

WEST BOYLSTON MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT

4 Crescent Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583

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Board of Light Commission, Regular Session Meeting Agenda

5:00pm, September 2, 2025, 29 Prospect Street, 1st Floor Conference Room.

Agenda: Please approve the agenda with any changes or corrections.

Meeting Minutes: Review and approve meeting minutes from April 8, 2025 and May 6, 2025.

Customer Issues: None

Trash Bill Service: The Town requested WBMLP to consider providing monthly fixed fee trash bills and collections for approximately 2,500 residential properties in town. WBMLP would set up a new trash provider in our billing system, format our bills with the additional line item for trash and open all our existing payment channels for trash payments.

Flail Head Cutter Purchase: WBMLP would like to purchase, 50/50%, a rotary and flail head mower attachment for the DPW's front loader. The total cost is approx. \$191k. The cutter has a 24' reach and would mow roadside ROW's and minimize the annual cost of trimming and cutting by our outsourced tree contractors. Also, it currently costs about \$2,400 per day to hire a contractor and flail head cutter which we recently had to use on West Boylston Street.

Tree Trimming RFP: WBMLP is soliciting bids for this year's tree trimming for cycle 1 (northeastern corner of town) of our overhead electrical distribution lines. Bids are due September 8th.

Ripple Fiber: WBMLP is working in the southwestern portion of town adjacent to Holden. WBMLP is drafting a conduit agreement with Ripple Fiber to use our conduits under the (2) Mass Highway Route 190 bridges.

Municipal ISP and Fiber Network: Headend equipment is getting installed. Waiting on Ripple's ISP service. Looking for best tie-in location near Holden town line. We plan to provide service to WBMLP's substation, library, senior center, and DPW first. WBMLP is waiving conduit access and pole attachment fees in exchange for ISP quality internet service.

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Battery Energy Storage System (BESS): Project is currently under construction and all equipment is installed. Testing and commissioning are underway. We still anticipate a commercial operation date by the end of September 2025.

Critical Mass Program: WBMLP and MMWEC are looking into electrifying and decarbonizing a heating and cooling system for a low or midrise building utilizing an ultra-shallow geothermal system. Innovia (<https://www.innoviageo.com/>) is looking to partner with an MLP and install an efficient geothermal heating and cooling system. WBMLP is looking at the library as a potential location.

MLP Z-Loan: MA DOER is setting an MLP 0% loan for up to five years for any qualifying residential energy efficiency or electrification project.

Connected Homes: Starting September 1st, MMWEC will implement pre-heating and pre-cooling to all thermostats enrolled in Connected Homes. This means that one hour prior to the peak, customer thermostats will be adjusted +/- 3 degrees depending on season. The goal of this is to minimize any noticeable discomfort for the customer. MMWEC will reach out to all our customers with HVAC controls enrolled in Connected Homes to notify them of this program change.

Example:

A 5pm, 3-hour summer peak is called on a home that's thermostat is set at 70F.

- At 4pm, the thermostat will adjust from 70F to 67F, cooling the home so that the ambient temperature remains cool during the event.
- At 5pm, the thermostat will adjust from 67F to 73F.
- At 8pm, the thermostat will adjust back to the original setpoint of 70F.

Temp Generator: The temporary summer rental generator program is ending. Here are the results of this summer:

- June peak was June 24th, 1900hrs. Both monthly and annual peaks.
- July peak was July 29th, 1900hrs. Monthly Peak.
- August peak was August 11th, 1900hrs. Monthly peak.