

GREEN ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES – June 13, 2023

6:00pm

Hybrid Meeting

GAB Members Present: Mary Smith, Eric Hudson, Cameren Cousins, Peter Berry

Town Staff Present: Andrea Becerra, Corey York, Ellie Anderson

GAB Members Virtual: Dennis Loria, Partha Krishnan

Guests Virtual: Debra Simes

6:00 – Mary calls the meeting to order and reads hybrid open meeting statement. Attendees are advised that the meeting is being recorded.

1. Resident and Member Concerns/Updates
 - a. Eric – Question about how the dashboard is coming. Andrea informs that two interns are using StoryBoard (ARC GIS) this summer to create a site for the Town.
 - b. Andrea – To keep up momentum and to update the community, the Sustainability Office is planning a celebration/workshop for the one-year anniversary of the Climate Action Plan. Details coming later this summer.
 - c. Kim Castens/Green Acton memo on PFAS – Can the GAB support cooperation between the Town and Acton Water District to address PFAS treatment in the water supply? Mary will dig into this. The Board of Select People recently held goal-setting meeting, and PFAS was addressed; however, it did not make the final set of goals for the year. An opportunity: while the PFAS contamination is a decades-old and incredibly pervasive problem, the Town can look at its purchasing policy right now so it can avoid adding additional contaminants into the groundwater supply (here and wherever items are disposed of).
2. Curbside Trash and Recycling (Presentation from Corey York, Director of Public Works, and Ellie Anderson, Finance Department)
 - a. The DPW and Finance Departments are conducting a preliminary analysis of curbside trash/recycling pick-up. One first step they are taking is community engagement with boards, citizens, staff.
 - b. There are options for how to structure a pick-up program. Considerations are: incorporating PAYT, keeping parts of the transfer station open for special services (yard waste, appliance, hazardous waste days, etc.).
 - c. Sustainability considerations include: emissions from residents' auto travel; emissions from pick-up trucks (both operating Acton's own service and eliminating other private haulers); capturing more households into the PAYT program; sorting/diverting recyclables.
 - d. Financial considerations include: cost of a curbside program vs. the current stickers for the transfer station; cost of Acton's service vs. a private hauler; the fluctuating market for recyclables makes it difficult to estimate operating cost or benefit to the Town.

- e. The need for communication and education around a new program was pointed out; the Town has experience with this from the transition to PAYT.
 - f. GAB to-do: respond to questionnaire that Andrea will send out. Reply to Andrea, Corey, and Ellie.
- 3. Open Space and Recreation Plan Sub-Goals Relevant to Sustainability
 - a. Town is updating its open space and recreation plan.
 - b. Sustainability has a presence throughout now. Resilience, carbon sequestration, energy conservation, and equitable access are in a number of goals. Updates to follow.
- 4. Fossil Fuel Free Demonstration Pilot Program
 - a. Meetings with Town Counsel and other involved communities have begun. So far, things are going smoothly. The application is due Dec. 1st.
- 5. Greening of the Red House
 - a. Heat pumps and an induction stove have been installed. There are plans for native/sustainable/resilient landscaping on the grounds as well.
 - b. Opportunities exist for open house tours and community education/outreach.

7:19 – Mary makes a motion to close the meeting; Eric H seconds.