

Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant



July 30, 2025, Commissioner's Meeting

6:00 PM – Remote Go to Meeting

Commissioners Present: Bryan DiPersia, Mark Cousins, Danby Whitmore. Also, in attendance was General Manager Matthew Brown and Office Manager Eric Grover. Kevin Soden, Principal Engineer from PLM Engineering and Steve Burns from Fishbach & Moore.

Bryan DiPersia opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Citizen Query

There were no participants in citizen's query.

MEAM meeting 9/18 - 9/19 Plymouth MA

Manager Brown wanted to make the board aware of the change of the annual MEAM meeting this year. The meeting has been pushed out to September and extended an invitation to the board. Brown will email the board with the cutoff date registration.

PLM Engineering to review IFB and schedule for Fall 2025 construction

Kevin Soden, Principal Engineer from PLM Engineering gave a rundown on the bid opening from July 17th for the new transformer at the substation. Soden shared the bid sheet, and the read aloud the results. He analyzed the bids and recommended that Power Line Contractors be awarded with the bid as they were the lowest qualified bidder. Power Line Contractors have worked at multiple municipal light plants with Massachusetts. Commissioner Mark Cousins asked if the next step will be the civil site work for the project. Bids will be open for these soon to get that work going along with the oil containment system work. The relays need to be replaced in the station and UPG, our substation contractors will come in and test as they are replaced. Commissioner Bryan DiPersia said PLM knows the schedule and the layout of the project, so things should be heading in the correct direction. The power transformers should be here in the second week of November. Steve Moore from Fishbach & Moore also attended the meeting as the second lowest bidder of the project.

Review and Accept Previous Minutes

After reading the minutes from the previous meeting session, May 21, 2025, provided, the corrections made by the board were edited prior to the meeting.

Mark Cousins made the motion to accept the regular minutes for May 21, 2025, with the corrections made. Danby Whitmore seconded the motion. The roll call vote was taken. Mark Cousins, "I," Bryan DiPersia, "I" and Danby Whitmore "I." Voted in at 6:24.

After reading the minutes from the previous meeting session, June 17, 2025, provided, the corrections made by the board were edited prior to the meeting.

Marc Cousins made the motion to accept the regular minutes for June 17, 2025, with the corrections made. Danby Whitmore seconded the motion. The roll call vote was taken. Mark Cousins, "I," Bryan DiPersia, "I" and Danby Whitmore "I." Voted in at 6:24.

Battery Storage Update

Manager Brown said there wasn't too much going on with the project. There was an email sent regarding the floodplain maps on the status of them. When Brown hears back, he will let the board know. Citizens have found that because of the tariffs, the stock and materials have been back-ordered, most importantly the batteries for the project. It was discussed that we should keep the substation and plenty of room in the field next to the substation for future projects. The battery storage project would need the grade to be properly raised up to match the level of the substation. Commissioner Danby Whitmore asked what the plan was for the house and wondered if we could put the project there. Brown said he was going to work on a feasibility study in 2026 to see if the operations center could be built down there.

Managers Update

MLP Solar Update: There are 38 total residential systems now.

2024 DPU Report: Manager Brown wanted to check in with the board to make sure the DPU report was ok'd to be signed and sent to the state? Brown will have the signature page in the office for everyone to sign.

Construction Projects: The following is a breakdown of the work done:

- **Powerhouse Road:** has had the last 50-foot pole set and the new riser has competed on feeder two. They have also run 1/0 triplex down Powerhouse Lane to Daniels Road. This job will be completed within the week.
- **Mansion Drive:** project has 22 of the 35 poles set. They have been working on getting these sets with 4 more sets on the conversion project.
- **Herrick Farm:** General Manager Brown and Line Superintendent Mark Anderson met with the electrician yesterday. We are ahead of schedule on this and will just need to build the transformer bank and run three spans of overhead quad wire and energize when the electrician is ready. He should finish around the time the transformers are scheduled to be delivered.
- We are down to our last six failed poles to be replaced on feeder three from the GML pole testing work.
- There are around twenty purple LED streetlights that need to be replaced on the system.

- **APPA SEP [smart energy provider]** As of July 9th, there is some additional information requested. On July 15th, that information was completed and sent in. Now just to wait and hear if they need anything else.
- **W.F. Biggins Associates, Inc.**, is still working on the MSDS updates and will finish our compiled data in the coming week. They are out of East Longmeadow MA.

All Other Items Not Anticipated by The Chair

There were a couple of items brought up at the close of the meeting:

- Manager Matt Brown wanted to remind everyone that on Saturday August 9th there will be an event on the common. It will be a "Community Green Fest" hosted by Striving for Sustainability with vendors and activities sponsored by the Rowley Public Library. There will be food trucks, book swaps, and energy conservation vendors such as Energy New England, our rebate resource for the RMLP. The time is 10 AM to 2 PM. RMLP will participate in the event with an information table and to answer any questions from the general public.
- Commissioner Danby Whitmore talked about the current situation with the Falcon Ridge project in town. The problem is there are transformers placed where the plans were mapped out for, but when they built the project things moved around. Manager Brown stated that RMLP did perform work for this project but isn't responsible for the locations of the equipment. RMLP was contracted by the developer to place Pad Mount Transformers on the Box Pads (installed by the developer) and pull URD cable through conduit (installed by the developer). He referenced one situation where RMLP had to go back and move one sector cabinet at the expense of the developer because it was in one of the driveways. Matt spoke with Kirk at the Planning Board and they have agreed to greater coordination between them for new development work.

Executive Session if required

There was no reason to go into an executive session for this meeting.

Adjournment

Danby Whitmore made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark Cousins seconded. All voted in favor at 6:51 PM with a roll call vote with everyone saying yes.

Minutes submitted by Eric R. Grover


Bryan DiPersia, Chair


Mark Cousins, Clerk


Danby Whitmore, Member