



**GREEN ADVISORY BOARD
SEPTEMBER 15, 2014
MINUTES**

**ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY - 486 MAIN STREET
CONFERENCE ROOM
6:30 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Eric Hudson, Dennis Loria, Mary Smith, Bruce Friedman

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: Padamaja Kuchimanchi

MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES DIRECTOR: Dean Charter

ENERGY CONSERVATION ANALYST: Pamela Cady

GREEN ADVISOR TO THE SCHOOLS: Kate Crosby

RECORDING SECRETARY: Andrea Ristine

VISITORS: Lia Colabello, Jenny Fialkoff

6:35 Meeting called to order.

Green Advisory Web Page and Charge

Ms. Ristine reported that the Town Clerk and Information Technology (IT) Departments have stated that they need to meet to review and update the Town's website. IT is the only entity that can update the website. Ms. Ristine will inquire again as to the status of updating the Green Advisory Board's (GAB) webpage. Only the Board of Selectmen (BoS) can change the GAB's Charge; the Board should submit suggested changes to the BoS through Selectman Peter Berry.

Mr. Charter and Ms. Cady will update the description and ask IT to make the changes; hopefully member's names will be updated soon.

Ms. Cady stated that she will make a list of member's expertise for the Board's internal use/reference.

Building Code - Stretch Code Status

Mr. Friedman stated that last he knew, everyone is waiting on the State; the Town of Concord has updated to 2015 code as listed on their website.

Mr. Charter will check with the Building Commissioner.

Extended Producer Responsibility Framework Initiative - Jim Snyder-Grant

Mr. Snyder-Grant reported that Green Acton has been working on reducing waste in the Town operations by getting more flow out of the waste stream by recycling. A key piece in doing so is the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework initiative, which addresses goods brought in and disposed of in Acton that have more hazardous materials since these materials costs the Town more money to dispose of. The EPR would bring responsibility for "end of life" of materials back to the producers/manufacturers, such as mercury thermometers. The EPR is a framework that allows the regulators to go by industry and priority to get agreements to make producers responsible for the goods they bring in, cost and complexity of disposal. Reuse and recycle could be sensible for manufacturers to take items back at the end of life, knowing they will be responsible may make them reconsider how and what they use to manufacturer goods. Representing Green Acton, he presented this initiative to the Board of Selectmen (BoS) as a resolution for Town acceptance to go to legislators to accept and vote in favor of it, like the original Bottle Bill. It takes too long to drive such an initiative through the Legislature and/or industry to industry individually. This initiative is one of six for a larger proposed program to reduce waste in Acton.

Upon query by Mr. Loria, Mr. Snyder-Grant stated that Green Acton is suggesting a resolution by the Town to urge Legislature.

Upon further query, Mr. Snyder-Grant stated for instance EPR could become a competitive advantage for computer manufacturers and some state by state standards drive a nationwide industry. Currently 32 states have EPR regulations that vary by each state's concerns.

Mr. Hudson noted the "green dot" recycling system where companies create their responsibility for the products they produce can be brought back to them for recycling. Whole Foods Market for example has the "Gimme 5 Program" for customers to recycle #5 plastic. There is also a "cradle to cradle" third party certification process for sustainable products.

Mr. Friedman asked who decides which industries would have to participate and to what level. Mr. Snyder-Grant stated that toxics would be first and then down the chain from there.

Mr. Hudson expressed interest to learn more like to know what states have what laws and/or regulations and what products are included.

Upon query by Mr. Friedman, Mr. Snyder-Grant reported that the EPR failed through Legislature a number of times but groups such as Green Acton will continue to file. He has presented this to the BoS and Peter Berry has been assigned as the liaison for EPR.

Upon query by Mr. Charter, Mr. Snyder-Grant stated that he is not sure what office the regulators would be in, he will forward information to GAB. Ms. Smith stated that DEP would be the logical authority since they regulate toxics.

Upon query by Mr. Loria, Mr. Snyder-Grant stated that timing could get interesting, seems like the policy needs to be brought before Annual Town Meeting; also need a chance for more public education. He also noted that it is a two year legal cycle through Legislature; other towns have supported EPR, he will provide a list of other towns to GAB. He also wants to know if the Mass. Municipal Association has addressed the issue.

