

Board of Light Commissioners Public-Zoom Meeting Minutes August 10, 2026

168 Worcester Rd, Princeton, MA

Action Items:

Mr. McKeon will speak with Lightshift about grid-forming inverters.

Present:

Rick Rys, Phil Gott, Sean McKeon, Jack Austin, Roger Brooks, and Karen Mammone

Zoom:

John Zimmatore and Ashley Reddy

Absent:

Richard Chase

Meeting Called to Order at 3:12 PM

Commissioner Rys made a motion to call the meeting to order.

Commissioner Gott- 2nd

Review and Approve Agenda for Public and Executive Meeting August 10, 2026

The agenda was approved (2-0) as written.

Commissioner Gott- 2nd

Commissioner Rys- aye

Review and Approve Public Minutes July 15, 2026

The Board will review and approve at the next meeting.

General Manager's Report:

- **Current Bank Balances**

The Board reviewed the bank account balance report dated August 1, 2026. A copy will be placed in the file. All bills are paid in a timely manner.

- **2026 Cashflow Budget Review**

Mr. McKeon presented the board with a copy of the 2026 budget details dated August 10, 2026. A copy will be placed on file. The cash flow figures for January through June 2026, with a target of 50.00%. Mr. McKeon stated that revenues were 55.63% and expenses were 51.52%.

Update on Operations:

- **Recent Activities/Maintenance/Planned Outages**

Please refer to the attached sheet for highlights of completed and scheduled work from July 16, 2026, to August 10, 2026.

A discussion was held concerning leaning and dead trees in town and PMLD's responsibility for their removal. Several factors are considered when determining whether a tree can be removed. If a tree is leaning, dead, and poses a risk of falling onto power lines, PMLD will cut and remove the tree. If a leaning tree is located on private property, the responsibility for removing it falls to the homeowner.

If a dead tree is located on Town property, PMLD can remove it. However, if the tree is not dead but is located on Town property, PMLD cannot remove it without approval from the Town.

The Massachusetts Tree Law was also discussed. Under the law, if a tree is determined to be in imminent danger of falling onto power lines, PMLD can send the homeowner a certified letter notifying them of the hazard and requesting that the tree be addressed.

- **MMWEC/Lightshift Battery Storage Project**

Lightshift recently issued a press release regarding the PMLD battery storage project. The article is expected to be featured in the American Public Power Association (APPA) magazine. Mr. McKeon was interviewed for the article, and a staff photo was submitted for publication.

Commissioner Rys asked Mr. McKeon to investigate the possibility of using a grid-forming inverter with the Lightshift battery project. The inverter could potentially allow the battery to provide power to the town during an emergency if the town were to lose power.

- **Holden Interconnect**

Mr. Tupper contacted Mr. McKeon to request additional information for Energy New England (ENE).

Mr. McKeon spoke with Mr. Tupper, Holden's General Manager, regarding the project. Mr. Tupper is still working with ENE to determine the price that will be charged to PMLD.

If the grant is awarded to PMLD, the project will be funded through the grant. There are also two other options being considered. The first option would be for PMLD to pay for all of the upgrades from Holden to Princeton. The second option would be for PMLD to pay for the upgrades on the Princeton side and pay a higher wheeling charge to Holden.

Once a contract is signed, the General Foreman will begin ordering the necessary parts. As part of their wire-ordering service, Hendricks will come to Princeton to help determine the hardware needed at each pole location and how much wire will be needed.

Updates on Facebook & Website

Updates will continue on Facebook and the PMLD website.

New Business/Parking Lot Items

No new business or parking lot items

Public Comments

No public comments

BOLC Executive Session Meeting

Commissioner Rys made a motion to enter Executive Session:

To discuss trade secrets or confidential, competitively sensitive, or other proprietary information provided:

When such governmental body, municipal aggregator or cooperative determines that such disclosure will adversely affect its ability to conduct business in relation to other entities making, selling or distributing electric power and energy.

Commissioner Gott- present

Commissioner Rys- present

Commissioner Chase- absent

Entered Executive Session at 3:30 PM

(2-0)

Commissioner Rys rolled call out of Executive Session for Project 2026A

Commissioner Gott- aye

Commissioner Rys- aye

Now back in public session at 3:54 PM

Commissioner Rys made a motion that PMLD decline the Project 2026A offer.

Commissioner Gott- 2nd

Commissioner Rys- aye

Commissioner Chase- no- proxy vote

(3-0)

Commissioner Rys made a motion to adjourn the public meeting.

Commissioner Gott- 2nd

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 PM

(2-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Mammone, Recording Secretary

