

MARBLEHEAD LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OBSERVER CORPS REPORT

MMLB Meeting: May 28, 2020; MLWV Observers: Nancy Powell, Bonnie Grenier
Members in Attendance via Zoom: Walther Homan, Michael Tumulty, Michael Maccario,
Michael Hull, Joe Kowalik, General Manager

NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR FUND: The board voted to establish a fund to assist town residents who are experiencing financial hardship during these difficult times. The MMLB would seed the program with \$5000. Rate payers would be able to contribute to the fund when they pay their bills. The board may also try to raise funds in other creative ways. The fund will be administered through the North Shore Community Action Program for a 10% administrative fee.

LET'S GO GREEN WITHOUT GOING IN THE RED:

- PowerPoint presentation, Joe Kowalik, General Manager gave an overview of the key assumptions and project scope for the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) Optimization Study
- The goal of the MMLB is “to increase the per-cent of carbon free electricity we deliver to Marblehead, while maintaining a system that’s affordable, highly reliable, and safe for both employees and customers.”
- The study reviewed the list of the best potential Building and Open Space sites for possible solar PV sites. Buildings included Marblehead High School, the Village School, Veterans School, and New Elbridge Gerry School. Open space sites included the Transfer Station, property on Beacon Street across from the Transfer Station, Tioga Way, and Water & Sewer owned properties in Swampscott and Salem. Each site was reviewed by NREL for development concerns including site suitability, interconnection, and environmental and economic constraints.
- Battery Electric Storage System: This type of project would involve the purchase and installation of one or more batteries (about the size of large shipping containers), possibly at the Village 13 Substation. Stored power could be sold at peak times which would end up making money for the Light Department after the first year of operation.
- There is the possibility of participating in a solar project with the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) located in Ludlow to purchase solar energy at the cost of \$.115 per KWH. The current charge to customers is \$.04 a KWH.