

Town of Harvard Energy Advisory Committee

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

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:
STUDENT MEMBER:
LIAISONS:

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

Meeting Minutes 7/13/22

Attendees: B. Smith, D. Fay, F. Hodgkins, E. Sachs Leicher
K. Miner, S. Redinger; Guest: Resident Carl Sciple

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 6/8/22 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 b. The PPA rate was reduce to 9.1 cents/kWh (\$25k year savings) 2. The Schools are contracting an overall assessment is planned for the Bromfield School. SusanMary stated the goal is to include an energy portion of the building and systems review.
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 – No comments discussed. c. Review with Town stakeholders – next review TBD 2. CCA for residential energy supply – Plan expires in Nov 2022. Pricing is very volatile and Colonial Power recommends a short-term contract. Need update from Colonial on latest status. a. HEAC determined that the Town Administration decided to not involve HEAC in the renewal analysis of plan options. HEAC reviewed a draft letter to the Select Board to request that HEAC be involved and identify the critical elements of the selected plan. b. The letter should identify that the default option is to be 100% renewable to support the Community Decarbonization plan and the plan is to remain opt-out. This is consistent with the original plan. c. HEAC also wants to be involved with the final selection to be able to explain to residents the plan details and answer questions. d. HEAC voted 4-0 for Brian Smith to finalize the letter based on the above and submit to the Select Board.
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. Air Barrier Solutions has been preparing for the work to be started 7/18 and completed by 7/29. Tim Bragan requested that Jeff Hayes be involved in all Town Building projects. 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. – Brian to review results with ECI.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. HES – SusanMary stated that there is a need for another charger next to the existing charger. ECI states that there is room in the existing conduit for one additional dual charger but need to confirm there are breakers available. 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. – ECI proposes to put charger in lower (TBS) lot. 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. g. COA – Tim Bragan stated that this is not an acceptable location because they do not want to lose handicapped spaces. <p>The MA state EVIP program should provide 100% of the funds required for the equipment and installation, for publicly available chargers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Streetlights – Next step is to evaluate a sample light installation in the historic district. David requested National Grid to install a sample fixture. The test fixture was installed in the wrong location. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Carl Sciple of Fairbanks Street requested an update of the progress of moving the test fixture or reducing the brightness. David Fay is expediting a response from the new NGRID Account Manager. b. The Historical Commission had a public hearing about the lights earlier in the year. Goal is to have a full range of options about type of fixture/light and location for the Town to consider. Residents can request to the Town Administrator that a specific streetlight be removed. 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Call set up with DOER, Chief Babu, Brian Smith, and Peter Kelly-Joseph for 7/15 to explain the grant process. b. Fleet Electrification – Forrest is working with Town staff to identify the vehicle inventory and usage information for the NGRID consultant. 5. Solar (Photovoltaic) Strategy – HEAC is evaluating potential of several locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Public Safety Building –Define by summer 2022 for the FY24 Capital plan. HEAC to investigate procurement strategy with Marie Sobalvarro. Next actions: <ul 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. Select reviewed the electric panel. From a Solar PV PPA perspective, this project is marginal. b. COA Building – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Select reviewed the COA building for PV solar and stated that this building ideal for solar and highest potential for a project in Harvard. Confirmed a new roof is not needed. Select can prepare on LOI to start the process and lock in the incentive. A decision needs to be made about direct purchase or PPA. This project will be coordinated with the Permanent Building Committee.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">c. Stow Road Gravel Pit – Select confirmed there is three phase power on Stow Road. – Select considers this an attractive project for a PPA because of the large size and geography.d. Bromfield – Select evaluated installation of parking lost canopies and considers this a low potential for a PPA project due to the size and costs. <p>6. COA Building Heat Pumps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. HEAC input was sent to the Town Administration and Select Board on 6/16. The Town Administration has decided to allocate ARPA funds to address the cost overrun for the heat pumps. There is a ~\$45k NGRID incentive available. <p>7. Town Energy Assessment – Tim Bragan requested that HEAC coordinate an energy assessment of Town Facilities with Jeff Hayes. This is a requirement for certain grants. Forrest Hodgkins and David Fay to take the lead on this effort.</p>
Membership	No update.
	Meeting adjourned 9:30 pm (voted 4-0).
Future Meetings	2022: Aug 10, Sep 14, Oct 12, Nov 9, Dec 14 HEAC Meeting Location/Time: 8 pm. – Virtual until further notice