

FINAL

Light Board Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Minutes of Meeting held on April 10, 2019

Belmont Light Conference Room

7:30 am

Attending LBAC members: Chair Steve Klionsky, Ralph Jones, David Beavers, Travis Franck, Bob Forrester

Belmont Light (BL) attending: General Manager Christopher Roy, Staff Becca Keane, Aidan Leary

Energy Committee: James Booth

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Convened at 7:38 am

II. DISCUSSION OF ENERGY COMMITTEE ROADMAP AND UPCOMING TOWN MEETING REOLUTION

- Franck began discussion by saying that the Energy Committee's (EC) mission is to facilitate conversation about getting the Town to meet its Climate Action Plan (CAP) goals. The 2009 goal was an 80% reduction by 2050 but the CAP didn't include specifics on how to accomplish this goal. A review by James Booth a year and a half prior found that the Town was not meeting targets.
- Booth said that he took a step back to see what type of structural changes were needed to meet the resolution. He divided these into 4 categories that made up the carbon emissions in town: residential heating and cooling; transportation; electricity; and municipal use.
- The goal was to embrace electrification by promoting the use of EVs and switching to heat pumps for heating and cooling, while decarbonizing the Belmont Light electricity supply. The timeline was to have half of new purchases be electric over the next decade.
- The EC Roadmap embraces the natural cycle of capital stock turnover, when people are replacing cars and heating/cooling systems. The HeatSmart Belmont campaign is a good example of opportunities the Roadmap will seek out.
- Klionsky said the Roadmap takes into mind that these are personal decisions, that there is a spectrum of mandatory to optional. Booth and Franck added that it is a non-binding resolution, so it can be looked at as an endorsement of a recommendation.
- There was no specific year for the Belmont Light electricity supply part of the resolution. Roy and Keane confirmed the language had been changed to "work toward" instead of a specific year in the BL Strategic Plan.
- Forrester asked if BL was prepared to handle the "electrify everything" aspect of the Roadmap. Roy said BL was positioned to be a leader and that system-wide upgrades were in place or coming.

- Franck said the EC thought the Roadmap was good for BL, that revenues would go up and those revenues would be kept local.
- Jones said it was a great document that he would be happy to endorse at Town Meeting. He pointed to an item that could cause controversy or confusion at Town Meeting, which Franck said he would consider revising.
- Discussion ensued about BL's share of renewable energy and the Renewable Energy Certificate market.

III. DISCUSSION ABOUT THE FUTURE USE OF SOLAR AND ENERGY STORAGE ON THE FORMER INCINERATOR SITE

- The Board of Selectmen had recently voted on the post-capping use of the former incinerator site on Concord Ave. Roy reviewed some details:
 - The vote was for "Belmont Light use", leaving open the possibility to be creative.
 - The way the land is deeded, there cannot be a PPA there; must be a municipal use.
 - There was a \$5 million capital outlay for solar plus storage, which comes out of the same funds that cover trucks, equipment, facilities, etc.
 - With the issue of the DPW building project, Roy had looked at the option of putting a BL building on the incinerator site.
- Beavers pointed out that since Parcel C does not have DCAMM restrictions, a PPA could be done there.
- Forrester asked about a timetable for the site.
 - Roy said storage could be done ASAP based on planning with DPW.
 - The cap will take 3 years but the Town still has a shortfall on it.
- Franck asked about a middle ground version of a PPA where BL buys all energy and just signs a service contracts.
 - Roy said yes but BL would lose guarantees and would accept certain liabilities.
- Capping the site is the Town's process. BL was just monitoring the situation.
- Discussion continued about options and models for the site.

IV. REVIEW OF BL'S TRANSMISSION AND CAPACITY CHARGES

- Beavers stated that looking at the distribution side of BL's business, you probably won't reduce rates. You can save money on the capacity and transmission sides though, through peak shaving.
- There was discussion that while BL cannot do much to change the rate it is charged for transmission, the usage can be reduced to keep costs low. Even if usage was zero, BL would still have to pay due to certain adders.
- Keane gave a brief introduction to a new customer platform, Virtual Peaker, which was designed to turn down customer usage during peak periods. She said that Energy Specialist, Ben Thivierge, was overseeing Virtual Peaker. Thivierge was also putting together a "top peak offenders" list and would be reaching out to that list to ask the businesses and organizations to voluntarily turn down usage during peak times.
- The group decided to discuss Virtual Peaker at a future meeting.

V. DISCUSSION ON DISTRIBUTED ANTENNA SYSTEMS IN BELMONT WITH CONSIDERATION FOR FUTURE BL POLICY

- Roy discussed a request by an antenna company for an attachment on a BL pole.
- In investor-owned utility territory, the telecom companies approach utilities to rent space for antennas on poles and are generally granted access.
- In municipal light plant territory, MLPs have the ability to deny the requests. MLPs are generally more concerned with the quality of life for residents and customers than IOUs.
- The Trump administration has told the FCC to require municipalities to allow antenna installations. The municipality can have a say in location but must allow the placement somewhere in its territory.
- BL will entertain discussion on decorative lighting where there are no overhead lines.
- Roy does not want to have a pole every 10 feet; he wants the antennas to be open access for any telecom company.
- There is also the consideration of ownership of the poles and maintenance.
- Klionsky asked how other MLPs have handled the issue.
 - Roy answered that Braintree has an industrial park, where it has decided to place all small cell antenna poles.
 - Other MLPs have issued RFPs to put up their own poles in preselected locations.
- Discussion continued on balancing the public benefits of a 5G network with quality of life issues for Belmont residents.

VI. DISCUSSION ABOUT HISTORICAL USE AND OWNERSHIP OF 450 CONCORD AVENUE (FORMER BELMONT LIGHT OFFICES)

- Roy said that the building at 450 Concord Ave. has been a topic of discussion for future use for some time.
- There is not much documentation on what happened when BL turned the building over to the Town years ago, so Roy said BL is looking for that information.
- Roy said that he could sign an agreement now with the Town if no documentation exists.
- The Facilities Department did an air quality study on the building and found it is filled with toxic mold.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- February 6, 2019 minutes were approved unanimously.
- February 25, 2019 minutes were approved unanimously.

VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS

- Tuesday, May 7th, 7:30 am

ADJOURNMENT

- Adjourned at 9:31 am