

Town of Acton Green Advisory Board

3 Members Including Alternates Needed for a Quorum

MEETING MINUTES

Place: Memorial Library Meeting Room, 1st Fl.

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Date: Monday, June 13, 2011

Present: Mary Smith, Eric Hudson, Dennis Loria, Chris Schaffner, Manisha Tyagi and Bruce Friedman, Robert Keene, John Murray Staff, Lili Early Recording Secretary; John Sonner, Board of Selectmen, Kate Cosby Green Advisor to the Schools

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1. Review and Approval of the Minutes from the Meetings held at 4/25/2011 and 5/16/2011

Chris S. thanked Mr. Sonner, our GAB selectman, for attending the meeting.

Then Chris S. asked for a voice vote to approve the minutes of 4/25/2011 and 5/16/2011.

The motion was made by Chris S. and seconded by Dennis L. The vote was announced UNANIMOUS.

2. Welcome the Two New Alternate Members and the Summer Intern

Chris S. welcomed Manisha Tyagi and Bruce Friedman, our new alternate members and Robert Keene, our new summer intern. He asked them to introduce themselves.

Bruce Friedman is a citizen of Acton, has been a contractor for many years and has been interested in solar energy for about 30 years

Manisha Tyagi is also an Acton citizen, has 10 years of analysis experience, related to asset management, as a Sr. Business Intelligence Manager, and has been interested for a very long time in energy conservation and pollution reduction.

Both candidates need to be sworn in first in order to be able to vote.

Robert Keene is a student who finished his junior year and is looking forward to becoming a civil engineer. He is very much interested in energy efficiency and is glad to be able to work with us. He met with Chris S. last week. He received the 5-year plan and the meeting minutes from John M. He logged on to Project Manager (PM) and found it workable. Kate C. informed him that there are no ratings on Town buildings, only on the schools and she is in touch with PM to add the Town.

Eric gave him an assignment and he did some research on a proposal.

Chris S. explained to Robert K. how we will use PM and mentioned that PM is a free program, provided by the State.

Mr. Sonner asked if the utility bills will reflect monthly usage for the Town and detailed usage for the Schools. Chris' response was that both bills will show the data on a monthly basis.

Kate C. explained to Mr. Sonner what PM is used for at the schools. She continued that the Interlock company is in the process of installing meters on all the schools to monitor the electricity use on an annual basis. John M. added that we cannot measure what is mechanical or behavioral or lighting. Mary S. responded that behavioral cannot be easily measured.

Robert K. was asked to discuss the proposal worked on, but first Eric H. had to leave the room because of a conflict of interest. Then he explained his research of a renewable energy opportunity of a 2MW solar energy project in Holliston, MA. The town would pay cash to the project for the solar power at a 10% discount, before directly reselling the purchased power to NSTAR at full price rates. The contract would be for 20 to 25 years. Mary S. wanted to be sure if the discount would be through the live of the contract, because that is very important. Dennis L. asked if it would be 10% discount or 10% or less.

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Robert K. was sure that the discount would vary based on the consumption. Mary S. also wanted to know if we applied for rebates. The answer was yes, according to John M., part is rebate and part is from the Green Community Grant. Mary S. also asked Robert K. if the total costs are included in the distribution rate or do they have to be added. Robert said that the bill will show 2 parts, one for distribution and one for generation.

Chris S. asked if the Board members were interested in this project and he specifically wanted to get John M.'s opinion. John M. wondered why Holliston wants to do this and if that would create a conflict with our landfill solar project. Dennis L. at the other hand, questioned if that project would provide us with more savings than our landfill project. He also hopes to receive more than 10% discount when using the Holliston program. Kate C. said that the schools receive 20% discount for solar on landfill. Mary S. thinks that we should be looking at Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SREC) in addition to net-metering.

Dennis asked if everyone knew what net-metering is. It allows a renewable energy generator to be put energy into the Grid and to offset non-renewable energy being consumed. NSTAR buys the unused power at retail price. According to John M. NSTAR will pay cash to the municipalities.

David K. asked if this was purely a financial matter and John M. responded that selling power to municipalities has other advantages.

