GREEN ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
DECEMBER 15, 2014
6:30 PM
ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY – CONFERENCE ROOM
486 MAIN STREET

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bruce Friedman, Eric Hudson, Mary Smith

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: Padamaja Kuchimanchi

SELECTMAN LIAISON: Peter Berry

MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES DIRECTOR: Dean Charter

ENERGY CONSERVATION ANALYST: Pamela Cady

GREEN ADVISOR TO THE SCHOOLS: Kate Crosby

RECORDING SECRETARY: Andrea Ristine

VISITORS: Cameren Cousins

Link to all documents pertaining to this meeting agenda are available at:
http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-6540

6:32 Meeting called to order.

Green Communities Grant - Status Update - Town & Regional Schools *(030- 031)*

Mr. Charter reported that the paperwork is in order regarding the Memorial Library lighting control project, the agreement has been signed and the purchase order has been issued; hope to start the project in January. Mr. Charter stated that he has received the School's paperwork for the boiler project. This was processed and paid for by the Schools; the Town will process the reimbursement if everything else is found to be in order. He has received the invoice from Horizon Solutions for the junior high's exhaust fan project, but he still needs the prevailing wage sheets from the vendor or Ms. Crosby.

Ms. Crosby stated that she hopes to have all of the schools projects completed by mid-February as there is another grant round due on 3/31/15. The most visible project is LED exterior lighting project at the Conant, Gates and Douglas schools which is almost complete with only the punch list items pending.

Stretch Code Update *(040)*

Mr. Friedman referenced the documents provided for this agenda; Acton is operating under the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code, the 2012 is more stringent. No one really knows

where it is going, an inquiry letter could be written to Mass. Department of Environmental Resources (DOER).

Upon query by Mr. Hudson, Mr. Friedman noted that the new code is strict, updating beyond the 2012 code would be a hardship on builders.

Mr. Charter stated that he will try to contact Kelly Brown at DOER to see what she might know.

Mr. Friedman noted that Acton, as a green community, cannot opt out of the stretch code.

Ms. Smith stated that she will inquire of people she knows at NStar.

Mr. Friedman noted that if updates are made beyond the 2012 code, it would have to be small incremental steps as a lot of houses currently under construction or soon to be would fail.

Ms. Smith and Mr. Friedman both asked Mr. Charter to pursue contacting Kelly Brown at DOER.

Solar Campaign Letter - Environmental Massachusetts - Signature *(010)*

Mr. Hudson read the letter as drafted to Governor Elect Baker.

Ms. Smith stated that she could not vote in favor of the letter; she feels that the need to provide solar energy storage is needed before making solar energy a key element of Massachusetts' energy future. The State has succeeded in solar but the cost is incredible to the customer; incentives need to be made more available to the customer and funding needs to be provided for storage research.

Mr. Friedman moved to approve and sign the letter as drafted, Mr. Hudson 2nd, Ms. Smith abstained; the motion passed.

Department of Energy Resources - Annual Report *(020- 021)*

Ms. Cady gave a brief overview of the report as submitted to DOER on Friday, December 5, 2014 showing Table 2 and Table 4 of the Annual Fall Report. Basically the Town has had a 13% reduction since 2009 to 2014. Some buildings that were not a part of the baseline had to be added in as per DOER. Renewable energy was reported but the Town does not receive credit for it. Seven towns as green communities did reach the 20% energy reduction goal.

Mr. Charter noted that the vehicle fuel consumption footprint is the largest issue on the Town's side emphasizing for example, that Highway Department dump trucks are exempt vehicles, a big capital expense that last a long time as are fire emergency vehicles. Inspectional vehicles are efficient but the amount has been increased since the Town has increased the amount of inspectors for the Health and Building Departments. There will also be a pilot program for idle control modules on a couple police cruisers.

Upon query by Mr. Hudson regarding energy conservation measures, Mr. Charter reported currently his department, Municipal Properties, has the Town Hall Chiller Replacement bid opening is in January 2015. The new chiller will have some controls added in this upgrade, most of the hot water pumps will be replaced in this project, and replacement of the compressor is part of this project. Currently there is not funding for Town Hall building controls. Pressure balance will be added in the north wing with the current renovation project. He has been pursuing replacement HVAC systems for the three fire stations, the Town Manager's budget is pushing this off to fiscal year 2017 since it will be over $500,000 for each; it will likely be a bonded capital project. The Public Safety Building management system came online in June 2014, he will be looking for savings there and as noted earlier the lighting controls project in the Memorial Library is underway now.

