

Energy Committee Meeting Minutes  
May 10, 2017

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Attending: Marty Bitner, Roger Colton, Ian Todreas, Andy Healy, Travis Franck, Tony Barnes, Don Mercier

Minutes. Motion to approve minutes from previous meeting was approved.

1. Action items

Solar on Chenery - update from Marty

Don M. suggests getting formal approval from abutters around Chenery. Suggest PTO take a vote at the meeting this Thursday. Belmont Center charging stations

The Selectmen voted to approve that the four electric vehicle charging station parking spots located in Belmont center parking lot be free to use. The charging stations will be available for public use beginning on May 20. Storage RFP came out. Travis has been talking w/ Becca of Belmont Light. Have been talking about solar at incinerator site. If we want to do solar there, we should work on a proposal fairly soon. Travis will send storage RFP to Andy Healy for consideration.

2. Pay as You Throw (PAYT) (Kim Slack) Town Meeting approved Article 9, asking the Selectmen to consider pay as you throw as a possibility when the RFP goes out for waste collection.

3. Communications activities to pursue.

Roger C. notes that we are now just at a year since Belmont Goes Solar concluded. Could we potentially aggregate data from a group of solar hosts in town and do something meaningful with it? It would be nice to look back to see what the production is. Maybe we could say something like "we saved such and such amount of carbon". Tony wonders what we want to get out of analysis. Perhaps being able to say the impact on the town. Did we reduce the peak in the summer? Reduce carbon footprint? Perhaps ask Belmont Light for the peak two years ago and compare to peak this year? Don't want it to be wonky. Should be understandable by general public ("town facing metrics"). Tony suggests getting a little bit of data and toying with what metrics we can develop before seeking a larger data set from more solar hosts.

Tony Barnes presentation on Energy Committee website. What we have is a decent structure but could be improved. Suggested initial actions. Update contact info, improve visibility of "CO2 reduction progress report", make accomplishments page more accessible and easy to extend, include metrics to encourage action (solar, EV, BHB, Heat Pumps), add ability to notify EC of a town accomplishment or update, add ability to sign up for updates or express interest (mailing list). Roger C. suggest getting a town-issued email address for the energy committee. Understanding EC priorities and ongoing activities and accomplishments should be the main goals of the site. We should have an easy way for people to notify us of energy-related accomplishments so that we can highlight them. What is the process for updating the website? Is there a long turnaround time? How agile can we be? Tony notes that it would be useful to catalog what tools we have available to us to connect with citizens in town (e.g. Sustainable Belmont, Belmont Moms etc.)

4. Review of BHS building committee action

BHS building committee voted to include possibility of making Belmont High a zero net energy building in the RFP to consider. It was not included as a requirement. Roger notes that the big part of being part of the RFP means that firms will include the possibility in their bids. Roger asks if there is anything the EC should do formally, i.e. assign one of our members to keep tabs on the BHS building process. Andy suggest that it's important to have EC presence at the point of the RFP's coming back so that we can advocate for the inclusion of the energy-related items.

#### 5. Review of Cushing Village

Roger C. and John Kolterman met with the developer. Toll brothers initially did not agree to plant the 100 trees that were agreed to with original developers. However, they are very interested in putting a Hubway bike sharing station at the development. Roger and John K. said they would be willing to help with figuring out what the most likely routes would be that users would be interested in. The developers would like to know this before agreeing to install the bike sharing facility. Is there someone in Belmont who knows locations of bike sharing programs around town. Travis suggests checking with Wheelworks. Travis wonders whether there are other priorities the EC would desire for the project. Roger replies that the permitting process has already happened so most of the development is fixed at this point. Travis asks about ZipCar. Roger says they are required to have ZipCar spots and some charging stations.

#### 6. Belmont Light actions

Roger talked with Steve Klionsky about the BL energy efficiency plan. Roger said that the EC would like to work with Belmont Light to develop this plan. Travis thinks it is critical to establish cooperation with Belmont Light to get necessary data. Roger suggests stipulating some fixed amount of the budget towards energy efficiency.