

Citizens Petition for a Separate Elected Light Board as of 7/13/20

Whereas, in Belmont, the Select Board has been the Light Board since Belmont Light's inception in 1870. The electric utility industry has become very complex in the last 25 years demanding more time, attention and expertise.
<https://www.utilitydive.com/news/the-top-10-trends-transforming-the-electric-power-sector/405798/>

Whereas, the governing board should consist of members knowledgeable in utility/energy matters, have the ability to examine policy in detail, be a separate voice for Belmont Light, eliminate duplication of function
<https://www.belmontlight.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/BL-governance-6-28-2020.pdf>

Whereas, issues of governance of Belmont Light and whether to have an independent Light Board separate from the Select Board has been a major topic of discussion since the creation of the Municipal Light Advisory Board in January 2005.
https://www.belmont-ma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf2801/f/events/governance_issue_history_2004_-_2020.pdf

Whereas, the 2009 Government Structure Review Committee, Chaired by former Select Board member Paul Solomon, recommended a separate light board
<https://www.belmontlight.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/GSRC-Final-Recommendations-March-25-2009.pdf>

Whereas, the MA Dept of Revenue as part of a Financial Management Review of Belmont in 2011 recommended to "create a light board other than the selectmen"
<https://www.belmontlight.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Mass-DOR-Financial-Management-Review-08-11.pdf>

Whereas, a majority of the 41 MA Muni towns as of 2018 have separate elected light boards
<https://tinyurl.com/MLPGovStructure2018>

Whereas, General Manager turnover in the last 15 years has increased six-fold compared to the prior 107 years of Belmont Light's history.
https://www.belmont-ma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf2801/f/events/gm_history_timeline.pdf

Whereas, morale among Belmont Light employees is low in part because of governance ambiguity
<https://belmontmedia.org/watch/belmont-light-board-advisory-committee-061020> (listen to comments starting at time mark: 1hr 14min)

Whereas, KP Law showed that the steps to establish a separate elected municipal light board are the easiest and most straightforward. Creating an appointed board is more complicated and time-consuming.
https://www.belmont-ma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf2801/f/events/kp_law_memorandum_re_establishing_separate_light_board_-_incl_template_town_meeting_language.pdf

Whereas, on 7/8/20 Belmont's Light Board Advisory Committee voted unanimously in favor of recommending that the Light Board be a separate elected body and voted in favor of a 5-member (not 3-member) board (5 in favor and 1 abstaining). Former Select Board member and current LBAC member, Ralph Jones, voted in favor on both votes.
https://zoom.us/rec/share/uOx3KIPv7WRJRZ3h63H_cahmArXIT6a8hiUcrqEFyxnTnNtc5_WjKotkq0P3a_G5

Access Password: 8h\$H5A&6

We, the undersigned Belmont citizens, support the Light Board Advisory Committee and request that the Light Board vote in favor of a separate elected 5-member Light Board at its 7/13/20 meeting so that a warrant article in favor of a separate elected 5-member Light Board can be placed on the warrant of the September 2020 Special Town Meeting.

- 1 Paul Solomon, MD ,19 Lambert Rd, Former Select Board and chair, Gov Structure Review Comm
- 2 Paul Rickter,119 Cross St, TMM 8, former Chair of Committee to Study the Number of Selectmen
- 3 Michael F. Crowley,119 Farnham St, TMM 8, School Comm member
- 4 Marilyn Westgate,172 Beech St,
- 5 John Kolterman,107 Orchard St, former Chair, Sustainable Belmont
- 6 Anthony Alcorn,172 Waverley St, Former TMM 3
- 7 Ade Baptista,44 White St,
- 8 Doug Koplou,18 Oak Ave,
- 9 Tom Lockett,112 Dalton Rd,
- 10 Marina Massidda,123 Cross St,
- 11 Ian Todreas,16 Chenery Terrace, TMM 1, former Energy Comm member
- 12 Yvonne Brown,20 Highland Rd, Energy Comm member
- 13 Nancy Davis,30 Emerson St,
- 14 Azra Nelson,26 Vincent Ave, TMM 5
- 15 Kathy Sheehan,14 Clark St,
- 16 Mark Robbins, MD ,35 Selwyn Rd,
- 17 Trey Klein,201 Lexington St, former TMM 4
- 18 Caroline Light,200 Payson Rd,
- 19 Cabell Eames,26 Lewis Rd,
- 20 Laura VanderHart,96 Agassiz Ave, TMM 4
- 21 Kathryn Crawley,4 Stearns Rd,
- 22 Mark Davis,30 Emerson St,
- 23 Michael Flamang,28 Emerson St, former Chairman of the Conservation Committee
- 24 Kimberly Shaknis,148 Oakley Rd,
- 25 Christine Arthur,201 Lexington St, former TMM 4
- 26 David Powelstock,23 Alma Ave, TMM 4
- 27 Mark Wagner,21 Hastings Rd, TMM 5
- 28 John Mahon,19 Alma Ave,
- 29 Peter C. Frumhoff, PhD ,65 Pine St,
- 30 Julie Crockett,232 Trapelo Rd, TMM 5
- 31 Paul Roberts,54 Cross St, TMM 8, Chair, IT Advisory Committee
- 32 Enrique Massidda,123 Cross St,

