



Belmont Reduces Solar Buyback Rate

By Meg Muckenhaupt

On December 15, Belmont’s Municipal Light Advisory Board (MLAB) recommended, and the Selectmen adopted, Residential Rate APV, a new set of rates for customers who use solar panels to generate electricity.

In addition to the regular residential Distribution Customer Charge of \$10.60 per month, (which all residential customers pay to be hooked up to the electrical grid), solar customers would also pay a new monthly Distributed Generator Charge of \$2.57 per kilowatt of installed capacity. The average Belmont solar panel owner has 5.5kW of installed capacity and would be charged about \$14 a month to own solar panels.

The new rate also reduces the buyback rate, which is the credit for excess solar energy generated by solar panel owners and fed

back into the electrical grid. That rate will be limited to the average price the utility would pay for electricity over the course of the entire month, with no credits for local distribution and generation, generation of electricity during afternoon peak-price times, prevention of greenhouse gas emissions and pollution, or high electricity loads.

I spoke with David Schlissel, president of Schlissel Technical Consulting, about solar energy pricing in Belmont. Schlissel has been working to keep Belmont’s policies pro-solar. Since 1973, Schlissel, a Belmont resident, has served as a consultant, expert witness, and attorney on engineering and economic issues in the fields of energy and the environment. His work has focused on resource planning, including what resource mix—such as fossil-fired power plants and their alternatives—will best balance low cost and low risk for utilities and

their ratepayers.

Schlissel had been thinking of installing solar panels himself, “... but now I’m uncertain,” he said. “We don’t know what to plan now that Belmont has adopted [Residential Rate APV],” which Schlissel views as punitive. In other communities, with more predictable pro-solar policies, there is a much higher rate of solar installations.

Schlissel observed



The future? Solar-panel-covered parking, Denver Federal Center, Denver, CO.

US GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

that Arlington has 300 residential solar installations; Belmont has just 18.

That isn't to say that the Phase 1 net metering policy was right, according to Schlissel. Belmont Light's previous rate paid solar panel owners the full retail rate for solar power. "I think there should have been a change to the metering—a fixed charge to pay a share of avoided transmission and distribution costs," Schlissel said. Those "avoided" costs are the cost of getting electricity from generating plants to Belmont, which Phase 1 solar customers weren't contributing to when they sold electricity back to the grid. "The town incurred these costs on

the assumption that people would continue buying electricity," said Schlissel.

Fair Pricing Depends on Timing

According to Schlissel, the main problem with Belmont Light's new Residential Rate isn't that there's a charge for transmission and distribution; it's that the price paid for solar is calculated on the wrong basis.

Belmont Light buys approximately 80% of its power by advance contract and the remaining 20% on the New England spot market through ISO New England (ISO-NE), the organization that provides electricity to New England utilities. The new APV rate credits solar hosts at the average wholesale monthly price for energy, defined by the ISO-NE real-time locational marginal price for Boston. The real time locational marginal price, or RTLMP, is the price charged for electricity on a daily, hourly, or minute-to-minute basis.

Belmont Citizens Forum

Officers

Grant Monahan, President
John Dieckmann, Vice President
Evanthia Malliris, Secretary
Radha Iyengar, Treasurer

Directors

Sumner Brown David Chase
Anne-Marie Lambert Vince Stanton Jr.

Newsletter

Meg Muckenhoupt, Editor, Production
Susan Jones, Photography
Sue Bass, Newsletter Committee,
Director Emerita

Belmont Citizens Forum Inc. is a not-for-profit organization that strives to maintain the small-town atmosphere of Belmont, Massachusetts, by preserving its natural and historical resources, limiting traffic growth, and enhancing pedestrian safety. We do this by keeping residents informed about planning and zoning issues, by participating actively in public hearings, and by organizing forums. Our *Newsletter* is published six times a year, in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Published material represents the views of the authors and not necessarily those of the Belmont Citizens Forum.

Letters to the editor may be sent to P. O. Box 609, Belmont MA 02478 or to info@belmontcitizensforum.org.

Electricity is most expensive in New England on hot summer afternoons around 3 p.m., when there is high demand throughout the region for air conditioning. Electricity can cost close to \$1,000/mWH at that particular hour.

