



GREEN ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, December 12, 2024 - 6:00 pm

HYBRID MEETING

GAB Members Present: Cameren Cousins, Erik Larson, Peter Berry, Mary Smith

Guests Virtual: Jim Snyder-Grant

Town Staff Present: Lauren West, Andrea Becerra

Mary calls the meeting to order at 6:00pm and reads the hybrid meeting statement. Attendees are advised that the meeting is being recorded.

Cameren makes a motion to upgrade Erik as a full member for the meeting. Mary seconds the motion. The Board votes unanimously in favor and the motion passes.

Business

1. Resident Concerns

- None

2. GAB Updates

- None

3. Sustainability Updates

Nature-Based Solutions

- Lauren will be developing the GHG inventory once Andrea is on leave. Carbon sequestration will be included in the inventory. Hopefully the MAPC tool will be developed by then.
- Cameren asks about collaborating with Conservation on open space and carbon accounting. There is a draft Open Space and Recreation Plan that includes Sustainability topics. Cameren asks about adding a specific goal of tracking natural resources with carbon accounting in the OSRP. The Sustainability Office will check in with Conservation.
- Cameren has seen news from universities in England discussing natural sinks and carbon sequestration.

Municipal Vulnerability Plan Update and Webinar

- The Sustainability Office hosted a webinar today on updated Resilience Priorities.

- Attendees discussed the age of trees in Acton which can be a hazard when they are all dying at the same time. Incentivizing new construction to use underground utilities also was discussed. Mary notes that any infrastructure above ground would still introduce a hazard when attached to underground utilities.
 - The current version online will change according to feedback.
 - Early next week Andrea will circulate an updated version.

Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Ban

- Eric Hudson reached out to David Martin about GLB ban. David got the feedback he needed from GAB and encourages GAB members to stay updated on project. He recommends keeping an eye on upcoming Select Board agendas for an opportunity to provide additional feedback on updated versions of the bylaw.

Heat Pump Pizza Party

- The event was very successful. Roughly 130 people attended. Sending the targeted letter to homes was very successful advertising. David Martin spoke for Clean Energy Coaches and Kit Wu from Laminar Collective presented data on heat pump costs and incentives. There have been ten Clean Energy Coach requests since the event.

Decarbonization Clearing House – Mass Save

- The State conducted a study under the EEA on the future of the Mass Save program. The State is wondering if the program should continue to live under the utilities or if it should be transferred to State ownership. The comment period ended yesterday. There has been lots of debate across the region on what is best.
- The State Climate Bill was also signed last week which included many incentives for clean energy programs.

4. Sustainability Policy

- Minor changes were suggested by the Select Board. Jim made suggested changes to the draft. He is not sure when it will show up, but an upcoming Select Board meeting will discuss the policy again. He will send an updated draft around.

5. Approve Minutes: August & September 2024

- None

Erik makes a motion to close the meeting at 6:40. Cameren seconds the motion. By a unanimous roll call vote; meeting adjourned.