



OBSERVER CORPS REPORT

Name of Committee: Marblehead Municipal Light

Meeting Date: 3/31/26

LWVM Observer: Maggie Smist

Members in Attendance:

Jean Jacques Yarmoff, Michael Hull, Simon Frechette, Matt Harrington and Adam Smith

John Blair: General Manager

Call to Order at 4:02 pm

Land acknowledgement read

There is one question from the public about an issue in Revere where there was an accident at a sub-station. Chairman Yarmoff said they are aware of the issue, and the GM's in the area are learning and sharing information.

Board Meetings: Calendar of next meetings; Next meeting on April 28.

Prior GM Legal complaint defense organization, Vote At the March 9 meeting, it was decided to hire an attorney. An attorney has been secured (Atty Eckard) and next steps are to reply to complaint and there has been a request for an extension of the deadline to reply. It is time consuming to gather the board every time there is a request on this issue. The Chair asked for a vote for either GM or Chair of Commission to respond to requests from the attorney so that the entire board does not have to meet each time there is a response needed. Vote passed. There was a request for actions to be reported to the full Commission as responses are made by representative.

Voluntary payment to Town, Vote There was a calculation for kwh sold of 102,469 because there was a surplus in the account – this happens each year.

Approximately \$368,88 will be given to the town after a vote was made to pass this amount on to town.

There was a question as to why it goes back to general fund in town, and why it can't it be designated for a specific fund. Chairman Hull has asked and will continue to pursue this question as the board feels they have not received a satisfactory answer from the town.

Updated Public Charging Policy/rates, Vote

EV charging update: the Board discussed current rate structure and the changes proposed at last meeting. There is a different rate for public and municipal customers and there is a time of use charge.

Response to question from prior meeting:

- It would be a large administrative burden to have a different rate for out-of-town use.
- It is also difficult to have a tiered structure.
- No overstay fees for overnight charging will be implemented.

Question was raised about re-adjusting the policy at a future time if the motion passes today and the answer is YES, it is possible to do that. Vote passed.

Go Green Rate review, Vote

Marblehead's power portfolio is 75% non-carbon. The GM spoke about the Go Green Now Rate rider and the new rates for the Go Green Rates in 2026. These rates fluctuate quarterly. Motion proposed and passed on the new GG rate.

General Manager Goals and Objectives to September 2026: update based on strategic plan

Old GM goals were carried forward for GM Blair and new goals have been drafted and reviewed by GM but the Board has not had the chance to review -- it will be discussed at April meeting.

General Manager updates

Safety Minute was discussed around Dig Safe.

Utility corridor near Lead Mills down to Bessom Street needs paving and the proposal and phases were discussed. This will affect the rail trail and the water and sewer department. There will be ongoing coordination between the two departments. No need for approval but GM wanted to bring it to the attention of the board. There were questions about who is responsible for various parts of the project like excavation and securing the tracks. The GM referenced a town law and conversations he has had with the Water and Sewer department. There will be further discussions amongst the various departments involved.

There is a parcel of land on Tioga Way which has been surveyed for use for battery storage facility. Some of it is marshy and can't be used but a Northern area of parcel (100x300 feet) could be developed as a warehouse. GM asked for approval to clear the area and start using it for auxiliary storage in the short term. This would be an interim step so the MMLD can educate themselves on how to use the space.

Further questions were proposed on how this would be done by the Board specifically on working with the neighbors. Chairman Hull said the biggest issues is just keeping the noise down. Next steps would be land clearing, and the GM is in touch with the town about doing it this summer and a bid will also be presented to the Board.

Aerial Thermal Insulation Survey – thermal imaging will be done by an insured, licensed drone operator to identify poor insulation in various areas of Old Town. The contractor to do this work was found thru Mass Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC). The survey will occur for about 2-3 weeks starting 4/6/26. This is a better process then homeowners having to allow people into their homes – no personal images will be collected. Hopefully, there will be a grant received which will expand the program to other areas of Marblehead. Notices will be sent out to homeowners in the Old Town area, and the police department has been notified. If someone wants to opt-out the information will be removed from the database.

Overdue customer bill collections – there are several hundred customers with overdue amounts over 60 days and collections will commence. Up until now,

the MMLD has complied with state regulations to not shut off electricity during the winter months. The MMLD is encouraging households to set up payment plans or arrange for financial support.

MMLD has donated two Kill-A-Watt meters to the library – they can be borrowed and used to track how much electricity is consumed by various devices.

There were also multiple other updates on Village 13, replacement of utility poles, Union dissolved relationship with Local 8214, results due from survey in April, working with Rec and Park on various projects and the MMLD is watching political developments at the federal and state levels. Federal is the Energy Regulation Commissions order to cut NE transmission owners Return on Equity and the States is an order to have an Energy Supply Plan that drives affordability and reliability.

Motion and vote to meet in Executive Session at 5:25 pm.