

Town of Harvard Energy Advisory Committee

BRIAN SMITH – CHAIR
DAVID FAY
PAUL GREEN
FORREST HODGKINS
ELLEN SACHS-LEICHER

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:
STUDENT MEMBER:
LIAISONS:

PETER KELLY-JOSEPH
OPEN
KARA MINAR, SELECT BOARD
SUSANMARY REDINGER, SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SUSANMARY REDINGER, CAPITAL PLANNING
TBD, FINANCE COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes 4/28/21

Attendees: B. Smith, F. Hodgkins, E. Sachs-Leicher, Peter Kelly-Joseph
SusanMary Redinger (PT)

Location: **This Meeting was held virtually in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L.c.30A. S.20.;**
Zoom Meeting ID: 828 5071 9463

| | Meeting Discussion/Status |
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| Admin | 1. The minutes of 3/31/21 were approved 3-0 without comment. |
| Schools | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> HES Existing Solar Panels ~6kW – The panels were auctioned on govdeals.com; pickup required by April. Status unknown. HES Solar ~245 kW Behind the Meter project earliest June 2021– <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Interconnect Application – Pending approval by NGRID, likely in May. Lease Agreement – The Town Meeting article was approved by the Select Board. Solect Energy provided revised PPA, Lease and PILOT documents due to the favorable revised PPA rates. Anti-Idling Campaign – Green Team has created signs to be printed at the schools (TBS) to discourage idling during drop-off and pick-up times. They have a low-cost source to print the signs and are interested in finding a funding source, including applying for grants. – Work is in process; Ellen has been attending the meetings. Air Conditioning at Bromfield – The replacement project \$150k has been started. |
| Town Energy Project Updates | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Green Community Program <ol style="list-style-type: none"> GC2021 Spring Competitive grant application submitted on time April 8 for just under the max \$200k.– projects recommended by Energy Conservation Inc. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bromfield Transformers – high efficiency/re-sizing – Proposed. Library Weatherization - insulation opportunities are limited to Library attic spaces. Phase 1 for the roof deck was proposed. Bromfield Weatherization – mainly air sealing, door sweeps. – Included in the proposed application. Bromfield Mechanical/Electrical – ECI proposed small 3-5 hp VFDs and high efficiency motors for the air handling systems. – Not proposed. Forrest explained the concerns about the project to ECI. HEAC considered the high efficiency motors only but there was no NGRID incentive for that measure. Project will be reconsidered during the next grant round. SiteSage software license extension (~\$5k for 3 years) – Proposed. TBS Court Lighting – replace with LED for energy and maintenance savings. Proposed. Fire Dept and Police Dept lighting. – ECI audited the Center Fire Dept for a lighting retrofit but was not added to the project list due to low usage and therefore low energy savings and payback. This project will be considered for the next round. MassEnergize – this is a software tool for the Town to offer residents for greenhouse gas tracking. The cost is \$750 to join and \$450/year. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ellen is planning to work with the Green team to help promote. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">ii. HEAC recommends paying for this service out of the residual energy grant accounts. Motion: “To join the MassEnergize program using funds remaining from prior Green Community grants and to cover the cost of three years of participation with MassEnergize (\$1650).” Approved with a vote of 3-0 (Brian, Ellen, Forrest).iii. The Climate Working Group will implement this software and communicate/launch to the community. <ul style="list-style-type: none">2. Library Energy Use Review –Forrest explained he is working with Pete Jackson to evaluate BMS data for the Air Handling Unit. – no update5. Charging Station – HEAC is working with ECI to evaluate charging stations at five locations:<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. HES – Brian to provide background and drawings to ECI for review. – to be reviewed by ECI. There is a concern with having to expand a space to include a handicapped accessible spot.b. Library – Brian has discussed with the Library Trustees; evaluating if the Bromfield Trustees need to approve. Also evaluating whether modifying any spots affects the basis for the Library site requirements.c. Bromfield – The spots recommended are in the back by the courts which are closer to the electric panels for connecting the charger conductors. Some prefer to have it be in front and be more visible.d. The Town locations above and the Town Hall and General Store proposed by ECI were discussed at the 3/16 Select Board meeting. The General Store area has limited space. The island across the street was discussed as a possibility but this is considered conservation land and adding parking spots is not feasible. Town Hall has limited space but agreed as a possibility despite the charger spots would reduce the spots available for non-electric vehicles. Brian will put together a listing of each location and the issues associated with each.e. The Fast-Charging EVIP program application deadline was 3/19/21. The MA state EVIP program should provide 100% of the funds required for the equipment and installation. Brian to review project with Peter to determine next steps.6. Streetlights – Conversion to LED. There are 44 streetlights eligible to be replaced saving up to \$1600 a year and a one-time \$3400 bonus. There are 4000K fixtures available now and 3000K in the future; the SB indicated a desire for the warmer 3000K lights. Discussion points are the light color/brightness level, exempting antique fixtures, or exempting specific locations. NGRID will send a list of the locations - received. HEAC to prepare a proposal by fixture. – Current thought is to wait for the 3000K lights. NGRID does not have LED replacements for the antique lights. There will be a review of all locations. – no update7. Solar strategy – Kara expressed interest in reviving the effort to have a global review of solar opportunities in Town. An example presented was the Town gravel pit that could be used for ground mount solar. DLTA grants may be available to review the feasibility. The solar overlay district could be expanded to include additional locations. Brian to evaluate plan with Kara. – The new Revenue Ideation Committee includes a representative from HEAC (nobody volunteers but will review). Kara explained the purpose of the committee.to explore revenue opportunities, including solar PV installations on Town property. |
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| Subcommittees/ Initiatives | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Community Resiliency Working group CRWG <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Consultant KLA issued a framework for a Climate Action Plan Ellen reported that there is a need for a volunteer to be a resource for the Heatsmart program. Energy Policy Subcommittee (Chair Paul Green)– Article supporting the MA greenhouse gas reduction goals (currently net zero by 2050) – Scheduled for Fall Town meeting. HEAC is requested to provide a representative for the Revenue Ideation committee. Kara explained the purpose of the committee to explore revenue opportunities. One idea is to establish a plan for solar PV installations on Town owned property. |
| Membership | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A motion was made to recommend that Peter Kelly-Joseph become a voting member of HEAC for FY22. Peter is knowledgeable in many relevant areas to our work and has engaged in several committees/groups as chair (MVP and associated Working Groups) representing HEAC. HEAC voted 3-0 in favor (Brian, Ellen, Forrest) Brian to remove old members from the Google group. |
| | Meeting adjourned 9:08 pm (voted 3-0) |
| Future Meetings | <p>2021 May 12 (guest Chris Roy) Jun 9, Jul 14, Aug 11</p> <p>HEAC Meeting Location/Time: 8 pm. – Virtual until further notice</p> |