



**GREEN ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES  
AUGUST 10, 2020  
5:00 PM  
\*VIRTUAL MEETING\***

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Eric Hudson, Dennis Loria, Cameren Cousins, Mary Smith

**ASSOCIATE MEMBER:** Not present

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Kim Gorman

**MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES SUPERINTENDENT:** Andrea Ristine

**SELECTMEN LIAISON:** Jim Snyder-Grant

**VISITORS:** Mike Boss

Link to documents numbered on this agenda: <http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-12621>

5:05 Mr. Hudson called the meeting to order at 5:05PM via a virtual meeting with no Board Members in physical attendance are using the via Zoom.us virtual meeting platform.

Mr. Hudson reported, the Town of Acton, in response to the COVID-19 (Corona Virus) is currently following the guidance from the Acton Board of Health, Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the CDC regarding the virus and steps communities can take to prevent the spread. The Town Hall and Memorial Library are closed to the public.

Mr. Hudson called roll:

Mr. Hudson - present

Mr. Loria - present

Ms. Cousins - present

Ms. Smith - present

Francis H. Cummings, Acton Climate Coalition (010-011)

5:15 Mr. Cummings introduced himself as a member of the Acton Climate Coalition, Declaring a Climate Emergency: A Better Future Starting Now. Mr. Cummings explained climate change threatens our health, prosperity and well-being in Acton. He stated to avoid the worst climate impacts, we need an urgent and massive effort to arrest and reverse global warming and to build resilience for a changed future. To declare a Climate Emergency is a critical next step. The Acton Climate Coalition will be asking for support at the next Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 to join more than 1,750 other governments, representing more than 800 million people around the world, in declaring a Climate Emergency.

Mr. Cummings discussed the carbon neutrality net zero goal by a target date of 2030, resolution points to use to help obtain the specific changes: climate emergency that could threaten the town, commit to a climate mobilization, what to include in the mobilization and obtain help from State and Federal officials.

Board members discussed how can we dovetail together with Green Acton? Mr. Hudson will discuss further at the next meeting to make a recommendation of support for the next April Annual Town Meeting in 2021.

5:35 Board members thanked Mr. Cummings for his knowledge and guidance. Mr. Cummings left the meeting.

Stella Carr MPA, Sustainability Director, Town of Lexington

5:36 Mr. Hudson thanked Ms. Carr for being able to join the meeting.

Ms. Carr introduced herself as the Town of Lexington's new Sustainability Director, hired in the Spring of 2020. Mr. Carr discussed the Town of Lexington's process to create a renewable future and obtain net zero emissions and demonstrating their commitment to finding solutions for our climate-related challenges in the community. Ms. Carr's position is under the Town Manager's office and is tasked with leading the town's sustainability efforts. The Town of Lexington is building on the progress of existing sustainability initiatives underway while developing and administering new programs, policies and initiatives to achieve the Town's sustainability goals, which includes climate adaptation, resiliency, waste reduction, energy efficiency and among other items. Their goal is to reduce greenhouse emissions by 2050 and greenhouse assessment in-house goal by 2040 or sooner than 2035.

Ms. Carr explained having three long-term target goals:

- 1: Buildings to be powered by 100% renewable energy sources
- 2: All new construction to have zero emissions
- 3: To have a successful zero emission and climate-resilient neighborhood-scale development

Ms. Carr discussed having a Net Zero Energy Strategic Approach; the organizing principle for our roadmap and recommendations is to Report, Reduce, Produce and Purchase.

REPORT: The first step is to identify the range of building types and measure how Lexington's buildings perform from an energy use and emissions perspective. Building performance will be tracked and reported to show progress towards achieving emissions reduction goals on an annual basis.

REDUCE: There are two primary ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from buildings. The first is to use less energy by investing in energy efficiency retrofits, and the second is switching to cleaner sources of energy.

PRODUCE: The next step is maximizing the production of onsite renewable energy from rooftops and parking lots.

