

2018 FEB -7 AM 9:16

## Light Board Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Minutes of Meeting June 26, 2017  
Selectmen's Room  
7:15 pm

Attending members: Steve Klionsky, Bob Forrester, Sarah Jackson, Mark McVay, Travis Franck  
Absent members: Ralph Jones, Roy Epstein  
Others attending: Jim Palmer (BL), Fractal (consultant), Aidan Leary (BL), Becca Keane (BL), Pasi (Sagewell), Marty Bitner

Convened 7:23PM

### I. CALL TO ORDER

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 30, 2017 MEETING

- No minutes ready to approve.

### III. ENERGY STORAGE RFP – UPDATE/DISCUSSION

- Judy McElroy and Daniel Crotzer from Fractal Consulting, a consulting firm engaged by BL, made a presentation.
- Fractal presented an introduction to Energy Storage broadly, including the industry trends and battery storage technology.
- LBAC members asked questions around the total cost of ownership and the cost/benefit methodology.
- Solar+Storage was presented as attractive because solar kWh would be cheaper than charging the storage battery from the grid.
- Load Management focuses on transmission and capacity fees/charges.
- Ancillary Services marketing power back to the grid, providing stability services, need to be taken into account.
- BL choose to file what is called a Virtual Power Plant (VPP) proposal for energy storage in response to the DOER RFP. VPP addresses capacity and transmission charges via a central controlled discharge. The current focus BL is storage, but VPP also would allow for control of residential, behind-the-meter storage
- BL is requesting ~\$1million grant from DOER; the Town's project cost might be \$1.5 million
- DOER RFP Grant awards are due to be announced in mid-September; if BL is an awardee the storage facility will need to be installed in 18 months

### IV. ELECTRIC VEHICLE PROGRAM – UPDATE/PRESENTATION

Pasi from Sagewell and Marty presented an update on the Belmont Drives Electric (BDE) program, as follows:

- The program has contributed to doubling the number of EVs in Belmont (to ~84 EVs); that is the highest EV adoption rate in the state per population.

- About 25% of EVs are enrolled in BL's Smart Charging program.
  - Time of Use pricing would, likely, send a clearer signal to charging EVs at night (as well as other energy use).
  - The official campaign of BDE is slowing over the summer but BL is still continuing its charger and night charging incentives.
  - Bring Your Own Charger option seems to have good compliance even without full control of the charger; it is more cost effective than the hardware program (providing a charger).
  - Sagewell will be doing analysis around household energy usage profiles, including "Typical Solar house, EV house, EV+solar house", etc.
- LBAC would like some metric for the costs of the program and how much BL is saving; is there a good return?

#### **V. BELMONT LIGHT FINANCIALS - DISCUSSION**

- Financial statements report as of calendar year 2016
- Revenue was at \$23.8 mil (down 7%)
- Operating expenses were down 3.3%
- Consumption is down
- Net Revenue after PILOT is \$1.8mil
- Reserves up
- Eversource's payment to the Town is higher than was expected and these funds are being using to retire the Town's bonds
- The Town Assessor's Office is currently assessing the Substation assets
- BL will distribute the financial statements to LBAC when they are finished

#### **VI. INCINERATOR SITE SOLAR FARM - DISCUSSION**

- An ad-hoc group of residents is discussing some possible uses for the incinerator site. These uses include recreation, solar installation, and some other Town uses.
- This ad-hoc group is trying to see if there can be a proposed allocation of the space that could be multi-use.
- The area of land on paper is likely much bigger than the usable land for any of the possible uses.
- There will be a site visit in the coming weeks, so the ad-hoc group can see the area for themselves.

#### **VII. GLOBAL WARMING SOLUTION ACT REG'S - DISCUSSION**

- DEP has promulgated draft Clean Energy Standard (CES) regulations that would require MLPs and IOU's to comply with a RPS-like standard (this would be an enhanced standard beyond the RPS standard the IOUs are already subject to).
- In response to the proposal, comments were sent to DEP by several MLPs objecting to the proposed MLP inclusion in the CES program. BL was one of the signatories.
- Question is posed: Should the BL have signed onto the comments without running the issue by the Light Board or LBAC?

- Jim Palmer indicated that no notice was warranted and that he was following the rules set up by the Town, when the Town has expressed interest (during Retail Choice discussions in ~2005) in maintaining local control. The DEP comments were about preserving local control.
- Mr. Palmer indicated he would like a new charge with better defined roles for BL and LBAC.

#### **VIII. BL GM'S CONTRACT RENEWAL/LB 6/16/17 MEETING – RECAP**

- The LBAC member that attended the 6/16 LB meeting, which mainly focused GM's 360 degree performance review, recapped that meeting.
- Mr. Palmer expressed that the 360 performance review was biased and unfair (no particulars given).
- Mr. Palmer expressed again that an enhanced structure is needed for him to properly function. He recounted that MLAB was supposed to be a new Light Board but was then dissolved, and he stated that he has felt alone and without guidance for the last 18 months since MLAB was dissolved.
- Mr. Palmer expressed frustration with the Light Board and their lack of interest in Belmont Light, his limited time with them, and their inability to provide valuable oversight.
- Mr. Franck recounted the Oct. 2016 and Dec. 2016 Light Board meetings where, with Mr. Palmer present, it was discussed by the LB that LBAC should work with Belmont Light and vice versa. Mr. Palmer stated that those meetings were not clear directives and that they did not provide the guidance that permitted him to work directly with LBAC. LBAC was said to be only set up to advise the Light Board.
- After Mr. Palmer suggested that LBAC was not chartered to work in a similar manner as MLAB, and did not have a sufficient charge, Mr. Kliensky asked if it would be enough for the LBAC charge to be changed to the MLAB charge – would that be good to allow cooperation? Mr. Palmer said no (but no reason given).
- When LBAC members expressed the desire to work with Mr. Palmer, Mr. Palmer said that he could send material that would support his position. Mr. Kliensky said he'd like that material to better understand Palmer's position.
- Mr. Palmer and several LBAC members agreed that a new governance structure should be a priority. The group sentiment was that a new Light Board governance structure would take many months (maybe years) as it worked its way through the Belmont public process.
- When asked, "What do we do in the meantime?" (paraphrase), Mr. Palmer didn't provide an interim solution.

#### **IX. FUTURE MEETINGS**

- LBAC indicated it would like to have a meeting on BL's energy portfolio, on BL governance structure, and on energy policy (could be next meeting)
- Dates TDB

**X. ADJOURNMENT**  
Adjournment at 9:42p