

Town of Acton Green Advisory Board

3 Members Including Alternates Needed for a Quorum

MEETING MINUTES

Place: Public Safety Facility, 2nd Fl.

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Date: Monday, October 24, 2011

Present: Dennis Loria, David Keene, Bruce Friedman, Chris Schaffner, John Murray Staff, Lili Early Recording Secretary, Kate Crosby Green Advisor to the Schools, Steve Anderson and Rebecca Lacey from Anderson & Kreiger
Visitor: Tom Michelman

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1. Approval of the Minutes from the Meeting held at 09/12/2011

Dennis L. asked for a voice vote to approve the minutes of 09/12/2011. The motion was made by Chris S. and seconded by David K. The vote was announced UNANIMOUS.

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

Chris S. asked for a motion to nominate David Keene as co-chair. The motion was seconded by Dennis L. The vote was UNANIMOUS.

3. Brainstorming Law Changes – 50 min

John M. asked the Board what changes they would like to make in existing laws/regulations pertaining to actions/decisions of the GAB, or to propose questions about this subject. He pointed out that there are three categories of relevant laws/regulations: The first being laws enacted by the State Legislature and having state-wide application, Home rule Petitions, which are State laws affecting a single community, and the third being by-laws enacted by a municipality.

The following changes were initially proposed:

- Community Solar Garden - Town by-laws and Open Space + "Conservation"
- Zoning – Planning, W, Solar, Restrictive Covenants,
- Pace Program - (attach property investment to the mortgage payment and/or municipal tax)
- Pervious Paving – (Ms. Lacey will look into it).
- Change Open Meeting Law
- Local Energy Codes for new energy construction to be net zero
- Pay as you throw
- Multi-family recycling
- Net metering -- Feed in Tariff vs. Fixed price
- Licenses to install solar installations by licensed electrician
- Create municipal electricity

Mr. Anderson explained that when a change in state laws is supported by your elected representatives, it will likely pass the Legislature. By-laws take effect through subsequent town meeting vote. Proposed changes may also have to be consistent with, and not in conflict with, other laws, as for example state zoning laws.

Mr. Anderson explained that Revolving Funds and Enterprise Funds (for commercial properties) are programs similar to the septic system program, in that assessments are included in owner's tax bills. The Selectmen must hold a public hearing first.

John M. suggested the Board think about using the W.R. Grace land as a solar energy generating plant, similar to being a community garden location. He also proposed to have an Enterprise Fund proposal ready to

be put to the next Town Meeting. He mentioned that NSTAR is in the process of redrafting their agreement for the municipality.

Mr. Anderson suggested the following by next meeting:

- For the Board member to draft a letter to DOER for the Incentive Program (pertains to Commercial properties)
- To prepare a roadmap for the Energy Efficiency Enterprise Fund (pertains to residential users)
- To talk to the Selectmen to authorize the GAB to revise energy use guidelines for the W.R. Grace property.

Dennis L. expressed concern that if we would start working on all these above projects, the Board would lose its focus on existing projects in our portfolio.

- 4. State Ethics Training Session on November 3, 2011 – 10 min**
Everyone needs to take the online course
- 5. Discuss Prospective Harvard Urban Law Association (HULA) to help support the GAB with Legal and Policy Research – Eric Hudson – 30 min**
Will be discussed at the next meeting
- 6. Research New Technologies for Energy Reduction – ITA**
- 7. Review Status of the 2011 GAB Goals – ITA**
- 8. Public Relations – ITA**

Agenda for Next Meeting:

Review Annual Report – Breakdown of energy consumption etc. - 45 min
Discuss Draft Letter to DOER asking for their opinion and to implement it – Maybe an amendment
Municipal Enterprise Fund and Review the HULA Status
Revolving Funds
Discuss Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Invite Mr. Michael Anderson from Thinklite, LLC to give a presentation of Green Community lighting upgrades – (Future Meeting)
W.R. Grace to discuss with the Selectmen - (Future Meeting)

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

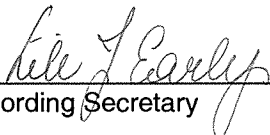
Future Meeting Schedule

Meetings are to be held in the Conference Room of Memorial Library and will begin at 6:30 PM -unless otherwise noted


Mon Nov 7 Conference Room Memorial Library, 2nd floor
Mon Dec 5 Conference Room Memorial Library, 2nd floor

2012

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



Recording Secretary



Chairman, Green Advisory Board

11/15/11

Date