

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BELMONT MUNICIPAL LIGHT ADVISORY BOARD
CONFERENCE ROOM, BELMONT LIGHT
40 PRINCE STREET, BELMONT
Tuesday, March 10, 2015
7:15 P.M.**

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2015 APR 21 PM 1:30

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Brown called a regular meeting of the Municipal Light Advisory Board (MLAB) to order at 7:18 P.M.

Present:

MLAB- Chair Brown, Vice Chair Forrester, Members DiOrio, Jones, Klionsky, McClain, and Rojas

Belmont Light- General Manager Palmer, Staff Mancinelli, Clerk Williams

Absent:

Member McVay

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED 12/9/14 & 1/8/15

Brown made the motion to approve minutes from December 9, 2014 and January 8, 2015. DiOrio seconded and the motion was approved.

III. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

a. Update on substation and transmission project

Palmer updated the board on the substation and transmission project. Recent developments on the project include:

- Palmer and the project team expect completion of party wall construction at the 20 Flanders site by May of 2015.
- The substation construction bid was awarded to Boston Building & Bridge Corporation (BB&B), and the contract is expected to be executed by March 16th. BB&B will be on site in April to start preparing for building construction, alongside the party wall contractor.
- The transmission line is currently a main focus for the project team. The bid for its construction will go out by the end of March. Belmont Light will allow two months for bid submissions, given the complexity of the bid package. Palmer expects to award the contract by June and for the contractor to be mobilized by August. There is an escalation in cost due to differing site conditions along the transmission route, but Palmer doesn't expect that this will cause the project cost to exceed the current funding limit.

- The substation name was changed from “Flanders” to “Blair Pond” because a substation called “Flanders” already exists somewhere in the ISO-NE region.
- NSTAR/Eversource and Belmont Light are in the final stages of the system impact study.

b. Update on demand-side management

Mancinelli stated that the Energy Efficiency Grant Program is going smoothly. The first reporting to the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources requirement was taken care of in January 2015. The heat pump portion of the program has been going well, with 11 customers contracting for systems so far. The overall target for heat pumps is 50. Belmont Light has also awarded 50 weatherization grants to customers so far, and more are in process. Belmont was initially targeting to allocate 100 weatherization by spring, but will extend the program later into the year. Belmont Light and Sagewell have been working closely with the Energy Committee on strategic community outreach. The team will continue to market the program.

As for the 2015 Energy Star Appliance Rebate Program, the most significant changes customers will see from the 2014 program is that rebates for dishwashers and clothes washers are not being offered this year due to a lack of these appliances’ impact on peak reduction. According to Mancinelli, energy efficient dehumidifiers do lead to cost-effective electric savings, so Belmont Light increased the rebates for dehumidifiers rebate from \$25 to \$75 for 2015.

Belmont Light is also working with Sagewell to investigate new energy efficiency programs. Sagewell is currently investigating potential opportunities in commercial lighting, residential LED lighting, and HVAC. Palmer mentioned that Belmont Light hopes to have Sagewell’s recommendations by June.

DiOrio asked how the smart meter project was going. Palmer noted the project is going well, is over 75 percent finished, and is expected to be completed this year. Before the board moved on to the next agenda item, Palmer stated that the financial/billing system project is in its final stages of contract negotiations. The target date for executing the contract is the end of March. Mark McVay (not present) reviewed the contract and gave some feedback and recommendations.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board moved into executive session at 7:59 P.M.:

To protect trade secrets, confidential, competitively sensitive or other proprietary information provided in the course of proceedings when a municipal lighting plant board determines that such disclosure will adversely affect its ability to conduct business in relation to other entities making, selling or distributing electric power and energy pursuant to section 47D of chapter 164.

Respectfully submitted by Gretchen McClain, MLAB Secretary