



OBSERVER REPORT

MARBLEHEAD MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD – 11/1/21

LWVM Observer: Maggie Smist

Present: Board: Michael Hull (Chair), Walter Homan, Karl Johnson, Lisa Wolf, Simon Frechette, Joseph Kowalik, General Manager

Guests : Colin Coleman, Mhd Electric Company Mgr of Tech Operations: Jean Jaques Yarmoff, Margaret Smist

MMLB Strategic Plan:

Lisa and Simon are working on a strategic plan designed to identify risks such as transmission interruption and revenue risks (customer base not growing). They have collected plans from four other electric utilities to see the structure of their plans.

Joe also discussed the benefits of doing a SWOT (Strength/Weakness/Opportunities/Threats) analysis as the board is developing strategic goals. He feels this is important due to federal and state issues arising. There was a discussion of collaborating with the nine municipal boards in Essex County and the benefits of collective purchasing power of an association.

As part of SWOT analysis, the customer satisfaction and education will be highlighted – rates will be changing. How aware is the general public? How does Green Marblehead factor into this? General discussion about what MMLB is responsible for and what is outside their purview.

General Manager's (Joe) Report:

- Joe gave an update on outages that occurred in late October storm. Three trees went down on feeder lines from Salem along the bike path and took out power to the entire town. Fire dept 911 system went out along with generator. Joe estimated outage cost

to be in the \$60k's. Lost revenue has not been estimated to date. With the discussion of last week's storm and tree damage it was discussed how it would be best to bury lines.

- Reviewed the MMLD Distribution system

- Momentous week in energy news. Joe discussed federal legislation on energy bills which are stalled. Talked about COP26. ME referendum being voted on about line from Quebec. NE moving from gas to carbon free sources – we are further along than rest of the country.

- Mass CZM grant moved to later in the month and rate study also due later in the month

- 80 Commercial – work moving ahead and will be done by this winter.

- New MMLD Opt in 100% carbon-free rate will be available for approximately a 10% surcharge. Someone has opted in to try this for year. Also calculated a renewable rate. Motion was put forward to put in place a pilot program for a carbon-free tiered program with an option to add renewable. PASSED unanimously. MMLB could market this with Sustainable Marblehead. It needs to be filed with DPU. We should be investing in 100% renewable assets in an economically viable way.

- Lisa Wolf brought up getting battery back-up into homes for back up as more homes electrify their heating. Joe is waiting and has asked Tesla for a meeting regarding adopting Tesla power wall, the preferred brand for battery storage. Should we do a pilot to test this? There is a current federal program out there with batteries. Lengthy discussion about whether this can work. Joe is OK with pilot if we can discuss with Tesla. He is waiting for their position. Discussion tabled.

- There was a discussion about Mhd Electric vehicles and the smart charger program – there is 20% participation town-wide.