

GREEN ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES – February 13th, 2023

6:00pm

Hybrid Meeting

GAB Members Attending In-person: Mary Smith, Cameren Cousins, Eric Larson

GAB Members Attending Virtually: Eric Hudson, Partha Krishnan

Other Attendees: Jim Snyder-Grant (Acton Select Board liaison)

6:06 - Mary Smith calls the meeting to order, reads the hybrid open meeting statement, and advises virtual attendees that the meeting is being recorded.

1. Building Stretch Code Update, led by Jim Snyder-Grant
 - a. IEC (International Energy Code) updated in 2021, serves as foundation of our energy code in MA (goes into effect Jan 2024). There are additional MA-specific amendments that relate to EV infrastructure, HERS rating decrease, etc.
 - b. 2023 MA climate legislation moves stretch code governance over to DOER. Specialized stretch code has three prescriptive pathways, and there is a distinction between commercial and residential requirements (building square footage, air exchange, etc.).
 - c. There is overlap with the 10-community fossil fuel infrastructure ban pilot project (Acton is one of the 10). State is requiring exemptions for lab spaces (for gas); Acton's bylaw did not provide for that, but we don't really see a way around it. If Acton enacts this fossil fuel infrastructure ban bylaw, that seems to disallow the zero-energy and mixed fuels pathway of the specialized stretch code. Hope that there is a fix in the current bylaw language that allows fossil fuel infrastructure additions in significant renovations; towns are hoping to tweak language to disallow that. Question of domestic hot water for large buildings (like apartment complexes); need to iron out where exemptions can be applied for. Timeline: DOER has until Nov 2023 to approve or disallow any changes Acton makes to state bylaw language, and having a disapproval that late would not allow us to enact the bylaw on Jan 1, 2024.
 - d. Task: Mary will look at example/existing specialized stretch code support letters, draft a recommendation to Select Board. GAB needs to vote on it during March meeting to stay timely with Town Meeting logistics..
2. Abode Energy Coaching Update
 - a. 10 residents went through training in Nov/Dec. Education for residents on building science and HVAC technology. Abode has press/marketing materials ready to go – they are ready to assign coaches to property owners looking for help, provide handouts for folks, and orchestrate social media to draw people in.
 - b. Demonstration programming that focuses on a whole neighborhood at a time. Targeting neighborhoods that are reliant on fuel oil for heating – the costs there are a no brainer. Abode will coordinate contractor tours, request for quotes, analysis of quotes, and bulk discount options for equipment.

- c. Coaching and marketing will go live on Wed 2.15.
- 3. Climate Action Plan Tracking
 - a. Yearly.
 - b. Model is what Kim Lundgren Assoc. is creating for towns in the area. Andrea is currently speaking with various vendors about possibilities of dashboards. KLA has ideas about how to collect data from residents...
- 4. GAB general business
 - a. Mary: DOER to set up program for generating credits from all/most non-emitting sources. That would be helpful for creating new electricity generation plants. Off-shore wind is particularly in need of help.
 - b. DPW building update (Eric Larson): Request for bonding on Town Meeting warrant for 60% funding for designs. This is when the side-by-side comparisons of heating/conditioning would be drawn up. Other areas of property need to be redeveloped, including fueling holding tanks. Some property modifications might happen before the building happens.
 - c. Eric Hudson made a motion to approve November meeting minutes. Cameren Cousins seconded. All approved.

7:13 - Cameren makes a motion to adjourn. Eric H. seconds. Approved unanimously.