Ms. Crosby gave a brief overview of the annual fall report to DOER regarding the energy conservation measures(ECMs) conducted at the schools (Criterion 3 and Table 4 ECMs).

Upon query by Mr. Hudson, Mr. Charter reported that the upcoming annual town meeting budget for fiscal year 2016 is being reviewed and voted on by the Board of Selectmen at their meeting this evening. April 2015 annual town meeting will cover the fiscal year 2016 budget. September 2015 will be when budgeting for the April 2016 annual town meeting for town projects will occur. He is not sure how the new process will be handed for the schools since the regionalization with Boxborough.

Upon query by Mr. Friedman, Ms. Crosby reported that Boxborough's Blanchard School is her next target; DOER has approved Blanchard and Parker-Damon to be allowed in the next grant application process.

Mr. Charter noted that the Town ran into issues with buildings that were not included in the original Green Communities 2009 baseline which had to be added in after the fact; Ms. Crosby noted that Blanchard can be included in the next grant process although it was not a part of the school's 2009 benchmark.

Mr. Friedman noted that Boxborough is not a green community (power supplied by Littleton Electric Light Department) but is a Littleton municipal light town, Littleton is working on becoming a green community.

Annual Town Report

Mr. Charter provided hard copies of the Town's draft annual town report as submitted by Ms. Cady this evening. Ms. Crosby's portion of the draft annual report was shown but not provided at this time.

Board members agreed that Ms. Cousins should be involved as final editor of the annual report to be submitted by Ms. Cady and Ms. Crosby.

Transfer Station Services

Mr. Charter provided a brief update stating that the DPW Director, Corey York, reported to him that the 'swap shop' building has been built, accessible ramps are still needed to complete the construction. Staffing issues are a concern; it may likely be open a couple days per week. The types of items that will be accepted are being reviewed, noting that items with electrical cords will likely be excluded due to potential safety and liability issues. The 'pay as you throw' program will be brought to the April 2015 annual town meeting and will be initiated in September with the new transfer station sticker sales season. Paying by the bag fee will reduce sticker costs and hopefully encourage recycling. The sticker fee for senior citizens will be reduced but the pay by the bag will increase their total annual costs. Littleton initiated this type of system which reduced their trash by 50% and resident's recycling efforts increased.

Discussion regarding current transfer station fees versus residents paying a waste management company and the potential loss of business to the transfer station.

Minutes

Ms. Smith moved that the Board accept the minutes for September 15, October 20 and November 17, 2015; Mr. Hudson 2nd; unanimous.

Transfer Station Services

Ms. Cousins suggested possibly getting Acton's students involved in a community effort to help residents and advocate recycling at the transfer station.

Membership Status

Ms. Cousins is in the review process with the Volunteer Coordinating Committee.

Charge Amendments

Mr. Hudson stated that he has sent suggested wording to Mr. Friedman, and reported that Mr. Berry is creating a letter regarding the Town's relationship with the School's recent regionalization and charge issue.

Mr. Charter noted that he believes that Mr. Berry is waiting to see what kind of cooperation was and is received regarding the financial issues and lack of communications from the Schools during this grant process.

Ms. Crosby reported that she has met individually with Mr. Berry and is awaiting Mr. Berry's thoughts and review.

Mr. Hudson will reach out to Mr. Berry regarding status on the issue.

Ms. Crosby noted that she would like to hear the status of the issue from the Town Manager with the upcoming March 31, 2015 grant application deadline.

Mr. Charter noted that the recent issue of JD Head bypassing around the proper grant reimbursement, payment and budgeting process on the recent school's boilers project is a valid issue as the Town Manager is the Chief Procurement Officer, applicant and receiver of the grant award.

2015 Meeting Schedule - April 6 meeting canceled due to annual town meeting.

8:19 Meeting adjourned.

Bruce Friedman
Chair

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- Solar Campaign Letter - Environmental Massachusetts - Signature *(010)*
- Department of Energy Resources - Annual Report *(020- 021)*
- Green Communities Grant - Status Update - Town & Regional Schools *(030- 031)*
- Stretch Code Update *(040)*
- Update - Transfer Station Services
- Annual Town Report
- Membership Status
- Charge Amendments
- April meeting - cancel or reschedule due to Town Meeting
- Approve Minutes
  September 15, October 20, November 17