Electricity is most expensive in New England on hot summer afternoons around 3 p.m., when there is high demand throughout the ISO-NE region for air conditioning. Electricity can cost close to \$1,000/mWH at that particular hour. Coincidentally, that is a time when solar arrays are putting out power.

In Belmont—where many electricity customers are at work in the afternoons—demand typically peaks around 6 p.m., when ISO-NE rates are cheaper. Ashley Brown, chair of the Belmont Municipal Light Advisory Board, has argued that solar power is useless to Belmont because it isn't available at Belmont's peak demand times.

Schlissel cited July 19, 2013 as an example. On that day, electricity cost about \$989/megawatt hour at 3 p.m., and about \$80 per megawatt hour

at 6 p.m. Priced by the hour, solar electricity generated at 3 p.m. was 12 times more valuable than ISO-NE electricity generated by natural gas plants at 6 p.m.

The Light Department's analysis of solar completely ignores this time-of-day effect, Schlissel said, making solar power seem much less valuable than it is. Even in the winter, power generated in the afternoon is generally three to four times more valuable than power generated at night.

Cross-Subsidy or Community Service?

Schlissel also takes issue with the idea that paying for solar energy's benefits is a "cross-subsidy," a term frequently used in Belmont Light memos and presentations. "Belmont Light's own analysis showed a cross-subsidy of only \$2 a year from non-solar customers. Ten times that is a total of \$20 a year [if 10 times more Belmontians put in solar panels]," Schlissel said. "In my mind, it's the equivalent to saying schools are a cross-subsidy—only the people with kids in schools should pay for schools."

The real core of the conflict isn't a "cross-subsidy," Schlissel believes, but larger struggles between energy producers, utilities, and rate-payers.

"Belmont is a microcosm of two energy battles going on around the country," Schlissel said. "... [The first is that] the fossil fuel interests don't want to see their markets eroded by renewables and energy efficiency.

"The second conflict," Schlissel continued, "is between utilities and distributed generation from multiple sources. Who pays for stranded costs?" Stranded costs are a utility's existing investments in infrastructure that no longer pay for themselves when the rules change in a competitive environment.

More fundamentally, he added, "Who controls energy? The utilities don't want to give up control. They're in favor of large utility power generation, not small-scale distributed generation."

For now, a disproportionate share of the stranded costs is being charged to solar panel owners via Belmont's Residential Rate APV, Schlissel argues. He and other solar energy supporters plan to change that. "It's clear

that Belmont wants solar and wants to reduce carbon." Schlissel said. "In August, there were 150 comments submitted to Belmont Light on proposed changes to the net-metering tariff . . . No one was arguing for the policy change except MLAB, which is five people and two alternates. . . . I don't see any organization of citizens in town in favor of the new policy."

"We're going to push for a resource plan," Schlissel went on. "The town does very little about energy efficiency. We need to do it. We've also been talking about putting a solar installation at the town dump . . . We need to show the Light Board that this town is truly in favor of solar. It will happen in time."

Schlissel concluded by commenting on solar energy's advantages. "Belmont's policy assumes there are no broader benefits from solar—such as pollution reduction, reduced reliance on fracking, and so on," Schlissel said. "Solar produces all these benefits, and Belmont should be doing it."

Meg Muckenhoupt is Editor of the Belmont Citizens Forum *Newsletter*.

EPA Grades Mystic River a D

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced on December 18 that the Mystic River earned a "D" grade for water quality for 2013. A "D" means that the water met state standards for swimming and boating some of the time. In 2013, the Mystic River met state water quality standards for boating 83% of the time, but only met swimming standards 49% of the time.

The EPA's press release reads, in part, "While water quality in the main stem of the Mystic River from Medford to Boston Harbor has been consistently good, a majority of the data collected in the tributary streams that feed the Mystic River indicate that water quality in those areas has remained poor." For more details, see www.epa.gov.

Mix of Factors Affect Recycling Rates, Payback

By Sumner Brown

We do not understand recycling. The way the beverage industry defeated the bottle bill ballot question in November made that point. Recycling and roadside litter are completely different matters. Recycling involves tons per week in Belmont, and litter involves pounds. If the bottle bill revision had passed, it would have made almost no difference to recycling, because most households in Belmont do recycle. Whether the changed bottle bill would have inspired more people to pick up plastic bottles, as the existing bill seems to have done with glass bottles, is a different question altogether.

