



**GREEN ADVISORY BOARD
JULY 14, 2014
MINUTES**

**ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY - 486 MAIN STREET
CONFERENCE ROOM
6:30 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dennis Loria, Eric Hudson, Bruce Friedman

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: Padamaja Kuchimanchi

MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES DIRECTOR: Dean Charter

RECORDING SECRETARY: Andrea Ristine

VISITORS: Frank Ramsbottom

6:42 Meeting called to order.

Appoint New Chairman & Vice Chair

Mr. Loria moved to appoint Mr. Friedman as Chairman, Mr. Hudson 2nd; unanimous.
No action taken for vice chair at this time.

Stretch Code

Acton Building Commissioner, Frank Ramsbottom reported that the new building code is actually more energy efficient than the current Stretch Code, but Acton is still a Stretch Code community. The latest is that the State is adopting the 2012 Energy Code. Acton is staying with 2009 Energy Code since the new Stretch Code is less efficient. The 2012 Energy Code is more conserving/efficient but the State can't decide what to do with about the Stretch Code.

Upon query by Mr. Friedman, Mr. Ramsbottom stated that Acton is a Stretch Code town but the State of Massachusetts uses the national code.

Upon query by Mr. Loria, Mr. Ramsbottom stated that HERS rating is required in all new residential buildings. Renovations default to basic code with no HERS rating; 2012 base code is better than the 2009. The State adopted a law allowing towns that want to be a Green Community (GC) can adopt the Stretch Energy Code, the State must adopt the latest national energy codes.

Mr. Charter stated that it is a mandatory precondition to adopt the stretch code to become a GC; there are 123 GCs in Massachusetts.

Mr. Friedman stated that we need to find out what the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) is going to do.

Mr. Charter stated that he will contact Kelly Brown top try to find out what DOER is going to do.

Green Communities Grant Award Announcement

Mr. Charter reported that he attended the grant award event in Ashland early on this day. Acton received the full amount of the grant request for \$234,000 and distributed the email confirmation dated July 14, 2014 (010 in Docushare - <http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-6424/Document-47780>). Out of the 123 GCs 43 received funding for a total of 161 separate projects for \$7.9M in grant availability. Acton's grant funds will be administrated through the Town, he will work with Schools to make sure the procurement laws are met.

Upon query by Mr. Friedman, Mr. Charter reported that the Memorial Library lighting control project is engineer designed, with utilities incentive NStar will oversee compliance with the project's design; Mr. Charter will oversee the funds, verify invoices.

Upon query by Mr. Hudson, Mr. Charter reported that if a project comes in over budget the remaining funds will have to come from other funds from the School's or Town's budget; as in the last grant, the Town will receive 25% of the funds up front from DOER and the Town will front the rest of the money and apply for reimbursement up to the limit of the grant award.

Approve Minutes

Mr. Hudson moved to approve the minutes for May 12 & June 23, 2014, Mr. Loria 2nd; unanimous.

Review of the Board's current responsibilities to the Schools - discussion of greater school representation on the Board including the possibility of a Board School staff member.

Mr. Hudson noted that he would like to discuss this issue with Mr. Berry at the next meeting; he understands the politics involved and inquired as to how much responsibility does the Board have for the schools, and the overall impact as it is a large part of the budget.

Mr. Loria agreed noting that it has always been a gray line for him between town schools and regional schools. The town schools were the Town's responsibility; now that all the schools are regionalized it seems like an even grayer line. To him it is still a matter of choosing the highest priority projects for savings and energy reductions and look at both as a whole and what the Board should be advocating for.

Mr. Hudson stated that he needs a current definition of the Board's focus from the Board of Selectmen (BoS).

Mr. Hudson and Mr. Loria will compose a memo to Mr. Berry.

Mr. Charter reported that the Town Manager will be meeting with the new school superintendent on July 22 regarding the agreement on the grant administration.

Recruiting new Members

Board members agreed to try to find members on our own. Staff will check the status with the Volunteer Coordinating Committee.

Creation of Sub-Committee - Membership Sub Committee

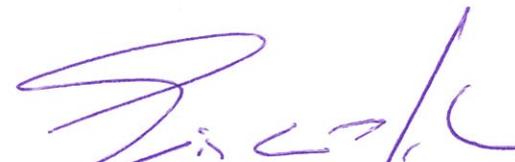
There was a brief discussion and it was agreed that the creation of sub-committee may not be needed.

*** Solar Crosswalk - West Acton Village Ecology (WAVE)

Mr. Charter reported that the developer of the current WAVE project, has been in process for approximately eight years and the developer is required to construct a crosswalk on Massachusetts Avenue (Rt. 111). The developer, Michael Rosenfeld, has been working with Mr. Charter and Cory York, Director of Acton Public Works, to design a crosswalk in front of the existing playground. The signal is to be constructed by the developer and gifted to the Town. The Mass Highway Department governs/maintains Rt. 111 with the exception of the short section within West Acton. Being an ecology/green development in West Acton Village, it is proposed that the crosswalk signal will be solar powered with a small solar panel with LED lights. The Historic District Commission (HDC) has decided that they don't like this sort of device in historic districts; they have taken the proposal under advisement and not yet issued their decision. At this time, it is unclear if the HDC has jurisdiction over street signs. Mr. Charter stated that it seems that this type of project(s) is something that the Board should encourage and be interested in.

Next meeting: August 11

7:45 Meeting adjourned.


Bruce Friedman,
Chair



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1. Appoint New Chairman & Vice Chair
2. Stretch Code - Acton Building Commissioner, Frank Ramsbottom
New building code is actually more energy saving than the Stretch Code, but we are still a Stretch Code community
3. Green Communities Grant Award Announcement
4. Approve Minutes
5. Review of the Board's current responsibilities to the Schools; discussion of greater school representation on the Board including the possibility of a Board School staff member.
6. Recruiting new Members
7. Creation of Sub-Committee - Membership Sub Committee

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