



GREEN ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, November 12, 2024 - 6:00 pm

HYBRID MEETING

GAB Members Present: Cameren Cousins, Partha Krishnan, Erik Larson, Eric Hudson, Peter Berry

Town Staff Present: Lauren West, Andrea Becerra

Cameren calls the meeting to order at 6:06pm and reads the hybrid meeting statement. Attendees are advised that the meeting is being recorded.

Business

Resident Concerns

- None

GAB Updates

- GAB received a marketing email looking to partner with the Town. No need to respond but we can follow up to see if there is any assistance to offer residents.
- No updates on DPW building yet. Will be requesting funds at Town meeting in May. Dog park is moving forward.
- No updates on Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Ban, likely will not be included at special fall town meeting. Eric is going to reach out to David Martin for an update.
- Lauren will send meeting dates for 2025.

Sustainability Updates

Greening the Red House & CPC Support Letter

- The Town received funds from MAPC for landscaping at the Red House and begin pocket park work. Many volunteers helped with planting invasive species.
- Next steps include adding accessible picnic tables, educational signs, & climate library (MAPC provided additional funds to add these items).
- Ian from Conservation will coordinate additional volunteering and spreading seeds.
- Sustainability Office is applying for CPC funds for items that did have enough grant funds for such as the bioswale (stormwater management channel to remove toxins in water), raised garden bed, art procurement & benches.

- Cameren asks how we can tie in the Acton Memorial Library playground and Town Hall into the Red House project. Andrea mentions there is work being done with the Library to collaborate and expand some of the efforts over.
 - Ideas include a painted walkway, yard signs with info, working with the library on events and programming.
 - Lots of Town departments are involved (DPW, Conservation, AWD, etc.)
- GAB reviews the drafted letter of support for the Red House CPC application
 - Eric makes a motion to approve the letter of support for the Red House CPC application. Cameren seconds the motion. All members vote in favor, the motion passes.

Census Survey

- Last year the Sustainability Office drafted a survey to send with the census asking about fuel types in homes. The Assessors data was outdated and did not tell us who needs AC / heating. The Assessors have informed the Sustainability Office that they will be collecting updated data soon, so there is no longer a need to send the survey.
- Cameren asks how long the Assessor's data collection will take. Andrea will check to see if it makes sense to send the survey in the meantime.
- The GAB reviews the drafted survey.
 - Partha asks about finding the age of the home. Andrea says we likely have this data from the Assessors.
 - The GAB can discuss the survey on a quick zoom call to approve survey if needed.

Nature Based Solutions

- The Sustainability Office received an email from Jim Snyder-Grant suggesting updating the I-tree analysis. Lauren has completed an updated I-tree analysis, but she wants to update the older data to include wetlands for a better comparison. When Lauren completes the updated Greenhouse Gas Inventory, she will include an updated I-tree analysis.
- Eric asks about the details of the I-tree software. Lauren explains it uses Google Earth data to classify land cover.
- Currently, communities are not subtracting emissions estimated to be sequestered from their greenhouse gas inventories as the evaluation technology is not perfectly accurate yet.

Climate Resilience Updates (MVP 2.0)

- A mailer will be sent to all homes in Acton soon with the survey link. We have received almost 100 responses on so far. Outreach events coming up: Acton Housing Authority, Lions Club, Human Services Office, Community Potluck this Saturday.

- Draft resilience priorities will be shared at outreach events. Andrea asks GAB members to share input on drafted resilience priorities over email or at one of the upcoming events.
- These updated priorities will help inform a \$50,000 seed project to address community concerns.

Heat Pump Pizza Party

- The Sustainability Office will be sending out a letter using the Assessor's data targeting homes using oil, propane, and electric resistance. Copying idea from Natick.
- Presentations from Clean Energy Coach and Laminar Collection on heat pump pricing, information, and benefits.
- 1 hour long from 6pm to 7pm on December 4th.

Sustainability Policy

- The Select Board did discuss the policy and had some suggestions. Sustainability Office will share a summary of their suggestions. Maybe Jim Snyder-Grant can provide an update to GAB.

Approve Minutes: August & September 2024

- None

Cameren makes a motion to close the meeting at 7:08. Eric seconds the motion. By a unanimous roll call vote; meeting adjourned.