



## GREEN ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

TUESDAY, February 13, 2024 - 6:00 pm

\*VIRTUAL MEETING\*

**GAB Members Virtual:** Cameren Cousins, Eric Hudson, Mary Smith, Peter Berry

**Town Staff Virtual:** Andrea Becerra, Lauren West

**Guests Virtual:** Rob Gogan

Mary calls the meeting to order at 6:00pm and reads the virtual meeting statement. Attendees are advised that the meeting is being recorded.

### **Business**

#### **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)**

Resident Rob Gogan is asking the Green Advisory Board to recommend, in the form of a letter, that the Select Board approve a resolution in favor of product stewardship for paint.

- Mary makes a motion for the GAB to send a letter to the Select Board in support of product stewardship for paint.
- Rob notes that he has sent a draft resolution to Andrea listing the two bills that are under consideration. These bills have been approved by the Environment of Natural Resources committee. Rob would like the Select Board to approve the draft sent to Andrea.
- Andrea states the letter previously signed by the GAB in 2022 is in tonight's GAB packet. This letter can be adapted and voted on to be submitted to the Select Board. There is also an example letter from another municipality that further explains what the paint EPR bill entails included in the GAB packet.
  - Andrea shows the letter in the GAB packet and points out recommended edits that had been emailed to her.
- Eric Hudson asks Rob if paint is a part of the drafted EPR letter or if that is the only topic being pursued.
  - Rob explains that the Mass Product Stewardship Council is making a special push for the paint EPR bill specifically. They still promote the other materials covered in the earlier bill proposed, but they would like to see the product stewardship for paint be prioritized currently.
- Peter notes that he cannot vote but he is in support of this bill. He suggested the GAB update the draft letter to reflect the current date and to add the updated letterhead.
- Mary asks if many paint companies (retailers) are in support of this bill.

- Rob confirms this is the case and that lobbyists and the industry are in support of a consistent model for producer responsibility in regard to paint.
- Andrea shows the updated letter on her screen. She removes unrelated links from the letter, updates the date, and makes minor edits suggested by the GAB.
- Mary makes a motion to approve the updated letter and to send it to the Select Board. Eric Hudson seconds the motion. The letter is approved unanimously.

### **Appointing a Member for the Habitat for All Advisory Group**

Andrea explains the Sustainability Office is working with the Planning Department to promote a zoning initiative to promote cluster development to increase housing availability while protecting natural resources. The Planning Department is forming a group with diverse perspectives to work with a consultant and help develop a finalized proposal on “Habitat for All” by the end of 2024 to present at Town meeting. Meetings are expected to be held during business hours at the Town Hall.

- Peter mentions the Town already has a cluster development bylaw. This initiative would reverse the current zoning priorities, making it so that a standard subdivision requires a special permit but clustered housing developments will have by-right zoning.
- Mary offers to serve on the committee but asks for regular check ins with the GAB to discuss their thoughts on the initiative.
- Cameren makes a motion to appoint Mary Smith as a member of the Habitat for All committee. Eric Hudson seconds the motion. The motion is approved unanimously.

### **Resident Concerns**

None

### **GAB/Sustainability Updates**

Andrea shares that the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) and Municipal Vulnerability Plan 2.0 (MVP 2.9) processes have begun.

- HMP is focused on infrastructure and safety whereas MVP 2.0 is focused on community resilience and climate hazards
- First meeting will be this Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 12pm. Planned to be in person.
  - This will be a working meeting to verify Town information and data. Andrea said it would be great to have a GAB member attend. The DPW, Fire chief, DEI Director, Econ development Director, planning, GIS, human services, Green Acton, and AWD, and ABRSD are currently participating.
- Peter Berry offers to join the meeting.

## **Nature Based Solutions**

Lauren reached out to ICLEI, they suggested we look at their LEARN tool. ICLEI shared resources on the tool and shared a contact with more information on the tool but did not offer to attend a meeting.

- Cameren notes the connection of quantifying Acton's forested areas and wetlands as we begin to investigate opportunities for zoning promoting the protection of natural space. She reminds the GAB on the potential for the Town's GIS department to estimate acreage of Town-owned conservation lands, wetlands, and forested areas
  - Andrea offers to talk to GIS regarding calculating the space. She notes the maps created for the updated Open Space and Recreation Plan may be helpful.
- Eric Hudson asks if other municipalities are already measuring, reporting, or including in climate action plans amount of carbon produced and sequestered.
  - Cameren notes that private institutions are doing lots of work with carbon sequestration. Andrea and Lauren have seen carbon sequestration mentioned and measured in climate action plans and GHG inventories but not forecasted or accompanied by specific goals.
  - Andrea shows the previous itree analysis included in the 2017 Greenhouse Gas Inventory.
- Lauren offers to research what other municipalities are doing for carbon sequestration and defining "net zero" and to look into options for speakers on carbon sequestration.
- Andrea will reach out to the Nature Conservancy to ask about someone speaking to the GAB.

## **Updated GAB Charter**

Andrea shares her screen and shows the edited GAB Charter (included in the GAB packet).

- Cameren recommends a slight change in the language.
- Mary and Eric express their support of the updated Charter.
- Peter asks if they can include the climate emergency and the CAP.
  - Andrea adds "in support of the Climate Emergency Declaration"
- Cameren suggests removing "local" from the regional school district description.

Eric makes a motion to accept the proposed updated GAB charter. Cameren seconds the motion. The GAB votes unanimously to approve the Charter.

- Andrea will submit the charter to be discussed at the next Select Board meeting for approval

## **Approve Minutes: December, January**

The Gab will read the minutes and review them in the next meeting

Eric makes a motion to close the meeting at 6:58pm. Mary seconds the motion. By a unanimous roll call vote; meeting adjourned.