



OBSERVER REPORT

MARBLEHEAD MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD: 2-1-22

LWVM Observer – Maggie Smist

Board: Michael Hull (Chair), Walter Homan, Karl Johnson, Lisa Wolf, Simon Frechette. They were present in-person or on zoom

GM: Joseph Kowalik, Mgr. (in – person) Guests: Jean-Jacques Yarmoff, Eileen Mathieu, Mathew Eid, Scott Kearns

November and January minutes were approved pending one small change on a date.

Discussion for 2050 Power Portfolio Roadmap strategy was tabled to future month.

Discussion of Go Green Now opt in rate for residential customer

A letter was read from a Central Street customer which addresses the Go-Green Now initiative – the homeowner requested an opt-in rate for 100% renewable energy to be voted on by the MMLB.

Scott Kearns discussed his wanting to go 100% renewable and also discussed his electric car and savings of gas costs.

Joe discussed with Matt Barrett on how this opt-in rate would be implemented - a dummy bill was reviewed and single line in the bill to show the extra cost for the opt-in. Joe showed a spreadsheet showing calculations based on average electric use in Marblehead. He also

presented going 75% carbon-free which gives another option. Customers need to call in to opt-in. There was a discussion of how state minimums for 100% carbon free increases each year, and this allows Marblehead customers to understand the power portfolio and participate in a positive way.

Lisa asked about outreach to the community to sell the plan, and Joe discussed using the website, social media and a re-start to the newsletter. Joe wants to follow up with HS Green Committee and Sustainable Marblehead. Simon floated the idea of moving to opt-out instead of opt-in, and Joe mentioned the tone of the messaging being very different.

Lisa spoke about the change in the rate study going on at the same time. She wants us to re-visit this program next year and Joe agree that it should be recalibrated regularly at six and twelve months. Eileen stated her household has already done a lot to go-green so we want to make sure we don't hit people twice. Scott was asked if you can opt-in and then opt-out if you can't make it in your budget, and this is an option.

Future plans include MMWEC allowing customers to finance equipment such as heat pumps and pay through your bill. There was a discussion of the difference between carbon free and renewable energy and how it is an educational opportunity for our customers. The Board discussed using term carbon-free instead of go-green.

A motion was put forth for opt-in to 100 percent renewable rate with quarterly reviews. Passed unanimously.

Joe will talk with Matt Barrett and the MMLB plans to implement over the next month.

Eileen had forwarded 2040 document for becoming net carbon free – Joe will send on to the board.

Board reviewed town warrants back to 2018 which involved climate vision documents and net zero planning process. Both the Green Committee and the MMLB need to normalize relations and make sure both groups are on the same page – this will be part of strategic planning.

MMWEC Project 2022A Announcement –

There was discussion of a new project which when rolled out includes a battery electric storage facility. MMLB participation interest is now being assessed. The facility will be located in Ludlow MA on MMWEC campus. The MMLB is going to go into executive session to discuss interest in this project. This project is similar to project 2015a.

The survey of Village 13 has been completed. The goal of the analysis is to determine how to flatten electrical use peaks and determine how much battery capacity we need in Marblehead.