



Minutes

Wednesday, May 25, 2022, 7:00 pm

2nd floor conference room, Town Offices, Bartlet Street

In Attendance:

Joyce Losick-Yang (on conference call)
Melanie Cutler (on conference call) *
Maria Bartlett *
Jon Unger *
Amy Latva-Kokko *
Beth Rasmussen *
Harry Voorhees *
Anna Du
Vijayant Kumar

* AGAB board member

1. Approve April 27 minutes

Approved unanimously YES - 5, NO - 0, ABSTAIN - 1

2. Board membership update (Harry)

Zona Sharfman is leaving AGAB. We thank her for her service.

Potential new members:

Vijayant Kumar - Background in renewable energy projects.

Anna Du - Phillips Academy student. Project to identify microplastics in ocean, another project on clean energy. Started nonprofit called Deep Plastic Initiative. Also started blog and youtube channel. Wrote book about her journey. Website: annadu.org

3. Sustainability coordinator's report and goals update (Joyce)

a. C-PACE

Commercial Property-Assessed Clean Energy. For commercial buildings, including large condo and apartment complexes. Municipality is expected to assess property and bill residents for clean energy. Financial instrument that allows commercial entities to make energy efficiency improvements and investments. Projects are supposed to save as much money in energy costs as the loan. Overall goal - reducing carbon footprint. Select Board is looking for a business interested in joining the program. Other towns have approved it. A large proportion of Andover's GHG emissions come from commercial entities. Needed to meet the town's net zero goals. Joyce talked with Schneider Electric this week.

b. Grants

Town is working on Merrimack Valley Renewal Fund \$500k grant proposal. Would be used to purchase 300 KW rooftop solar system for Sanborn School. Town and state would share cost. Would include going solar first, then switching to heat pumps to make the building entirely electric. Town would own the system.

Town is working on Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Project grant to address flooding in the Shawsheen River.

Town is working with FEMA/MEMA to work on multi-hazard mitigation plan for local climate mitigation (flooding, urban heat, increase of vector-borne illnesses)

Question about MS4 stormwater management. DPW is in charge of the town's stormwater permits. To qualify for EPA grants, you need a watershed-based management plan. Merrimack River Watershed Council is working on a plan. In Andover, we'd have to work with both Merrimack and Shawsheen River watersheds.

c. Heat pump program

Pursuing some grants to help with this.

Mass CEC has a new pathway = "Decarbonization Pathways Pilot" program. Looking for residents to undergo a complementary decarbonization survey at their homes. By Katelyn Buckley, Building Decarbonization Fellow. <https://www.masscec.com/decarbonization-pathways>

Could an organization in town come up with \$50K to use Abode to help residents obtain heat pumps?

d. Net zero energy stretch code

No new updates from the state DOER

e. Sustainability and planning (Harry)

Planning Department and AGAB should plan to meet to update bylaws. Rewrite of the bylaws did not pass at Town Meeting.

f. Complete streets policy (Willow)

Draft policy has been written and Select Board will vote on it at the 6/13 meeting. Joyce projected a draft version of the policy. Harry, Willow and others on working committee had also prepared a draft. Will look at them to compare.

g. Tree policy (Maria)

Meeting last week of interested residents. Willow and Randy Hanson will work on a "Street Tree Replacement Policy". Goal is to ask the Town Manager to establish a Town Tree Management Task Force. Look at other towns' tree policies. Will AGAB support this 2-step process?

4. Chandler Road Park Family property ideas (Maria)

Used shared Google Document to brainstorm comments and suggestions.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Y3ACtCjy_hB9YiFI6NQrEdnLDtbf9wNcw1Lji2vAFfc/edit?usp=sharing

Added examples of good playground and family park ideas.

Would like to avoid artificial turf, which can contain PFAS.

Edit a draft with principles that AGAB supports. Can add examples. Reference existing Town project exemplars.

5. Other business / discussion

Update on Hussain's study of chloride (salt) levels in the Shawsheen River. Seem to be trending down over time, less than EPA's limit.

Pasted from the chat:

from Joyce Losick-Yang to everyone: 7:18 PM

<https://msi.harvard.edu/people/peter-girguis>

from Joyce Losick-Yang to everyone: 7:19 PM

check out his microbial fuel cell work!

from Melanie Cutler she/her to everyone: 7:47 PM

<https://andoverma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/224/Stormwater-Bylaw-PDF?bidId=>

from Melanie Cutler she/her to everyone: 7:47 PM

Town's Stormwater Bylaw

<https://www.masscec.com/decarbonization-pathways>

Upcoming Dates:

9/24 = Andover Day and Sustainability Fair

Upcoming AGAB Meetings:

6/22 - virtual meeting

7/27

8/24

9/24