



GREEN ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, September 16th, 2025 - 6:00 pm

HYBRID MEETING

GAB Members Virtual: Partha Krishnan

GAB Members Present: Mary Smith, Cameren Cousins, Erik Larson, Eric Hudson

Town Staff Present: Lauren West, Andrea Becerra

Guests Present: Aakarsh Tathachar

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

Business

1. Resident Concerns

- None

2. Biogas Presentation

- Aakarsh Tathachar presents an update on his project: Filtering Methane from Septic Biogas.
 - Aakarsh presented in the past with his group on their project to filter methane from septic biogas using bacteria.
 - He presents an update on the project showing testing phases, results data, and an updated final design.
 - He requests support & feedback, recognition on the Town Website, consideration for funding, and an opportunity to display the prototype somewhere in Town
 - Andrea offers to connect Aakarsh with Acton TV to feature the project on their page. She also recommends that he reach out to the Acton Exchange to feature the project there. Andrea will connect with him about finding a place to display the prototype.

3. GAB Updates

- GAB has lost two members recently, we have capacity for three new members
 - Current full members: Partha, Mary, Cameren, Eric Hudson
 - Erik Larson just needs to be approved by Select Board

- Can recruit: two associate members, or up to three
 - The GAB thinks three associate members may be too many
- Andrea checked with Leo (Town Clerk). The GAB can advertise as much as they want for the positions. The GAB can review applications and vet them before sending them to the Volunteer Coordinating Committee (VCC)
- Cameren thinks the Sustainability Office advertising it and sharing it with Jim Snyder Grant as a Select Board Liaison would be ideal
 - Municipal Monthly, social media, Acton Exchange, Action Unlimited, physical flyers, newsletter, newsflash
 - Cameren will reach out to Jim Snyder Grant about the openings
 - One or two members can be involved in vetting the applications
 - Andrea will find details on eligibility
 - Sustainability Office will create a flyer & share with the GAB

4. Sustainability Updates

- APC Update
 - The Select Board voted to keep prices the same for APC and reduce RECs in the Standard option
 - Next contract discussion is next spring
 - Will be recording a commercial to advertise APC GREEN option
- Energy Eco-Night
 - Event organized by Sophia Darsch – Energy Advocate
 - Over 90 people attended
 - Had animals, pizza, energy efficiency resources & local orgs
- Greening the Red House
 - A launch event was hosted, the little library was installed
 - Goats were at the event per Cameren's suggestion!
 - Cameren asks if the patio can be rented as a meeting space – so far a few Town staff events have been hosted and an Energize Acton event was hosted but it will be a good space for future events
 - The Sustainability Office will be looking to establish volunteer groups to work on different sections of the space
- Green Communities Update
 - Acton is now a Climate Leader Community!
 - The schools got the \$500,000 grant to electrify some of the rooftop units
 - The Town applied for \$1 million for Town Hall HVAC electrification project
- EV Charger Rates Memo
 - At a recent Select Board meeting, EV charger rates were changed for Town chargers
 - Added a fee for overstay after 11 hours at level 2 chargers

- Added a fee for fast chargers once you are fully charged, you have 30 minutes to disconnect
- Set a limit of \$70 or \$80 maximum fee
- We will be adding a sign that specifies that the Veterans Field chargers are fast chargers
- Bike Share Program
 - The program has been very successful. There was a gap between grant funding and the cost of the program. So far, rider revenue is expected to fill this gap
 - Concord has been most successful, but overall the bikes have been used
 - The program will close in December for the winter
 - Lauren notes that there is a new Acton location at the South Acton Commuter Lot
 - More promotion for the program is needed
- Fellows
 - One Fellow accepted a full time position after two weeks and had to leave
 - The Fellows tabled at the Farmer's Market, outside of Donelan's, at NARA Pride Festival, hosted eco night, posted on social media, hosted an event at the senior center, updated and shared brochures, helped a multifamily property apply for a decarb grant, and more.
 - Still working on adding more multifamily outreach

5. Approve Minutes: June 2025

- Cameren makes a motion to accept the minutes, Erik seconds the motion. All vote in favor, the motion passes.

Cameren makes a motion to close the meeting at 7:09. Eric seconds the motion. By a unanimous roll call vote; meeting adjourned.