

Town of Acton Green Advisory Board

3 Members Including Alternates Needed for a Quorum

MEETING MINUTES

Place: Memorial Library Meeting Room, 2nd Fl.

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Date: Monday, August 15, 2011

Present: Mary Smith, Dennis Loria, Chris Schaffner, Eric Hudson, David Keene, Tom Michelman, Bruce Friedman, Lili Early
Recording Secretary; Robert Keene Intern, Kate Crosby Green Advisor to the Schools

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1. Approval of the Minutes from the Meeting held at 07/18/11

Dennis L. asked for a voice vote to approve the minutes of 07/18/2011.

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

2. Election of New GAB Chairs for FY 2012 – 15 min

David K., an alternate member at this moment, agreed to become the Co-chair, but he needs to become a full member first. After discussing it with Dennis L., Tom M. agreed to become an associate member.

The switch in status needs to be approved first by the Board of Selectmen who will meet next on September 12. Lili E. will make sure it will be put on the BOS consent agenda.

The motion to accept Davis K. as the Co-chair was made by Chris S. and seconded by Tom M. The vote was announced UNANIMOUS if the BOS approve it.

3. Update and progress on the 5-year Plan and Annual Report – Robert Keene – 15 min

Robert K. needed to put the misc. data in for 2010. He reported a 7.5% energy increase from 2008 to 2010.

The remaining task is to enter the annual report energy and fuel consumption in PM. He also needs input from Dean Charter for the Town and JD from the schools. He finished the analysis of all energy consumption. Bruce F. asked where the biggest savings are. Robert explained those. Kate C. is in discussion with Joanna from DOER regarding normalization. The deadline is September 30. Dennis L. mentioned that we do not need to normalize the data for weather. Kate C. confirmed.

Tom M. informed the board of weatherdatadepot.com, a free website, for heating and cooling degree day reports and charts, which are useful for energy management, energy efficiency and utility bill tracking.

4. Discuss Prospective Harvard Urban Law Association (HULA) to help support the GAB with legal and policy research – Eric Hudson – 30 min

Eric H. met with Josh Segal on 06/28/2011 to discuss the possibility of using the Harvard Urban Law Association (HULA) to help support the GAB with legal, policy research and other assistance. Dennis L. asked if the goal is what to do for the revolving fund and would this require some Town bylaws. He also asked if HULA would be doing this as a legal exercise. Mary wanted to know if the assistance would apply to the whole town. Eric H. replied that the association is attracted to Acton's interest in green sustainability . Mr. Segal will present Eric's Acton project presentation to his Board. Eric H. will reach out to Mr. Segal to discuss the structure in more details. Afterwards, Robert K. and Eric H. will craft a first draft on the project and send it to the GAB members for their input. Dennis L. was interested in the timeline. Eric H. mentioned a possible start in September with deliverables at the end of the school year for presentation to the BOS. Chris found it a good idea if they can help us with formulating a real proposal and legal advice. Mary mentioned that it would be helpful to work with them.

Chris S. Made a motion to go ahead with the project and Mary S. seconded the motion. The vote was UNANIMOUS.

5. Discussion of Purchasing Excess Residential Solar Energy – 30 min

Tom M. said that it can't be done the way he describes it, but he can sign the excess to the town. Bruce F. was wondering why would one have a system with more power than you need. Tom M. replied that it can be done for all kinds of reasons. Dennis L. mentioned that the Town decides if they want to procure power from individuals or not. Tom M. suggested letting him know that we will put it before the BOS and pay the citizen. Eric H. wants the GAB to decide if we want to do it and the GAB members need to discuss it with John M. regarding standardization, to have at least 5 people and tell the citizen to go out and hustle. Mary S. pointed out that if we get enough interest we should consider it. Dennis L. responded that there are pros and cons in buying energy from citizens. David K. thought that this may be good for the Acton 2020 initiative. Dennis L. wanted to know if we could have a public announcement regarding this or should we issue a public notice for the town. Eric H. asked Robert K. to send a recommendation summary to John M. outlining the pros and cons.

6. Green Communities Annual Report – 15 min

Kate C. informed the Board that the quarterly reports of finished projects have been submitted. In addition, annual reports will also have to be submitted every year from now on. She explained the reports in more detail. She is working on the grant for the schools. Mary S. suggested that Robert K. talks to John how he can get in contact with Dean and JD to discuss the 5-year plan.

7. September-October Budget – Action and Ideas – 15 min

Dennis L. we need to get ideas from JD and Dean.

Tom M. suggested new boilers for the schools

Chris S. suggested looking at our 5-year plan relative to what we still need to work on and then talk to JD and Dean regarding their future projects. Mary S. agrees with Chris S. and she would also like to see the estimates for their future projects.

David K. suggests energy improvements and savings.

This topic will be continued at the next meeting.

8. Research New Technologies for Energy Reduction

Chris' interpretation is to create a list of potential projects and in that include a report with some new energy reduction projects. He also suggested that maybe we should take a few minutes every meeting to talk about potential new projects, become experts and an advisory group to the BOS for projects to be finished.

Agenda for next meeting

- Election of New GAB Chairs for FY2012
- Update and progress on the 5-year Plan and Annual Report – Robert Keene
- Submission from Harvard University to do a project for us – Eric Hudson
- Behavioral Change – September Meeting
- September-October Budget – Action and Ideas
- Discuss ways to get a car charging station for Town of Acton
- Review Status of the 2011 GAB Goals – ITA
- Public Relations – ITA

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:30p.m.


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

Mon Sept 12	Conference Room Memorial Library, 2 nd floor
Mon Oct 17	Conference Room Memorial Library, 2 nd floor
Mon Nov 7	Conference Room Memorial Library, 2 nd floor
Mon Dec 5	Conference Room Memorial Library, 2 nd floor

2012

Mon Jan 9	Conference Room Memorial Library, 2 nd floor
Mon Feb 13	Conference Room Memorial Library, 2 nd floor
Mon March 12	Conference Room Memorial Library, 2 nd floor
Mon April 16	Conference Room Memorial Library, 2 nd floor
Mon May 14	Conference Room Memorial Library, 2 nd floor
Mon June 11	Conference Room Memorial Library, 2 nd floor
Mon July 9	Conference Room Memorial Library, 2 nd floor
Mon Aug 20	Conference Room Memorial Library, 2 nd floor
Mon Sept 17	Conference Room Memorial Library, 2 nd floor
Mon Oct 15	Conference Room Memorial Library, 2 nd floor
Mon Nov 19	Conference Room Memorial Library, 2 nd floor
Mon Dec 10	Conference Room Memorial Library, 2 nd floor


Recording Secretary


Chairman, Green Advisory Board
9/12/11
Date