



GREEN ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2020
6:00 pm
VIRTUAL MEETING

Members Present: Eric Hudson, Cameren Cousins, Dennis Loria, Mary Smith E
Town Manager: John S. Mangiaratti
Kate Crosby
BOS Jim Snyder-Grant

6:03 Mr. Hudson called the meeting to order at 6:03PM 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

II. New/Special Business

1. Net Zero Stretch Energy Code

- a. Mr. Hudson asks everyone reviews Stretch Energy Code in time for the next meeting with a goal to review it in the next meeting time for the next BOS meeting.
- b. Ms. Cousins notified that MAPC is hosting a hearing on this tomorrow at 10am-1pm. It might be worth watching it. The comment period may be closing soon.
- c. Ms. Smith noted that Town staff could review this
- d. Mr. Loria noted as part of our CNI we need to improve our building code, recommending stretch code supports carbon neutrality goal.
- e. Ms. Cousins supports Mr. Loria and recommends the stretch code is in line with our CNI, regardless of what the building department poses.
- f. Mr. Hudson also states and concludes that the next step is to review stretch code letter and be prepared to vote on whether to move forward with the letter in time for the next meeting.



2. CNI

- a. Dennis notes that GAB should encourage Town to promote the APC GREEN option around the Town.
- b. Mr. Dennis brought up discussion around Class I vs. Non-Class I renewable energy
- c. Cameren notes that if we end up adopting Net Zero Stretch Code will need to adopt Class 1 Recs sooner.
- d. Mr. Loria notes that in certain circumstances it makes sense to recommend Class 1 and other non-class 1. It's better to use non-class 1 Recs vs. no clean energy at all. Stretch codes specifies additionality – need to prove additionality.
- e. Ms. Smith notes that there's a lot happening in the New England in the energy market. There's a tremendous amount of work. They're changing the structure of how ISO operates. Offshore wind will become a reality and hope that will count as additionality.
- f. Mr. Loria concludes that it's important for us as the GAB to be knowledgeable about the difference between Class 1 and non-Class 1 RECs.
- g. Ms. Smith notes that at Harvard, the university primarily supports additionality.

3. Home Rule petition on electrification

- a. In Brookline electrification bylaw turned down by the Attorney General
- b. Home Rule petition sends a strong signal to ban natural gas in new construction – as the selectmen to ask the legislature to do this. What we need to do to meet our climate emergency.
- c. Mr. Snyder-Grant asks for feedback before taking it to the BOS.
- d. Ms. Crosby noted that Energy Efficiency Fund required a Home Rule Petitions.
- e. Mr. Snyder-Grant notes the political value of going to Town Meeting.
- f. Mr. Hudson asks if we can include this in our CNI
- g. Ms. Cousins notes that it could be aided by the work that's being done in other Towns and would support including it in our CNI.
- h. Mr. Loria is not enthusiastic about adding to their initiatives because it only applies to new construction and won't see its application in a while and would rather focus on near-term changes that can have immediate impact.
- i. Ms. Cousins notes that we could see the impact in the new construction we're seeing more and more in Town.
- j. Ms. Smith is concerned with electric heat, which used to be a bad deal. And concerned by the expense of it. Ms. Smith does know two people that like their ground-source heat pumps, but worried about the expense.
- k. Mr. Loria notes that when he thinks of new homes or retrofitting homes the air sourced heat pumps are much less expensive for the lion share of the benefit. If there's an incremental cost between air source heat pump vs. natural gas when starting a new infrastructure would be surprised. The cost of retrofitting is a much bigger decisions when looking at air-sourced heat pump vs. continuing with natural gas.



- l. Ms. Smith notes that people she knows on heat pump vs. natural gas, they are paying more for heat.
 - m. Mr. Snyder-Grant notes that the numbers [savings] are a lot clearer when it comes to new construction.
 - n. Mr. Hudson likes the Home Rule Petition: we need to make a statement in support of this. In new construction we should ban natural gas in new construction. In the least, our support of this will note the problems with the natural gas industry.
 - o. Ms. Cousins reached out to Franny Osman on the transportation initiatives. Ms. Cousins will keep everyone posted.
 - p. Ms. Smith notes no updates on her and Mona's front.
4. Update from Town Manager on Sustainability Initiatives
- a. Mr. Mangiaratti notified:
 - i. Andrea R. submitted Green Communities grant.
 - ii. New EV station outside of Town Hall (the first 15 minutes is free)
 - iii. There have been a lot of conversations around solar at the WR Grace Superfund site
 - iv. Fire Station broke ground and the foundation is already in and working with Solect energy to install solar to ensure online with solar right away.
 - v. Received lots of applications for the Sustainability Director position and have already started screening interviews.
 - vi. Conducted a survey on how to use Asa Parlin and the topic of bicycling and storage came up...encourages feedback on the development of this building.

Mr. Hudson moved to adjourn at 7:24

Mr. Loria - Second

Ms. Smith - Aye

Ms. Cousins – Aye

The Board voted 4-0, motion carries; meeting adjourned