Upon further query by Mr. Loria, Mr. Snyder-Grant noted that the industries involved have a bump effect (price raise) on cost due to different manufacturing; the price and cost move the expense from the municipality to the manufacturers and consumers. Currently the Town pays a vendor to recycle electronic devices with some items are directly paid for by the resident.

Upon query by Mr. Charter, Mr. Snyder-Grant reported that selecting certain products out logistically would be done industry by industry dependent on the size and type of product.

Mr. Snyder-Grant noted other items that he brought to the BoS for consideration; a swap shed, offering recycling bins at recreation areas, requiring residential private trash haulers to report tonnage, and improving communication regarding recycling at the Transfer Station with more signage. The BoS were favorable about EPR but want more review. He has also suggested free recycling and pay for trash at the Transfer Station.

Upon query by Mr. Friedman regarding recycling organics, Mr. Snyder-Grant noted that the Transfer Station offers an area for leaves but more is needed.

Ms. Crosby noted that the schools have been holding trash parties in the cafeteria; they have found 15% of items in the trash receptacles were actually "trash" everything else was recyclable or organic waste that could be composted.

Mr. Charter noted from his travels that he found the recycling operations on Prince Edward Island to be quite rigorous and impressive.

Mr. Friedman noted that Nantucket is rigorous as well.

Upon query by Mr. Friedman as to what GAB can do to help, noting that energy efficiency was the main charge given to GAB. Mr. Charter noted that once a year the BoS schedules an overview meeting with each board and committee; GAB could put something together and ask for time on an upcoming agenda to specifically ask for changes to the GAB's charge.

Jenny Fialkoff introduced herself noting that she wishes to be involved in sustainability and is trying to create a business that would involve public outreach and is gathering information to find out what is pertinent in order to get information to the public; currently she is interviewing people and businesses. She would also like to get involved at the Merriam School since she has a child attending that school.

GAB Membership - Report

Staff reported that there has been no update from the Volunteer Coordinating Committee (VCC). Mr. Hudson noted that he and Mr. Friedman are to meet in the near future.

Upon query by Mr. Loria, Ms. Smith reported that she has seen postings by the VCC in the Action Unlimited and the Beacon for additional members for GAB.

Resiliency Grant Feasibility Study Report

Mr. Charter reported that he is working with CADMUS Group to study project feasibility; he and Ms. Cady have had a conference call with them. An additional project being looked at is a solar car port at the Public Safety Facility (PSF). CADMUS had promised a report by September 15 but he has not yet received one.

Ms. Crosby reported the same situation.

Mr. Charter reported another project being looked at is a solar canopy to feed more electricity to the existing facility on top of the DPW Building and another behind the parking lot on the old helicopter pad at the PSF; the flat roof section of the PSF is a possibility along with the solar car port. These projects would include batteries so the DPW and PSF could maintain electricity during grid outages without using fossil fuels for the generators.

Ms. Smith reported that solar car ports are very expensive; the total cost is not always presented.

Mr. Charter noted that a canopy at the DPW would have to be very high due to the types of heavy equipment associated with the operations there. He and Ms. Cady feel like the PSF is a better location.

Ms. Cady noted that a natural gas combined heat and power (CHP) system was initially considered by Cadmus at the PSF.

Ms. Crosby stated that they have narrowed their preliminary project analysis to the high school and junior high school as they have a Bodine ballast with no generator so they are looking at energy storage to power the facilities for three days which would include a fossil fuel generator. They are also asking about CHP for the pools.

Recommendations from CADMUS Group will be distributed to GAB as soon as they are received prior to the next meeting on October 20th.

7:46 Ms. Smith departed.

Minutes

Mr. Loria moved to approve the minutes of August 11, 2014, Mr. Hudson 2nd; unanimous.

8:05 Meeting adjourned.



Bruce Friedman
Chair

ahr.muniprop.gab.minutes.09-15-2014



**GREEN ADVISORY BOARD
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AGENDA**

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- Extended Producer Responsibility Framework Initiative - Jim Snyder-Grant
- Discussion - Green Advisory Web Page and Charge
- Status check on Building Code - Stretch Code
- Membership - Report Volunteer Coordinating Committee Status
- Resiliency Grant Feasibility Study Report
- Approve Minutes - August 11, 2014