

GREEN ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES – October 17th, 2023 – 6:00pm
ACTON TOWN HALL – ROOM 9
Hybrid Meeting

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

GAB Members Virtual: Erik Larson, Dennis Loria

Town Staff Present: Lauren West, Kate Crosby

Town Staff Virtual: Andrea Becerra

Guests Present: Rob Gogan, Jeff Vandegrift

Guests Virtual: Kurt Marden

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. None
2. GAB updates and/or Sustainability Office updates
 - a. None
3. Extended Producer Responsibility
 - a. Resident Rob Gogan presents on proposed producer responsibility bill. He is seeking support from the GAB for the resolution draft in favor of the listed bills that will be presented to the Select Board.
 - b. Mary expresses concern over only bottle ban aspect of the resolution.
 - c. The GAB would like more time to review materials on the resolution and will vote to support the resolution at the next meeting in November.
4. Solar and Energy Storage at Douglas and Gates Schools
 - a. Peter Berry shares news regarding the solar battery that was planned to be installed at the new triple net zero Boardwalk School in Acton.
 - b. Shares that residents and community members have expressed concerns over the battery for health and safety reasons, but that the battery will be essential for ensuring the school is triple net zero as decided on in past town meeting.
 - c. Energy Director Kate Crosby shares background information on the school and emphasizes that the battery is crucial to the operation of the solar panels in powering the school.
 - d. Resident and abutter Jeff raises concerns over the noise pollution the battery may produce. Shares that he has completed a review of the assessment of the planned battery and shared it with MA DOER.
 - e. Safety consulting firm and Acton Health Department are preparing reports on the situation. GAB will await these reports to review before forming an opinion.

- f. Presentation from solar company, Nexamp, will follow at next month's GAB meeting.
- 5. Green Communities
 - a. The Sustainability Department will be applying for another Green Communities grant to fund the purchase of a hybrid police vehicle and an electric DPW vehicle, as well as weatherization upgrades in the Town Hall and the Recreation building.
- 6. EV First Policy
 - a. The Sustainability Department will be proposing an EV First Policy for Select Board approval. This policy would require that all new vehicle purchases prioritize fully electric vehicles first, or the most fuel-efficient vehicle available if an electric vehicle does not meet the needs of the department.
 - b. The GAB will be reviewing the policy shared by Andrea and will vote whether to support the policy in the following meeting.
- 7. EV Charging Rates
 - a. Due to meeting time running low, the GAB will review the EV Charger Pricing materials and will discuss a recommended charging rate at the following meeting.
- 8. Meeting Minutes: July & September
 - a. Not discussed

7:20pm, Cameren makes a motion to close the meeting. Dennis seconds the motion. Mary, Cameren, Dennis, and Erik agree to close the meeting.