



**GREEN ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES  
JULY 13, 2020  
5:30 PM  
\*VIRTUAL MEETING\***

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Eric Hudson, Dennis Loria, Cameren Cousins, Mary Smith

**ASSOCIATE MEMBER:** Mona Chandra

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Kim Gorman

**MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES SUPERINTENDENT:** Andrea Ristine

**VISITORS:** Barry Rosen – attendee but never announced himself within the meeting

Link to documents numbered on this agenda: <http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-12532>

5:33 Mr. Hudson called the meeting to order at 5:33PM via a virtual meeting with no Board Members in physical attendance are using the via Zoom.us virtual meeting platform.

Mr. Hudson reported The Town of Acton in response to the COVID-19 (Corona Virus) is currently following the guidance from the Acton Board of Health, Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the CDC regarding the virus and steps communities can take to prevent the spread. The Town Hall and Memorial Library are closed to the public.

Mr. Hudson called roll attendance:

Mr. Hudson - present  
Mr. Loria - present  
Ms. Cousins - present  
Ms. Smith - present  
Ms. Chandra - present

Newton Energy Commission – Citizens Climate Acton Plan August 2019

Ms. Chandra thanked Ms. Halina Brown for being able to join the meeting.

Ms. Brown introduced herself as the Chairperson of the Newton Citizens Climate Action Plan and gave an introductory of herself and the process on how Newtown Energy Commission was able to create a very detailed plan.

Ms. Chandra explained the carbon neutrality plan for Acton and the Board's purpose is to learn from the Newton Energy Commission process and to create a process to move forward. There is a need to create groups of volunteers to try to help residents create a web design, work with Town for HERS rating scores, possibly obtain an energy coach for a website with specific questions and possible zoning changes.

Ms. Brown stated she will forward a PowerPoint presentation to help guide the committee.

6:24 Board members thanked Ms. Brown for her knowledge and guidance. Ms. Halina Brown left the meeting. Ms. Chandra stated Newton's plan is very impressive and can use as leverage. Mr. Loria stated he would like to invite someone from the Town of Lexington to discuss their Climate Action Plan. Ms. Chandra stated she will reach out to Lexington.

Carbon Neutrality Initiative - Discussion - Scope of Services Outline

Mr. Hudson moved to discuss.

Board members discussed working with an experienced Sustainability Consultant and further reviewing at the next meeting

Sustainability Coordinator Description - Discussion

The Board discussed the Sustainability Coordinator job description drafted by Ms. Cousins. Ms. Cousins will make minor edits as discussed and forward it to Ms. Ristine for the Board to review prior sending it to the Town Manager.

House H.2849/S.1940 Future Resolution Act for Utility Transition to Renewable Energy

Mr. Hudson moved to discuss.

Board members reviewed and discussed the House Bill.

Ms. Smith expressed that they shouldn't be legislating targets right now recommending thermal energy technologies she feels there will be many other technologies rather than burdening the rate payers. She doesn't object to changing energy technology; she objects to the 2030 date is too soon to see a transition away from oil. We should encourage the technologies but feels that the government should be supporting more research.

Ms. Chandra suggested that there should not be an expansion of gas infrastructure as it would be redundant at this time.

Mr. Hudson noted that the purpose of this discussion tonight is to propose this Board's recommendation as the Green Advisory Board to our Board of Selectmen (BOS) on their position related to this Senate Bill.

Mr. Loria made a motion to submit this memo as drafted with accompanying the resolution as stated in the memo endorsing the Bill and the BOS sign the attached Resolution supporting the Bill, Mr. Hudson 2nd. Mr. Hudson called roll:

Mr. Hudson - aye

Mr. Loria - aye

Ms. Cousins - aye

Ms. Smith - nay

Ms. Chandra – abstained

The Board voted 3-1-1, motion carries.

Minutes - March 9, 2020 and June 15, 2020

Mr. Hudson moved to approve the 3/9/2020 and 6/15/2020 Minutes, Ms. Smith 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Hudson called roll:

Mr. Hudson - aye

Mr. Loria - aye

Ms. Cousins - aye

Ms. Smith - aye

Ms. Chandra – aye

The Board voted 5-0, motion carries.

Next Meeting – August 10, 2020

- Carbon Neutrality Initiative – Scope of Services Summary, Incorporate plans and initiatives, review different goals from local towns.
- Town of Lexington Energy Commission – Chairman/Board member (get ideas for CNI plan)
- Minutes – 07/13/2020

7:26 Mr. Hudson moved to adjourn, Ms. Smith 2nd. Mr. Hudson called roll:

Mr. Hudson - aye

Mr. Loria - aye

Ms. Cousins - aye

Ms. Smith - aye

Ms. Chandra - aye

The Board voted 5-0, motion carries; meeting adjourned.



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**To Participate Remotely:**

From a computer, please click on the link below to join the public meeting

Webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/96838509720> or From a telephone, 1-301-715-8592 Webinar ID: 968 3850 9720

Telephone users may dial \*9 to request to speak after joining the meeting. Computer and app users may use the “raise hand” feature to request to speak.

**I. Business**

- Newton Energy Commission - Citizens Climate Acton Plan August 2019
  - “Use Less and Green the Rest” - City of Newtown’s Five-Year Climate Action Plan <http://www.newtonma.gov/civicax/filebank/documents/100191>
  - Newtown Citizens Climate Acton Plan August 2019 <http://www.newtonma.gov/civicax/filebank/documents/100188>
- Carbon Neutrality Initiative - Discussion - Scope of Services Outline
- House H.2849/S.1940 Future Resolution Act for Utility Transition to Renewable Energy
- Sustainability Coordinator Description (010)

**II. Minutes March 9 and June 15, 2020 Signature**

**Next meeting** August 10, 2020

**2020 Meeting Schedule** [link](#)

Additional materials for this agenda can be found here <http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-12532>

*The listed agenda items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law. Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Include a description of the*

*accommodation you will need, including as much detail as you can and include a way we can contact you if we need more information. Please allow advance notice. Send an e-mail to [manager@actonma.gov](mailto:manager@actonma.gov) or call Town Manager's Office (978)929-6611.*

*For more information about the Green Advisory Board contact [mpo@actonma.gov](mailto:mpo@actonma.gov) or 978-929-7744.*