



GREEN ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES
OCTOBER 5, 2020
6:30 PM
VIRTUAL MEETING

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

ASSOCIATE MEMBER: Not Present

VISITORS: John Mangiaratti and Austin Cyganiewicz

REGIONAL SCHOOL ENERGY ADVISOR: Kate Crosby

6:35 Mr. Hudson called the meeting to order at 6:35PM 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:

Mr. Hudson - present

Mr. Loria - present

Ms. Cousins - present

Ms. Smith - present

Ms. Chandra - present

Eric first turned to updates on CNI and mapping out our move to furthering Acton's Climate Neutrality Initiative, or Climate Action Plan.

To help, Cameren alerted the group to the table she created cross-referencing initiatives across our "partner" towns. The towns of Lexington, Concord, and others are included in her ppt presentation

The group discussed the benefits of working with MAPC vs another consulting / sustainability company.

Then the GAB discussed again the top 4 initiatives that we can we begin in advance of the hire of a Sustainability Manager.

With that, Eric and Dennis outlined the CNI Primary Initiatives

Eric and Dennis discussed at a high level the 4 key initiatives of CNI that we will work on in advance of Acton's hire of a sustainability director.

Stationary Energy

TOWN-FOCUSED - Recommend moving muni accounts to 100% renewables in APC. Encourage town to participate in next Heat Smart Cool Smart program (MA CEC anticipates next round of program will be open for towns to apply "in early 2020"). Brainstorm how to advertise to businesses that PACE exists. Help highlight commercial/industrial organizations that are making green choices. Request Building Department to help advocate high efficiency HVAC solutions, building materials, etc.

CITIZEN-FOCUSED - Promote MassSave programs and assistance. Promote 100% renewable option in APC

Transportation

TOWN-FOCUSED - Recommend electrification of muni and school fleet. Help advertise various shuttle services around town; recommend expansion of shuttle services. Advocate for expanded bicycle connectivity (especially rail trail connection and amenities). Request additional charging stations around town

CITIZEN-FOCUSED - Promote state incentives for electric cars and charging stations. Reinforce anti-idling laws already on the books

PRIVATE/C&I-FOCUSED - Advocate for preferential parking spaces for electric vehicles. Recommend joining Bicycle Benefits organization

The group discussed GAB TO-DOS

- Work on more detailed way to track resident auto road miles (and check in on data more frequently than full carbon inventory cycle)
- Gather and Document resident vehicles and miles driven. MONA
 - o Eric to ask JM to ask RMV. John will wait to see what Mona finds. (Mona will ask MAPC.)
 - o *Mona to also ask MAPC on EVs and Hybrids*
- MS. Eversource gearing up EV financing

MONA and MARY report on efforts to move the town to 100% Green Energy

Encourage Residents, Commercial and muni accounts to 100% renewables in APC

Dennis will engage on this as well. How much is it for town to go to 100% Green? Town needs to set this example. It would have been \$30K in 2019.

Eric and Cameren report on Complete Streets

Eric discussed the complete streets program from research.



The info on the state website is the same as the info on the town. I'm not sure where the \$ came from to do Central Street. Yes, it's more significant than just repaving everything is shifted over, green and white paint, lots of sharrows, etc.

Cameran and Eric the website (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/complete-streets-funding-program>); can we learn from what projects other towns have undertaken?

We want to make sure the town is thinking about whole-town connectivity, rather than just a project here and a project there (which the Complete Streets program provides funding for every few years). Looks like we had a priority list a few years ago, which is the more global look that we should be taking.

It would be great to ask how we can influence / help get best advise on the spends, improvements.

Eric then moved to the next item on the agenda, the recruiting and hire of the Sustainability Director.

John updated us on the recruiting process. Eric has been invited to be a part of the interviewing process and states that he welcomes this.

8:50 Mr. Hudson moved to adjourn, Mr. Loria 2nd. Mr. Hudson called roll:
Mr. Hudson - aye
Mr. Loria - aye
Ms. Cousins - aye
Ms. Chandra - aye
The Board voted 4-0, motion carries; meeting adjourned.