

## Light Board Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Minutes of Meeting September 14, 2017  
Selectmen's Room  
7:15 pm

2018 FEB -7 AM 9:16

Attending members: Steve Klionsky, Bob Forrester, Ralph Jones, Roy Epstein, Sarah Jackson, Travis Franck

Absent members: Mark McVay,

From Belmont Light: Craig, Becca, Walter, Aiden, Maria

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Convened 7:18PM

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 3, 2017 minutes were approved by all members that were present at that meeting.

August 10, 2017 minutes were approved by all members that were present at that meeting.

### III. GENERAL MANAGER SEARCH

No discussion during the meeting on this topic.

### IV. ACTING GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

- Belmont Light (BL) is working to cutover to the new substation. By the end of August, all of Belmont is being served via the Blair Pond Substation.
- Further work to finish some conduit remains to complete "Project B" (upgrading distribution). There are currently five (instead of the previous six) lines servicing the town. The final design calls for adding the sixth line before Project B is done. This will likely be done in Spring 2018.
- BL sent a truck and crew to help Florida recover from the hurricane. Costs of this will be reimbursed by FEMA.
- A resident inquired to BL about behind-the-meter storage (e.g., Tesla PowerWall). BL would like to start thinking about a way to incentivize customers and integrate them in the grid.
- McLean is interested in acquiring a fuel cell. This will be a special project that will need consideration by LBAC and the Light Board. McLean is the largest commercial customer for BL. Currently McLean has not submitted an application for consideration.

### V. DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED BL IRP PLAN

- The Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) would be a roadmap for supply and demand side resources for the next 20 years. It would help identify targets for renewables and for DSM. The original timeline was do this IRP before the cost of service study (COSS). BL would be asking LBAC for guidance: Should BL keep the current timeline (IRP and then COSS) or should they change the plan?
- BL needs to have interim targets (e.g., 2030 renewables target) in order to plan its medium-term action, and the Town can have better sense of action its climate goal.
- BL will reach out to the planned IRP consultant (Black and Veatch) to see if they can offer other services, like the COSS, to see if there is a single vendor solution to help with the IRP vs. COSS timing.

## **VI. STATUS OF BLAIR POND SUBSTATION**

- Topic: What are the current charges the Town owes Eversource and what are steps to minimize the costs to the Town?
- Eversource is currently applying for PTF status to the ISO. Currently the PTF application is under review by regulators to see if the transmission line will get 100% PTF status.
- BL sent a Notice of Termination to Eversource at the beginning of September to end the previous transmission contract, which will lower Town payments to Eversource. The current contract will terminate at the end of September, reducing Town payments to Eversource by ~\$800k-1Mil, annually.
- Given the pending PTF application, there are several possible scenarios for transmission costs moving forward: 1) 100% PTF means that will be a negligible cost to Belmont, 2) 0% PTF will be about \$400k annual charge moving forward; or 3) some percentage in between, which would require Belmont to make an additional local charge to Eversource.
- LBAC requested to see the formula that calculates the possible \$400k charge that BL would face if there is 0% PTF.

## **VII. RATE IMPLICATIONS OF BLAIR POND SUBSTATION**

- Topic: What are the rate implications for an annual savings of \$400-800k?
- Holding other all things constant, the rate savings would be a fraction of a cent per kWh. This is without considering BL's greater goals or any other change in priorities in the future.

## **VIII. FINANCIALS**

- The current rate includes the operation costs, plus the substation debt service, plus an amount to increase the capital budget reserves to finish the Master Plan (i.e., finish the bigger substation system overhaul).

- Reserve funds are currently increasing toward BL's goals, which are a percentage of operating costs plus the expecting costs of the Master Plan (Project C). There is an assumption that the rates could go back down after the reserves plus Master Plan costs are funded. This would entail continuing to build the reserves until the two reserve funds plus the Master Plan budgets are fully funded, and then stop collecting for the funds through the rate.

#### **IX. BL WEBSITE LANGUAGE**

- BL would like to update the Portfolio portion of the website with accurate and useful information about BL's overall portfolio and the renewable generation. LBAC Members Franck and Jackson will consider language that is fair and representative.

#### **X. EMISSION-FREE RENEWABLE GENERATION RATE**

- The committee noted that no rate change is expected in the coming year.

#### **XI. FUTURE MEETINGS**

- Next meeting will be Oct 19th, 2017.
- It will be held at Town Hall instead of the Belmont Light building.

#### **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at 9:31PM.