



**GREEN ADVISORY BOARD
AUGUST 11, 2014
MINUTES**

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Eric Hudson, Dennis Loria, Mary Smith

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: Padamaja Kuchimanchi, Renato Nakagomi

MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES DIRECTOR: Dean Charter

ENERGY CONSERVATION ANALYST: Pamela Cady

GREEN ADVISOR TO THE SCHOOLS: Kate Crosby

RECORDING SECRETARY: Andrea Ristine

SELECTMAN LIAISON: Peter Berry

6:34 Meeting called to order.

Responsibilities - Schools in Acton - Energy Reduction Measures

Mr. Charter reported that Acton did receive the total amount submitted in the Green Communities grant application for \$234,511 for proposed projects that will reduce energy consumption; \$37,511 for the Memorial Library and the remaining funds for the School's. The Town will administer the grant funds to ensure proper procurement. Mr. Charter noted that the procurements involved with the grant are signed of by the Town Manager; compliance with procurement laws have to be met. The Town fronts the money, if not done correctly DOER won't reimburse the funds spent.

Mr. Berry responded to the letter from the Board dated July 23, 2014 and stated that he will review the Board's charge and see if can be amended to address the recent regionalization of the Schools and their responsibilities relating to the regional schools. He would be happy to attend a meeting with the new superintendent and review the process.

Ms. Smith stated that, since the regionalization with Boxborough, she would like to get the Town of Boxborough involved including finances and participation.

Ms. Crosby reported that Boxborough does have an active Energy Committee; she met with Kelly Brown from the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) and she believes that they can possibly include the Blanchard School in next year's grant application.

Upon query by Mr. Berry, Ms. Crosby stated that she will try to arrange a meeting with the new superintendent, Town Manager, Mr. Berry and representatives of the Board.

Upon query by Ms. Crosby, Mr. Berry stated that his understanding of the wording in the Home Rule Petition regarding the solar field lease revenue to the Town, will not allow the revenue funds to be used by the Schools based on the new regionalization.

Mr. Charter stated that he would be open to allowing the solar funds to be used by the Schools but the Schools also have revenues that the Town should be allowed to access.

Mr. Hudson stated that the Green Advisory Board (GAB) purview does not involve budgeting, it is a subject to be discussed and decided by the Board of Selectmen (BoS).

Ms. Crosby stated that she feels that conceptually it is related to the GAB.

Ms. Smith stated that the GAB looks at energy efficiency to consider both sides.

Extended Producer Responsibility

Mr. Berry noted that he had sent the GAB Brookline's Resolution Supporting Extended Producer Responsibility prior to the meeting and Jim Snyder-Grant (representing Green Acton) has asked the BoS to consider bringing this to Acton's next annual town meeting. Mr. Berry would like a wide array of input before signing and supporting this type of concept possibly by holding a public forum.

Mr. Loria stated that he has more knowledge regarding renewable energy than recycling.

Ms. Smith agreed that more research is needed.

Mr. Hudson stated that he was unaware of such a Bill but agrees that manufacturers should be responsible for recycling.

350MA MetroWest - August 21, 6:30 - Memorial Library

Mr. Berry informed the Board of the August 21 meeting with 350MA to be held at the Memorial Library. Mr. Charter reported that he and Ms. Cady will submit a written document listing projects done by the Town; Ms. Cady will attend the meeting.

Ms. Crosby stated the JD Head is concerned about the accuracy of information provided by the Town and is asking that he be able to see it prior to issuance.

Mr. Charter stated that once drafted, everyone will get the report at the same time.

DOER - Resiliency Initiative Grant

Ms. Cady reported that both the Town and Schools have been awarded grants for technical assistance support. This grant pertains to maintaining critical functions when the power grid is out. She is looking to incorporate solar photovoltaic (PV) with battery storage at the PSF and DPW buildings to maintain critical loads. Cadmus Group will review documentation provided by Ms. Cady and provide a feasibility study to be submitted to DOER by October 15.

Mr. Loria expressed a curiosity regarding the possible recommendations by Cadmus Group.

Ms. Crosby reported that the Schools will be looking to determine the feasibility of adding inverters, controls and battery storage to the high school and Junior high school with existing PV arrays. Cadmus Group will look at the feasibility of incorporating CHP or renewable thermal generation where applicable, possibly the swimming pool.

Behavior Modification Update

Ms. Cady reported that employees of the following buildings have won in various behavior modification categories: PSF, Town Hall, Red House, and Cemetery / Recreation / Natural Resources teams. These teams have all received gifts; first being coffee packages and the second being small personal fans. She also has emailed energy saving tips to all teams for the past several months. The challenge will continue through July and August, the overall winners will receive a pizza party. The Town Hall renovations will be starting in September which will change the energy consumption numbers.

Mr. Hudson stated that he would like to see numbers for all participating buildings rather than just each month's winners. Ms. Cady agreed to provide that information.

Membership Status

Mr. Hudson reported that he has not heard back from the Volunteer Coordinating Committee.

Mr. Loria stated that he has two potential individuals he is trying to get involved with the Board.

Solar Crosswalk Signs

Mr. Charter reaffirmed that the Historic District Commission (HDC) is opposed to the small solar panels associated with cross walks; Town Counsel has determined that this issue is not within the HDC's purview. The BoS has the issue for the West Acton crosswalk sign on their agenda this evening and he believes they will vote to approve and allow it.

NStar & PelleVerde Bills

Mr. Charter reported, although energy consumption has increased due to air conditioning for the summer months, solar generation for the month of June shows

that the landfill solar facility is still generating more than what the Schedule Z designated buildings/facilities are consuming, but the winter months will change the amount of power produced.

Minutes

Mr. Hudson moved to accept the July 14, 2014 minutes, Mr. Loria 2nd; unanimous.

Next Meeting - September 15

7:47 Meeting adjourned.



Bruce Friedman,
Chair

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AGENDA**

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- Extended Producer Responsibility - require certain manufacturers to pay to recycle the goods they manufacture
- Responsibilities - Schools in Acton - Energy Reduction Measures
- 350MA MetroWest - August 21, 6:30 - Memorial Library
- DOER - Resiliency Grant
- Behavior Modification Update
- Membership - Report Volunteer Coordinating Committee Status
- Solar Crosswalk Signs
- NStar & PelleVerde Bills
- Approve Minutes - 7-14-2014

Next Meeting - September 15