

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

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TOWN CLERK, ACTON

MEETING MINUTES

Place: Conference Room, Memorial Library, 2nd Floor
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Date: Monday, January 7, 2013

Present: Mr. John Sonner Selectman, Bruce Friedman, Mary Smith, Dennis Loria, Tom Michelman, Eric Hudson, Dean Charter Staff Member, Pamela Cady Energy Conservation Analyst, Lili Early Recording Secretary

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

1. Approval of the Meeting Minutes of 12/10/2012 – David Keene

Bruce made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mary S. The vote was announced UNANIMOUS.

2. Solar Garden Discussion – Debby Andell and Greg Voss

Ms. Andell, Solarize MASS volunteer, mentioned that they are a very small group of people interested in the solar garden project in Acton and are in the beginning stage of their research, but want to get the ball rolling. She met with the Solar Design Associates Company in Harvard to go over all the necessary steps. In case the project will go forward, Solar Design Associates will design the layout and install the panels. For the Acton project, first of all the volunteers want to know how many residents are interested before they will be making decisions about the land. Ms. Andell will send out an email to the people who were interested in the Solarize Mass project and all responses will be sent to Ms. Andell. They also have to check if Acton is in the same load zone (NEMA) and utility service territory (NSTAR). Tom M. will email the maps to the Board.

As far as the Harvard project is concerned, the residents are interested in a piece of land in their Town off Route 111, which is a private property and they may want to lease it for 25 years. The lease will be paid out of the SREC income. The Town of Harvard started clearing the land for their solar garden in the beginning of November. They have 53 households signed up and 2 – 3 businesses who can own shares of the 630 kilowatt facility. You can read about it on <http://blog.solargardens.org/2012/10/harvard-ma-solar-garden-nears.html>.

Dean C. will check with our Planning department for zoning issues and will inform Ms. Andell.

Dennis L. asked if we could use the W.R. Grace property. Mr. Sonner responded that the property has been sold to the Town of Concord to install solar panels. Eric H. wondered if we could get a copy of their contract.

Dennis L. wanted to know how the Green Advisory Board can help to facilitate the project.

Bruce F. wanted to know if the Town of Harvard is involved in their project. Ms. Andell responded that it is more of a private involvement.

3. GAB Membership Update – Tom Michelman

A draft letter has been prepared to interest associate members to join the Green Advisory Board. Tom M. will email it to the GAB members for their comments. All comments need to be sent to Pamela Cady only to be in accordance with the OML. Afterwards, the letter will be mailed to the editor of the Acton Beacon, the Action Unlimited and the Acton Patch and Dean C. will forward it to the VCC.

Dennis L. suggested that the letter should be written on behalf of the Green Advisory Board and who should be the contact person.

Mr. Sonner wanted to know if all the members will sign the letter if sent from the Green Advisory Board.

The Board was wondering in which year the GAB started. Dean C. will check on the date.

4. Monthly Solar Landfill Update – Dean Charter

Dean C. reported that the deed references have to be recorded by our attorney. They are needed for financial insurance compliance.

Some equipment, e.g. transformers, is already on-site since August. The panels will be delivered on the start date of the project, around February 30. 6,800 panels will be installed.

Dennis L. was interested if drawings of the project are available. Dean C. responded that they can be found in the Building department. Dean C. continued mentioning that no methane gas build-up has been found on the premises. He continued the landfill has been inactive for 25 years and that the entire site has to be fenced in.

5. Stretch Code Building Inspection Discussion – Bruce Friedman

Bruce F. was going to talk to the President of Energy Raters in MA.

The Stretch Code is only a small part of the Base Code and reduces it to one approval for the properties. Raters usually sign up with a big developer and conflict can arrive. HERS rater can help the builder and the inspector to go through the inspection.

When ICC will go in effect, we don't know yet what will happen to the Stretch Code. The new Energy Code is more stringent than the 2009 code and the Stretch Code. A new code will come out every 3 years.

Mary S. mentioned that it will be interesting to see about energy efficiency and the rebate incentives for utilities.

Bruce F. thinks that maybe there will be no need for incentives.

Eric H. mentioned that we should ask the DOER about the Stretch Code.

Mary S. added to inquire how it will fill in with their program.

Dean C. will find out.

6. Discussion to define what is under the Charter of the GAB and do we want to expand the scope – All

Mary S. mentioned that it is important to consider the following:

When the GAB started the purpose was to look at the Town and the schools as a total group. She believes that we went away from it and we need to think about allocating funds. There are more opportunities for energy savings at the schools than the Town and a representative from the schools should be a member of the Green Advisory Board.

Tom M. asked how we get the schools involved legally.

Eric H. agrees with Mary and he mentioned that the Board should look at the ECMs we have identified and how they can support them. When the Green Advisory Board started we had a grander vision as today, we wanted to become a green town. We should be focusing on our 5-year plan, increase our associate membership and make them full members and recruit associate members, maybe someone from the school board.

Tom M. would like the Board to concentrate towards reduction or characterized usage of our Town's carbon footprint; we didn't do anything for energy efficiency yet.

Dean C. explained that the school buildings are maintained by the schools, funded and insured by the schools. This year's complete grant funds went to the schools. The grant applications come from the Town and all the documents have to be signed by the Town Manager.

Bruce F. wanted to know what will happen if we regionalize.

Dean C. responded that we are not sure yet. The grants we received are divided between the Town and the A/B regional school and local schools. Boxborough gets a free ride. Some funds will be signed by our Town Accountant and will be signed over to the regional schools. The regional school district cannot apply for a Green Community grant; they have to do it through the Town.

Answering Dennis L's question, no, we do not need to change the charter.

Dean C. suggested inviting members who have a business in Acton and don't live in Acton. Lili E. to check if they need to be Acton residents.

Dennis L. suggested that we educate the citizens and businesses about the Stretch Code and transportation tools.

Mary S. suggested a PR campaign in the community regarding issues that are connected to the 5-year plan.

Bruce F. suggested influencing the citizens through the Building department, such as giving people information about doing an energy audit, or increase the price of permits and give them a payback if they do an audit.

Mr. Sonner suggested teaching the children at the schools; include energy awareness in class programs, e.g. an assignment during science class.

Bruce F. asked have we developed a list of projects we should focus on next year.

7. General Discussion – All

- Pamela C. passed out hard copies of a synopsis of the Town Report to be sent to the DOER. She will email it to the Board for their comments. All comments are due by this Friday.
- Dean C. reported that last Saturday's budget presentation went well and we should continue receiving funding.

8. Next Meeting Agenda

- Approval of the Meeting Minutes of 01/07/2013
- GAB Membership Update
- Monthly Solar Landfill Update
- Stretch Code Building Inspection Update
- Discuss Key Priorities for 2013
- Discuss Residential Energy Audit Encouraging
- Discuss Ideas to Facilitate the Community Solar Garden
- General Discussion
- Next Meeting Agenda

Bruce Friedman made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
The motion was seconded by Dennis L. and Eric H. The vote was announced UNANIMOUS.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

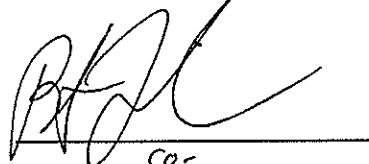
Future Meeting Schedule

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

2013

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


CO-
David Keene, Chairperson
BRUCE FRIEDMAN
3/10/2013
Date