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Belmont Energy Committee Meeting Minutes  
May 18, 2016

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**Attending:** Roger Colton (chair), Ian Todreas, Donald Mercier, James Booth, Jan Kruse (vice chair), Tony Barnes, Andy Healey. **Guests:** John Marzec, Gabe Shapiro and Madeleine Barr (Sagewell) and Dane Helsing (Beacon Community Church)

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

1. **March 2016 meeting minutes** were unanimously approved with one amendment.
2. **Town Meeting presentation.** Jan Kruse explained that we have been granted permission for a 5-minute presentation at Town Meeting in June and presented a draft of PowerPoint. Discussion ensued as to best slides. It was decided to let the communications team (Jan, James and Ian) make the final decision. Roger nominated Jan to present the presentation for the group.
3. **Belmont Goes Solar update.** Roger noted that as of April 30, there were 170 signed contracts and the campaign has been extended through June 30 with a new goal of 200 solar systems sold. He noted that the number is now at 175 systems. If we reach the 200 homes goal, Direct Energy Solar will donate the equivalent of a three-year lease for an electric vehicle for the Town of Belmont. Town Administrator David Kale had contacted Roger to ask if it's likely to happen as it would free up money in his budget. He would like an electric van for DPW use. Jan Kruse noted that the 2-year lease was a definite since we hit the goal of 175 sales and hopefully the 200 goal was well within reach. Roger also noted that since BGS hit the original goal of 100 systems sold, Direct Energy Solar has committed to install a solar array valued at \$25,000 on a Belmont school or other municipal building. Roger needs to speak with Facilities Director Gerry Boyle about process of moving forward with that but he's on vacation and will return in a week. He will speak with Gerry before the next Energy Committee meeting.
4. **Communications sub-group.** Jan noted that her, James and Ian had met once and think that part of the communications effort should be to set interim goals for carbon reduction (rather than just the lofty "80% by 2050.")
5. **Membership.** Roger noted that he feels the formal charge of the committee should be modified and has not taken further action on membership vacancies but plans to do so over the summer. He feels that we should change the membership makeup (as noted in the charge) to one municipal staff representative (instead of the current 2) and instead expand the number of residential members. He will bring amended suggestions to the next meeting. Ian Todreas noted that he reached out to the faith community. He invited Rev. Dane Helsing of the Beacon Church and Rev. Doug John of the Latter Day Saints. Both are interested but Rev. John cannot attend a Wed. morning meeting. Ian also noted that Theresa Hammel is interested in filling a resident vacancy slot.
6. **Electric Vehicles (EV).** Ian and James met with Pasi Miettinen of Sagewell to discuss the updated GHG inventory and he is also interested in EVs. Belmont Light, Sagewell and the Energy Committee are all interested in working together on an EV community program building on the Belmont Goes Solar model. Ian then introduced Gabe Shapiro and Madeleine (Maddy) Barr from Sagewell to discuss a possible community program.

[Jan Kruse left the meeting and Ian Todreas took over as note-taker.]

**7. Community Electric Vehicle campaign.** Belmont Light (BL) has contracted with Sagewell to help coordinate a social marketing and outreach program to promote electric vehicles in town. Sagewell employees Gabe Shapiro and Madeleine Barr came to present about an Electric Vehicle program and whether the Energy Committee would like to work with Belmont Light on it.

- Don Mercier expressed concern about the life cycle environmental impacts of EVs. Gabe offered to send along a study on the topic.

- Gabe gave an overview of Sagewell's role in the BL EV program. Retained by BL, Sagewell will lead a community based social marketing campaign to Belmont residents to raise awareness of EVs and drive their adoption.

- The campaign will focus on 4 EV models that are locally available, affordable, and have large batteries: BMW I3, Chevy Volt, Nissan Leaf, and VW.
- Sagewell will pre-negotiate leases for Belmont residents, offer door-to-door test drive opportunities, organize test drive events, and conduct field marketing and door to door outreach.
- BL's incentives will likely include a time of use rate to encourage overnight charging, a discount on charging technology, and maybe something else TBD.
- BL is also going to use Sagewell to help secure EVs for the muni fleet and charging stations at large employer sites, such as McLean Hospital. Public charging stations are not part of the program.
- The program's goal is to secure 200 leases in 24 months.
- Gabe emphasized that BL/Sagewell want the campaign to be collaborative and inclusive of all stakeholders in town, a la Belmont Goes Solar.

8. **Other update:** Facilities Director John Marzec reported that the DPW received \$31K rebate from Belmont Light for heat pump at the DPW building.

Chair Colton closed the meeting at 9:15 AM.

Minutes written by Vice Chair Jan Kruse and Member Ian Todreas; submitted by Jan Kruse.