To learn more about Belmont recycling, I talked with Mary Beth Calnan, our recycling coordinator who works in the Public Works Department. She surprised me.

Global Economics Affect Belmont Trash

My first surprise is the extent to which global economic conditions affect Belmont recycling. For example, during the recent recession the amount of cardboard recycled at Christmas declined as people bought less. Another example is the use of glass containers has gone down and the corresponding use of lighter plastic containers has increased. The packaging industry has been making packages lighter to save money and be green. Reduced packaging is good, but recyclers must sort more bottles to

get a ton of plastic to sell. The trend to lighter packaging means that tracking tons recycled per week is not a reliable measure to judge recycling usage over several years.

Belmont's Recycling Costs

Belmont has a contract with Russell waste hauling for both recycling and trash collection. We have a separate contract with a company in North Andover that incinerates trash and disposes of the ash in a landfill. We have a third contract with a company that accepts recycling, sorts the recycling, and sells it. Belmont is charged a \$70/ton tipping fee to dispose of solid waste at the incinerator. In 2013, the town paid more than \$500,000 in tipping fees.

The costs of these three activities interact. If more items get recycled instead of going into the trash, the hauling costs change and the incineration and ash disposal costs might go down. The recycling company will be happy with more recycled items and Belmont might get larger rebates. The contract with the North Andover incineration company is complicated.

Dual vs. Single Stream Recycling

Belmont has dual stream recycling, which means that we separate our paper and cardboard from glass, plastic, and metal. Other communities, such as Cambridge, have single stream recycling, where all recyclables are thrown into one big bin. Haulers like single stream recycling because it requires fewer man hours, saving them money. Residents like it because one big bin is easier to manage than two little bins and bags.

Unfortunately, single stream recycling has disadvantages for recycling companies. It makes sorting more difficult. Single stream recycling means that more paper gets contaminated by residue from dripping soda bottles and other filth from cans, jars, and bottles. That dirty paper cannot be recycled.

Belmont recycling and trash disposal rates, in tons

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Trash	8,837	8,554	8,438	8,057	7,580	7,331
Recycling	2,748	2,448	2,393	2,305	2,411	2,127
Total	11,585	11,002	10,831	10,362	9,991	9,458
% of Waste Recycled	24%	22%	22%	22%	24%	22%

Belmont's total waste has decreased by 18% since 2008, primarily because heavy glass containers have been replaced with lighter plastic containers, and because people are buying fewer pounds of paper newspapers.



One week, one road: BCF director Vince Stanton Jr. collected all the trash he found on Royal Road the week of August 6-13, 2014, and photographed it. Stanton writes:

“Top row: somebody orders the same brown bag dinner every night, with two Budweisers, and tosses the wrappings in the woods.

“Middle two rows: 8 plastic water bottles, 3 Starbucks iced coffees, 3 beer containers, 3 hard liquor containers, and 7 other drink containers, plus drink covers and straws. Also 3 plastic utensils, a Skoal chewing tobacco container, 3 cigarette packs, and innumerable cigarette butts (only a few shown).

Bottom row: lottery tickets, snack bags (Doritos, Lay’s potato chips, etc.), candy bar wrappings, a broken GPS, and a Quebrada bakery box.”

Every few years our contracts for trash and recycling must be reviewed and renegotiated. When this happens the Selectmen appoint a recycling advisory committee. In past years, sorting costs and recycled paper yield have favored dual stream recycling over convenient household recycling and lower cost collection. Many people think single stream sounds great until they know that it causes paper contamination, and when they stop to think, separating paper from everything else is not really that inconvenient.

Household Tips

Another surprise, a pleasant surprise, from our recycling coordinator is that the plastic bottle and jar tops that do not have plastic

identification numbers can be recycled.

The recycling processor used to get many unidentified tops and the processor found way to sell them.

Ultimately, an excellent way for us as a society to be green about recycling is to use less stuff that does not improve the quality of our lives. Excessive packaging is bad. Styrofoam peanuts were once ubiquitous. Now they have been largely replaced with inflated air bags, which can be deflated and recycled with plastic bags at supermarkets. You can complain when products are excessively packaged.

Sumner Brown is a director of the Belmont Citizens Forum.

