

**MINUTES  
TOWN OF BELMONT  
LIGHT BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Remote Meeting via Zoom  
Wednesday, November 10, 2021  
7:30 A.M.**

**RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK  
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: January 13, 2022  
TIME: 3:04 PM

**I. CALL TO ORDER.** Mr. Franck called the meeting to order at 7:32am.

Present for LBAC was Chair Travis Franck, David Beavers, Steve Klionsky, Robert Forrester, Alexandra van Geel, and Jonathan Abe. Absent was Vice Chair Michael Macrae.

Present for Belmont Light was General Manager Craig Spinale, Assistant General Manager Sam Osmanovic, Communications Coordinator Aidan Leary, and Energy Specialist Ben Thivierge.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion:** Mr. Klionsky moved to approve the minutes of March 5, 2021 as amended, and Mr. Beavers seconded. The motion passed by rollcall vote. Alexandra van Geel abstained.

**Motion:** Mr. Beavers moved to approve the minutes of May 12, 2021, June 16, 2021, August 11, 2021, September 15, 2021, the Executive Session of September 15, 2021, and October 13, 2021 as amended, and Mr. Klionsky seconded.

Mr. Forrester asked if the unanimous vote to proceed with the time of use (TOU) Pilot is recorded in any minutes. Mr. Leary said it had been approved at the April 7, 2021. Mr. Forrester also expressed concern about the final TOU program being mandatory, for which he does not think there is a lot of support. Mr. Leary read the motion of approval which made it clear that all discussion and activities are just for the pilot.

*The motion passed unanimously by rollcall vote.*

Mr. Spinale told the Committee that going forward, minutes from joint meetings would be approved by both participating boards.

**III. TIME OF USE (TOU)**

**a. Discussion on TOU pilot program:** Mr. Spinale reported that there are currently 107 customers who want to enroll, and another 22 who are interested. The application deadline is November 30. He is comfortable with the number and mix of participants to proceed. There are a few minor issues that are being taken care of, but nothing that will impact the start of the pilot.

Mr. Spinale said his research shows that Committee members should be able to participate in the pilot and provided an example from the State Ethics Training video. Ms. van Geel said she contacted the State Ethics office and was told there is paperwork that should be submitted to the Select Board for approval of participation. Mr. Klionsky said he also contacted them and was not told this. Mr. Spinale said his impression was that if someone was concerned about the appearance of a conflict of interest, they could do the paperwork just to be sure.

There was a discussion of the mix of customers who will be participating and plans for continued outreach.

Mr. Forrester asked for confirmation that the pilot is an educational exercise only, and that the TOU model is subject to change. Mr. Spinale clearly confirmed this, and there was a discussion about it.

**IV. BATTERY STORAGE DISCUSSION**

Mr. Spinale reported on the plan to install solar and battery storage at the former incinerator site. He said the State has agreed that this type of installation is a municipal use, so there is no impediment from the State. Belmont Light is now talking to vendors to organize and design a project.

Mr. Osmanovic added that there is still the requirement that Belmont Light own the installation – a third party would not be allowed to own it. He said this makes the project more challenging.

Ms. van Geel asked if there was any way to use money from the new federal infrastructure bill. Mr. Spinale said they are looking at ways to access this funding. There was a discussion of financing in general.

Mr. Macrae asked if there should be an effort to document the items that can and cannot be done and asked if it should be publicly available. Mr. Spinale said the RFP will capture much of this and discussed some of the issues around the process.

Mr. Franck asked if a service contract was allowable, and Mr. Spinale said it is.

Mr. Spinale said they are just getting started on considering behind the meter storage. Belmont Light was approached by a vendor. While this does not seem to be allowed because of the sale/bid process, it did give Belmont Light some insight into how this program could be structured. They plan to develop a program over the next several months.

Mr. Thivierge added that he ran a small pilot with a flat \$500 rebate per system program for any customer that has a battery storage system with. Only 1 customer received it, and other customers are in the process but might not complete by the end of the year. Mr. Thivierge said he has been getting a lot of interest in this program.

Mr. Spinale said they want to create a program that will really incentivize people to install battery storage. However, he pointed out that they need to ensure that the infrastructure is in place to support this system as well as other programs they may create. There was a discussion about this issue.

#### **V. CHENERY SCHOOL SOLAR PROJECT UPDATE**

Mr. Osmanecvic reported that the energy audit was done, and they are awaiting the report. This is a prerequisite to collect DOER funds for the project.

The contractor has already mobilized, and a shipping container is located at the site. The contractor plans on starting the work on November 15, with a completion goal of the end of the month.

Mr. Franck asked if any co-educational aspect has been discussed. Mr. Osmanecvic said SunBug Solar is willing to provide a link to a tv or display in the school that monitors the output of the array. He has asked the school if this is of interest and is waiting for a response.

Mr. Thayer, Town Meeting Member, said he has a contact who has developed a curriculum around solar, and he is working to see if this can be included next semester. Mr. Thayer added that if the school will share the login credentials, any student could access the system.

#### **VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION a. To discuss trade secrets or confidential, competitively sensitive or other proprietary information (Solar opportunity)**

***Motion:** Mr. Klionsky moved to enter Executive Session to discuss trade secrets or confidential, competitively sensitive or other proprietary information. Mr. Macrae seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

#### **VII. FUTURE MEETINGS**

December 15, 2021

Respectfully submitted by,  
Susan Peghiny