

# 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 3/31/21

Attendees: B. Smith, D. Fay, F. Hodgkins, P. Green, 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: 826 6974 9025**

	Meeting Discussion/Status
Admin	1. The minutes of 3/10/21 were approved 5-0 without comment.
Schools	1. HES Existing Solar Panels ~6kW – The panels were auctioned on govdeals.com; pickup required by April. Funds go to CPIC account. 2. HES Solar ~245 kW Behind the Meter project earliest June 2021– a. Interconnect Application – Pending approval by NGRID due 4/1. b. Lease Agreement – The Town Meeting article was approved by the Select Board. 3. 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.
Town Energy Project Updates	1. Green Community Program a. GC2021 Spring Competitive grant application due April 9 DOER evaluates by aggregate project savings instead of picking individual projects; \$200k max funding –Energy Conservation Inc. is reviewing opportunities. i. Bromfield Transformers – high efficiency/re-sizing – Forrest asked for the savings justification from ECI. It appears that the proposed sizes are the same as existing. ii. Library Weatherization - insulation opportunities are limited to Library attic spaces. The Library proposal will be split into two phases so that Phase 1 is below \$100k. iii. Bromfield Weatherization – mainly air sealing, door sweeps. – Review final project list to determine what portion of this project can be completed under the \$200k limit. iv. Bromfield Mechanical/Electrical – ECI proposed small 3-5 hp VFDs and high efficiency motors for the air handling systems. – Forrest initiated a discussion about the viability of achieving the savings for this project. The installation of VFDs is to run at lower air flow rates to meet the typical requirement. The current air flow rate required during COVID is likely maximum even if higher than normally required. This is not likely to change soon. Also, a concern was brought up about adding complexity to a difficult to maintain system. The savings did not appear to be based on operating hours. If the savings assumptions were reduced significantly, this project would still be an attractive project based on energy savings. It was decided to not pursue the VFD portion of the project but consider the high efficiency motors. Forrest will request the impact of this change from ECI. v. SiteSage software license extension (~\$5k for 3 years) – David

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	<p>and Forrest recommended extending the software for a specific number of circuits for the Library and Bromfield. David will obtain a written quote for an extension of fewer points and provide to Brian to include in the Green Community application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>vi. TBS Court Lighting – replace with LED for energy and maintenance savings. David will obtain the proposal and project backup from Pat Harrington.</li><li>vii. Fire Dept and Police Dept lighting. – ECI will audit the Fire Dept and advise.</li><li>viii. Pond Pump – 3 phase power or disconnect.</li><li>ix. 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. HEAC is investigating ways to pay for this tool with the Climate Working Group. Possible source – Green Community grant or HEAC residual grant accounts.</li><li>x. Application – Brian to prepare a grant table based on the results above and provide the information to MRPC. MRPC will prepare the application and obtain Tim Bragan authorization.</li></ul> <p>2. Library Energy Use Review –Forrest explained he is working with Pete Jackson to evaluate BMS data for the Air Handling Unit. – no update</p> <p>4. Charging Station – HEAC is working with ECI to evaluate charging stations at five locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>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.</li><li>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.</li><li>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.</li><li>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.</li><li>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.</li></ul> <p>5. 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.</p>
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	<p>6. 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. – <b>This will likely be part of the new Revenue Ideation Committee.</b></p>
Subcommittees/ Initiatives	<p>1. Community Resiliency Working group CRWG              a. Consultant KLA issued a framework for a Climate Action Plan</p> <p>2. Energy Policy Subcommittee (Chair Paul Green)–          The subcommittee recommended that an article supporting the MA greenhouse gas reduction goals (currently net zero by 2050) be approved at Town meeting – <b>Scheduled for Fall Town meeting.</b></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. <b>Ellen presented an update at the Select Board meeting on 3/16. The bill is being negotiated among lawmakers. Therefore there is no need for a letter of support at this time. Brian discussed with DOER that they are watching this closely and it will likely be rolled out to Green Communities over an extended period of time.</b></p>
	<b>Meeting adjourned 9:30 pm (voted 5-0)</b>
Future Meetings	<p>2021      Apr 28 May 12 Jun 9          HEAC Meeting Location/Time: 8 pm. – Virtual until further notice</p>