



**GREEN ADVISORY BOARD
AGENDA
AUGUST 3, 2015
6:30 PM
ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY - CONFERENCE ROOM
486 MAIN STREET**

Link to documents numbered on this agenda:

<http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-6905/Document-50456>

- Nominate Chairperson & Vice Chair
- Pay as You Throw - Corey York, Director, Department of Public Works (010)
- Green Community Grant Award (020)
- Solarize Acton II – Community - Scale Solar
- Municipal Energy Technical Assistance (META) Grant Funding (030)
- Approve minutes - June 1, 2015



**GREEN ADVISORY BOARD
AGENDA
AUGUST 3, 2015
6:30 PM
ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY - CONFERENCE ROOM
486 MAIN STREET**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dennis Loria, Eric Hudson, Mary Smith

ASSOCIATE MEMBER: Padamaja Kuchimanchi

GREEN ADVISOR TO THE SCHOOLS: Kate Crosby (6:45)

RECORDING SECRETARY: Andrea Ristine

VISITORS: Corey York, Jim Allison

Link to documents numbered on this agenda:

<http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-6905/Document-50456>

6:33 Meeting called to order; Mary Smith acting Chairperson.

Members present Padamaja Kuchimanchi voted in to act as voting member.

Pay as You Throw - Corey York, Director, Department of Public Works (010)

Mr. York reported that the Board of Selectmen approved the "Pay As You Throw" (PAYT) program effective September 1, 2015; the Transfer Station Stickers fund the facility; the disposal costs will be funded through the trash bag fees. It will be more equitable for those who dispose of less trash and recycle. Recycling fees will remain the same. The Town will try to institute a food waste program including the sale of compost bins to provide residents the ability to recycle raw food waste. The new trash bags will be for sale at several local retail stores starting in mid-August in varying sizes. An informational flyer will be distributed to residents regarding the Transfer Station system provisions with the help of Green Acton. Information for residents will also be included in the upcoming Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Upon query by Mr. Loria, Mr. York reported that means of recycling of metal and plastic will remain the same; disposal of appliances will still have a separate charge

along with disposal of televisions and mattresses. Lowell Utech takes the mattresses for potential re-use, the Town is also working with household ministries.

Upon query by Mr. Hudson, Mr. York reported that the Town will be adding a third person to help monitor the Transfer Station gate to monitor the disposal of the new proper trash bag and recycling efforts/system.

Upon query by Mr. Hudson, Mr. York reported that some people were sorting newspaper but some are still disposing recyclables in their trash; plastic is sorted by most the but PAYT should help. Signage by mid-August at the Transfer Station will be upgraded to help inform/educate residents.

Upon query by Mr. Loria, Mr. York reported that hopefully in the future the Town will be able to accommodate the slightly larger common 30+ gallon bag size.

Upon query by Ms. Smith, Mr. York reported that the common white bags will not be incorporated into the new system as the new bags have a distinct color and are more efficiently monitored by the transfer station staff.

Upon query by resident, Jim Allison, Mr. York reported the Town's plastic recycling vendor for is Wheelabrator Technologies via state bid procurement.

Mr. Allison stated he is concerned about residents inserting plastic bags within the new distinct PAYT bags.

Mr. Hudson noted that he understands that the PAYT bags are a more degradable product than previous plastic bag products.

Upon query by Mr. Allison, Mr. York stated that under the proposed new program it may be possible in the future to recycle the bags but would not be possible at this time. Residents will have to decide what they will pay for trash disposal, by recycling more; residents won't have to pay more for trash disposal if they choose to recycle.

Green Community Grant Award (020)

Acton applied for a grant of \$250,000 and was awarded \$245,000.

Ms. Crosby presented a handout displaying the School's side of the projects applied for in the grant. Two of the projects came in a total of \$18,751 lower than originally estimated. She proposed using the residual funds to supplement the street light award short fall of \$5,000 and apply the remaining funds of her windfall towards similar projects she might be able to add to the grant lineup and request the Department of Energy Resources amend the contract.

<http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/Get/Document-50888/08-03-2015%20Chart%20provided%20by%20KCrosby.pdf>

Mr. Hudson inquired about the totals showing on the hand out provided by Ms. Crosby; she stated that she would edit the worksheet to reflect the proper sums.

Ms. Ristine noted that the \$5,000 shortfall is 2% of the total grant for all projects applied for within the grant application (Town and Regional School District); both the Superintendent of Schools and the Town Manager agreed that all projects within the application should share a 2% reduction providing the Street Light LED Conversion Project **\$34,300** of the \$35,000 applied for. Ms. Ristine suggested that the \$18,751

windfall of the School' projects be applied towards the street light conversion project which ultimately will cost the Town over \$233,000 instead of the Schools creating new projects and amending the grant award contract.

No further action taken at this time.

Solarize Acton II – Community Scale Solar

Mr. Loria stated that he feels that it would be worthwhile to advocate for a second round of Solarize Acton due to incentives being offered to homeowners; Green Acton is interested, the Board supported the idea but agreed that the Board/Town could not be directly affiliated due to legal procurement issues.

Ms. Smith noted that it is good idea but people need to be aware inverters are necessary with a solar power storage system. She encouraged that the program provide inverters with a storage system, she will contact the House Committee Chairperson in the regard.

Minutes

Mr. Hudson moved to approve the minutes of June 1, 2015, Mr. Loria 2nd, unanimous.

8:01 Meeting adjourned.


Mary Smith
Chair


Eric Hudson
For Mary Smith

ahr.gab.minutes.08-03-2015