



GREEN ADVISORY BOARD

AGENDA

NOVEMBER 2, 2015

6:30 PM

ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY - CONFERENCE ROOM
486 MAIN STREET

Link to documents numbered on this agenda:

<http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-7064>

- Choose Chair and Vice Chair persons
- Green Advisory Board Charge / Mission Scope *(010)*
- Membership Recruitment
- Solarize Acton II
 - Solar Gardens
- Green Community Grant Status
- Annual Town Report

Minutes

October 5, 2015



**GREEN ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 2, 2015
6:30 PM
ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY - CONFERENCE ROOM
486 MAIN STREET**

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

ASSOCIATE MEMBER: Padamaja Kuchimanchi

RECORDING SECRETARY: Joanne Gutierrez

MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES SUPERINTENDENT: Andrea Ristine

VISITORS: none

Link to documents numbered on this agenda:

<http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-7064>

<http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/Get/Document-51166/GAB%20Charge%20CEC%20proposals%20v1%20%202011-02-2015.pdf>

6:35 Meeting called to order.

Nominate Chair & Vice Chair

Ms. Cousins moved Mr. Hudson as Chairman, Ms. Smith 2nd; unanimous.

Mr. Hudson moved Mr. Loria as Vice Chair, Ms. Cousins 2nd; unanimous.

Green Advisory Board Charge / Mission Scope (010)

The Board reviewed suggested revisions provided by Ms. Cousins. The Board discussed and agreed on the following proposed wording to be presented to the Board of Selectmen for consideration:

The Green Advisory Board serves as an advisory committee reporting to the Board of Selectmen and the regional School Committee. The Green Advisory Board consists of five

members and two associate members. Each member serves a three-year term and terms are staggered.

The GAB advises the town on issues relating to environmental sustainability. It also may assist town departments and other volunteer committees when invited as Acton conserves resources, reduces waste, improves energy efficiency, and plans more sustainable land use. The GAB supports the town's and school's participation in the Green Communities grant program, and helps prioritize energy reduction and renewable energy projects within the town and schools.

Mr. Loria moved to accept, Mr. Hudson 2nd; unanimous.

Membership Recruitment

The Board feels with an expanded mission scope will bring new members.

Solarize Acton II

Solar energy sources has grown in today's market and since it's much more competitive, Mr. Loria feels there is no need to explore any new programs at this time. The business model coming together is a "Solar Garden" concept which will give residents a financial option to participate.

Mr. Hudson would like to review vendors and make suggestions to residents; Ms. Smith expressed concerns about understanding vendor's contracts.

Ms. Ristine clarified the Town should not condone a vendor for liability reasons.

Mr. Loria suggested forming a subcommittee to review vendors apart from the Town. Ms. Smith believes the Board cannot separate from the Town.

Ms. Ristine noted that permits are necessary when a resident installs solar panels and trees may need to be removed or trimmed for optimal solar exposure.

Mr. Loria suggested hosting a workshop to educate residents and answer questions to consider residential contracts for solar power.

Ms. Smith suggested bringing in a representative from the utility companies and perhaps the Town's Building Commissioner and/or Inspector.

Mr. Hudson noted that he personally likes the alternative of solar gardens; a parcel of property would be needed to install panels to disseminate to residents who wish to purchase solar energy. He also suggested that the Board inquire of the Town of Harvard about their solar garden experiences.

Members suggested forming a subcommittee to investigate the concept; Ms. Ristine reminded members that if they wish to form an official sub-committee, approval from the Board of Selectmen is required.

Green Community Grant Status

Ms. Ristine reported that the street light conversion project is ongoing, over 250 lights have been completed at this time, some of Main Street and side streets. Completing the conversion within the Town is a priority set by the Selectmen.

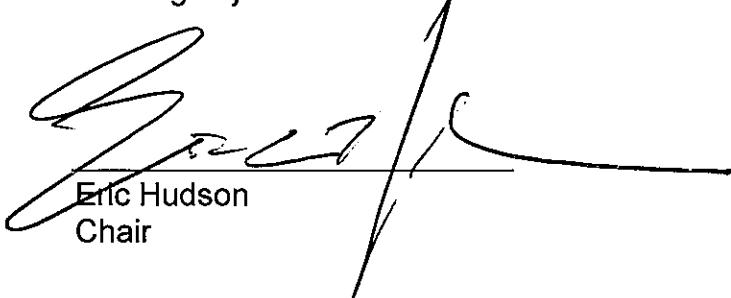
Annual Town Report

Ms. Ristine asked if Ms. Cousins could assist in compiling and writing the GAB annual report again this year, she would provide necessary information from the Town, Ms. Crosby would need to report information for the ABRSD.

Minutes

Mr. Hudson moved to accept the minutes from October 5, 2015, Mr. Loria 2nd; unanimous.

8:58 Meeting adjourned.



Eric Hudson
Chair

JG:ahr

GAB.minutes.2015.11-02-2015