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Belmont Energy Committee Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2013

Attending: Ian Todreas, Jan Kruse, Tony Barnes, Peter Castanino, Lauri Mancinelli, Fred Domenici, and Chris McVay

Co-chair Ian Todreas opened the meeting at 8:10am. First item was the October meeting minutes. Jan Kruse had two small changes. Christ McVay motioned to approve the amended minutes, Fred Domenici seconded it; all voted to approve and it passed unanimously.

Better Homes Belmont: Ian noted that he, Jan, Roger, Tony and Lauri had met with Sagewell staff to discuss status of the program. Currently, there have been more than 900 home energy assessments in 2013. We would like to use that as leverage with the media to reach our year-end goal of 1,000 home assessments. We will next meet with them to develop tactics for targeting homeowners who are the most likely to make energy improvements to their homes. We need to merge the assessments done by Next Step Living and Sagewell lists. Tony Barnes volunteered to do this if we can get the Sagewell list (the committee already has NSL's list).

Net Zero energy goal for new pool: Peter Castanino said that the RFP included a request for heating the pool with solar panels. A schematic design with a cost estimate is needed. There should be a debt exclusion on the ballot for next spring (2014) and then, if passed, it would go to next Town Meeting (Spring 2014) for a vote.

Zipcar for school employees: Fred Domenici had no update.

Knitbombling project for Belmont Center commuter rail station: Ian is working with Jeri Weiss. This would be a temporary art installation at the station.

Wellington Solar PVs: Ian said that Roger Colton would report on this at our next meeting. It appears to be a no-go.

Green Community status for Belmont: Lauri Mancinelli reported that she's getting the run-around from NStar for the letter noting that they provide electricity to a couple customers in Belmont. Jan suggested she speak with Joanne Bisette at the State. If that doesn't work, Jan said she knows someone high up in customer service that she could contact for the group. Jan said she'd contact Joanne Bisette at the State to get the link for Mass Insight measurement software that Green Communities use so Fred could review the program.

Energy Committee project activities, timelines, and baselines: Tony Barnes will keep the master list; we need to get the current list from Roger. Tony noted that we should include a list of current as well as completed audits, and add 2 or 3 new projects to the list along with measures. Tony also noted that it would be good to publish the list on the website as well as mention upcoming goals in any press that we generate around the in-home audit success.

Energy improvements at schools: Fred noted that all schools were converted to natural gas this year and for the first time, all school thermostats are being set back at night. The full air fans should reduce energy use an additional 20%. The committee discussed getting publicity for the impressive improvements that Fred has made with perhaps local coverage after the holidays and Tony suggested asking Sagewell if they could do a push on in-home energy audit success with industry press with the school updating being an additional item to raise. Fred asked that we wait on press regarding the school successes until he had a heating season of data to show the improvements.

9:05am: Ian Todreas adjourned the meeting.

Minutes respectfully written by Jan Kruse.