



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 24, 2021, 7:00 pm

Link: <https://andover.webex.com/andover/j.php?MTID=mfde3fcd4166cae936653eef81eea08>

Meeting number: 129 258 0567 | Password: PMmfqipU883

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Join by video system | Dial 1292580567@andover.webex.com

You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.

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In Attendance:

Maria Bartlett *
Beth Rasmussen *
Jon Unger *
Anil Navkal *
Harry Voorhees *
Joyce Losick-Yang
Amy Latva-Kokko * (chair)
Melanie Cutler *
Brad Weeden
Patrick Roche, Good Energy

1. Review meeting minutes from Special CIP meeting January 4:

[link](#)

Minutes unanimously approved 7 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN

2. Review meeting minutes from January 27:[link](#)

Minutes unanimously approved 7 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN

3. Sustainable Solar harvesting in Andover

a. Aspirational goal: Move from SolSmart Bronze to Silver designation (Anil). ([Program Guide](#))

b. Framework for Solar projects ([Webinar Slides](#))

- 2017 - Town can qualify for SolSmart recognition, town completed an application for Cadmus. Cadmus suggested that the town fix zoning laws to make solar easier to install.
- SolSmart - funding from DOE, make it easier for people to install solar
- Cadmus helped Cambridge with CCA efforts
- SolSmart has a scorecard with different categories

- AGAB should recommend that the town work to get SolSmart Silver recognition
- Town has already passed solar bylaw
- Town gets extra points for implementing CCA program
- Cadmus Group is a trusted authority on solar in Massachusetts, helped to design net metering law
- Cadmus can help the town to prepare the application
- Why do it?
 - Create a to do list for sustainable activities (pp. 6-9 in the SolSmart document)
 - Establishes matrix for measuring progress
 - External help is available for free
 - We already have bronze certification
 - All checklist items align well with our sustainability goals
 - Will provide guidance and added motivation for public and private stakeholders to see value in local renewable clean energy
- Town database of building permits: 100 people have added solar to their houses/buildings last year
- Town now has over 150 houses with solar
- Last year, 10 people in Andover have purchased a Tesla Power Wall (battery to store solar power so that they can get electricity even when the grid is down)
- Being accepted for this program helps to address the soft cost component for solar installations.
- from Amy Latva-Kokko to everyone: 7:33 PM
 - <https://solsmart.org/news/200/>
 - "Cut permitting costs and save money for customers. A cumbersome permitting process alone can add \$700 to the cost of a single solar project. Gold-designated communities have reduced permitting time to no more than three days, which saves consumers and local governments time and money. For example, West Palm Beach, Florida started a "walk-through" permit process that takes as little as 15 minutes."
- Joyce will talk with Planning Department and other town offices about potentially moving forward with applying for Silver designation

Motion: AGAB suggests to the Town that they consider applying for SolSmart Silver Designation

Motion unanimously approved 7 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN

4. Surfaces we walk, run and play on, inside and out: (Follow up from 1/31/21) (Maria and Amy)

a. Flooring

- Healthy Building Network - Contains information and resources
- Homefree from Healthy Building Network
- Building Green Report - *Spec This, not That, 2020*:
 - Recommends what types of flooring to use (ex. PVC-free linoleum flooring such as linoleum or recycled content and recyclable plastic, Flooring

certified to Greenguard Gold, FloorScore Standard, or C2C v3 Bronze or higher, natural rubber - not tire derived) or not to use (ex. Vinyl flooring, flooring requiring maintenance with harsh chemicals, rubber flooring made from tires).

Motion: AGAB recommends that the Town AGAB recommends Town purchases for flooring in town buildings: PVC-free linoleum flooring such as linoleum or recycled content and recyclable plastic;

- Flooring certified to Greenguard Gold;
- Flooring certified to FloorScore Standard;
- Flooring certified to C2C v3 Bronze or higher;
- Natural rubber (not tire-derived)”

AGAB recommends that the Town avoids:

- Vinyl flooring, including LVT and sheet vinyl,
- Any flooring requiring maintenance with hazardous chemicals,
- Rubber flooring made from tires

Motion unanimously approved 7 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN

b. Athletic fields

- Amy and Maria developed a matrix for evaluating athletic field surface choices
- Which categories should the Town prioritize?
- Town should agree upon criteria for choosing a field surface option
- <https://homefree.healthybuilding.net/products/70-turf-hazard-spectrum>
- Add to the matrix: revenue potential
- Healthy Building Network has a prioritized list of types of field surfaces

Motion: AGAB recommends that Town use this matrix when considering types of field surfaces.

Motion unanimously approved 7 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN

Motion: AGAB recommends that Town use Healthy Building Network’s prioritized list when making decisions about field surface types.

Motion unanimously approved 7 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN

5. Sustainability CIP [Link](#) (Joyce)

- \$47K approved for Andover Climate Action Plan
- 3-phased project that culminates in a CAP
- 2021 - operations budget, greenhouse gas emissions inventory (mitigation) and hazards (MVP process) (resilience)
- 2022 - Community Climate Summit - mitigation and resilience, professional facilitators

- 2023 - Climate Action Plan - SMART goals, prioritization, resource loaded plan

6. AGAB Support for the CCA Design and Draft Aggregation Plan (Joyce)

- 283-page document is draft plan from CCA Design Team
- Options:
 - Standard - 15% local renewable energy (Mass Class I) + state percentage (on par with comparable communities)
 - Basic
 - Opt-Up
- Want Andover to be among the top tier towns for standard option
- Document includes education and outreach plan
- Will have 2-week public comment period to give the public a chance to weigh in on the plan
- Anil: page 14 - municipality “may” support the development of renewable energy sources. Patrick Roche, Good Energy, will check with lawyers to ask why the word “may” was used, instead of “shall” or “intends to”
- Anil: Product names: ex. Andover 15, Andover 100. Change names to something like “bronze, gold, silver”? Patrick Roche: challenge because names have to be explicitly explained in literature, can make educational materials longer.
- Select Board has to approve the document before it gets sent to DPU
- While the public review is happening, DOER will also be reviewing the document and we'll have DOER's comments before the document goes before the Select Board
- Anil: would like to communicate to the Select Board to extend the Design Board's work to be able to make changes in the future. Should be put this formally in the document?
- Should we be more specific about what types of energy we will accept?
- Patrick: Plan specifies Mass Class I Recs as the focus. Language allows the town to evaluate different classes of recs or policy changes. Leaves the plan open enough so that it doesn't have to go back to DPU to be changed.
- Top of page 20: Select Board can set criteria for considering bids
- The Model Electricity Service Agreement is the contract that governs the provider, and that can be more specific.
- Public comment period will begin soon

Proposed Special AGAB Meeting:

March 10, 7 pm - members of the West EI Design Team will present to AGAB to talk about the project

- ~~7. Publicly Accessible EV Charging Station Update (Joyce)~~
- ~~8. Andover's Membership to ICLEI (Joyce)~~
- ~~9. West Elementary Sustainability (Anil and Amy)~~
- ~~10. Solar ground mounted on Reichold ConsCom property: land trade with 64 Tucker Road Town land? (Maria)~~
- ~~11. Pesticide Project update (Maria)~~
- ~~12. MVP grants funding for Shawsheen River plan in CIP?~~

Public folder for this AGAB meeting: <https://bit.ly/GAB-20210224-Folder>

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Andover Green Advisory Board will be conducted via remote participation. For this meeting, the attendees will be able to access the video conference or join by phone, as well as ask questions by texting the moderator. Additionally, the meeting will be recorded, and the materials will be made publicly available at a later date.