Mass Central Rail Trail Grows Longer

By Laurel Carpenter

On December 1, the Federal Transit Administration announced that it will fund nearly half the cost of the MBTA's Green Line Extension project, which includes a 1.9-mile extension of the Somerville Community Path to run adjacent to the proposed rail line. The state previously committed to including the design of that 1.9 miles in the Green Line Extension project.

In addition to providing a safe, healthful, and sustainable transportation infrastructure, the Somerville Community Path connects to the existing regional trail system. It links Somerville's Davis Square with the Alewife Linear Park in Cambridge, which leads to the Alewife MBTA station, the Alewife Brook paths, the Minuteman Bikeway, and the path to Brighton Street in Belmont.

The Somerville path will be the easternmost segment of the Massachusetts Central Rail Trail (MCRT), which will extend 90 miles along a former rail line from Boston to Northampton. The existing path is one of the most popular and busy spots in the city for walking, jogging, biking, and enjoying the outdoors.

Mass Central Rail Trail Coalition Forms

In November the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) convened about 50 stakeholders interested

in advancing the development of the Wayside segment of the MCRT—a 23-mile former railroad corridor from Waltham to Berlin. The meeting, held in Waltham, resulted in the formation of the MCRT Wayside Trail Coalition. The coalition includes representatives from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation along with town staff members and elected officials from each of the cities and towns in the Wayside segment.

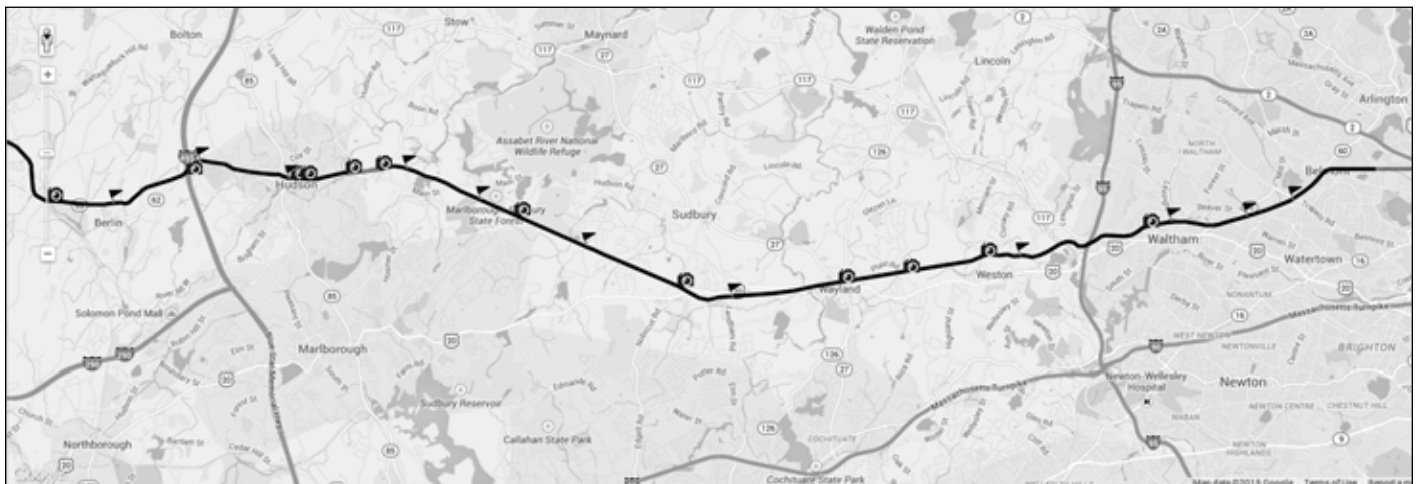
In 2011, the DCR executed a lease with the MBTA for the Wayside segment's 23 miles for the purpose of designing and developing a multi-use rail trail in partnership with local municipalities. Since then the DCR has worked to assess potential soil contamination issues; delineate the 20-foot-wide "path development corridor"; identify other leases, licenses, and encroachments on the corridor; and initiate design and permitting of the future rail trail.

The eight communities in the Wayside segment from east to west are Waltham (3 miles), Weston (3 miles), Wayland (3 miles), Sudbury (4.6 miles), Stow (327 feet), Hudson (6.9 miles) Bolton (100 feet), and Berlin (2.3 miles).

