

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**Belmont Light Advisory Committee**

2016 DEC -7 AM 8:44

Minutes of Meeting June 9, 2016  
Selectman's Room  
7:30 pm

Present: Members Steve Klionsky, Ralph Jones, Mark McVay, Gretchen McClain. Absent: Member Patricia DiOrio

Organization: Election of officers was the first order of business. Steve Klionsky was nominated and elected as Chair. Mark McVay was nominated and elected as Vice-Chair. For purposes of this meeting, Gretchen McClain continued in her prior capacity as Secretary.

Minutes: There were no prior minutes to adopt.

Matters: The Light Board requested the Committee to review the Electric Vehicle (EV) program being proposed by Belmont Light. After a brief statement by Jim Palmer, General Manager of Belmont Light, as to the advantages of the EV Program, Sagewell, the consulting firm that had been engaged by Belmont Light to design and institute the program, made a Powerpoint presentation. Sagewell explained that the program did not directly provide incentives for EVs themselves but did provide rebates connected to purchases of "smart chargers" and reduced electric rates for those Belmont residents that would use those chargers to charge their vehicles in off-peak periods.

Sagewell described a program that would have as its goal 200 EV in town. It was reported that there were approximately 30 at present. The assumption was that these cars would be driven approximately 12,000 miles per year.

Led by Member McVay, who has a good deal of experience with EV programs in his professional capacity, a number of questions were put to Sagewell representatives. Members questioned the reasonableness of the assumptions that Sagewell had built into the program. In addition, questions were asked about payment to Sagewell. It was responded that Sagewell would be paid \$24,000 per year. In addition, there would be other administrative expenses connected to marketing of \$80,000. The \$80,000 expense was explained as the need to publicize the program and involve car dealers selling electric cars.

Member McVay indicated that it would be important to review the data from the program to see if the assumptions presented were being born out. For example, the dollar amount of discounted rates are connected to the miles-driven assumption. He indicated a monthly report was not unreasonable. Sagewell indicated that it would make data available to the Committee.

After hearing the presentation and asking questions, Member McClain indicated that she believed it was unnecessary to provide the subsidies inherent in the proposed program and that the marketing expense was high. She further indicated that it was anticipated that Time of Use rates would be instituted by

Belmont Light in the near future and that would make unnecessary the need for discounted rates for those electric vehicle owners charging their vehicles on off-peak periods.

Members Klionsky, McVay and Jones indicated that on balance the proposed program appeared to be a modest expense and a worthwhile effort. However, there was assent that reviewing the data as the program progressed would be important. Chair Klionsky stated that he would pass along the views of the majority and the minority to the Light Board at an upcoming Light Board meeting.

The meeting was then adjourned.