PURCHASE: After reducing energy use, shifting away from fossil fuels, and maximizing onsite renewables, the final strategy is to purchase renewable electricity to close the gap to meet the zero emissions objective.

Board members explained the carbon neutrality plan for Acton and the Board's purpose is to learn from other town's processes and to create a process to achieve Acton's goal. Ms. Carr stated she will send the net zero link from the Town of Lexington to Ms. Ristine to forward to the Board. Mr. Hudson asked for the Green House Gas (GHG) emission's data to help guide them; Ms. Carr stated she will seek approval to forward information to the Board.

5:54 Board members thanked Ms. Carr for her knowledge and guidance; Ms. Carr departed from the meeting.

5:55 Board members welcomed Mr. Jim Snyder-Grant to the meeting and congratulated him on being the new Selectman Liaison to the Board.

## Carbon Neutrality Initiative (CNI) - Discussion - Scope of Services Outline

Board members discussed to get abreast with what five local/surrounding towns and what they are doing. Try to obtain their summaries for directions, start working with or without a sustainability manager and try to obtain state support and look into Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) initiatives and possible work with the Newton Energy Coach.

Biggest piece of the pie is the road transportation and focus on the emission and stationary side. Reach out to the Transportation Advisory Group (TAC) for support.

6:10 Ms. Smith departed from the meeting.

Ms. Cousins suggested using media channels could be a good starting point, place climate information on town website, reach out to the Town's Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Austin Cyganiewicz who may be helpful with social media.

Mr. Hudson stated he would like to have a one full hour to discuss CNI at the next meeting.

Mr. Loria will ask Mr. Jim Snyder-Grant to discuss additional funding for CNI with the Town Manager.

### Minutes - July 13, 2020

Mr. Hudson moved to approve the minutes for 7/13/2020, Ms. Smith 2<sup>nd</sup>; Mr. Hudson called roll:

Mr. Hudson - aye

Mr. Loria - aye

Ms. Cousins - aye

Ms. Smith - aye

The Board voted 4-0, motion carries.

### Next Meeting – September 14, 2020

- Carbon Neutrality Initiative – one hour discussion: more specific scope of services with summary breakdown, funds for GAB to work with for the climate coalition & declaration. Bring ideas to the table regarding transportation for September discussion and Stationary discussion in October.
- Funds / how much for GAB to work with?
- Climate Coalition & Declaration
- Minutes – 08/10/2020

6:32 Mr. Hudson moved to adjourn, Ms. Smith 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Hudson called roll:

Mr. Hudson - aye

Mr. Loria - aye

Ms. Cousins - aye

Ms. Smith - aye

The Board voted 4-0, motion carries; meeting adjourned.



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**Note:** The Town of Acton in response to the COVID-19 (Corona Virus) is currently following the guidance from the Acton Board of Health, Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the CDC regarding the virus and steps communities can take to prevent the spread. The Town Hall and Memorial Library are closed to the public.

**To Participate Remotely**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

**From a computer**, please click on the link below to join the public meeting

Webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/96838509720>

or

**From a telephone**, 1-301-715-8592 **Webinar ID: 968 3850 9720**

Telephone users may dial \*9 to request to speak after joining the meeting. Computer and app users may use the “raise hand” feature to request to speak.

**I. Business**

- Francis H. Cummings, Acton Climate Coalition ([010-011](tel:010-011))
- Stella Carr MPA, Sustainability Director, Town of Lexington
- Carbon Neutrality Initiative - Discussion - Scope of Services

**II. Minutes** July 13, 2020 Signature

**Next meeting** September 14, 2020

**2020 Meeting Schedule** [link](#)

Additional materials for this agenda can be found here <http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-12621>

*The listed agenda items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law. Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Include a description of the accommodation you will need, including as much detail as you can and include a way we can contact you if we need more information. Please allow advance notice. Send an e-mail to [manager@actonma.gov](mailto:manager@actonma.gov) or call Town Manager's Office (978)929-6611*

*For more information about the Green Advisory Board contact [mpo@actonma.gov](mailto:mpo@actonma.gov) or 978-929-7744.*