



Minutes

Wednesday, February 23, 2022, 7:00 pm

WEBEX URL

<https://andover.webex.com/andover/j.php?MTID=m45e46f27ef31fbba6b574b0a9b9cdbc4>

Meeting number: 2330 366 4452

Join by phone: +1-408-418-9388

Password: ndAgJJQ2P96

Phone access code: 233 036 64452

In attendance:

Amy Latva-Kokko*
Joyce Losick-Yang
Harry Voorhees*
Willow Cheeley*
Melanie Cutler*
Beth Rasmussen*
Jon Unger*
Susie Bresney, MRWC
Amy Janovsky
Maria Bartlett *
Alan French
* = AGAB Member

- (7:00) Approve Jan. 12 ([link](#)) and Jan. 19 ([link](#)) meeting minutes
- 1/12/22 minutes were approved, **YES = 7, NO = 0, ABSTAIN = 0**
- 1/19/22 minutes were approved, **YES = 7, NO = 0, ABSTAIN = 0**
 - Update: Town Manager plans to come to an upcoming AGAB meeting to discuss the status of the Sustainability Goals
- (7:10) Merrimack River Watershed Council introduction ([link](#)) (Susan Bresney)
- Susie Bresney, Massachusetts Water Resources Program Manager
- About MRWC
 - 501C3 non-profit, offices in Lawrence and Concord, 8 staff

- Mission = improve and conserve the Merrimack River Watershed for people and wildlife through education, advocacy, recreation, and science
- Founded in 1976
- Today, waters are swimmable and fishable most days of the year
- Threats remaining: rapid development, climate change, old dams, CSOs, polluted stormwater runoff
- Highlights of programs that MRWC is working
 - Water quality monitoring at 13 sites along the river, volunteer-based
 - Focused on CSOs and bacteria levels
 - Measure TDS, conductivity, pH every 2 weeks and after CSO events
 - Post yearly report in March with data
 - Interactive dashboard will be released in March
 - Nonpoint source pollution regional coordinator
 - Regional scale, support municipalities in developing watershed-based plans including green infrastructure to reduce nonpoint source pollution
 - Working on a Watershed-based plan in the Spicket River (Lawrence and Methuen)
 - Identify issues and propose nature-based solutions
 - Starting March 2022
 - Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness project in Methuen / Lawrence
 - Focused on the Muddy Brook micro watershed
 - Working with City and Groundwork Lawrence on developing nature-based green infrastructure solutions
 - Community outreach and education, including interactive story map online. Includes water quality monitoring data.
 - Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness project in Tewksbury
 - Includes survey for residents about flooding
 - Will recommend green infrastructure solutions
 - Includes outreach and education events
 - River Restoration projects, multi-year
 - Watershed scale
 - Restoration partnerships: dam removals, culvert replacements, vegetative buffers, other restoration work
 - There are 500 dams on the Merrimack in MA and over 1000 in NH
 - Infrastructure funding from federal government includes money for dam removals
 - Education and outreach
 - Community engagement
 - Watershed scale
 - Education and outreach
 - Community events: trash cleanup, invasive species removal, tree planting, Shawsheen River Herring Count
 - Joyce and Bob Douglas have been focusing on the Shawsheen River for the Shawsheen Master Plan and the MVP work, including looking at

floodplain areas. Thinking about water quality and quantity concerns, invasive species, safety, recreation.

- Question: Is PFAS being monitored? Any ways to address dumping in the river? Where is most of the bacteria coming from?
- Answers: no illicit sewer connections or point source outfalls have been identified on the Shawsheen, so bacteria could be from both septic systems or stormwater runoff. Part of the MVP plan could be to identify septic tanks in the Shawsheen River watershed. MRWC has not done a lot around trash dumping mitigation in the river. MRWC is not currently monitoring for PFAS and doesn't plan to in the near future. It's difficult to get samples analyzed. The state has done some monitoring with some federal partners.
- Ideas for potential MRWC - Andover collaborations
 - TMDL for bacteria in the Shawsheen
 - Work to bring down bacteria levels
 - Watershed-wide coordination
 - Watershed based planning
 - Restoration partnership
 - Dam removals
 - Education and outreach
 - Community events
- (7:35) Proposed forestry project on Town land (Al French)
 - Piece of property along Fosters Pond, Route 125 near Wilmington and North Reading
 - About 30 acres owned by Town of Andover Conservation Commission
 - Street address = 0 Bypass, parcel 124-1
 - Could this be a community forestry property? Used to help offset climate change?
 - Grants are available for acquiring land for forestry, seeds to plant, build trails
 - Current town forest = Carmel Woods
 - Can get there from AVIS trails at Goldsmith Reservation along Route 28 or from pumping station along Route 125, where Andover, Wilmington, and North Reading meet
 - It's currently a former gravel pit
 - Towns are using forest land to sell carbon credits
 - Other towns that are doing this: Abington, Holbrook, Whitman
 - Could this be a possible location for ground-mounted solar?
 - Conservation Commission knows about the issue, but might not have the bandwidth now to take it on
 - Needs a champion to look into grant possibilities and land improvement options
 - Suggestion, ask Walter Kittridge (local botanist) about his interest in the property, he has a native plant nursery

