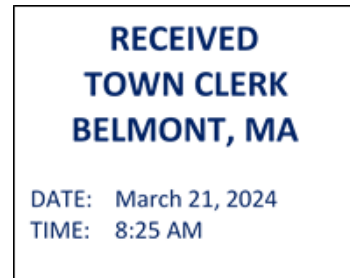


Minutes for February 28th Energy Committee Meeting

Attendees

- James Booth (Chair)
- Claus Becker (Scribe)
- Kevin Bleau
- Brian Kopperl
- Marty Bitner
- Gregory Piotrowicz
- John Kolterman
- Roger Wrubel



Absent: Ellie Lesser

Business

Minutes

Minutes for November 15th and January 17th were approved.

The committee noted that the old ice rink has been demolished.

Climate Leader Certification for Belmont

June 30th deadline to apply for Green Comm certification.

The committee judged that Belmont would qualify since we have adopted the specialized stretch code and proposed an "EV-first" policy. Also, the town needs to express the intent to decarbonize public buildings.

The committee discussed how to efficiently write "road map to decarbonization" document.

March 7th DOER sponsored Green Communities meeting that Roger Wrubel will attend to understand better what is needed to get "climate leader" certification.

An important step towards decarbonizing Belmont would be to switch public buildings to electric heating. In that connection, committee members attended a meeting with Dave Blazon (Facilities) and a consulting company (Guardian) to discuss the best choice for replacement of boilers on Chenery. The committee noted that solar hot water had not been considered and had some questions about assumptions going into the evaluation of alternatives. The potential for solar PV on Chenery has also not been explored. The committee unanimously agreed that more clarity about the cost analysis is needed before a decision is made that can be endorsed by the committee.

Reporting on 2023 activities

Committee discussed report on Energy Committee activities in 2023 which is a required deliverable to the town.

Committee discussed its goals for 2024, including

- Getting climate leader certification for Belmont
- Partner w Chenery to select best option for boiler replacement
- Use of incinerator site
- EV school bus-planning

Report on Light Board meeting

Monday, the week before, Brian Kopperl met with Belmont Light to discuss path to providing financing to customers who switch from oil to heat pumps. Belmont Light was interested in the idea, but more work will need to be done, e.g. a decision about whether to require security or not for loans. Committee discussed if other economically and environmentally beneficial activities (e.g. insulation) could be covered by a loan program. The Committee agreed to set up a follow-on meeting w Craig (BL) and team to follow up.

Committee discussed how to approach landlords who pass the cost of heating to the tenants and as such are less impacted by the cost and price variability of heating with fossil fuels.

Transfer station update

The committee noted that there is room for many activities on the ~25-acre transfer station (former Incinerator site). As an example, Eversource might be interested in placing a battery on site.

BMH solar.

Kevin Bleau informed the committee that permission to operate the solar panels on the Belmont middle and high school has not been issued yet because the contractor has yet to submit a form. Since this loses the town significant amounts every day the committee was united in its displeasure.

Belmont Light

March 20th 07:30 there is a meeting at Belmont Light to discuss incentives going forward.

Comprehensive Capital Budget Committee

Claus Becker reported that the CCBC is working on the proposed budget with the next step being prioritization or requests.

Other

There were no significant updates from the Library, Structural committees nor re Sherman Gardens

Adjournment

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Meeting adjourned at 20:40 o'clock.

The committee agreed to meet again March 20th at 19:00 o'clock.