

# Town of Acton

## Green Advisory Board

### 3 Members Needed for a Quorum

#### MEETING MINUTES

Place: Conference Room Memorial Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Time: 6:30 p.m.  
Date: Monday, April 9, 2012

**Present:** Dennis Loria, David Keene, Chris Schaffner, Eric Hudson, Tom Michelman, Bruce Friedman, John Murray Staff, Lili Early Recording Secretary, Kate Crosby Green Advisor to the Schools



Dennis L. called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**1. Approval of the Meeting Minutes of 03/12/2012 – Dennis Loria**

Dennis L. asked for a voice vote to approve the minutes of 03/12/2012. The motion was made by Chris S. and seconded by David K. The vote was announced UNANIMOUS.

**2. Update on 5-Year Plan – Eric Hudson – 30 min.**

Robert Keene met with Kate C., Dean Charter and JD Head to go through their energy reduction plans, mapped them out and prepared a draft update of the 5-year plan. The total savings will amount to 29.7%. Some research still needs to be done. He also needs to check all the initiatives for accuracy. Kate C. mentioned that the energy report will be ready by the end of this month. John M. suggested that the deliverable was the tables to be included in the annual report and suggested having a final draft ready by May 14. Eric H. will inform Robert K. The Energy Report due date to Green Communities is September 30.

**3. Solarize MASS Update – Chris Schaffner – 15 min.**

Chris S. submitted a proposal, together with a letter from the Town Manager and other necessary documents, to the MassCEC. The Solarize Massachusetts Community Selection Announcement will happen on April 12, 2012. They received more applications than expected and are in the process of reviewing them with DOER's Green Communities Division. Chris is confident but not overly optimistic. In case the Town of Acton is selected, he will need assistance.

**4. Energy Efficiency Fund Update – Dennis Loria – 10 min.**

On Wednesday, April 4, Dennis L. presented the Acton Green Energy Fund Home Rule Petition at the Annual Town Meeting and asked the citizens for their approval. The fund has been approved. John M. explained the next step, which is a hearing before a legislative committee in Boston. We will receive 48 hrs advance notice for the hearing. John will attend the hearing and we need as many people from the Board as possible to join him in promoting the cause. Bruce F. wanted to know how long it takes before we receive the results. David K. wanted to know who is making the decision. John M. responded that the clerk of the of the House or Senate is the decision maker. Bruce F. asked what happens after we receive the approval. John M. explained the process.

Kate C. asked if we will develop guidelines on how to spend the money and preserve the savings. John M. responded that there is no automatic flow; the fund has to be approved every year at the Town meeting. John continued that the Board can advise the Town Manager on how he should run the fund once it is appropriated by Town Meeting. Eric H. asked if the Town can take money out of the fund. John responded, not without abolishing the fund.

**5. Green Communities Grant Update – Kate Crosby – 10 min.**

Kate C. submitted the application for a total amount of \$ 175,000. The DOER is in the process of reviewing all the applications. Eric H. wondered if the amount was completely dedicated to the schools. John M. answered, yes, because Dean Charter didn't have any immediate projects lined-up at this moment. Dennis L then wanted to know if there are also Town projects foreseen in the 5-year plan. Eric H. responded that there are a lot of Town projects in the plan. John M. suggested that JD Head and Dean Charter should go over the list of projects and determine their lead time.

**6. Thermal Imaging Program Update – David Keene – 15 min.**

David K. spoke with Jim Snyder-Grant and he mentioned that the program was very successful in Acton. There were close to 700 interested residents. Sagewell, Inc. started the imaging process already and will continue their task of imaging every home in Town. 125 residents have requested a full assessment of their home. Victory has officially been declared by Sagewell for the Town of Acton. Residents can continue to sign up. There is no further involvement required from the Green Advisory Board members.

**7. Update – Nomination of a Full Member to Replace Chris Schaffner – All – 15 min.**

David K. talked to Manisha Tyagi. She is not interested in becoming a full member due to her job. Bruce Friedman is interested in becoming a full member. The Board agreed unanimously agreed to recommend Bruce Friedman as a full member and to seek two alternates.

Dennis L. asked for a voice vote to recommend that Bruce Friedman becomes a full member  
The motion was made by David K. and seconded by Chris S. The vote was announced UNANIMOUS.

John M. explained the VCC process. He suggested that Dennis L. informs Board of Selectmen member John Sonner about Bruce's new status and also informs the VCC about the open alternate position. John continued that the Board should think about the skillset they want for the new alternate member and tell the VCC chairperson. Tom M. will draft up a qualification synopsis and 5 questions for the VCC as soon as possible.

**8. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – 15 min.**

- 5- Year Plan Review and Presentation - 40 min. – Eric Hudson. The screen will be ready for a presentation
- Lower Fields Review and Discussion – Chris Schaffner to report. He will meet with JD Head
- Solarize MASS, Green Communities Grant, and Thermal Imaging Program Updates - All
- Solar Update – John Murray
- Agenda Items for Next Meeting - All

Kate C. invited the Green Advisory Board members to help celebrate as ABRHS receives the prestigious International Green Flag award on Friday, May 4. The celebration will run from 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. at the front entrance of the high school, and is open to one and all with music & food & displays about the many green initiatives underway at ABRHS. The highlight will be the unfurling of the big Green Flag.

She continued to explain the program. The Green Flag is being awarded in recognition of the significant initiatives being implemented at ABRHS focused on energy, recycling/solid waste and water. These initiatives have resulted in both an improved environmental footprint and cost savings for the high school, and have been developed through student leadership & engagement. This designation is part of the international Eco-Schools framework, which has been adopted in 50 countries (including Mongolia most recently) and 40,000 schools around the world. It is a relatively new program in the US, and there have been just three US schools awarded the Green Flag to date.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 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

2012

**Mon May 14**

Mon June 11

Mon July 9

Mon Aug 20

Mon Sept 17

Mon Oct 15

Mon Nov 19

Mon Dec 10

**Conference Room 204 Town Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**

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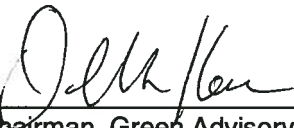
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Recording Secretary

  
Chairman, Green Advisory Board  
05/14/12  
Date