



## OBSERVER REPORT

**MARBLEHEAD LIGHT COMMISSION:** 1/26/21 LWVM Observer- Jody Howard

Members present: Michael Hull, Chairman Walter Homan, Lisa Wolf. Karl Johnson, Nathanael Burke

**Nathanael Burke** was introduced as the newest member of the Light Board

### **New (Bell) School and bringing in electricity**

The board wants to bury the electric lines rather than put up poles. The concern was the amount of ledge there. The timing for finishing the work is 2-3 weeks once Joe Kowalik begins the work, which could happen mid- February. Power is needed by mid-March. Any cost overrun could be absorbed by the Light Dept.

They plan to attend the Selectmen's meeting the second week of February to approve a backup plan if they can't go underground. They'll need temporary service since their permit ends 9/1. There was discussion of using a generator, but they want to avoid that because of the cost and the noise in the neighborhood.

### **Lisa Wolf presentation**

Lisa Wolf gave an update on the Department's efficiency programs: Prices are going down - Solar is down 80%, onshore wind prices are low, but not enough offshore wind has been permitted yet; hydro is on a par with the average cost of electricity, nuclear is expensive. Rooftop solar for the town is expensive, but less for individuals.

Currently, 18% of Greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) come from electricity generation, 29% from transportation, and 44% from heating and cooling.

### **Electric Vehicles**

The Light Dept has received a grant to support electric vehicle charging stations. Two are proposed for the Mary Alley building, and two on Roundhouse Rd. A void charging your car battery at Peak demand (4 to 8 pm). The Light Dept wants to limit electricity use to non-peak hours.

Large-scale Battery Storage can reduce costs to the town. It will come on line if the sewage line from Salem is strong enough to allow for transporting it. Town needs to find a place. Other sources of electricity can be geothermal, local wind, and local solar.

### **Consumer incentives to reduce use and cost of electricity**

Free audits

Energy Star Appliance Rebates

Other home energy improvement incentives