



GREEN ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 - 6:00 pm

HYBRID MEETING

GAB Members Virtual: Peter Berry, Partha Krishnan, Eric Hudson

Town Staff Present: Lauren West

Lauren calls the meeting to order at 6:08pm and reads the hybrid meeting statement. Attendees are advised that the meeting is being recorded.

Eric makes a motion to upgrade Peter as a full member for the meeting. Partha seconds the motion. The Board votes unanimously in favor and the motion passes.

Business

1. Resident Concerns

- None

2. GAB Updates

- Review Town Report
 - The GAB discusses the GAB section that was submitted for the Town Report. Peter asks if the negotiation for the Acton Power Choice was in 2024 as he did not see it mentioned in the report. Lauren is not sure but will look into it. Overall, the GAB found the report to be a complete summary of the Board's actions for 2024.
- Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Ban
 - Peter forwarded an email from Paul Kampas on the updated gas-powered leaf blower ban bylaw. He mentions that the GAB has discussed voting on a letter of support. A Green Acton subcommittee is supporting the drafted bylaw that will be in the Town Meeting warrant.
 - Eric asks if the Select Board has adjusted the dates for the version of the bylaw that will be in the Town Meeting warrant and if that will be presented to the GAB.
 - Peter believes Jim Snyder-Grant or someone else from the Select Board would return with an updated draft.

- Lauren will ask Jim or David about if someone is coming to the April meeting to discuss the bylaw. Lauren will add an item to the next agenda and documents folder to discuss.

3. Sustainability Updates

- Bike Share
 - The Town received a grant to support a regional bike share between Acton, Concord, Lincoln, and Maynard for three years. The stations will run along the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. The Town is working on securing additional funding to include adaptive bikes to be rented through the program.
 - Working on finalizing a contract with a vendor and hoping to launch in Concord in early April before 250th celebration. Exploring options for sponsorships for the program.
 - GAB members offer to support the program by helping to coordinate sponsorships and promote the program. Dunkin Donuts and Blackbird mentioned as potential sponsors.
- Earth Week and Acton Clean Up Week
 - Rob Gogan is organizing Acton Clean Up Week through Green Acton from April 17th to April 27th.
 - The Sustainability Office will be posting an Instagram story with events information
 - Teen invasive removal at the Red House and staff trash clean up walk on April 22nd
 - Storytime on Wednesday April 23rd at 9:30am, Arbor day tree planting at 10:30am.
 - Friday April 25th, storytime event at Red House with live animals!
 - Eric suggests using Sustainability newsletter to share events. Lauren mentions challenges with getting newsletter email verified making it difficult to ensure folks are receiving the newsletter.
 - Eric offers to help solve the issue as he has some experience with mitigating email authorization problems.
- Red House
 - Will also be involving the library in building and painting bird houses for the Red House project. May involve volunteers in building benches and tables.
 - Peter notes that current proposal for Red House CPC funds is around \$35,000 out of \$78,000 requested. CPC now has additional funds, so they may be able to fund the entire project including the bioswale. Connection between Red House project and Asa Parlin house was discussed during deliberation. CPC hopes to see coordination between Red House project and other Town property.

- Funds will be available as soon as they have been voted on at Town Meeting.
- Town Hall Electrification
 - Mary asked for an update. Operations Management Team and Design Team have been hired.
 - Design Team (Salas O'Brien) have shared a design concept report comparing an air source heat pump approach and a hybrid geothermal and air source heat pump approach. Currently, fully air source approach seems to be more cost effective. The Select Board will be reviewing the report and providing a recommendation.
 - IRA tax rebate could offer a 30% return on a geothermal system. Some challenges have occurred with the new administration in receiving the funds.
 - Eric asks if GAB will see the two proposals. Lauren will ask the project team and report back for the next meeting.
 - Lauren mentions that if the Town achieves Climate Leader designation, they will be eligible for up to \$1 million grant opportunities in the summer.

4. Approve Minutes: January 2025

- None

Partha makes a motion to close the meeting at 6:47. Peter seconds the motion. By a unanimous roll call vote; meeting adjourned.