

BELMONT ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - December 20, 2023

Opening

The regular meeting of the Belmont Energy Committee came to order at 19 o'clock as a virtual meeting led by James Booth.

Present

- Claus Becker (Scribe)
- Marty Bitner
- James Booth (Chair)
- John Kolterman
- Greg Piotrowicz
- Roger Wrubel
- Unknown 857 919 9373

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DATE: February 12, 2024
TIME: 9:07 AM

Absent

- Ellie Lesser
- Brian Kopperl

Open Issues

1) The committee briefly discussed the feasibility and economics of Belmont Light financing residential heat pumps upfront, and then recovering the investment via the electricity bill. It was agreed that this would be a good issue to raise with Belmont Light.

2) Town Fleet Electrification

Marty Bitner reported on two separate meetings.

- A. Jay Marcotte (Director of Public Works, Belmont), and Sam Osmancevic (Assistant General Manager, Belmont light) joined Marty Bitner and Brian Kopperl in a meeting with Enterprise Fleet Management. Enterprise provided an overview of their capabilities in the area of fleet management services. Newton and Cambridge are currently working with Enterprise, which firm claims to be the largest fleet manager in the world. They discussed the benefits of electric fleets including potential and substantial cost savings in both acquisition and operation of the town's vehicles. A follow-on meeting w ENEL (Juicebox) and DPW re charging infrastructure is planned.

On a related note, DPW looked at fully electric bucket truck but it was too wide

for Belmont streets. Belmont Light is installing charging equipment in their garage.

- B. Michael Santoro (Department of Public Works) and Mark Piccorini (Belmont Light) joined Brian Kopperl and Marty Bitner and representatives of Highland Fleets to discuss electrification of heavy equipment. The meeting took place at the DPW to show the physical layout. Wrubel: Substantial grants from Massachusetts and Federal Gov't to electrify heavy equipment and reduce emissions. Unclear if heavy equipment would be subject to the same domestic content rules as light vehicles. Mr. Piccorini thought that power could be brought to the incinerator site without much complication, and there be used to charge heavy equipment. The Committee was informed that five school busses will be added because of the reorganization of our schools. Wrubel reported on a feasibility study. The result was that Belmont schools have agreed that electric busses, as they are available today, are suitable for the school system's needs, according to Glenn Clancy (Town Engineer, Office of Planning and Building). Earliest start of operations would be Sept. 2026. Highland said that diesel busses could cover gap if there was a delay in procurement.
- C. Roger Wrubel contacted Patrice Garvin and was told that they would be consulting "stakeholders" about parking location for EV buses at the incinerator site in early January.

3) Green communities "climate leader" designation.

End of June 2024 application deadline. Preserving Belmont's "Green Community" designation provides access to many grants. For example, Arlington has received two million dollars over the past four years. For example, there is a potential \$200,000 communities grant if Chenery were to switch to green energy. Mostly, Mr Wrubel reported, Belmont meets the conditions. A municipal "green" road map is needed, including an electric fleet policy. The green plan voted through TMM should cover much of this. A new person hired at Belmont Light will likely be responsible for reporting to green communities. To generate the report in a timely fashion, town employees need to respond to requests for information quickly. Reporting is important to stay in good standing.

4) Other Matters

- Kevin Bleau has been hired by Belmont Light as Energy Specialist
- Middle and High School photovoltaic system we be ready around New Year's Day and will be tested in January

- Library Committee has awarded the demolition contract. Tear down to start around February 1. Solar Design Associates have produced the preliminary design for the photovoltaic panels. Desired orientation is equal part east and west. The committee discussed the economic value of Western orientation vs production maximization of Southern orientation
- Comprehensive Capital Budget Committee is reviewing budget requests in January
- No updates from other committee representatives