

WEST BOYLSTON MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT

4 Crescent Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583

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Board of Light Commission, Regular Session Meeting Minutes

5:00pm, December 3, 2024, 29 Prospect Street, 1st Floor Conference Room.

Present: Commissioners Meola, Pedone, and Kingsley. WBMLP staff Jonathan Fitch, Brian Allen and Chris Trudeau.

Agenda: The Board approved the agenda without any changes or corrections.

Meeting Minutes: The Board did not review or approve any meeting minutes.

Customer Issues: No serious issues discussed.

New Development: The Board and staff discussed the following projects.

- Century Dr: Site work underway. Potential for 7-9 commercial/industrial buildings
- 235 West Boylston St: Seeking Comprehensive Permit thru ZBA. Hearings are scheduled.
- Hartwell & Shrewsbury Street. Seeking Site Plan Review through Planning Board. Potential for 2-3 commercial bldgs.
- 180 Beaman St: Multiple level II EV chargers at DCR parking lot

Financials: The Board reviewed the attached bank balances and income statement to date.

Municipal Fiber Network: Staff updated the Board. WBMLP ordered all the fiber and associated equipment to interconnect the municipal buildings. Once we receive all the fiber equipment WBMLP will coordinate the fiber installation and headend equipment for each municipal building.

Staff let the Board know that Ripple Fiber is interested in installing a fiber-based internet network throughout town as an attachment on our poles.

Regulatory and Legislative Issues: The Board and staff discussed the following state regulatory and legislative issues WBMLP is facing.

- Large Building Energy Reporting: MA DOER is mandating MLPs report large customer annual energy use. Approx (51) buildings on draft list in West Boylston. Law only requires “electric, gas and steam distribution company” to report. WBMLP submitted comments to DOER.

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- EEA GHG Clearinghouse Proposal: EEA proposes to manage the Mass-Save rebate program and include MLPs in 2028.
- ACT Regulation: MassDEP ACT regulation goes into effect January 1, 2026 (recently extended one year) and phases out the sale of diesel medium- and heavy-duty trucks. WBMLP would like temporary exemption.
- Clean Heat Standard (CHS): Requires WBMLP to fully electrify or convert oil, natural gas, and propane HVAC systems in an increasing number of residential buildings annually. MA MLPs do not believe MassDEP has the legislative authority to regulate MLPs under a CHS and are prepared to file a suit against MassDEP.

Off-Shore Wind: Staff let the Board know that the 791MW New England Wind I proposal by Avangrid was selected in the Massachusetts offshore wind procurement RFP. Prices will not be made public until early 2025. MMWEC negotiated an option to purchase up to 50MW for MLP members. This project could become operational in 2029.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS): The Board was provided with a project update from staff for the 3MW/9MWh BESS project under construction.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

Tony Meola

James Kingsley

Jim Pedone