

**Belmont Energy Committee Meeting Minutes**

**March 8, 2017**

**DRAFT**

2017 MAY 30 PM 2:03

**Attending:** Marty Bitner, James Booth, Roger Colton, Travis Franck, Andy Healy, Don Mercier, and Ian Todreas. **Guest:** Kim Slack.

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

1. **Minutes.** The meetings for the February meeting were not available for distribution and adoption at this time.
2. **Review of Action Items from February Meeting**
  - a. *Solar array.* Marty Bitner has been attempting to meet with Superintendent Phelan to discuss moving forward with installation of the solar array from DES on the Chenery building. Kim Slack offered that he will ask Amanda Mujica, who heads the parent Green Teams at the Belmont Schools, to raise this issue with the Superintendent.
  - b. *Energy storage.* Travis Franck noted that the awaited request for proposals on energy storage from the state has still not yet appeared. He also noted that Sagewell recently presented to LBAC their analysis arguing that the environmental benefits of energy storage projects are negligible; he wants to look further at their analysis, but it may be some time before this is made available to LBAC.
  - c. *LBAC outreach.* Several members of the committee attended the most recent LBAC meeting. It was noted that the presentation by Sagewell at this meeting highlighted promoting electric vehicles and heat pumps as areas with significant environmental benefit and benefit for Belmont Light's revenue. LBAC also would like to see data and analysis of the Belmont Drives Electric campaign, to be able to evaluate the effectiveness of what was initially presented as a pilot project, and to inform decisions about what aspects of the program to continue.
3. **Other items**
  - a. **Cushing Village.** Roger Colton noted that a sustainability agreement had been reached in 2013 with Chris Starr, the former developer of the Cushing Village project. Colton recently met with Toll Brothers to discuss the current status of this agreement. The head of their Development Team has said that he wants to discuss the agreement with Chris Starr first. John Kolterman of Sustainable Belmont will take the lead on working to ensure that the agreement stays in effect as the development moves forward.
4. **Review and confirmation of 2017 priorities**
  - a. The committee reviewed the priorities that had been discussed at the previous two Energy Committee meetings. The committee voted unanimously to approve five group priorities: Communication Strategy, Transportation, BL Policy and Programs, Renewables, and Town Infrastructure (see table below). The committee also voted unanimously to approve the list of specific priorities that fell within each category.
5. **Resolution for Town Meeting on waste disposal**

Kim Slack presented to the Committee about waste services. He noted that it has been estimated that a pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) program in Belmont would reduce waste to landfill by 25%, resulting in a saving of 4000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per year. He explained that when considering different options for waste services, the Selectmen have repeatedly expressed the belief that their options are constrained by the language of a tax override passed in 1990, 27 years ago; this has been interpreted to preclude making changes such as instituting PAYT. Slack described a “sense-of-the-town” resolution he is presenting to Town Meeting that would “empower the Board of Selectmen to consider all options for waste management in the town, including waste metering such as pay-as-you-throw systems, as part of their ongoing role as financial managers of the town.” The Energy Committee voted 6-1-1 to endorse this resolution.

6. **Structure of Agendas for Future meetings.** Chair Colton suggested that future meetings be structured in light of the identified five general priority areas. He suggested that at each meeting the committee discuss Communications (as a central goal of the committee), and that of the remaining four priority areas, two be discussed at each meeting (alternating month-to-month). There was general agreement that this would be a good way to structure meetings.

Chair Colton adjourned the meeting at 9:05.

Minutes written and submitted by James Booth

## Identified Priorities

Group Priorities	Individual Projects
Communication Strategy	Web Site update
	Other Tools / Metrics
	Education and Outreach Program
Transportation	Residential Electric Vehicles
BL Policy and Programs	Renewable Portfolio Standard
	Rate Design
	Residential EE Program support
Renewables	Residential Storage
	Community Storage / Solar
	Install free solar from Direct Energy
Town Infrastructure	Support Belmont High School plan
	Support sustainable Cushing Square
	Library, Community Path, Existing buildings