

FINAL

Light Board Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

2019 JUN 14 AM 9:13

Minutes of Meeting held on March 6, 2019
Belmont Light Conference Room
7:30 am

Attending LBAC members: Chair Steve Klionsky, Roy Epstein, David Beavers, Travis Franck, Bob Forrester

Belmont Light (BL) attending: General Manager Christopher Roy

Selectman Dash was in also in attendance.

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Convened at 7:34 am

II. DISCUSSION OF DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

- First, the Committee discussed with Roy regarding the timeline for the Strategic Plan. Roy said the ultimate goal would be to present at Town Meeting (ideally Spring, but likely Fall); and, to have an accompanying document that included considerable detail. The timeline should also allow adequate time for public meetings.
- Roy outlined current efforts in regards to the implementation phase of the Strategic Plan, including drafting an RFP document for a consultant, as well as applying for a grant to help offset costs. The consultant would produce a modelling tool to be used for determining how to best allocate BL resources in achieving the goals identified in the Strategic Plan.
- The Committee provided extensive feedback on the draft Strategic Plan document shared by Roy, including some of the following points:
 - Epstein requested clarification on the Community Broadband component – appears without much background or context.
 - Clarify goals for customer reliability / experience ratings with respect to SEIDI/CEIDI metrics. Include comparisons to similarly sized municipalities.
 - More specifics on what is meant by ‘Trusted energy provider’ – what does this mean and how is it being measured.
 - Ensure consistency of the wording in the Strategic Plan with other energy documents, e.g. Climate Action Road Map and Power Supply Policy - especially with respect to renewable energy targets and the related rate impacts.
 - Revise goals with respect to workforce satisfaction – not realistic (or even ideal) to have 100% retention.
 - McVay (via email) highlighted a high-level concern over the discrepancy between having projected flat sales and the list of proposed initiatives in the Strategic Plan, i.e. how to pay for the initiatives.

- Minor edits/suggestions to clarify some of the labelling, clean up number of decimal places for certain figures, etc.

Roy would collate the feedback and produce a new draft for discussion at the upcoming Light Board meeting on March 18.

III. DISCUSSION OF BELMONT LIGHT GOVERNANCE

- The issue had been raised at Roy's performance review at a recent Light Board meeting, of whether the governance structure of the Light Board should be changed, and if so what the ideal governance model should be.
- Klionsky said it was unusual having the Board of Selectmen also constitute the Light Board. He also expressed frustration that the Light Board did not have sufficient time to address all of the necessary Belmont Light matters.
- Dash had put forth a suggestion where the existing Light Board would add two appointed members. This would maintain an elected majority, but the Chair could be someone from outside the Board of Selectmen, and the appointed members would have expertise in energy matters, municipal light plants, etc. Klionsky noted such a change would require act of legislation.
- Forrester relayed that Jones had mentioned a possible crown corporation type model, entailing a separation of the business aspects from the policy agenda.
- The matter was left open for future discussion. It was noted that the Light Board may need to convene more frequently than once a month.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- None.

V. FUTURE MEETINGS

- March 18, 2019 – joint with Light Board.
- April 10, 2019 @ 7:30am.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

- Adjourned at 9:49am.