

## Belmont Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2017

Approved

2017 OCT 18 AM 11:11

Present: Tony Barnes, Marty Bitner, James Booth, Roger Colton, Travis Franck, Andy Healy, Don Mercier.  
Guest: Kim Slack.

Chair Colton opened the meeting at 8:05.

The minutes for the January and May 2017 Energy Committee meetings were accepted.

1. **Storage RFP.** Travis Franck reported that Belmont Light submitted a proposal to the Mass DOER Energy Storage RFP. See the end of these minutes for an overview from Belmont Light.
2. **Solar Panel Installation on Chenery.** Marty Bitner met with Gerry Boyle at Chenery with people from Direct Energy Solar. There was an issue that the electrical panel is at opposite end of school from the proposed installation site, but it was decided that this is resolvable without any trouble. Phil Thayer met with Superintendent Phelan and the finance committee re: getting on school committee agenda for June 20. Having the town formally accept the panels is on the agenda for the next BOS meeting; there is some discussion around who exactly should be the petitioner for the planning board. This needs to get on the planning board's agenda for late July in order to not miss SREC opportunities. There have been informal conversations with abutters, and no complaints have been heard yet.
3. **Bike sharing at Cushing Village.** John Kolterman contacted Hubway to inquire about installing bike sharing in the new development in Cushing Square; they said that a request to them needs to come directly from the town. John Kolterman has gone to Jeffrey Wheeler in the Planning Department to ask whether the town will make this ask.
4. **Energy Committee Website.** Tony Barnes discovered that that we are supposed to talk to our official liaison (Mark Paolillo) about changing the website and getting a committee email address. Roger Colton will reach out to Paolillo about this.
5. **Sustainable Belmont.** Kim Slack described upcoming topics of presentations for Sustainable Belmont meetings in 2017-2018:

September	Recycling in Belmont Public Schools
October	Waste Contract Update
November	Climate Action Plan Part 1: Energy/Electricity
January	Climate Action Plan Part 2: Transportation
February	Renters: Energy Efficiency Solutions
March	Status of ESCOs
April	Biking in Belmont
May	Landfill Site: Potential Sustainable Uses

6. **Public meeting on options for waste: June 26<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm in Town Hall.** Kim Slack will send a list of topics that it would be helpful to have members of the EC speak to at this meeting. Andy Healy asked about what upside for the citizens will be, noting his concern that some obvious direct benefit will be needed for public acceptance. Slack said there are many different options, including returning funds directly to citizens (in a revenue-neutral plan) or offsetting possible

future taxes (e.g. associated with building the high school); such options will be discussed at the meeting.

7. **Relationship with Belmont Light.** Roger Colton met with Steve Klionsky and sent a letter to the Board of Selectmen asking the BOS to direct the EC and LBAC to work with BL to 1) develop a demand side management plan (such a plan was originally supposed to be released in 2013) and 2) look at extending the state's renewable portfolio standard to BL.
8. **Residential Energy Efficiency.** Roger Colton noted that the state is considering introducing home energy ratings to be assessed and reported with every home sale. There was discussion of whether implementing such a program at the municipal level in Belmont would be advisable. There was good discussion on this issue. Some members expressed the view that such a program would be a waste of time since it would not affect decisions to buy while introducing more bureaucracy; others felt that it would be useful to provide homebuyers with more information, and may get them thinking about efficiency when they might not otherwise be. There was no action proposed at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 AM.

Minutes written and submitted by James Booth

## **Belmont Light Virtual Power Plant Proposal**

### **Overview**

Belmont Light submitted a proposal for MA DOER's Advancing Commonwealth Energy Storage (ACES) Program on June 9, 2017. The ACES Program aims to support "innovative, broadly replicable energy storage use cases/business models with multiple value streams in order to prime Massachusetts for increased commercialization and deployment of storage technologies."<sup>1</sup> A total of \$10 million dollars in funding is available through the Program. Private, public, and utility applicants were encouraged to submit funding requests for up to \$1.25 million.

Belmont Light's ACES proposal seeks the maximum award of \$1.25 million, with a 55% cost share, to fund a Virtual Power Plant (VPP) project that would consist of three 500 kW lithium-ion batteries to be placed on separate locations along Belmont's distribution system and centrally dispatched by Belmont Light. The primary goal of the VPP is to reduce costs associated with peak load, while providing a flexible, reliable, and scalable platform for managing and optimizing the use of distributed energy storage. The project has a strong business case, potentially enabling Belmont Light to recoup its cost share within an estimated 7 years.

Aside from its focus on cost mitigation, another key feature of the proposed project architecture is its scalability. The flexible program design allows for additional energy storage assets to be integrated into the VPP in the future. Behind-the-meter energy storage systems, demand response (DR) programs for all customer types, and other energy technologies (utility-scale or distributed renewables, residential batteries) could also be integrated to create blocks of flexible load resources that can be intelligently dispatched for a variety of applications.

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<sup>1</sup> MA DOER ACES Webpage: <http://www.masscec.com/aces>.

Customers will benefit from the VPP through **lowered energy and demand charges, backup power services, increased power quality and efficiencies, more seamless integration of renewables, and reduced pressure on aging infrastructure.**