GREEN ADVISORY BOARD
AGENDA
OCTOBER 5, 2015
6:30 PM
ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY - CONFERENCE ROOM
486 MAIN STREET

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dennis Loria, Eric Hudson, Cameren Cousins

ASSOCIATE MEMBER: Padamaja Kuchimanchi

MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES SUPERINTENDENT: Andrea Ristine

GREEN ADVISOR TO THE SCHOOLS: Kate Crosby *(6:45)*

RECORDING SECRETARY: Joanne Gutierrez

VISITORS: none present

Link to documents numbered on this agenda:
http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-7026

6:42 Meeting called to order by Cameren Cousins, Acting Chair .

Discussed Nominations for Chair & Vice Chair

Currently the Green Advisory Board (GAB) has four full members and one associate. Ms. Ristine reported the Board needs five full members and two associate members. Mr. Hudson inquired if a Board member is interested in the positions of Chair and Vice Chair but no one is.

Eric Hudson agreed to be acting Chair until one is found. Mr. Hudson and Mr. Loria each agreed to be co-chair persons.

Ms. Ristine stated that the GAB web page can't be updated with two co-chairs; she will check with the Town Clerk to verify if the Board may practice with two co-chair persons. Cameren Cousins moved that the Board accept Mr. Hudson and Mr. Loria act as co-chair persons; Mr. Hudson 2nd, unanimous.

Green Advisory Board Charge / Mission Scope *(010)*

Ms. Cousins provided proposed changes to the GAB's charge: http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/Get/Document-50885/GAB%20mission%20scope.pdf.

Ms. Cousins asked if the Board begin to explore other areas within the Town and go beyond just energy. Mr. Hudson suggested the Board have the ability to impact the Town in other issues of conservation. (Example: last year improving composting and waste reduction.)

Mr. Hudson would like to approach the Selectmen to see what their interests are. Ms. Ristine noted that the Selectmen created GAB's current charge.

Mr. Loria stated that he would like to expand the charge and asked Ms. Cousins inquire of Select Berry how the GAB can help the local and regional school committees, investigate how Acton can improve its energy efficiency and use renewable energy sources to work with the BoS on programs that seek to reduce Acton's carbon footprint.

Ms. Crosby inquired about the boundaries and description. Mr. Hudson assured this would be an advisory board and not to one to govern sustainability.

Mr. Hudson inquired how GAB could better provide support to other boards/committees on sustainability. Ms. Cousins provided examples of what other communities were doing in sustainability. Both Mr. Hudson and Ms. Cousins suggest GAB let other boards/committees know it is here to help.

The Board will inquire of the Selectmen on their thoughts.

Mr. Loria suggested a change of the name of "Green Advisory Board" to a broader scope. Ms. Cousins agreed getting rid of the "Green" label might make it easier to attract more members. Both agreed GAB has come a long way. Ms. Cousins offered to discuss this with Mr. Berry before the next meeting. Ms. Ristine suggested that providing something more specific/precise before approaching Mr. Berry.

Green Community Grant Status *(020)*

Ms. Ristine reported that phase one of the LED street light conversion has started and is ongoing. The Town's contractor is trying to convert as many fixtures as possible before the snow arrives. There have been some complaints of brightness and the color of the LED lights. Any reported street light repairs on outages are being replaced with LEDs rather repaired in-kind.

The first rollout of the $245,000 in grant funds has been received by the Town which is a 2% shortfall from the original $250,000 grant application request. The Regional School's project came in under the original project quotes totaling $233,000 from $245,000.

Ms. Crosby confirmed that the School's proposed projects were re-evaluated by their contractor and came in $18,752 less than originally proposed. Ms. Crosby asked that GAB hold off at this time in deciding on how to re-appropriate the $18,752 windfall until next calendar year in order to make sure they can meet the challenging pieces of their projects. She reported that the interior LED project thus far has been well received by good response by the occupying employees.

Climate Change Resilience Assessment and Planning Project 10/6/2015 *(030)*

Ms. Ristine noted that this meeting will be held in Concord on October 6, 2015 sponsored by the Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination (*MAGIC*) a sub-committee of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC); Select Osman may be attending.

Minutes

Mr. Hudson signed the previously approved minutes from July 1, 2015.

Mr. Hudson moved that the Board accept the minutes of August 3, Ms. Cousins 2nd; unanimous.

Land Use & Economic Development Coordinator

Upon query by Ms. Cousins, Mr. Ristine reported that Town management has interviewed and conducted an assessment of candidates for the new position of the Land Use Economic Development Coordinator but has not made a decision as of this date. Ms. Ristine suggested asking the Selectmen regarding the expected job description of the new position before approaching the individual once hired and inviting them to a Board meeting.

7:49 Meeting adjourned.

Cameron Cousins,
Acting Chair

JG:ahr.GAB.minutes.10-05-2015

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- Nominate Chair & Vice Chair
- Green Advisory Board Charge / Mission Scope *(010)*
- Green Community Grant Status *(020)*
- Climate Change Resilience Assessment and Planning Project 10/6/2015 *(030)*

Minutes

June 1 - signature (approved 8/3/15)

August 3 - approve