boyle said the application had been submitted and the Belmont Board of Selectmen unanimously approved the application. We should know by mid-December if the application is approved by the Commonwealth. Ian Todreas asked if the Selectmen had any questions. Gerry said that Town Administrator David Kale anticipated their questions and did a good job answering them. Next steps: Guardian will do a level 2 audit, which involves looking at town buildings in more detail to make specific recommendations for improvements and there will be a Green Communities Implementation Committee, which will likely include the Facilities Director, and someone from the Department of Public Works and Belmont Light. Gerry also noted that he had met with the City of Cambridge re: streetlight conversion to more efficient means and Cambridge recommended that it might be better to replace the fixtures rather than a straight bulb conversion to LED; the cost would be about \$400/fixture. Finally, he noted that the Green Communities application could be found on the Town website under "Documents."
3. Belmont Light Energy Efficiency grant. Lauri Mancinelli noted that members of the Energy Committee had been very helpful with outreach and estimated they had done about 25 weatherization upgrades to Belmont resident homes as well as installed 2 or 3 heat pump systems. Sagewell (the vendor coordinating the program for Belmont Light) recommended that it might be good for the Energy Committee to create outreach materials to explain the benefits of heat pumps to residents and that this should continue as part of an extended campaign to promote the benefits of heat pumps. Lauri also asked if any members from the Energy Committee might wish to write up short energy reduction points for the Belmont Light quarterly newsletter. Ian expressed interest in helping with this task. Ian said he spoke with Sagewell regarding creating an infographic on heat pumps and we hope that it will be completed soon.
4. Committee vacancies. Ian noted that we have an opening for the business representative and one school representative position. Ian also noted that a town employee position would also be open in early December upon Peter Castanino's retirement. Ian agreed to send an email to some people who were involved with the schools (specifically Sustainable Belmont people Kate Bowen and Amanda Mujica) to see if they knew of any parents or employees who might be interested); Gerry Boyle said he would speak with David Kale regarding filling the impending opening for a town employee.

5. Greenhouse gas inventory and tracking. Tony Barnes noted that he had gone through all the 128 recommendations in Belmont's Climate Action Plan to determine if any actions had been taken and if recommendations were appropriate for the Energy Committee to pursue. He had entered these into an Excel spreadsheet and distributed to the committee for review. Ian agreed that, for some recommendations, other departments or entities might be more appropriate to pursue rather than the Energy Committee. Tony then noted that he would email the excel spreadsheet to members of the committee for review and that he would appreciate it if people would send him feedback and he would update the document. People were asked to get feedback to Tony before the Dec. monthly meeting and note if another entity had already taken action. Gerry Boyle said he'd check with School Department Facilities Manager Fred Dominici regarding school improvements and Andy Healey agreed to review the institutional recommendations.
6. Belmont Light annual Energy Plan. Lauri Mancinelli has begun working on the plan but said it will not be done by December 1. It will include programs that they have committed to doing for 2015. Roger asked if Belmont Light was open to suggestions for new programs? Lauri noted that members of the Energy Committee were welcome to email her suggestions.

9:04 am: Co-chair Ian Todreas closed the meeting.

Minutes written and submitted by Jan Kruse.