

**MINUTES  
TOWN OF BELMONT  
BELMONT MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM  
TOWN HALL  
Monday, March 14, 2016  
6:30 P.M.**

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

*Chair Baghdady called a regular meeting of the Municipal Light Board (MLB) to order at 6:37 P.M.*

Present:

MLB- Chair Sami Baghdady, Vice Chair Mark Paolillo, Member Jim Williams

Belmont Light- General Manager Jim Palmer; Staff Becca Keane

Temporary Net Metering Working Advisory Group & Light Board Advisory Committee-  
Steve Klionsky (no quorum)

Energy Committee & Belmont Goes Solar- Roger Colton (no quorum)

**II. DISCUSSION ON 1,000 KW SOLAR CAPACITY LIMIT**

Baghdady explained that the existing 1,000-kilowatt capacity limit for rooftop solar was a policy imposed by the Light Board based on the recommendations of the Temporary Net Metering Working Advisory Group (TMWAG). At the Light Board meeting in February 2015, Colton reported that the Belmont Goes Solar campaign helped 40 residents sign contracts for solar installations. Since that meeting, Belmont Goes Solar's original goal of 100 new installations was exceeded and the 1,000 kW cap was close to being reached. To Baghdady, the success of Belmont Goes demonstrates that the work of TMWAG and Belmont's new solar tariff are working.

Colton reported that the latest update for the Belmont Goes Solar campaign is 119 new installations sold. Paolillo mentioned that there were approximately 25 installations in town prior to Belmont Goes Solar, depending on what metric is used. Colton distributed a map of Belmont's solar installations that showed that solar adoption is not concentrated in any particular area, but spread across town. With the success of Belmont Goes Solar, Belmont has indeed sold enough solar systems that the capacity limit will be exceeded. Colton recommends suspending the cap for the duration of Belmont Goes Solar to not impede the campaign's continued success. Baghdady and Paolillo agreed that MLB should not limit the growth of solar possible through the campaign. Once the systems are installed and online later in the summer, MLB can assess whether there are issues with Belmont Light's distribution system.

From the audience, TMWAG Chair suggested that a specific end date for Belmont Goes Solar be included in Belmont Light's solar policy. This would help avoid the assumption that the suspension of the cap is unlimited.

Palmer confirmed that it would be prudent to conduct engineering and financial impact studies to inform an updated solar capacity limit. Williams suggested that preliminary studies could be done over the summer of 2016. Williams and Colton then discussed what level of solar penetration is actually feasible in Belmont. They also discussed that decisions on what a new capacity limit should be could happen at a later time.

Baghdady raised the idea of using solar installations for education purposes. As part of Belmont Goes Solar, Direct Energy will donate a system valued at \$25,000 for a municipal building. He wondered whether the town could use this for an educational project. For instance, a portal could be made available to students to monitor generation of the installation. Colton agreed and said that in his own opinion, it might be possible to put panel learning stations at several schools.

Baghdady explained that Klionsky drafted proposed policy language for suspending the 1,000 kW limit (language attached) and Paolillo read the language aloud. The Board further discussed options for suspending the solar capacity limit and assessing system and financial impacts in the fall.

*Williams moved to amend Belmont Light's Policy on Emission Free Renewable Energy Facilities to temporarily suspend the 1,000 kW aggregate limit through the end of the Belmont Goes Solar campaign. Paolillo seconded and the motion was approved with a vote of all in favor (3-0).*

### **III. ADJOURNMENT**

*The Board moved to adjourn at 6:58 P.M.*

**Section 1.07 Determination of EFR Facilities Aggregate Capacity Limit**

Belmont Light shall not process new applications after such time that the aggregate capacity of all solar distributed generation in Belmont receiving new metering or buyback services in addition to all applications previously submitted to Belmont Light under this policy exceeds a certain kW level. Upon the conclusion of the ‘Belmont Goes Solar’ solar installation campaign that began in 2016, the Light Board will promptly assess the advisability of further EFR facilities and will then establish an aggregate capacity limit. The Light Board may thereafter increase the EFR Facilities Aggregate Capacity Limit in its discretion.