

GREEN ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES – March 8th, 2023

6:00pm

Hybrid Meeting

GAB Members Attending In-Person: Mary Smith, Cameren Cousins, Partha Krishnan

GAB Members Attending Virtually: Eric Hudson

Others Attending Virtually: Jim Snyder Grant (Acton Select Board Liaison), Claire Siska (Dog Park Committee), Michael Chautin (Dog Park Committee), Jeff Bergart (Senior Park Committee), Tom Gillispe (Dog Park Committee), Dennis Dale (Consulting Landscape Architect)

6:05 – Mary Smith calls the meeting to order, reads hybrid meeting statement, and advises all the meeting is being recorded..

Cameren Cousins makes a motion to promote Partha Krishnan from associate member to full member for the evening for quorum purposes. Mary seconds. Motion passes.

1. Citizen Concerns
 - a. None at the moment.
2. Specialized Building Stretch Code
 - a. Mary drafted a letter summarizing the Specialized Opt-in Code for the Members of the Select Board and Acton Committees. Members were invited to send feedback to Andrea and Mary *individually* about the letter. It was determined that the GAB would meet via Zoom in the near future to formally approve and vote on the content of the letter prior to the Select Board meeting on 3/20/23.
3. Main St. Dog Park + Senior Park
 - a. Planning committee members are enthusiastic about using sustainable materials and design in the construction of both. Looking for assistance on opinions, other resources, and ideas for funding. Cameren brought up resilience and adaptation in the Climate Action Plan; it's important that the Town honors the goals it set. Dennis Dale gave an overview of the site plan and materials they are thinking of using (including reusing stones from the site and possible permeable surfaces). The dog park has funding, but the senior park does not yet have funding (still needs final design plans).
 - b. Comments: Eric Hudson asked about solar canopies over parking areas; they do not plan to have lighting in the parks, as they are a dawn-to-dusk location. Could solar be used for EV charging? Andrea Becerra advised the committees to carefully consider what is defined as native plantings right now, due to climate change-induced species migration.
4. Acton Power Choice
 - a. Energy prices have gone down nationally. Current electricity aggregation contract expires in December. Peregrine has recommended that Acton go out to bid now to take advantage of the dip in prices; prices are expected to come back up in the near term (especially as we get further into the spring and fall pricing takes effect).

Indicative pricing meeting happens next week. Peregrine will present to the Select Board on 3/20.

- b. A question that has not yet been answered: what percentage of renewables should be in the standard option?
- 5. Sustainability Office Updates
 - a. Acton will sign a contract with KLM to create a climate dashboard. It will summarize and display data and facilitate annual updates and collection. Addition of annual webinar to update community on climate action plan progress.
 - b. Energy coaching is going well – 40 residents signed up in one month.

7:27 - Partha makes a motion to end the meeting. Mary seconds. Approved unanimously.