

Town of Acton

Green Advisory Board

3 Members Needed for a Quorum

MEETING MINUTES

Place: Conference Room Memorial Library, 2nd floor Time: 6:30 p.m.

Date: Monday, November 19, 2012

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

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Bruce Friedman called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

1. Approval of the Meeting Minutes of 10/15/2012 – Bruce Friedman

Bruce F. made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Eric H. The vote was announced UNANIMOUS.

2. Discuss Possible Zoning Changes for Production of Fire Wood – Charles & Jacob Abraham – 15 min.

Acton residents Charles and Jacob Abraham presented a letter to the GAB outlining current Acton bylaw restrictions on "heating fuel sales, service and storage". They requested review of this matter, as it currently relates to firewood, and also to other energy sources such as solar power. They proposed that next Town Meeting approve changes to the Bylaw to more realistically reflect the actual local situation, and to exempt these types of energy sources in residences and manufacturing locations. They theorized that these restrictions were intended to limit new installations of commercial heating oil sales and storage facilities, not to domestic use of energy. The Economic Development Committee (EDC) would be one of the agencies through which such changes need to be reviewed. Jacob Abraham will discuss this matter with the Planning Department and report back to the GAB at the next meeting.

Mary S. inquired if Acton is the only town in which this inequity is present. Research has shown that no other town enforces such restrictions.

Eric H. and Mary S. raised questions of insect infestation, environment issues, and local sourcing of the wood. Mary S. proposed that the Mr. Jacob Abrahams consults with the Town Planning Department, which must approve all proposed zoning changes prior to Town Meeting. Mr. Abrahams will email the letter from the Planning department to Dean C. to initiate the inquiry into this matter.

3. GAB Membership Update – Tom Michelman – 10 min.

Tom M. will send the draft announcement for the newspaper regarding attracting candidates as associate members for the Green Advisory Board to Dean Charter for approval.

4. Termination Letter to Manisha Tyagi – David Keene – 5 min.

Letter has been signed by David Keene. Mr. John Sonner, GAB Liaison, will be asked to sign the letter at the next BoS meeting.

5. Annual Report Update and 5-year Plan–Dean Charter or Pamela Cady – 20 min.

Pamela C. updated the attendees on data collection and completion of the annual report. Projected energy savings over the five-year period 2009-2014, without including the schools, will show 19.88% at the end of the 5th year. This does not include vehicles. These figures will be updated next week before the report is due to DOER on November 30.

The HERS-rating for new homes (129) in the past two years still need to be filled out, and should also be submitted. This includes vehicles and gas mileage. Pamela C. will include in the annual report all information about fuel-efficient vehicles.

Lili E. will provide the insurance fleet/equipment report to Pamela C.

Kate C. continued by presenting energy data for the schools, and their five-year plan. The DOER has sent a blank form to be filled out for this purpose. From the 2009 baseline average energy consumption savings are 21.9%. Kate C. continued by explaining the projects which are finished and those which are still in progress. When all are finished, it should result in an extra 21% reduction over the five-year period.

6. Solar Landfill Update – Dean Charter – 10 min.

Ameresco signed a contract with The Town of Acton to install solar panels on the landfill. They have applied for a building permit and would like to have the permit fees waived. Ameresco was asked by the Mr. Steve Ledoux, the Town Manager, to request this in writing, but an answer hasn't received yet.

Regardless of the solar panels installation, the Town will install wells to control the gasses on the landfill, which will be monitored by the DEP. The cost for this project will be between \$20,000 to 30,000. Corey York is pursuing this.

7. Solarize Acton Update – Chris Schaffner – 10 min.

Mr. Schaffner reported the following final numbers:

- 435 households were interested
- 305 homes were rejected because it was not feasible to install panels on their roof for several reasons
- 143 homes were feasible
- 36 households signed up for 180 kWh power. Only 8% of the interested parties signed up.
- 3 systems have already been installed; the remainder will be installed within one year of the start of the program.

As a result, the Town of Acton achieved Tier 4, which brings the average cost per kWh for the Acton customers, through group discount, at \$4.14.

The reasons why Acton didn't do as well as other Towns with similar population such as Hopkinton and Newburyport are:

- The lease plan offer collapsed and lenders were not interested
- We had to go with high priced vendors
- Local vendors were discounting their prices

Chris S. mentioned that they have some CeC funds left over. He wanted to know if the Board was interested in spending those funds on the solar garden project, but he needs the approval prior from CeC.

He suggested to contact the people on his prospect list and discuss with them the solar garden opportunity.

8. General Discussion – All

The New International Energy Stretch Code will be updated.

9. Next Meeting Agenda

1. Approval of the meeting of 11/19/2012
2. Discussion Possible Zoning Changes for Production of Fire Wood - Charles Abraham
3. Report on the submittal of the Annual Report to DOER
4. Discussion GAB Report to be Published in Town Report, Due End of December
5. Solar Garden Discussion – Debby Andell and Greg Voss
6. Monthly Solar Landfill Update
7. GAB Membership Update
8. General Discussion
9. Next Meeting Agenda

Bruce F. made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
The motion was seconded by David K. 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 6:30PM - unless otherwise noted

2013

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



Lili Early, Recording Secretary



David Keene, Chairperson

12/10/12

Date