Jeffrey Wheeler, senior planner for the town of Belmont, also attended the coalition meeting, as did consultants from Fay, Spofford & Thorndike, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, and Pare Corporation, three engineering firms that specialize in multi-use paths.

All the Wayside communities are interested in moving the rail trail multi-use path forward, but no DCR funding is currently available for

MASSCENTRALRAILTRAIL.ORG



The Mass Central Rail Trail's route to Berlin, MA. Camera icons indicate locations where photos of the trail are available; to view them, visit www.since1951.com/MCRT/index.cfm.

Selectman Pick Path Committee

In December Belmont's Selectmen chose five members for the town's Community Path Implementation Advisory Committee. The new members are Brian Burke, Michael Cicalese, Heather Ivester, Russell Leino, and Vincent Stanton.

The Committee's task is to develop recommended strategies for the design, construction, and implementation of Community Path route options selected by the Board of Selectmen. The Committee will also identify funding sources for a feasibility study of the route options.

this project. With a new administration coming into office this year, the coalition is seeking state funds for the rail trail. MAPC is drafting a letter of support to be endorsed by the Wayside municipalities and other regional representatives.

At the November coalition meeting, participants discussed options and local funding sources that might allow greater use of the rail trail in the period before state funding becomes available. They also expressed a desire to have DCR offer consistent interim guidelines to enable communities with available resources to move forward on using the corridor. The MAPC and DCR will investigate the various options in the coming months, including rail removal and appropriate timing for trail surfacing, and will present them at the next coalition meeting, to be scheduled in early 2015. To keep the momentum going and information flowing, the MCRT Wayside Trail Coalition plans to meet on a quarterly basis.

DCR is maintaining a project website that includes the presentation from the November meeting, Department of Environmental Protection best management practices for rail trails, and sample DCR specifications for accessible path surfaces. For more information, visit www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr. Stewardship groups are helping to keep the trail usable in its current state. The Waltham Land Trust has recently formed a group of volunteers who work to keep the Waltham segment of the

trail cleared of overgrowth. The rail corridor is walkable in many sections, and a segment adjacent to Prospect Hill Park has been paved by the developer of the new shopping center at 1265 Main Street. The paved path includes a tunnel underneath the roadway entrance to the retail area.

On November 22, the Waltham Land Trust and the DCR co-organized a rail trail clean-up workday, which drew about 50 participants and included a warm welcome from Waltham Mayor Jeannette McCarthy. In July, I led a group bicycle ride to review the corridor beginning at Alewife, traversing Belmont, and concluding at the newly paved portion in Waltham. Riders included Mass DOT and MAPC staff members, trail advocates, and transportation professionals from the greater Boston area.

Laurel Carpenter maintains walking trails in Lexington, Waltham, and Belmont. She serves on the Lexington Bicycle Advisory Committee.



WWW.SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

Somerville's Junction Park, which will abut the future Somerville Community path.

Letter to the Editor

To The Editor:

Thank you very much for the service that the Belmont Citizens Forum performs in publishing this newsletter and providing timely information on important issues in Belmont. I very much enjoyed reading the article written by Sumner Brown entitled "Winn Brook Sewage Management Succeeds," [Belmont Citizens Forum *Newsletter*, November/December 2014].

This article highlights the valuable work undertaken by the Town in the Winn Brook area to address the challenges of the town's sewer system and eliminate the flow of sewage into resident basements. Certainly the work done provides relief to these homeowners and resolution of a significant public health hazard.

Unfortunately, there remain problems with the sewer system that dramatically affect local environmental conditions and that are not resolved by these recent projects. Indeed, when we examine the continuing impact of the town system on water quality the title of the article may somewhat overstate the success of sewage management at Winn Brook.

