

GREEN ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA

MONDAY, April 11, 2022

6:00 pm

VIRTUAL MEETING

Members Present: Mary Smith, Cameren Cousins, Eric Hudson, Peter Berry, Erik Larson, Dennis Loria, Partha Krishnan

Select Board Liaison: Jim Snyder Grant

Sustainability Director: Andrea Becerra

Regional School Representative: Kate Crosby

Visitors: Bob Van Meter, Fran Cummings, Michael Chautin

Mary Smith called the meeting to order at 6:01PM with a quorum present via a virtual meeting with no Board Members in physical attendance using Zoom.us virtual meeting platform.

1. Public Concerns

- Bob Van Meter summarized citizen petition on electric vehicle chargers. Bob also presented Fran as part of this effort. Bob shared his screen with a few slides, noting ¼ of Acton's residents live in apartments & condos and many can't get an EV without the EV charging infrastructure
- Mary asked if in the condo structure EV chargers would be for individual homes; Bob mentioned that the number of EV chargers or the locations have not been specifically identified in the warrant article.
- Bob Van Meter mentioned that if it's a shared meter it could model the public charging model to charge for the use of the charger.
- Fran adds that the warrant article is broad and not specific, but makes clear that action is called for on behalf of the Town of Acton.
- Eric H. asked for clarification on what is being requested of the GAB; Bob Van M. noted that they would love for the GAB to endorse the citizen petition; would need a letter drafted—GAB asked Fran to draft a letter on behalf of the GAB for the GAB to review at the May 9th meeting. Select Board will discuss warrant articles on April 25th.
- Peter B. noted that since this is a warrant article, the most effective tool would be to put a statement together supporting it and send it to the Select Board with a cover letter stating support and have one of us read out loud the support letter.

2. Climate Action Plan update

- Andrea updated that next meeting is Wednesday April 27; last two workshops had been recorded; will have two more workshops.
- Announced Climate Action Plan festival happening Saturday, June 11th
- Jim SG noted that there is a warrant article to call for the implementation of the Climate Action Plan at the next Town Meeting – Cameren asked if JG can share the language of the warrant article; Jim SG will draft a letter of support for the warrant article

- Peter B. noted senate climate bill may enable the Town of Acton to implement regulation on fossil fuel in new construction

3. Acton Power Choice letter

- Cameren shared draft letter summarizing GAB position on new Acton Power Choice Contract: includes continuing to offer three program options
- APC GREEN with new expected prices will add about \$20 extra per month (Andrea B. noted that we have 345 people on APC GREEN as of the latest numbers)
- Request supplier to exclude biomass as a renewable energy source
- Cameren shared screen with spreadsheet showing the increase in cost of electricity
- with a list of the costs of additional REC Is for the standard option,
- Standard +40 (60% total) ends up being about \$28 extra per month—this is an estimate based on estimated electricity prices
- Kate C. mentioned that students noted that adding +40 is the cost of a pizza (at \$10 extra per month compared to Basic)
- Cameren mentioned we have a PR problem; would push for +40 for standard. Question is how do we effectively communicate this?
- Dennis L. the focus should be on how we promote this program, not the cost. How do we support the Town in promoting the program.
- Cameren asked for the perspective on national wind RECs; Jim SG mentioned the argument of additionality and that national wind RECs is a form of green washing; Kate Crosby shared similar sentiment
- Dennis L. supports making a direct impact with Class I RECs, and not including National Wind RECs
- Andrea references Peregrine's assessment of how purchasing RECs is defined: "Purchasing RECs is about accounting / allocating emissions, not about reducing or offsetting emissions. Put another way, buying RECs allows Acton to make claims about the sources of, and emissions associated with, Acton's electricity use. Purchasing RECs does not allow Acton to make claims about reducing the amount of emissions compared to what emissions would have been had you not bought the RECs."
- Kate C. national wind RECs muddies the water
- Erik L. agrees Class I RECs are the better option; likes the idea of keeping the standard at 40%; agrees that not filling it in with National Wind RECs now, makes it easier to add more REC Is in the future.
- Consensus from the GAB is to not support the inclusion of National Wind RECs.
- Andrea B. noted that slide 5 of the presentation shows that there are occasional peaks in electricity prices, but that they're likely to stabilize over time.
- Cameren will send letter to Andrea to share with the GAB in preparation for a short meeting

4. River St. Dam Removal support letter

- Andrea reads GAB support letter out loud: <http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-14964>
- Mary makes a motion to support the letter on behalf of the GAB; Cameren seconds; those in favor: Eric-Aye, Cameren-Aye, Mary-Aye (the motion passes)

5. Closing

- Mary makes a motion to close the meeting at 7:46; Erik seconds the motion; those in favor: Eric-aye, Cameren-aye, Mary-aye (the motion passes and the meeting is closed).

ADDENDUM

Meeting minutes approved unanimously at October 17th, 2022, GAB virtual meeting.