

Town of Harvard Energy Advisory Committee

BRIAN SMITH – CHAIR
DAVID FAY
FORREST HODGKINS
PETER KELLY-JOSEPH
ELLEN SACHS-LEICHER

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:
STUDENT MEMBER:
LIAISONS:

PAUL GREEN
OPEN
KARA MINAR, SELECT BOARD
SUSANMARY REDINGER, SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SUSANMARY REDINGER, CAPITAL PLANNING
CHARLES OLIVER, FINANCE COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes 6/8/22

Attendees: B. Smith, D. Fay, P. Kelly-Joseph, F. Hodgkins, E. Sachs Leicher
P. Green (PT), K. Minar (PT)

Location: **This Meeting was held virtually in accordance with Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, An Act Relative to Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency and signed into law on June 16, 2021**
Zoom Meeting ID: 859 5384 8207

	Meeting Discussion/Status
Admin	1. HEAC approved the minutes of 5/11/22 4-0 without comment.
Schools	1. HES Solar 260 kW DC Behind the Meter project – a. Need NGRID bill to report actual usage instead of calculated. – no change
Energy Initiatives	1. Net Zero Emissions Plan (Decarbonization) – Funded by DOER/MRPC and performed by John Snell. Municipal Buildings/Operations – This is a roadmap for the Town to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. a. Latest draft (4/11) of the Municipal Decarbonization plan – No comments discussed. b. Latest draft (5/22) of the Community Decarbonization plan – Members to review and comment. c. Review with Town stakeholders – HEAC and HCIC provided updates to the Select Board on June 7 on the Climate and Decarbonization plans. The primary feedback was for HCIC to 1) create a proposed climate impact assessment tool and, 2) identify grant programs available that would justify hiring a town resource to dedicate to grant writing. 2. CCA for residential energy supply – Plan expires in Nov 2022. Pricing is very volatile and Colonial recommends a short term contract. Need update from Colonial on latest status.
Town Energy Project Updates	1. Green Community Program a. GC2021 Spring Competitive grant approved award received for the projects below managed through Energy Conservation Inc. i. Library Weatherization – Phase 1 insulation in Library attic/roof space. – Material (spray foam) issues are resolved but the contractor has delays due to availability of labor and training new employees. Target late June, early July for the work. Brian to obtain schedule for weatherization at library. b. Future Projects – Forrest discussed with Patrick Harrigan and suggested Unit Ventilators in the Bromfield classrooms. The next round is in the Fall and proposals need to be finalized by end of summer. – no change c. Quarterly Report- Brian to prepare next report and submit to DOER. 2. Charging Station – Possible locations are listed below. A visit to screen additional locations is being coordinated by Brian between ECI and Jeff Hayes. – One visit completed; one more expected. a. HES – SusanMary stated that there is a need for another charger next to the existing charger. b. Library – Input from Library Trustees – prefer location at end of parking lot away from building; may require new service; facilitates standard or fast charger. c. Bromfield – The spots by the courts are closest to the electric panels for connecting the charger conductors. Some prefer to have it be in front and be more visible. d. Town Hall – limited spots but supported by Town. e. Other areas – Harvard Park (track); commercial district? f. Fire/Police stations – Need fast chargers.

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	<p>The MA state EVIP program should provide 100% of the funds required for the equipment and installation, for publicly available chargers.</p> <p>3. Streetlights – Next step is to evaluate a sample light installation in the historic district. David requested National Grid to install a sample fixture. Based on the availability of the fixtures, the work is expected to be completed in July. – A neighbor complaint was received because the test fixture was installed in the wrong location.</p> <p>4. Vehicles – Possible vehicles to replace with electric – Fire/Police: Ford Explorers (5), Dodge Chargers (2) F150 (1). Green Community may offer \$10-15k toward a replacement vehicle.</p> <p>a. Vehicle Hybrid Police Car grants and rebates – Peter to review with Chief Babu. This will include any Green Community incentives. May need to delay payment of the vehicle approved for this year until Fall. Brian to send details about the GC grant to Peter. Goal is to include 2 vehicles for the application.</p> <p>b. Fleet Electrification – Forrest/Peter attended a call with the NGRID consultant that offers a review and plan for electrification of the vehicle fleet. Forrest provided the detailed vehicle inventory for review.</p> <p>5. Solar (Photovoltaic) Strategy – HEAC is evaluating potential of several locations:</p> <p>a. Public Safety Building – Define by summer 2022 for the FY24 Capital plan. HEAC to investigate procurement strategy with Marie Sobalvarro. Next actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Investigate PPA/Lease vs Own.2. Evaluate Interconnect impact with NGRID.3. Evaluate with the solar readiness of the building with Chief Babu, Jeff Hayes and Tim Bragan. The building was built in 2007; need to determine if the roof needs to be replaced.4. Solect reviewed the electric panel. From a Solar PV PPA perspective, this project is marginal. <p>b. COA Building –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Solect reviewed the COA building for PV solar and stated that this building ideal for solar and highest potential for a project in Harvard. <p>c. Stow Road Gravel Pit – Solect confirmed there is 3 phase power on Stow Road.</p> <p>d. Bromfield – Solect evaluated installation of parking lost canopies and considers this a low potential for a PPA project due to the size and costs.</p> <p>6. COA Building Heat Pumps</p> <p>a. The bids were received for the project and the two HVAC bids were significantly over the budget provided by the architect. The other line items were within a reasonable range. The architect suspects that the reason is due to the high demand for heat pumps. Other possible reasons are architect basis, demand for HVAC and Electrical contractors, low number of bids, chip shortage, price gouging etc. The entire project would have to be re-bid to attempt to receive more reasonable bids. This will subject the Town to the risk that there will not be an improvement to the HVAC bids and cost increases in other line items, due to the current tight supply chain and labor markets.</p> <p>b. Town Administration contacted HEAC to request grant funds to address the shortfall. HEAC is not aware of any immediate source of funds. The next Green Community grant round is scheduled for the Fall 2022 with any award being received in Spring 2023. There is a NGRID enhanced incentive available independent of the funding mechanism. A source of funds is needed before the bids expire on July 15.</p> <p>c. The importance of having electric heat pumps on the COA building was emphasized. The building is ideal for rooftop PV solar which is in the planning stage. Heat pumps will provide heating and air conditioning. Electric heat pumps address the electrification and decarbonization goals for all Town Buildings and minimizes lifecycle costs. Any change to a natural gas-fired system would increase emission and requires</p>
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	<p>a separate air conditioning system.</p> <p>d. HEAC supports all actions needed to fund the overage and keep heat pumps in the project, including a Town meeting and associated education of the public. Brian to notify the Permanent Building Committee.</p> <p>e. A motion was proposed, seconded and voted unanimously 5-0 to be sent to the Select Board and Town Administration.</p> <p>-- "HEAC recommends that there be no change to the requirement that heat pumps be specified for the HVAC system in the COA project."</p>
Membership	No update.
	Meeting adjourned 9:45 pm (voted 5-0).
Future Meetings	2022: Jul 13, Aug 10, Sep 14, Oct 12, Nov 9, Dec 14 HEAC Meeting Location/Time: 8 pm. – Virtual until further notice