Despite completion of this work, Winn Brook remains among the most significant sources of sewage and water quality impairment for Alewife Brook and the Mystic River Watershed. High levels of sewage and bacteria have been documented coming out of Winn Brook into Little Pond for the better part of two decades. Wellington Brook is just as bad if not worse. The

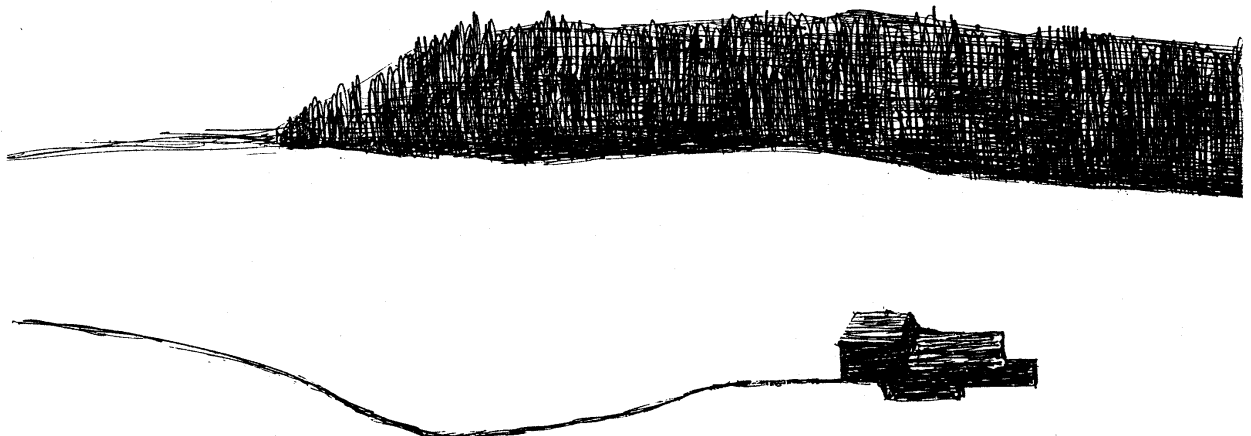
levels of contamination are exceptional even in the Mystic River Watershed which we know is no stranger to water quality challenges.

The unfortunate truth is that the infrastructure repair required to correct these problems is costly. It is also true that finding funds to correct the problems is a challenge.

To bring water quality in these local streams to a healthy level will require a new commitment of resources from Belmont residents, town meeting members, selectmen, and municipal staff. One method available to raise the necessary funds is implementation of a storm water utility fee that targets repair of this infrastructure. Loan funding may also be available at no or low interest rates through the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust established by recently passed Water Infrastructure Finance legislation.

Important projects have been completed and municipal staff deserve kudos for their hard work to address these challenges. Much more, however, needs to be done. Clean water in our local streams and rivers improves all of our lives and has a positive impact on the way we view our communities and the resources we share. Now is the time to address these longstanding problems—to repair municipal infrastructure and restore the natural environment.

EkOngKar Singh Khalsa
Executive Director
Mystic River Watershed Association



NORTH CONCORD

15th Annual Judith K. Record Fund Concert

The Record Players will perform in their 15th annual concert Saturday, January 31, at 7:30 PM. at the First Church in Belmont, 404 Concord Avenue, Belmont.

January 31, 2015 marks the 15th year of collaboration between the chamber music group The Record Players and the Judith K. Record Memorial Conservation Fund. The Fund was established in 2001 as a vehicle for the protection, rehabilitation, and maintenance of open space in Belmont and beyond. The concerts bring together people who find inspiration and beauty through music and nature.

The concert, which is open to the public free of charge, serves as the Fund's annual appeal and is supported by pre-concert private and corporate sponsorships. Contributions are also accepted at the door. All proceeds go to the Fund's endowment managed by Mass Audubon. This year's concert features music by Beethoven, Brahms, Godfrey, and Martlnu. For more information, visit jkrfund.org.



The 2015 Record Players, from left to right: Colin Davis, violin; Leslie Amper, piano; Ray Jackendoff, clarinet; Andrea Nolin, flute; and Sarah Freiberg, cello.

Environmental Events

Film Screening: *Dirt! The Movie*
Monday, January 12, 6–7:30 p.m.

2015 is the United Nations' International Year of the Soils. This documentary illuminates the science behind the importance of soil for all. Staff will discuss soil conservation at Fresh Pond and how healthy soil under our feet protects clean water in the reservoir. Registration required: 617-349-6489, klindquist@cambridgema.gov. friendsoffreshpond.org. *Walter J Sullivan Treatment Facility, 250 Fresh Pond Parkway, Cambridge.*

Habitat Sanctuary Volunteer Service Days
Monday, January 19 and Sunday, February 22, 1–3 p.m.

