



GREEN ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

JANUARY 11, 2021

6:00 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Eric Hudson, Dennis Loria, Cameron Cousins, Mary Smith, Mona Chandra

ASSOCIATE MEMBER: Erik Larson, Peter Berry

SELECTMAN LIAISON: Jim Snyder-Grant

VISITORS: Andrea Becerra, John Mangiaratti, Debra Simes, Austin Cyganiewicz

REGIONAL SCHOOL ENERGY ADVISOR: Kate Crosby

6:02 PM

Mr. Hudson called the meeting to order at 6:02PM via a virtual meeting with no board members in physical attendance are using the via Zoom.us virtual meeting platform. Mr. Hudson reported, the Town of Acton, in response to the COVID-19 (Corona Virus) is currently following the guidance from the Acton Board of Health, Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the CDC regarding the virus and steps communities can take to prevent the spread. The Town Hall and Memorial Library are closed to the public

New/Special Business

I. Regular Business

Chair Update II

Eric Hudson makes motion to approve Meeting Minutes from Sept 14th. Dennis seconded the motion.

Dennis- aye

Mary- aye

Mona-aye

Eric- aye

New/Special Business

Sustainability Director Hire Update

Eric H indicated that at 6:30 pm John M will join the call (meeting) with the new Sustainability Director for the Town of Acton – Andrea

Eric indicated that the plan was to discuss what we have done prior to her joining the Town of Acton. Requested that we the GAB, have onboarding meetings with the new Director, so we can orient her to documents prior to the Feb meeting and answer any questions she may have. Eric will give her a high level overview of the initiatives and the C&I top initiatives.

- Erik Larson introduced himself as newest member of the GAB
 - a. 12 yrs. energy field. Energy engineer. Works for an ESCO, Guardian Energy. Works on energy audits. Commercial projects. Estimates of projects. Heads the mechanical work. Works on project development. Lived in Acton for the past 6 years.
 - b. Why join GAB - Passion for reducing energy usage in the buildings. Being Active in town
- Peter Berry introduced himself as a new volunteer in the Green Advisory Board - Lawyer. Involved in local govt. Part of other committees in town. Involved since the past 30 - 35 years. Passionate about the environment and is a priority. Part of the ABRSD Building Committee. Ensured it was Zero energy.
- Introductions made by the committee to Erik and Peter
- John Mangiaratti joint the call at 6:28 pm. Sustainability Director is scheduled to start on Jan 25th.
 - a. Town updates - Changed all the fixtures in town hall to low flow and toilets are now fully ADA accessible.
 - John M Introduced Andrea Becerra as the Sustainability Director. GAB introduced themselves to the new Sustainability Director. Background Masters from Tufts on environmental policy. Currently works for NRDC in Chile. Has worked on water related projects in Chile, with local municipalities. Worked in the West Bank of water related projects.
 - Onboarding Andrea - Eric asked about sharing documents with Andrea. Have a pre-GAB meeting before the Feb GAB meeting so we can onboard Andrea and provide her with information the GAB has worked on in the past few years.

Review Mass Energize Website for Acton

- Jim Shared the Mass Energize Tool - Acton Climate Coalition
- a. Community engagement platform that allows residents to benchmark their energy actions.
- b. Allows for teams to be set up within the platform. It allows people to take actions to reduce their energy use.
- c. Relatively new tool. Is currently being used by the Town of Wayland
- d. Content can be customized. Measurements of action. Residents can make commitments for energy action.
- e. Cameron - Think more strategically about this tool from a Sustainability perspective as opposed to just energy focused. This is not a measurement tool.
- f. Mary - volunteered to take thoughts from the GAB for this initiative
- g. Power choice green is a possibility on this tool
- h. Tool cost: \$1500 startup costs. \$1000 annual fees.
- i. Jim indicated that the publicity push would be coordinated via the various channels (social, web etc.), if this tool were to be launched.

Home Rule Petition to Ban Fossil Fuels on New Construction

Jim Share information on Motion to Ban Fossil fuel in New Construction - Governor has not signed. AG indicated that we cannot do this.

Legislation asks for home rule permission to do pass legislation to ban fossil fuel at the town level.

Jim will discuss more Will discuss more in a future meeting

CNI Top Initiatives, Updates from Leads

- Update: Actions taken by GAB since the last meeting on Key Initiatives
- a. Transportation information - Mona provided updates that she has reached out to MAPC for transportation data. The Director has committed to provide this information.
- b. Energy Initiative - Dennis has no update
- c. Website - Dennis will work over the next few weeks on this initiative
- d. Complete Street updates - Attended meeting for the Transportation Advisory Committee in December. Shared GHG data from transportation data with the. Wants to collaborate with us on the bike program. Meeting with High Street Projects, MAPC representative shared info on the safety of High Streets.
- e. Communication strategy - No update from Mary

Debra Simes indicated that there is a meeting coming up related to Grace Site

7:25 Mr. Hudson moved to adjourn, Mr. Loria 2nd. Mr. Hudson called roll:

Mr. Hudson - aye

Mr. Loria - aye

Ms. Cousins - aye

Ms. Chandra - aye

The Board voted 4-0, motion carries; meeting adjourned.