MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BELMONT MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL
LARGE COMMUNITY ROOM
Tuesday, June 16, 2015
7:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Baghdady called a regular meeting of the Municipal Light Board (MLB) to order at 7:06 P.M.

Present:
> MLB- Chair Baghdady, Vice Chair Paolillo, Member Williams

> Belmont Light- General Manager Palmer, Staff Keane

II. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

a. Update on substation and transmission project

Palmer reported that the demolition work and Party Wall at 20 Flanders Road had been completed. The site was turned over to BB&B, the building contractor, who started to remove soil and excavate pipes. Foundation work is scheduled to start later in June.

With the demolition work done, one of the project's four main phases is complete. The project team also recently held a bid opening for work on the transmission line and the DPU had finally signed off on Eversource's filing. Town department heads have been updated on the progress. The project is still on track for June 2016 energization.

III. CREATION AND APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY NET METERING WORKING GROUP

Baghdady proposed creating a working group that could advise on Belmont Light's solar tariff with the objective of recommending an updated pricing policy that does not discourage installment of solar panels on residential properties. Without technical assistance from a working group, Baghdady did not feel in a position to vote on net metering proposals being circulated by residents.

Williams cautioned that the conversation about Belmont Light's solar policy has been going on since last September and that delaying a decision further could be detrimental. Another solar season had started and Williams was concerned that some residents will be reluctant to go forward with new installations because the current Belmont Light tariff has Phase 2 language in it. Williams also doesn't see the two proposals currently up for consideration by the Light Board (one from MLAB and the other from resident Claus Becker) as too far apart. He proposed amending the current Belmont Light tariff to remove Phase 2 language or agreeing to the 2015

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resident proposal. A net metering working group could then do the work of reconciling difference between the two tariff options.

The Board discussed the different options further, with Baghdady pointing out that the Light Board had already voted to suspend Phase 2 indefinitely and Paolillo and Baghdady stating that a working group should have a broader charge beyond net metering. Baghdady offered that the working group could also advise on initiatives that would help Belmont Light reduce carbon emissions.

Baghdady had heard from five people who are interested in serving on a temporary committee: Steve Klionsky, a current member of MLAB that could be a bridge between MLAB, Belmont Light, and the new working group; Roy Epstein, who has a background in economics; Henry Jacoby, a professor at MIT with vast knowledge of solar energy; Tony Barnes, a member of the Energy Committee who works in the energy field; and Bob Gallant, an electrical engineer and longtime Town Meeting Member. Claus Becker and David Lubin were also interested in serving on the working group.

Baghdady said that appointing members quickly is important because he wants the group to be able to stick to a 60-day deadline. Input from non-committee members will be welcomed. From the audience, Claus Becker questioned the effectiveness of a technical committee. He urged appointing regular citizens, rather than professionals, to the group since net metering has become such a political issue. Paolillo responded that the Light Board needs to make decisions that are best for the community, not what is best politically.

The Light Board also scheduled a meeting for Monday, June 22nd at 6:30 PM to discuss striking the Phase 2 language from Belmont Light's current tariff. Belmont Light staff would look into the feasibility of revising the tariff prior to the meeting.

After further discussion with the audience and amongst board members, the Board decided to appoint 3 full, voting members and 2 alternate, non-voting members to the Temporary Net Metering Working Advisory Group. As discussed, the Working Advisory Group's charge will include advising on an updated solar policy for Belmont Light's solar customers and recommending programs and initiatives that would assist Belmont Light in further reducing carbon emissions. The Board also discussed that appointing Claus Becker as a working group member might be a conflict of interest since he authored one of the proposals at hand. Also, the Board members were unfamiliar with David Lubin's credentials.

Paolillo moved to appoint Steve Klionsky as a voting member of the Temporary Net Metering Working Advisory Group. Williams seconded and the motion was approved with a vote of all in favor (3-0).

Paolillo moved to appoint Roy Epstein as a voting member of the Temporary Net Metering Working Advisory Group. Baghdady seconded, and the motion was approved with a vote of 2 in favor and one abstention.

Paolillo moved to appoint Henry Jacoby as a voting member of the Temporary Net Metering Working Advisory Group. Williams seconded and the motion was approved with a vote of 2 in favor and one abstention.

Paolillo moved to appoint Robert Gallant as an alternate member of the Temporary Net Metering Working Advisory Group. Williams seconded and the motion was approved with a vote of all in favor (3-0).

Move to appoint Tony Barnes as an alternate member to the Temporary Net Metering Working Advisory Group. Williams seconded and the motion was approved with a vote of all in favor (3-0).

Resident Erin Lubien informed the Board that she had launched an online petition that collected 190 signatures in favor of solar power and fair net metering. She hoped the Working Advisory Group would consider her petition.

Resident Phil Thayer asked for clarification on what will happen with the tariff leading up to the June 22nd Light Board meeting.

IV.   MUNICIPAL LIGHT ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENTS

Baghdady noted that Ralph Jones and Steve Klionsky are alternate members of MLAB, but this is not reflected in information from the Town Clerk's Office. It appears that Patty DiOrio, Gretchen McClain, Mark McVay, and Steve Klionsky have terms expiring in 2016 or 2017. However, Ashley Brown and Bob Forrester's seem to have terms that have already expired or expire very soon. The Board wondered if the confusion in the records and when different terms expire may be because the Town and Belmont Light are on different fiscal years. It might be best for the Board to adjust MLAB appointments away from a calendar year schedule toward a municipal fiscal year schedule, which starts July 1st. The Board then agreed that Ashley Brown and Bob Forrester's terms end on June 30, 2015.

Paolillo motioned that, going forward, terms for appointed Municipal Light Advisory Board members shall run from July 1st to June 30th. The motion was approved with a vote of all in favor (3-0).

Baghdady stated that Brown and Forrester have served on MLAB for 10 years and have done much to help the community in that time, but suggested that it is time to hear from new voices. Klionsky and Jones have been alternates for several years, so Baghdady proposed that they move into permanent members. He also proposed advertising the two alternate positions. Paolillo added that if Forrester and Brown are not reappointed, it is important to express that their contributions to MLAB have been significant and that their service is much appreciated. To Paolillo, the change in MLAB appointments has nothing to do with what has transpired recently within the community around solar DG.

Paolillo moved to appoint Ralph Jones and Steve Klionsky as permanent members of the Municipal Light Advisory Board commencing July 1, 2015. Williams seconded and the motion was approved with a vote of all in favor (3-0).

V.   APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Baghdady suggested deferring approval of the May 22, 2015 minutes until he can provide edits.

VI.   ADJOURNMENT

The Board moved to adjourn at 8:25 P.M.