

Chairman Thomas Reynolds called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. in the BELD Board Room. Those present at the meeting included Chairman Reynolds, Vice Chairman Anthony Agnitti, Secretary James Regan and General Manager William G. Bottiggi, all of BELD and Rich Relich of Arch Communities, Ramie Schneider of Winn Development, Michael Binette of The Architectural Team, Inc, David Gamble of Gamble Associates, Karen Mosman and Beth Eramin, both of Relay for Life

I. Minutes of Prior Meetings

i. February 15, 2022 Open Meeting

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, to accept the minutes of February 15, 2022 Open Meeting as written. Mr. Agnitti seconded. So voted.

It was decided at this time to have the Allen Street Presentation (see Discussion, i.) and the proceed with the Items for Action.

II. Items for Action

i. Relay for Life Request

Chairman Reynolds recognized the Relay for Life reps Ms. Mosman and Ms. Eramin. Ms. Mosman explained that although this is their second year co-hosting this event this is their first year for an in-person event. The event will be taking place at the Norfolk County Sheriff's complex off of Rte 37. They have lots of land and it will be a perfect place to walk. The theme this year is "Let's Get Loud" because we have all be pent up for 2 years. It will be held on June 11, 2022, 2:00 p.m. to 9 p.m. The Plymouth walk is not happening so there are more teams for their event. They have reframed the relay as the Relay for Life of Greater Braintree.

Ms. Eramin explained that she had put together a package for the Commissioners to look at regarding the Relay. They are still offering the digital advertising opportunities: social media presence, the BELD logo on everything that is printed, signs on the track, acknowledgement during the ceremony. There was discussion.

Ms. Mosman commented that this is going to be a family friendly event and BELD can have any kind of presence that we want on that day. There will be the survivors' tea as they do each year, and this year will have the survivors' dinner. They will have the Luminaria for remembering or honoring.

There was discussion on the amount of advertising that we have done in the past and Commissioner Regan asked about the possibility of increasing it. There was further discussion.

Voted: on motion of Commissioner Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti, to increase our advertising with the Relay for Life to \$2500.00. So Voted.

III. Items for Discussion

i. Allen Street Presentation

Ms. Ramie Schneider of Winn Development introduced herself and the team involved with developing the land on Allen Street where BELD previously had their offices: Rich Relich of Arch Communities, Michael Binette of The Architectural Team, Inc, and David Gamble of Gamble Associates.

The former BELD site on Allen Street will be a residential and business project. They are trying to preserve the historic nature of the site while having open space and waterfront access for the public. There will be parking under the building for residents and the landscaping will act as a natural boundary around the property.

There was discussion on the various permits and hearings that are required for this project to be completed.

The Board thanked the team for the presentation.

ii. Watson Gas Turbine Upgrade Status

Mr. Bottiggi reported that Watson unit 1 is still in Montreal – it has been stripped down and all the repairs due to the high vibration incident have been identified. The upgrade is in progress. Originally, the gas turbine was going to come back April 21 but now it is more likely to be May 21. Mr. Nelson is going to talk to them about keeping it in Montreal until the fall because we will be swapping out with the leased turbine but they do not have a slot for the unit 2 upgrade until then.

iii. Watson NHEC Proposal Update

Mr. Bottiggi reported that he has signed the deal so that NHEC will no longer be a Watson entitlement holder, pending the NHEC Board's approval – they will be meeting on March 29. Mr. Bottiggi continued: assuming their board agrees, they will write us a check for \$4.5 million which is the outstanding principal balance and we will get 12.8 megawatts which works out to 11.5% of Watson and we will be responsible for their \$700,000 of interest. There was discussion. This is a good deal for BELD.

iv. Internet Transition Status

Mr. Bottiggi reported that as of this morning we are down to 247 active subscribers and 123 of them are scheduled to be transferred and 124 left. They have been unresponsive to all of our efforts to reach them. We will be turning everything off at the end of the month. Some of the unresponsive ones have already switched to other providers – they just didn't notify us. There was discussion.

v. Condemned Pole Replacement Project

Mr. Bottiggi reported that out of the original 750 condemned poles we are down to about 60. We will finish that list this year. We have bought a pole testing drill. This is an actual drill which you drill into the pole and it senses resistance. We are going to use this and start testing the poles ourselves.

vi. MBTA Bus Maintenance Facility

Mr. Bottiggi told the Board that the MBTA has decided to go with BELD on their new bus maintenance facility. They chose the hybrid option. He explained the routes that will be used. In response to a question from Commissioner Regan, Mr. Bottiggi said there will be 2 dedicated circuits for them. It will be \$1.3 million in construction costs. This will be our biggest customer. There was discussion. This will help keep our rates down. There was further discussion.

vii. NEPPA Update

Mr. Bottiggi informed the Board that Mr. Michael Hyland will be the new executive director of NEPPA. He has accepted the position but still needs to sign the contract.

IV. Personnel Update

Mr. Bottiggi reported the Broadband staff will be leaving between April 1 and May 1. There was discussion.

V. Old Business (As Determined/Needed)

None.

VI. New Business (As Determined/Needed)

None.

VII. Public Participation (As Determined/Needed)

Above.

VIII. Tabled Items

None.

IX. Next Regular Meeting – Upcoming Meetings

- i. Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.**
- ii. Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.**

After discussion it was decided to hold off on a meeting in April and have the meeting in May.

X. Executive Session (As Determined/Needed)

Not needed.

XI. Adjournment

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti, to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 p.m. So voted.

James P. Regan
Secretary