- Had forestry plans developed 20 years ago, state recognized it as a potential forestry project
- (7:50) Sustainability updates (Joyce)
 - Mass Save Community First Partnership
 - We were selected by the MassSave program for 3 year, \$60k/year project to improve clean energy in our communities
 - Andover, North Andover, and Lawrence will work together
 - Formed team, led by Groundwork Lawrence (Heather McMann)
 - How to leverage the MassSave program with Merrimack Valley Renewal Fund
 - The towns will work together on getting access to MassSave services that we previously haven't been able to access: ex. Heat pump incentives, consultations, help homeowners to make decisions about heat pumps
 - Climate summit update - April 8 and 9
 - Joyce published the first Sustainability Newsletter, includes information about the Climate Summit
 - 1st day = plenary session, policy makers, legislators, businesses, NGOs, municipal leaders, youth leaders. Share best practices.
 - Focus on climate resilience for the municipal portion of the day.
 - Showcase examples of green infrastructure, etc.
 - 2nd day = Start Climate Action Plan. Initiate with a formal Climate Resolution and formally engage residents in a dialogue to develop the plan. Workshop is divided into 2 sessions.
 - To increase attendance, use the morning (10-12 pm) to hear from youth. ESIC interns, Destination Imagination team, etc.
 - Climate Rally has been canceled.
 - Registration is now open. Space is limited to 100 people,
 - Displays will be set up in the 1st floor of Old Town Hall
 - AGAB can help to advertise Climate Summit on social media
- (8:05) Possible board tasks
 - Help with Climate Summit planning and participate in the summit - Melanie and Jon
 - Nominating committee to fill vacancies - Amy and Maria
 - Lisa Schwarz has invited us to contribute to the town's Master Plan
 - Proposal to review bylaws and perhaps propose new bylaws for next year's town meeting - Maria and Beth
- (8:15) Other business and discussion
 - Maria - Town Yard meeting - town clarified procedure for choosing a developer for the site. The entire evaluation is posted online. Questions about who would own and maintain the "public space."

- Amy - building code updates. For 2050 path, there are 3 updates to energy efficiency code. The base code is being updated, the stretch code is being updated, and there will be a new specialized “opt-in” code for towns. There are drafts available online and Thursday, March 3 is the next public comment period for the northeast region. Excited about new codes utilizing heat pumps, more efficient building envelopes. These codes are pushing the industry forward. There will be 3 pathways in Massachusetts and all are improvements over existing code. Codes apply to new construction as an attempt to drive the market.
- Maria - new West EI building will use heat pumps. Question - If the school loses power, will it use a generator? What will the fuel source be for the generator?

Pasted from the Chat:

from Melanie Cutler she/her to everyone: 7:48 PM

Link for ordering trees (red maple, birch, or dogwood) for \$5 each for AHS Environmental Club fundraiser: <http://tpevents.org/school/2208>

from Susie Bresney MRWC to everyone: 7:50 PM

from Amy Latva-Kokko to everyone: 8:19 PM

<https://andoverma.gov/1021/Sustainability-Newsletter>

from Amy Latva-Kokko to everyone: 8:21 PM

You can sign up to get the newsletter at a link on that page

from Amy Latva-Kokko to everyone: 8:27 PM

April 8-9

from Amy Latva-Kokko to everyone: 8:30 PM

<https://andoverma.gov/1020/Climate-Summit-2022>

Here's my email if anyone has any more questions: susie@merrimack.org. Thank you

Pursuant to S.2475 “An Act Relative to Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency,” which was enacted into law on June 16, 2021, this meeting of the Andover Green Advisory Board will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible.

Members of the public who wish to participate in the meeting can do so by calling 978-623-8912, or by emailing joyce.losickyang@andoverma.us. Residents are encouraged to email their questions or comments ahead of the meeting – however, staff will be available to present the Andover Green Advisory Board with questions and comments received during the meeting. Please include your name and address with your question or comment.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so despite our best efforts, we will post on the Town’s website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.