

2017 OCT 18 AM 11:10

Belmont Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2017

Attending: Roger Colton, Travis Franck, Don Mercier, Marty Bitner, Sarah Jackson, Ian Todreas, James Booth.

Chair Roger Colton opened the meeting at 8:05 AM.

1. **Minutes.** The meetings for the September, November, and December meetings were approved.
2. **Review of Action Items from December Meeting**
 - a. *Solar array.* Marty Bitner and Phil Thayer have talked to Gerry Boyle about moving forward with the Town solar installation. Marty will meet on Friday with someone from DES to discuss. It was conveyed that David Kale has said it may not be until March of April that they move forward with the solar project, as they are overwhelmed with the High School right now.
 - b. *Community solar.* No further actions on this at this time. Becca Keane at Belmont Light was going to think about this; Travis Franck will follow up with her.
 - c. *Energy Storage.* James Booth and Travis Franck will be meeting Becca Keane about this.
3. **Discussion of Priorities for 2017**

Review of 2016 priorities and EC charge

First, Tony Barnes reviewed the priorities the EC had set itself for 2016, and the committee assessed our progress toward those goals. Three broad goals had been identified:

- a. *Developing a communication strategy.* There was general agreement that this was not achieved. Part of what should be done going forward is putting together an overall general strategy for spreading the word in town on various items. Ian Todreas put forward that better branding the EC should be a part of this effort. Roger Colton stated that developing a program or plan for reaching into the schools and businesses should be two discrete tasks in the future.
- b. *Support solar.* This was judged to be a great success, through the work of the EC supporting the Belmont Goes Solar campaign.
- c. *Support targeted, measurable, visible projects.* The ongoing Belmont Drives Electric campaign was judged to be a successful example of this.

The charge of the Energy Committee was reviewed. Don Mercier noted that in light of the task of "maximizing efficiency within... construction of capital assets", the EC should be working to ensure that the High School building committee is keeping in mind efficiency and the opportunity to install solar in its plans. Under "tasks", it was noted that in 2016 the EC updated the GHG inventory, and presented a summary of its work to Town Meeting for the first time.

Steps forward for 2017

Tony Barnes raised the question of whether the EC should proceed with a list of ranked priorities, a few items of key interest, or have the members working on areas in which they have specific personal interest. On the last point, there was brief discussion around the table of areas of these individual interest to the members present. These included: communication, establishing a revolving green fund, promoting EVs and electrical storage, time-of-use electricity pricing,

communicating to the town about effectiveness of different mitigation activities, energy efficiency, grassroots program development, and strengthening existing energy efficiency programs. An action item from this discussion was for each member of the committee to send directly to Tony Barnes a list of areas that he or she is specifically interested in.

Chair Colton adjourned the meeting at 9:10

Minutes written and submitted by James Booth