

# Town of Acton Green Advisory Board 3 Members Needed for a Quorum

## MEETING MINUTES

Place: Training Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor PSF Building

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Date: Monday, September 17, 2012

**Present:** David Keene, Mary Smith, Dennis Loria, Tom Michelman, Eric Hudson, Dean Charter Staff Member, Lili Early, Recording Secretary, Kate Crosby Green Advisor to the Schools, Chris Schaffner Solarize Acton

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David K. called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

### **1. Approval of the Meeting Minutes of August 13, 2012 – David Keene - 5 min.**

The 08/13/2012 agenda will be emailed to all Board members. The agenda will be approved at next month's meeting.

David K. made a motion to approve the minutes of 08/13/2012 at the next meeting in October. The motion was seconded by Dennis Loria. The vote was announced UNANIMOUS.

### **2. ECM Recommendations for Dean Charter – Kate Crosby – 30 min.**

Ms. Crosby discussed last month's presentation and the repairs that still need to be made.

The 5-year plan report is due on November 30. The Board members will take a look at what still needs to be done on the report. Kate C. and Dean C. will work together on the plan. Eric H. mentioned that Robert Keene is accessible if you have any questions. Dean C. will submit the plan to the DOER.

Dean C. discussed the Town's point of view regarding ECM. NSTAR has agreed to refund \$5,000 for the garage at the Public Works building and the Sr. Center. The Sr. Center will be a nice test case for the payback.

The projects for the \$40,000 from NSTAR will be completed by the end of the year, but we will have to use NSTAR approved vendors. Mary S. asked what the long-term programs are they may be considered for that amount. Dean C. responded that they will give us a 10-year payback instead of a 5-year if those projects are of great quality. David K. added: the faster the payback, the greater the incentive. Dean C. and Kate C. will discuss the proper use of the \$40,000.

Dean C. suggested that the Board needs to find a way to responsibly spend that money.

Dean C. also discussed the energy consumption history for the Town buildings for the last 10 years, based on actuals. Street lights are the success stories; by changing the lights to MH (Metal Halide), the costs decreased considerably. David K. mentioned that the 2004 data were not shown. Dean C. responded that all the 2004 data has disappeared.

### **3. Solarize Acton Update – Chris Schaffner – 10 min**

Mr. Schaffner explained that Mass CeC signed an agreement with the Town of Acton to reimburse the Town an amount of \$2,000 for Solarize Acton expenses. Lili Early received some bills and will reimburse the volunteers. The project is now at the Tier 3 acceptance level, but many residents are still awaiting a proposal.

The deadline right now is September 30, but Mr. Schaffner has asked for an extension.

The Committee is trying to identify additional interested residents and is working on more public relations. All the school children received pamphlets to take home for their family. They already held Open Houses and put door hangers on most homes. A thermometer sign 8' x 3' has been approved at the last BoS meeting and the Town Manager will decide where it can be put up.

More information regarding Solarize Mass can be found on their website <http://solarizeacton.org>, including how to sign-up for the program. They are asking for volunteers to help out at the Oktoberfest.

Mr. Schaffner mentioned that one issue came up - The bids had a lease and a purchase option. The CeC removed the financing for leasing the solar panels and didn't inform the Committee. The new lease is now tied to the total number of residents who signed up. As a result, several residents went with other companies. We could have doubled the number of solar installations in town.

Eric H. wanted to know if you can sign up for the lowest Tier. Mr. Schaffner responded that the residents have to have signed a contract and pay a deposit by September 30; then they will receive notification of their final Tier level, whatever it is at that moment.

#### **4. GAB Intern Update – Eric Hudson – 15 min.**

Eric H. interviewed 2 very good interns to replace Robert and discussed their backgrounds and expertise in this particular field.

Dean C. discussed the position with Steve Ledoux, the Town Manager. He wants to regularize this position and the person needs to report to Dean C. since he/she will become a part-time Town employee. Dean C. continues that he needs a better understanding about what the job entails.

David K. responded that Robert Keene's assignments were project based. Mary S. would like to see candidates with expertise in the field and who understand contracts. She added that it will be difficult to have the hired candidate work for the Board on a regular schedule.

Eric H. agrees, but one candidate is a business owner and would like to learn more about energy efficiency. The other candidate is jobless and is more available.

Dean C. confirmed that a budget of \$10,000 can be made available for the job.

Dean C. and Dennis L. will meet with both candidates this week. Lili Early to email the candidates for their availability to meet with Dennis L. and Dean C.

#### **5. GAB Board Membership Update – David Keene – 15 min.**

Since Manisha Tyagi never responded to emails or phone calls regarding her attendance, the BoS voted that a letter of termination will be mailed, signed by Mr. John Sonner, liaison to the GAB and Mr. David Keene, Chair person of the GAB.

David K. emailed the VCC to let them know that we are actively recruiting for Associate members. Dean C. suggested putting an ad in the Beacon and the Acton Patch.

Tom M. suggested sending a letter to the Editor, which was enthusiastically received by all the Board members. He will prepare a draft letter for the Editor of the paper this weekend and email it to David Keene. The letter will be discussed at the next meeting. The goal is to get a pool of interested people.

#### **6. Natural Gas Distribution Update – Dennis Loria – 10 min.**

Dennis L. has been looking into it for his neighborhood because the benefits are: less expensive than other energy providers and a cleaner environment. National Grid will give a discount of 40% on his street if 50% of the residents commit to install natural gas within the next year. The total cost for all the installation would be \$12,000 per house.

His dilemma is how to help the town to get natural gas and get the residents to agree. He would like to start in his neighborhood so the whole town can profit from it too. He is looking for ideas on how to go about it. Mary S. suggested talking to the DOER and other government agencies. Dennis L. will discuss this further with Mary S. on how to approach the DPU, the DOER, MassCeC and the President of National Grid.

**7. General Discussion – All – 30 min.**

Dennis Loria – Does the team want to participate in a Solar Garden Project? Chris Schaffner is interested, after the Solarize Acton project will be finished.

Eric Hudson – Does the town plan on talking more about Mr. Murray? Dean C. responded that it would be good to have that discussion. Nothing has been released yet at this moment.

**Next Meeting Agenda**

Approval of the meeting minutes of 08/13/ and 09/17/2012 – David Keene

Update on the Interns – Eric Hudson

Membership update – Tom Michelman

ECM recommendation and Annual Report Submission – Kate Crosby

Solar Landfill Update – Tom Michelman and Dennis Loria

General Discussion – All

Next Meeting Agenda

David K. asked for a voice vote to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was made by Eric and seconded by Dennis. The vote was announced UNANIMOUS.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

# Future Meeting Schedule

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

## 2012

Mon Oct 15	Conference Room Memorial Library, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Mon Nov 19	Conference Room Memorial Library, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Mon Dec 10	Conference Room Memorial Library, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor

## 2013

Mon Jan 7	Conference Room Memorial Library, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Mon Feb 11	Conference Room Memorial Library, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Mon March 18	Conference Room Memorial Library, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Mon April 8	Conference Room Memorial Library, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Mon May 6	Conference Room Memorial Library, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Mon June 3	Conference Room Memorial Library, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Mon July 8	Conference Room Memorial Library, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Mon Aug 5	Conference Room Memorial Library, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Mon Sept 9	Conference Room Memorial Library, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Mon Oct 7	Conference Room Memorial Library, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Mon Nov 18	Conference Room Memorial Library, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Mon Dec 16	Conference Room Memorial Library, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor

  
Lili Early, Recording Secretary

  
David Keene, Chairperson

10/15/2012  
Date