- 33 Evelyn Corsini,172 Waverley St, Belmont Cultural Council member
- 34 James D Sandler,338 Waverley St,
- 35 Rose O'Neil,77 Maple St, TMM 4
- 36 Claus Becker,20 Poplar St, TMM 5
- 37 John B. Carey,124 Orchard St,
- 38 Paul J. Santos, Jr., 48 Elizabeth Rd,
- 39 David DeMarco,36 Lodge Rd,
- 40 Anthony DeMarco,36 Lodge Rd,
- 41 Laura Bak,86 Van Ness Rd,
- 42 Rahul Ramakrishnan,17 Locust St,
- 43 Martha Moore,331 Waverley St, TMM 3
- 44 Richard Snow,17 Bow Rd,
- 45 Curtis Eames,26 Lewis Rd,
- 46 Margaret R Thayer,39 Oak Ave,
- 47 Leslie Kolterman,107 Orchard St,
- 48 David E Benson,39 Agassiz Ave,
- 49 Emilia Papanicolaou,4 Stearns Rd,
- 50 Phil Thayer,39 Oak Ave, TMM 6, Chair, Sustainable Belmont
- 51 Katherine Oates,82 Cushing Ave, TMM 6
- 52 Simon O'Neil,77 Maple St,
- 53 Rebecca Rosen,112 Slade St,
- 54 Eric Jones,154 Payson Rd.,
- 55 Janet Kruse,13 Grant Ave, former TMM 4, former Sustainable Belmont Chair
- 56 Tom Neel,76 White St, former TMM 4
- 57 Jacob Knowles ,67 Bartlett Ave,
- 58 Anne Stuart,48 Elizabeth Rd,
- 59 Matt Mahon,19 Alma Ave,
- 60 Brian Iler,482 School St,
- 61 Madeline Klein,201 Lexington St,
- 62 Kathryn Rodriguez-Clark, PhD ,28 Oak Ave,
- 63 Julia Klein,201 Lexington St,
- 64 Naomi Dworkin, MD,144 Sherman St,

65 Nelson Hartunian, PhD,391 Pleasant St,
66 Erin Rowland,178 Goden St,
67 Alex Rigopulos,2 Emerson St,
68 Brian Saper,16 Old Middlesex Rd, TMM 6, Meet Belmont Committee member
69 Lissa Bollettino,207 Claflin,
70 Thomas F. Donovan,4 Stearns Rd,
71 Frederick Thayer,39 Oak Ave,
72 Jane Mahon,19 Alma Ave,
73 Kerri Benson,39 Agassiz Ave,
74 Brian Kopperl, JD, MPA ,42 Hurd Rd,
75 Garen P Sandler,338 Waverley St,
76 Virginia Jordan,34 Lawndale St, TMM 6
77 Sharon DeMarco,36 Lodge Rd,
78 Catherine Bowen,67 Bartlett Ave, TMM 4, School Comm member
79 Ellen Sugarman,119 Cross St, TMM 8
80 Barbara Becker,20 Poplar St,
81 Vera L Iskandarian,338 Waverley St, TMM 3
82 Stephen Sloan,178 Goden St,
83 Rachel Heller,44 White St,
84 Daniel P Sandler,338 Waverley St,
85 Bruce Westgate,172 Beech St,
86 Susan C. Clark,28 Oak Ave,
87 Adrienne Allen,14 Harris St, Energy Committee member
88 Randy Bak, MD, JD ,86 Van Ness Rd,
89 Gladys Unger,28 Emerson St,
90 Linda Levin-Scherz,75 Woodbine Rd, TMM 2
91 Darrell J. King,30 Long Ave, former TMM 1, former member Conservation Commission
92 Anne Mahon,19 Alma Ave, TMM 4, Belmont Housing Authority Commissioner
93 Joanne Adamowicz,30 Long Ave,
94 Jeff Levin-Scherz, MD ,75 Woodbine Rd,
95 Michael Smith,44 Warwick Rd, TMM 6
96 Roberta Wrubel,165 Slade St,

97 Fatima Serra,123 Cross St,
98 Caleb Stewart,17 Bow Rd,
99 Michael Chesson,21 Whitcomb St, TMM 4, Historic District Comm, Community Preservation Comm
100 Deborah Lockett,112 Dalton Rd, TMM 7
101 Roger Wrubel,165 Slade St, TMM 5
102 Marty Bitner ,207 Claflin, TMM8, Energy Committee co-Chair
103 Priscilla Hunt,84 Agassiz Ave,
104 Rev. Joanne Hartunian,391 Pleasant St,
105 Bart Nelson,26 Vincent Ave,
106 Douglas Massidda,123 Cross St, former TMM 8
107 Roshan Jain,112 Slade St,
108 Christine O'Neill,35 Agassiz Ave,
109 Richard C McFarland,20 Highland Rd,
110 Michael Mitchell,5 Stults Rd,
111 Jonathan Abe,70 Middlecot St,
112 Judith Arneson,23 Alma Ave,
113 Heli Tomford,72 Pinehurst Rd, TMM 3, member Library Building Comm
114 Carolyn Bishop, 7 Orchard St, TMM 1
115 Michele Houdek, 18 Oak Ave
116 Karen Bauerle, 57 Hurd Rd, TMM 6