

GREEN ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 12th, 2023 – 6:00pm
ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY – CONFERENCE ROOM
Hybrid Meeting

GAB Members Present: Mary Smith, Cameren Cousins, Eric Hudson, Partha Krishnan

GAB Members Virtual: Peter Berry

Town Staff Present: Andrea Becerra, Lauren West

Guests Present: Paul Kampas

Guests Virtual: Danny Factor, Sneha Iyer, Tanish

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

1. Resident concerns:
 - a. Presentation on Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers (GLBs) by resident – Paul Kampas
 - i. Suggesting new bylaw to deny usage of GLBs in Acton
 - ii. Provided Lexington as an example and shared information on noise level, pollution, and environmental concerns
 - iii. Requested that Paul sends information shared in meeting to Andrea to share with GAB and provide feedback. Paul to follow up if intending to add to next meeting's agenda
 - iv. Feedback provided: continue to present to other committees and groups in Acton to gain support and pursue steps for proposing a bylaw
2. Tree Bylaw Discussion
 - a. Guest Danny proposes to move topic ahead in agenda due to scheduling conflict, approved by Mary
 - b. Asking for feedback and suggestions regarding previous presentation on proposed tree bylaw
 - c. Opinions suggest broadening project scope, potentially under design board or zoning board. Plan to be more intentional about removal of trees, consider invasive species, encourage integration of planting where beneficial to ecology & human life
 - i. Possibly Involve planning department, allow zoning to limit development until horticultural plan is approved
 - d. Danny to set up time to join and review at next GAB meeting
3. Accelerating Climate Resilience MAPC grant support letter
 - a. Go over drafted letter of support from GAB sent by Andrea. Letter is in support of grant application to redesign Red House outdoor space as an example for the community
 - b. Question if the Red House has considered geothermal instead of heat pumps

- i. Andrea will bring quotes for heating systems at Red House to GAB when they are completed
 - c. Andrea requests vote on letter of support:
 - i. Cameren makes a motion to approve the letter. Mary seconds the motion. Partha, Mary, and Eric vote in favor of motion.
4. Climate Action Tracker: <https://bit.ly/ActonTracker>
- a. Draft was shared previously, Andrea shares that the tracker has been updated and presented to select board.
 - b. Shares that greenhouse gas inventory is being updated and that a large decrease in transportation emissions has been reflected
5. EV First Policy
- a. Already being done by Town, would make process official
 - b. Andrea will share drafted language promoting policy, will be seeking support
6. EV charging rates
- a. Review of EV Charging rate memo. Will be presented to select board to decide if it will be adjusted
 - b. Requesting proposed rate and suggested charge for beyond necessary time
 - i. Lauren will share numbers for EV Charging, info. on where & when, and amp data
7. GAB updates and/or Sustainability Office updates
- a. Teeny Forest
 - i. Discuss proposing at Red House or in other settings, Kelly's corner?
 - ii. Design on dog park?
 - iii. Transfer station?
 - iv. Invite transfer station contact to future meeting to discuss
 - b. Updates on AECOM + Eversource Main Streets program
 - i. Offering up to 90% off energy audits + upgrades, including additional funding from Town
 - c. Next meeting, consider rebates for lawn equipment replacements

7:30 – Eric makes a motion to close the meeting; Cameren seconds the motion, Mary, Eric, Partha, and Cameren agree to close the meeting.