Help out at Habitat sanctuary. On Martin Luther King Day, depending on the weather, volunteers will either work outside to shovel and clear brush or inside to clean and construct. On February 22, volunteers will look for evidence of wildlife, invasive plants, downed trees, and trail damage. Free and open to all ages, but registration is required: contact 617-489-5050 or habitat@massaudubon.org. www.massaudubon.org. *Habitat Education Center and Wildlife Sanctuary, 10 Juniper Road, Belmont.*

Annual Duck Walk

Saturday, January 24, 10 a.m.–noon

Tag along with the Waltham Land Trust on this very popular walk along the Charles River to see dabbling and diving birds visiting from Canada. In the past we have seen mergansers (hooded and



A bulldozer continues site preparation at the Belmont Uplands property along Acorn Park Drive. As of press time, Belmont's Office of Community Development had not yet awarded the building permit for constructing a planned 298-unit apartment complex.

common), ring necks, golden eyes, grebes, and others, even a bald eagle! Dress warmly; walk will only be cancelled if there is very heavy snow falling. This year, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation will be joining us. walthamlandtrust.org. Meet in back corner of Waltham River Street Shaw's parking lot by footbridge.

Eyes on Algae at Fresh Pond

Monday, January 26, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Understanding the Cambridge water system isn't only about chemistry and physics; it's also about understanding its flora and fauna. Learn more about how Water Department staff monitor and research algae communities in Black's Nook, Fresh Pond, and Little Fresh Pond. You'll also get the chance to inspect some of our local algae species under a microscope. Registration required: contact 617-349-6489 or klindquist@cambridgema.gov. friendsoffreshpond.org. Walter J Sullivan Treatment Facility, 250 Fresh Pond Parkway, Cambridge.

Sustainable Belmont Meeting

Wednesday, February 4, 7–9 p.m.

All Sustainable Belmont meetings are open to the public. Active members will share progress on various initiatives; discussion and planning will ensue. Attend, share your expertise, volunteer your time, relay your experience around sustainable activities in Belmont. www.sustainablebelmont.net. Flett Room, Belmont Public Library, 336 Concord Avenue, Belmont.

History of McLean Hospital

Wednesday, February 25, 7:30–9 p.m.

Terry Alan Bragg, historian at McLean Hospital, will speak about the history of Belmont's world-famous hospital. Sponsored by the Belmont Historical Society. www.belmonthistoricalsociety.org. Location TBA

Winter Snowshoe Walk at Lot 1 of DCR's
Beaver Brook North Reservation

Sunday, February 15, 1-3:30 p.m.

The Citizens for Lexington Conservation offers walks to help people get outside and make use of neglected snowshoes while enjoying the winter scenery of New England. Falling rain or heavy snow will cancel the walk. If snow cover is thin the walk will go on without snowshoes. Kohmart@verizon.net. www.clclex.org. Meet in the employee

parking lot at Brookhaven at Lexington, 1010 Waltham Street, first lot on your right following the event parking signs.



ANN COIT SIFNEOS

Thank you for your continued support.

Your contribution makes a difference!

Each Newsletter issue costs about \$4,000 to publish. Thank you for your support.

\$50 \$100 \$150 \$250

Thank you!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Make checks payable to:
Belmont Citizens Forum

Mail to: PO Box 609, Belmont, MA 02478

Give securely online:
www.belmontcitizensforum.org

Contact us: info@belmontcitizensforum.org.

The Belmont Citizens Forum is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Your donation is deductible from federal taxes to the full extent provided by law.

***Make your donation go farther
with matching funds.***

Does your employer have a matching gift program?

Yes, my employer matches charitable giving. Please contact me for details.

BCF depends on volunteers.

Join us in helping to maintain Belmont's small-town atmosphere.

- Writing or editing for the Newsletter
- Community path work
- Newsletter mailings
- Event organizing

Belmont Citizens Forum
P.O. Box 609
Belmont MA 02478

Address Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage PAID
Boston MA
Permit No. 56393

January/February 2015



- Belmont Reduces Solar Buyback Rate . . . 1**
- Mix of Factors Affect Recycling Payoff . . 4**
- Mass Central Rail Trail Grows 6**

- Letter to the Editor 8**
- Environmental Events 9**

