



**GREEN ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 10, 2020
6:30 PM
ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY - MEETING ROOM
486 MAIN STREET**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dennis Loria, Cameren Cousins, Steve Lowe

ASSOCIATE MEMBER: Mona Chandra

RECORDING SECRETARY: Kim Gorman

MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES SUPERINTENDENT: Andrea Ristine

REGIONAL SCHOOL ENERGY ADVISOR: Kate Crosby

VISITORS: Eric Hudson, Jim Snyder-Grant, Debra Simes, Mike Boss, Judith Aronstein, Erik Larson, Dan Malloy

Link to documents numbered on this agenda: <http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-11890>

6:33 Mr. Loria called the meeting to order. Mr. Loria (Vice Chair) will be Acting Chair for tonight's meeting.

Carbon Neutrality Initiative (CNI) – Discussion (010)

Ms. Cousins reported that she recently participated in a meeting with the Town Manager and members of Green Acton to discuss the Town's recent sustainability policy and developing a comprehensive plan noting that the Town Manager is proposing reallocation of budget funds to provide a part-time position to assist with managing sustainability actions for the Town.

Mr. Loria discussed the CNI Reduction/Implementation Plan, Draft Scope of Services prioritizing the top ten items that he felt could be accomplished without a consultant.

Ms. Cousins stated she will review public reports from other towns and identify what funds were expended and work with Town Manager and Board of Selectmen to request more funding. She will also investigate what other towns are doing.

Ms. Chandra will review grant and utility company initiatives; she will also reach out to the Newton Energy Commission to ask if a member can come to an upcoming GAB meeting to review their new Citizens Climate Action Plan.

Mr. Hudson and Mr. Loria will reach out to Mr. Berry and Mr. Benson for advice. Board members will share their findings and prioritize at the next meeting.

Green Community Annual 2019 Report – Discussion
<http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-6333/Document-71069>

Board members reviewed and discussed the excel sheet reports that were projected on the wall. Board members discussed the project summaries and reductions.

8:04 Ms. Chandra departed.

2020 Green Communities Competitive Grant

Ms. Ristine reported that the Department of Environmental Resources has reduced the maximum grant award from \$250,000 to \$100,000 for applicants that have received \$750,000 or more in previous competitive grant programs. Therefore Acton is limited to \$100,000 due to the fact that it has been awarded approximately \$1.4 million dollars in previous grants. The GAB meeting on March 9 is the only meeting scheduled prior to the March 27 application deadline.

House H.2849/S.1940 Future Resolution, Act for Utility Transition to Renewable Energy
Memo sent to Board Selectmen (010)

Board members discussed Ms. Smith's letter of endorsement/recommendation of support of the House Bill.

Ms. Aronstein stated the Bill has been delayed until June 2020. Ms. Aronstein stated there is a new bill with over 80 amendments and suggested reviewing the House Bill again. The House Bill is being pushed forward and more towns are supporting it and asked the GAB to re-review the Bill for another recommendation to support it to the Board of Selectmen. She will send the new Generation Bill, Amendment 39 to the Board to review for next meeting discussion and support.

Minutes

Mr. Loria moved to accept the minutes as written for January 13, 2020, Ms. Cousins 2nd; unanimous.

Next Meeting – March 9, 2020

- Carbon Neutrality Initiative – Next Steps
- Review Letter of Support from MOF Acton's letter for support Future Bill H.2849
- Review the Citizens Action Plan that the Newton Energy Commission created in 2019.
- Minutes – 02/10/2020

8:27 Meeting Adjourned


Dennis Loria
Vice Chair



**GREEN ADVISORY BOARD
AGENDA
FEBRUARY 10, 2020
6:30 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM - ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY
486 MAIN STREET**

I. Business

- Carbon Neutrality Initiative - Discussion ([010](#))
Update from Cameren - meeting with Town and Green Acton
- Green Community Annual 2019 Report - Discussion
<http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-6333/Document-71069>
- 2020 Green Communities Competitive Grant – Discussion – now limited to \$100,000
- House H.2849/S.1940 Future Resolution, Act for Utility Transition to Renewable Energy - Memo sent to Board of Selectmen

II. Minutes January 13, 2020

Next meeting March 9, 2020

2020 Meeting Schedule [link](#)

Additional materials for this agenda can be found here: <http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-11890>

The listed agenda items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law. Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Include a description of the accommodation you will need, including as much detail as you can and include a way we can contact you if we need more information. Please allow advance notice. Send an e-mail to manager@actonma.gov or call Town Manager's Office (978)929-6611

For more information about the Green Advisory Board contact mpo@actonma.gov or 978-929-7744.