



GREEN ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

MONDAY, November 8, 2021

6:00 pm

VIRTUAL MEETING

Members Present: Eric Hudson, Dennis Loria, Mary Smith, Cameren Cousins

Associate Member: Peter Berry

Sustainability Director: Andrea Becerra

ABRSD Energy Manager: Kate Crosby

Visitor: Waneta Trabert, Rob Gogan

Ms. Smith called the meeting to order at 6:04PM via a virtual meeting with no Board Members in physical attendance, using the via Zoom.us virtual meeting platform.

Ms. Smith called roll attendance:

Mr. Hudson - present

Mr. Loria – present

Ms. Smith - present

Ms. Cousins – present

1) Extended Producer Responsibility letter & Waneta

- Waneta Trabert, Sustainable Materials Management Director, presented EPR resolution passed in Newton
- Ms. Smith asked if there would be additional costs to the municipality; Waneta stated that it depends on the product; for example for paint, the municipality would not get reimbursed for staff time, but the municipality would no longer have to pay for the disposal or recycling of the paint product
- Ms. Smith asked if there would be any influence on the type of packaging; Ms. Trabert mentioned that there is a separate packaging bill and that would take 3-4 years to take effect to give producers time to adapt; however, the Town could specify packaging specific language to motivate producers to use more sustainable packaging
- Ms. Cousins asked about the cost of implementation; there would be no need for an additional staff person; i.e. Newton also has a drop-off site, similar to Acton, and can't imagine needing additional costs; the paint collected is no cost to the Town; Ms. Cousins notes that it likely wouldn't be burdensome for the Town given that already running collection days
- Mr. Berry asked about what would make sense strategically, i.e. send a letter to the Select Board now, or wait until closer to Town meeting? Ms. Trabert noted that looking for as much municipal support as early as possible

- Mr. Gogan noted that it puts the expense where it belongs: to consumers who use the products and to producers who make the product.
- Ms. Trabert noted that paint stores in other states like serving as the collection center because it brings people to the stores.
- Mr. Hudson asked what next steps should be; Ms. Smith noted that the sample Mass Recycle letter is very formal; Mr. Gogan noted that it could be similar to the one passed in Newton; Ms. Smith asked Ms. Becerra to circulate the draft Mass Recycle resolution; Mr. Barry noted that we could get a letter signed soon in time with the legislative session; Ms. Becerra noted that the language we have is specific to a resolution, not a support letter; Mr. Barry asked Mr. Gogan what would be helpful; Mr. Gogan noted that he could draft a letter.

2) Climate Action Plan updates – upcoming opportunities to participate

- Ms. Becerra summarized outputs from the eight public workshops and the CAP Open House and noted that there are two future meetings, including the Nature Walk & Talk at Nara Park; and then the final CAP Workshop on November 18th summarizing the final list of strategies; finally, if unable to attend Ms. Becerra noted that comments could be submitted via email.

3) Minutes to approve

Ms. Smith makes a motion to approve the minutes of June 7, 2021 & June 14, 2021 & September 13th:

Ms. Cousins—seconds

Ms. Smith—aye

Mr. Loria – aye

Mr. Hudson – aye

Ms. Cousins -- aye

The motion carries; the minutes of June 7 & June 14 & September 13th are approved

4) Adjournment

Ms. Smith makes a motion and Mr. Hudson seconds the motion to close the meeting at 7:12 PM by a unanimous roll call vote; meeting adjourned.