



GREEN ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 - 6:00 pm

HYBRID MEETING

GAB Members Virtual: Partha Krishnan, Erik Larson

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

Town Staff Present: Lauren West, Sophia Darsch, Nick Smaldone

Town Staff Virtual: Andrea Becerra

Guests Virtual: Jim Snyder-Grant

Mary calls the meeting to order at 6:02 and reads the hybrid meeting statement. Attendees are advised that the meeting is being recorded.

Business

1. Resident Concerns

- None

2. GAB Updates

- Mary suggested that the Water District come and present to the GAB. They had presented at the Select Board meeting in the past on using your lawn for water infiltration.
- Mary also mentions that she knows a woman in the Garden Club that is interested in sharing on native plants and preserving pollinator trees. Cameren notes that Kelly's Corner is a good place to explore native tree planting.

3. Town Meeting Recap

- Lauren recaps Town Meeting: Town Hall electrification funds did not pass by only a few votes. The Select Board designated additional funds from Energy Efficiency Fund to support finishing the design phase of the Town Hall project. The Town was recently designated as a Climate Leader, so we can submit an application for up to \$1 million towards the project and bring the cost down before bringing it to Town Meeting again next May.
 - Jim notes that more outreach and a detailed presentation was needed to give more context for the Town Hall project. Next year, the Select Board and Town Staff plan to present more information on the project.

- Cameren asks about any risks of continuing to use the current HVAC system at Town Hall. Andrea and Lauren respond that while it is not in active failure, the system currently has issues with insulation and efficiency that cause air quality issues and require supplemental heating and cooling. Heating and cooling are not being distributed well by the current system.
- Jim notes that the State is working on a new heat pump electricity rate that will reduce delivery costs for customers heating with heat pumps. This could result in some savings for the new electric Town Hall system
- Gas Leaf Blower Ban bylaw did pass with an edited timeline. 2028 will be the first transitional year with a seasonal ban and 2029 will be a full ban.
- The DPW building funds did not pass at the ballot but was presented at Town Meeting to provide more context and get additional feedback. This project will be pursued in future years.

4. Sustainability Updates

- Introduce New Fellows
 - Nick and Sophia recently finished grad programs and are joining the Sustainability as summer Fellows. They will be working on sharing energy efficiency programs
 - GAB members introduce themselves and their experience being on the GAB
- Climate Leaders Designation
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG) and Community First Partnership (CFP)
 - EECBG will focus on bringing energy efficiency resources to renters and low-income eligible residents. Funds Fellows and outreach efforts
- Bike Share Program
 - New MassDOT grant funded program between Acton, Concord, Lincoln, and Maynard. Seven total stations. Each station will have four pedal bikes and one adaptive bike for rental. A launch event was hosted recently and many local organizations and businesses attended
 - So far, Concord has seen lots of usage. They opened their two stations early as they used the same company last year, so far usage has been high. Lauren will be able to see usage reports.
- Acton Power Choice
 - Andrea notes that our contract with First Point Power contains a clause that pricing can change when there is a change in law. A recent law change prompted them to add a 5% increase in all APC prices unless we reduce the amount of additional renewable energy credits required under standard option (from current 45% to 23%).

- Andrea spoke with Paul Gromer from Peregrine, he is going to speak at the Select Board meeting (likely July 14th) and the Board will decide whether to keep the price and reduce the RECs or increase the price.
- Decision has to be made by the end of July. The change goes into effect at the end of August. Paul will be presenting at next Select Board meeting. Andrea will update the GAB on meeting info.
- Called Day-Ahead Ancillary Services Initiative (DASI). Designed to boost reliability of the grid. Enables ISO New England to pay electricity generators to be on standby.
- Changes take effect at the end of August, but we need to send a notice to residents 30 days prior.
- Prices for APC are advertised as stable, so this is a concern of changing the price. However, standard option has the most subscribers so support for RECs will decrease.
- GAB members can research DASI. Andrea will send a one-pager from Paul Gromer on how Acton will be impacted.
- New contract process will start next year (current expires in Dec 2026), more RECs could be added to new contract.

5. GAB Updates

- Mary has called the water district to ask for a presentation on using your lawn for water runoff
- Presentation next month on native tree plantings
 - Could discuss Kelly's Corner planting plan
- Dennis Loria will not be reinstating his membership for GAB due to too many work conflicts with meeting times. GAB now has four full members and two associates.
 - Erik Larson is open to being a full member
 - The GAB will discuss recruiting new members in a later meeting
- Next meeting (July) will be virtual

6. Approve Minutes: April 2025

- Cameren makes a motion to accept the minutes, Partha seconds the motion. All vote in favor, the motion passes.

Eric makes a motion to close the meeting at 6:48. Cameren seconds the motion. By a unanimous roll call vote; meeting adjourned.