

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 2/11/21

Attendees: B. Smith, D. Fay, F. Hodgkins, P. Green, E. Sachs-Leicher, Peter Kelly-Joseph
SusanMary Redinger

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: 864 1960 2143

	Meeting Discussion/Status
Admin	1. The minutes of 1/13/21 were approved 5-0 without comment.
Schools	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> HES Existing Solar Panels ~6kW – The panels are being auctioned on govdeals.com through 2/25/21. HES Solar ~245 kW Behind the Meter project earliest June 2021– <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Interconnect Application – Pending approval by NGRID. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lease Agreement – This needs to be approved at Town meeting. HEAC voted unanimously 5-0 in favor of proposing the following article to the Select Board. <p>“To see if the Town will vote to lease the roof of the new Harvard Elementary School to Solect Energy Development, LLC for the purpose of installing and operating a solar photovoltaic system. The details of the lease will be negotiated by the Select Board. (Inserted by the Harvard Energy Advisory Committee)”</p> Roof Warranty – David will coordinate a discussion about the Town's roof warranty concerns with Joe Tardif, Alice Von Loesecke and the HES Project Manager. The issues are addressed by verifying that the solar installer, Solect Energy, will comply with the roof manufacturer's procedure to maintain the warranty.
Town Energy Project Updates	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Green Community Program <ol style="list-style-type: none"> GC2021 Spring Competitive grant application due April 9 (rebate applications will also be sent to NGRID to lock in incentives)–Energy Conservation Inc. is reviewing opportunities. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bromfield Transformers –ECI is developing a list of dry type transformer replacements and has initially identified qty 8 of different sizes. The transformers are for mainly plug loads and it is important to HEAC to ensure the loads are monitored over several weeks (prefer a month) to understand the typical loads and be able to allow for future growth. NGRID covers ~45% of the cost. Library/Bromfield Weatherization – mainly air sealing, door sweeps; insulation opportunities are limited to Library attic spaces. Bromfield Mechanical/Electrical – ECI is working to define a project to add small 3-5 hp VFDs for the air handling systems. SiteSage software extension (~\$5k for 3 years) – evaluate whether to extend for TBS and the Library. We would need to estimate the savings to qualify for GC funds. Library Energy Use Review –Forrest explained he is working with Pete Jackson to evaluate BMS data for the Air Handling Unit. Also, he is evaluating whether to continue the SiteSage software.

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	<p>3. Charging Station – HEAC is working with ECI to evaluate charging stations at three locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. HES – Brian to provide background and drawings to ECI for review. b. Library – Brian has had preliminary discussion with Davida Bagatelle of the Library Trustees about the possibility of adding a charging station. c. Bromfield – HEAC discussed comments on the Green team survey. The survey will be issued to staff and students at Bromfield to evaluate the demand for a charging station. d. Town Hall – It was suggested that the site review should also include a review of the Town Hall parking lot. <p>The MA state EVIP program should provide 100% of the funds required for the equipment and a good portion of the installation depending on the location. There is a new program for a Fast-Charging station which requires a larger footprint and additional equipment.</p> <p>4. Streetlights – Conversion to LED. On the Feb 3 Select Board meeting, the Select Board approved proceeding with a NGRID streetlight replacement program. 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. HEAC to prepare a proposal by fixture. David will start this effort.</p> <p>5. 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. – No Update.</p>
Subcommittees/ Initiatives	<p>1. Community Resiliency Working group CRWG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Consultant KLA issued a framework for a Climate Action Plan <p>2. Energy Policy Subcommittee (Chair Paul Green)–</p> <p>The subcommittee recommended that an article supporting the MA greenhouse gas reduction goals be approved at Town meeting. The recommendation is that the Town goal support the MA goal including any future changes to the policy. The goal is to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 but subject to change. HEAC voted unanimously 5-0 in favor of proposing the following article to the Select Board.</p> <p>“To see if the Town of Harvard will affirm its support for the greenhouse gas reduction goals established by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and for any subsequently adopted modifications of those goals, and will affirm its willingness to change its practices, policies, and procedures in support of achieving the goals established by the Commonwealth.”</p> <p>(Inserted by the Harvard Energy Advisory Committee)</p> <p>A plan is needed to prepare for Town meeting, including public outreach/FAQs; plan to request help from the Climate Working Group.</p> <p>3. Net Zero Stretch Code – HEAC discussed sending a letter of support for this new code to the BBRS along with other communities. Ellen sent the draft letter to the Select Board for endorsement.</p> <p>4. MassEnergize – this is a software tool for the Town to offer residents for</p>

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	greenhouse gas tracking. The cost is \$750 to join and \$450/year. HEAC is investigating ways to pay for this tool with the Climate Working Group.
	Meeting adjourned 9:25 pm (voted 5-0)
Future Meetings	2021 Mar 10 Apr 14 May 12 Jun 9 HEAC Meeting Location/Time: 8 pm. – Virtual until further notice