



GREEN ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

6:00 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Eric Hudson, Dennis Loria, Cameren Cousins, Mary Smith, Mona Chandra

RECORDING SECRETARY: Kim Gorman

PUBLIC FACILITIES SUPERINTENDENT: Andrea Ristine

SELECTMEN LIAISON: Jim Snyder-Grant

REGIONAL SCHOOL ENERGY ADVISOR: Kate Crosby

VISITORS: John Mangiaratti, Mike Boss, Debra Simes

Link to documents numbered on this agenda: <http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-12713>

6:02 Mr. Hudson called the meeting to order at 6:02PM via a virtual meeting with no board members in physical attendance are using the via Zoom.us virtual meeting platform.

Mr. Hudson reported, the Town of Acton, in response to the COVID-19 (Corona Virus) is currently following the guidance from the Acton Board of Health, Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the CDC regarding the virus and steps communities can take to prevent the spread. The Town Hall and Memorial Library are closed to the public.

Mr. Hudson called roll:

Mr. Hudson - present

Mr. Loria - present

Ms. Cousins - present

Ms. Smith - present

Ms. Chandra - present

Town Manager, John Mangiaratti – Discuss Sustainability Manager Transition

Mr. Hudson welcomed Mr. Mangiaratti to the meeting.

Mr. Mangiaratti reported through all the hard work from the board members and staff, there is a strong need for a more dedicated resource to address all of the sustainability initiatives to pursue.

Mr. Mangiaratti stated a position was proposed but didn't make the cut within the FY20 Budget process.

Mr. Mangiaratti is recommending to the Board of Selectmen to move forward with filling a full-time Sustainability Director position this year at their meeting tonight. Mr. Mangiaratti stated with climate actions, more towns have reached this transition in having a sustainability manager. Mr. Mangiaratti

discussed the breakdown of the funds, the change from a contractor to a full time position and the funding plan outline over the next three years. Mr. Mangiaratti explained the transition from the Facilities Department staff to the new position, once hired, to support and work with the Green Advisory Board (GAB).

The GAB members thanked Mr. Mangiaratti for his support and staff for all their hard work Ms. Ristine and Ms. Gorman will be missed.

Mr. Hudson moved that the GAB support the mission and recommendation that Mr. Mangiaratti will be presenting to the Board of Selectmen tonight for the Sustainability Director position, compensation and responsibilities. Ms. Smith 2nd; Mr. Hudson called roll:

Mr. Hudson - aye

Mr. Loria - aye

Ms. Cousins - aye

Ms. Smith - aye

Ms. Chandra - aye

The Board voted 5-0, motion carries.

Mr. Mangiaratti wanted to report a letter has been received from the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Green Communities Division stating they have approved an award of \$99,411 for the Green Communities Competitive grant.

Review initiatives across our “partner” towns (010)

Mr. Hudson discussed the top items to begin to work on in advance of the Sustainability Director based on previous discussions and the matrix.

Ms. Cousins provided a spreadsheet (Climate Action Brainstorming vs. Other Towns MATRIX) which lays out major initiatives listing what other towns addressed, in addition to the Town of Concord's recent report and plan to use as discussion. Ms. Cousins stated the GAB knows what to do, we just need to prioritize.

Ms. Smith stated some residents are not aware and need to bring further attention and exposure to the residents.

Mr. Hudson stated transportation is the biggest item then stationary energy and then need to put into effect.

Transportation is a major impact; the Board would like to receive a more accurate measurement of the impact within the Town.

Stationary Energy, the Board discussed the 100% green in the Acton Power Choice (APC) and the Heat Smart Cool Smart Program (HSCSP); obtain major actions to encourage and advertise programs that will enable the housing stock, privately and commercially owned, to transition to programs that are available to them to further green their heating and cool program.

Under Transportation, the Board would like to move into the expansion advertising of regional local shuttle services and the expanded bicycle infrastructure and conductivity.

Board members further discussed APC and 100% green energy with Mr. Jim Snyder-Grant and Ms. Simes.

Ms. Simes noted that the Board could become more involved as an advocate for the existing APC for a HSCSP. The Board might want to create more of a social media and get further involved within the Town for residents to learn more about the Board.

7:08 Mr. Snyder-Grant departed from the meeting.

Ms. Smith will continue to brainstorm the activity of advertising the 100% green energy to the residents of Acton.

Ms. Cousins discussed the Complete Street Bylaw, the Board would like to look into it further.

7:27 Mary Smith departed the meeting.

Mr. Loria would like to see information available to educate residents and more robust information on the Town's website.

Ms. Chandra would like more information available to residents about electrification.

The four initiatives were reviewed and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Review Concord's CAP (020)

Board members reviewed and briefly discuss the plan.

Carbon Neutrality Initiative Top Items

The Board discussed pursing additional data behind the vehicle travel miles. Ms. Chandra will work on the transportation and electric vehicle numbers traveled; she would like a push for energy efficiency in town.

Try to obtain larger numbers behind the Acton Power Choice. Mr. Loria will work on promoting more information to the residents.

Work on Complete Streets - take steps on what the town might need/do to further along this path, try reducing the impact. Ms. Cousins and Mr. Hudson will volunteer to work on it together.

Communication – work on sharing inventory from the Cadmus report and using other information from other towns and trying to get to 100% green and get the resources to residents to educate. Mr. Loria will work on this item.

The Board members will work on creating an outline of the 4 top initiatives (vehicle travel miles, obtain more residents with APC, work on Complete Streets and communication to residents and educate).

Minutes - August 10, 2020, tabled until the next meeting

Next Meeting - October 5, 2020

- Review the four initiatives discussed at last meeting and brainstorming
- Minutes – 08/10/2020 & 09/14/2020

7:36 Mr. Hudson moved to adjourn, Mr. Loria 2nd. Mr. Hudson called roll:

Mr. Hudson - aye

Mr. Loria - aye

Ms. Cousins - aye

Ms. Chandra - aye

The Board voted 4-0, motion carries; meeting adjourned.



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AGENDA

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6:00 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

Note: The Town of Acton in response to the COVID-19 (Corona Virus) is currently following the guidance from the Acton Board of Health, Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the CDC regarding the virus and steps communities can take to prevent the spread. The Town Hall and Memorial Library are closed to the public.

To Participate Remotely

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

From a computer, please click on the link below to join the public meeting

Webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/96838509720>

or

From a telephone, 1-301-715-8592 Webinar ID: 968 3850 9720

Telephone users may dial *9 to request to speak after joining the meeting. Computer and app users may use the “raise hand” feature to request to speak.

I. Business

- Town Manager, John Mangiaratti - Discuss Sustainability Manager Transition
- Advance Preparation Discussion Sustainability Manager
- Review initiatives across our “partner” towns ([010](#))
- Review Concord’s CAP ([020](#))
- Carbon Neutrality Initiatives Top 10.
 - Agree on top five and next five.

II. Minutes August 10, 2020 Signature

Next meeting October 5, 2020

2020 Meeting Schedule [link](#)

Additional materials for this agenda can be found here <http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-12713>

The listed agenda items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law. Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Include a description of the accommodation you will need, including as much detail as you can and include a way we can contact

you if we need more information. Please allow advance notice. Send an e-mail to manager@actonma.gov or call Town Manager's Office (978)929-6611

For more information about the Green Advisory Board contact mpo@actonma.gov or 978-929-7744.