Bruce F. asked why Acton does have to be involved. Dennis L. responded that several municipalities have been approached because the Town of Holliston is working on several projects at the same time. Chris S. thinks that this feels like trading. John M. is wondering if we have a conflict between Constellation and this program. Our contract with Constellation is only ending in 2012.

Manisha T. was curious if it is common practice to sell to municipalities. Chris S. explained that in MA everyone can buy power from different companies. Mary S. added that this is a fairly new concept and NSTAR is pushing this practice.

Eric H. suggested that all the projects for Robert K. should be sent to him and the following tasks were suggested:

- Chris S. - 5-year plan, especially 2011
- John M. - First talk to JD Head and Dean Charter and get a list of what has already been accomplished and discuss their recommendations. Then Robert K. can explain the specifics on how he progresses through the work plan
- Dennis L. - to work with him on the data processing in PM. Kate mentioned that fuel and street lighting should be added in PM. Manisha T. volunteered to help and asked if PM is compatible with Access and John M. confirmed that.

3. Review of NSTAR/National Grid Meeting and Follow-up

Chris S. asked the GAB members for their feedback on the visit of NSTAR and National Grid. He mentioned that their visit was appreciated. Mary S. added that both companies are desperate and need to spend money in FY11.

4. Review of the 2011 Expenditures

John M. discussed each item on the 2011 expenditure spreadsheet for new lighting for Town properties. \$10,000 should be spent on improvements, but he suggests giving priority to the parking lots. He also mentioned that NSTAR is calculating the rebates.

Chris S. questioned why the flags need to be lit up all the time. John M. replied that if they are lit they do not have to be removed.

Chris S. also thought that we do not need to light the buildings.

John M. wanted to know if the Board members would agree to change the police parking lot lights with LED ones and later we could do the same for the commuter lot. Chris S. responded that it is worth to try it first in one place.

Bruce F. asked if the LED lights meet our needs. John M. responded yes.

5. Set Agenda Items for Future Meeting

Chris S. asked everyone present for suggestions for the next GAB meeting. The results were as follows:

- Behavioral Change – Energy Conservation for the Town & School buildings and the General Public
- Public Relations
- Progress on the 5-year plan
- Energy lights
- Update on Robert's 5-year plan
- PR - What are other towns focusing on, discuss it with them
- Inform the new members on the 5-yr plan
- Review the status of the 2011 GAB goals
- Research new technologies for energy reduction
- Sept.-Oct. Budget – Action needs to be taken and ideas are welcome
- Invite Jim Snyder, Chair of the 2020 Community Grants Committee, to give a presentation at our July 18 Board meeting

John M. explained that the next Green Community grant will be awarded on a competitive basis and informed the Board about future possibilities with NSTAR.

6. Behavioral Change – Energy Conservation for the Town & School buildings and the General Public

Will be discussed at the next meeting on 7/18/2011

7. Public Relations

Will be discussed at the next meeting on 7/18/2011

Manisha T. and Bruce F. asked to receive the past GAB minutes. John M. responded that all the minute are published on line.

Chris S. asked who puts the agenda together. John M. prepares the agenda and sends them to both Chairs.

Chris advised the two new members to become familiar with the open meeting law. John M. added that when they are sworn in, they will have to attend a training session.

Chris S. informed the Board that he will not be able to attend the July 18 meeting.

Chris S. asked for a voice vote to adjourn the meeting. The vote was announced UNANIMOUS. The motion was made by Mary S. and seconded by Eric H.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.



Future Meeting Schedule

Meetings are to be held in the Conference Room of Memorial Library and will begin at 6:30 PM -unless otherwise noted

- a. Mon July 18 Conference Room Memorial Library, 2nd floor
- b. Mon Aug 15 Conference Room Memorial Library, 2nd floor
- c. Mon Sept 12 Conference Room Memorial Library, 2nd floor
- d. Mon Oct 17 Conference Room Memorial Library, 2nd floor
- e. Mon Nov 7 Conference Room Memorial Library, 2nd floor
- f. Mon Dec 5 Conference Room Memorial Library, 2nd floor

Kate L. Carly
Recording Secretary

Signed on page 2.
Chairman, Green Advisory Board

7/18/11
Date