



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 24, 2021, 7:00 pm

Link: <https://bit.ly/GAB-20210324-WEBEX>

Meeting number: **129 652 2661** | Meeting password: **c4T2SFFnr3**

Join by video system: **Dial 1296522661@andover.webex.com**

Join by phone **+1-408-418-9388** United States Toll Access code: **129 652 2661**

In attendance:

Anil Navkal *

Amy Latva-Kokko **

Maria Bartlett *

Carolyn Dann

Harry Voorhees *

Joyce Losick-Yang

Jonathan Unger *

Brad Weeden

Beth Rasmussen *

Joel Blumsten

Melanie Cutler *

* = AGAB member

** = AGAB chair

1. Warrant articles to review/support

Sanborn Solar Warrant Articles P21, P22, and P23 (Joyce): [link](#)

Warrant article P21: Authorize electricity supply / on bill credit purchase agreements at Sanborn School.

In order to install rooftop solar on Sanborn School after the roof has been replaced. Would allow the School Committee to enter into agreements with the solar owner, typically from 15 - 20 years. On bill credit = if town does not own the solar system, it can purchase the electricity supply from the solar panels at a discounted rate over basic

service. When you purchase electricity in excess of your own needs, you may apply that electricity credit to other electricity bills. Solar panels would produce about 180% of the school's needs, so there would be about 80% extra that could be used as credit on other town electricity bills. Report used conservative estimates. Solar panels owner could get substantial tax rebate on the system, about 26%, net \$260K. The particular block in which the system is connected to determines how much of a rebate would be available. Once the blocks are filled up, it could be a missed opportunity. Question about what the financial difference would be if the town owned the panels itself: ownership vs PPA (power purchase agreement). Good idea to crunch the numbers both ways, but more information is needed, first. This project could set precedent for other solar projects in town. Could the town get a better sense of the actual numbers before we decide whether to pursue the solar panels with the Town as owner vs as a PPA. Would the town receive bids for both different options and then make a decision? Joyce will talk with the Town Clerk and Town Council.

Warrant article P22: Authorize lease of land / rooftop space at Sanborn School for Solar Photovoltaic Facilities

Warrant article P23: Authorize agreements for payment in lieu of taxes at Sanborn School.

Motion: We support Warrant Articles P21, P22, and P23. AGAB recommends that the Town also consider an ownership model, based on an updated analysis of town ownership vs. PPA.

VOTE: 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 abstain

2. **Review meeting minutes from February 24th meeting:** [link](#)

VOTE: 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 abstain

3. **Review meeting minutes from March 10th Special meeting:** [link](#)

VOTE: 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 abstain

4. Tabled items from February 24th:

- a. **Publicly Accessible EV Charging Station Update (Joyce)**

AHS Environmental Club students are working with Joyce to explore the possibility of installing EV charging stations in the AHS parking lot
Identified possible parking spots in the AHS parking lot

Joyce looked into Mass EVIP grant funding. Grant program will run out of money at some point.

Considering upfront cost of the chargers plus the operating costs of the charging stations.

Yearly O&M costs about \$1800, so 2 units would be around \$3600

Pursue grant funding first, then think about perhaps including EV charging stations into CIP for the future

b. Solar ground-mounted on Reichold ConsCom property: land trade with 46 Tucker Road Town land? (Maria)

46 Tucker Road is town-owned land, near conservation and AVIS land
Would town want to trade the Reichold land with the Tucker Road land in order to consider putting solar on the Reichold property?
Worth a discussion with the people who are involved with the property.
Is Tucker Road actually conservation land?

c. Pesticide Project update (Maria)

Project has been put on hold for a while. Will pursue it again next year and look for grants. Rebecca Chou, AHS ESIC intern, has written a blog post on nicotinoids and alternatives that will be posted on the WECAN website.

d. MVP grants funding for Shawsheen River plan in CIP? (Maria)

Would state grants be available for area along the banks of the Shawsheen River? ConsCom has an article written to come up with a Shawsheen River plan. Maybe the Andover Trails group could help?

<http://www.andovertrails.org/shawsheen-river-greenway.html>

Or the Shawsheen River Watershed group: <https://shawsheenriver.net/>
Planning Department? Who would take the lead on this?

5. West Elementary: Debrief of March 10 meeting and next steps

a. EUIs of recent school projects - (Anil)

b. EUI numbers for town buildings - (Anil/Joyce)

EUI = Energy Use Intensity = kBTU/ft²/year

2019 EUI data: Shawsheen EUI = 50, West EI = 103 (West = highest of all schools)

Energy cost / student Shawsheen and West are highest \$611 and \$304, respectively (highest of all schools)

New West EI school will be about \$100/student, so big decrease in costs.

AHS EUI = 47 (relatively good)

If school is used a lot after hours, it can change the energy use of the building

Other towns:

Ex. Lexington, cut its EUI in half (see Anil's slides for details), partially by installing geothermal energy

Ex. Belmont: reduction from 62 to 30 EUI. LED lights, radiant floors, geexchange loop

6. Geothermal microgrid pilot grant update - Harry

Some money available for geothermal microgrid district projects.

Nonprofit "Heat" and Eversource are working on a project, will begin construction soon. That is too soon for the town's project.

Would money from the Columbia Gas Settlement Fund be available for use for geothermal at the Old Town Yard site?

The process for that will go through the MA Attorney General's office, will issue an RFP. Eversource will be in charge of 2 separate pilots (they are natural gas suppliers).

Opportunity for them to use their subterranean pipe expertise to work on ground-source geothermal projects. Distribution system could involve multiple buildings. Has important implications for cost models and electrification future. Could these projects be scaled up to incorporate waste heat from other buildings into a new heating system.

Could the developer of the Old Town Yard site become involved in these district-wide projects?

Prepare for all electric heat-pump based future in town buildings?

Utility model where company pays for infrastructure, rather than private developers.

We'll watch the Eversource pilot projects to see how they go.

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/merrimack-valley-clean-energy-energy-efficiency-programs>

Public Folder for Meeting: <https://bit.ly/GAB-20210324-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.