

# 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 8/11/21

Attendees: B. Smith, D. Fay, P. Green, F. Hodgkins, E. Sachs-Leicher

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: 853 5597 4887**

	Meeting Discussion/Status
Admin	1. The minutes of 7/14/21 were approved 5-0 without comment.
Schools	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HES Solar 260 kW DC Behind the Meter project – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interconnect Application – NGRID approved 5/24/21.</li> <li>NGRID Electric Billing Rate – the project is based on G-3 rate and the bill shows G-1 rate. Requesting NGRID to change the rate.- <b>NGRID agreed to make the change.</b></li> <li>Select applied for the building permit. Determine if there is any Historical Commission review applicable - <b>determined by the Town to be not applicable to the schools. The permit was approved; construction expected to start 8/16.</b></li> </ol> </li> </ol>
Town Energy Project Updates	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green Community Program <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GC2021 Spring Competitive grant approved <b>award received for the 4 projects below.</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bromfield Transformers – high efficiency/re-sizing – Proposed.</li> <li>Library Weatherization - insulation opportunities are limited to Library attic spaces. Phase 1 for the roof deck was proposed.</li> <li>Bromfield Weatherization – mainly air sealing, door sweeps. – Included in the proposed application. <b>Project i.ii.iii – issue PO or signed contract to ECI.</b></li> <li>TBS Court Lighting – replace with LED for energy and maintenance savings. Proposed. Note that the work has been completed. The project may be eligible for reimbursement with approval by DOER. – <b>Brian to obtain actual date when payment was made by the School.</b></li> <li><b>Future project – hybrid police car</b></li> </ol> </li> <li>MassEnergize – this is a software tool for the Town to offer residents for greenhouse gas tracking. – <b>The Climate group is working on a soft launch over the next few weeks.</b></li> </ol> </li> <li>Charging Station – HEAC is working with ECI to evaluate charging stations at five locations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HES (#1 Priority) –There is a concern with having to expand a space to include a handicapped accessible spot. SusanMary identified that the charger satisfies one of the LEED point requirements. She requested Brian to provide the program parking space requirements that she can forward to the architect for evaluation. – <b>Brian provided the program requirements to the architect.</b></li> <li>Library – Input from Library Trustees – prefer location at end of parking lot away from building; may require new service; facilitates standard or fast charger. Needs to be managed by Town staff.</li> <li>Bromfield – The spots recommended are in the back by the courts</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

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	<p>which are closer to the electric panels for connecting the charger conductors. Some prefer to have it be in front and be more visible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d. Town Hall – limited spots but supported by Town.</li> <li>e. General Store – needs separate meter; issue with obstruction and limited space.</li> <li>f. Other areas – Harvard Park (track); commercial district?</li> </ul> <p>The MA state EVIP program should provide 100% of the funds required for the equipment and installation.</p> <p>3. MRPC Regional Planning Assistance – Green Communities are eligible to have services that MRPC will apply for MA state DOER grants. The Town of Harvard signed the grant application 7/7/21 for the following (with \$ allocation).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The Green Community application and annual report service by MRPC is recommended to continue. (\$4500)</li> <li>b. Developing a net-zero emissions plan for municipal buildings and operations (\$9000)</li> <li>c. Preparation toward developing a community-wide net-zero plan (\$3500).</li> </ul> <p>These plans can support the Energy and Resiliency portions of the Climate Action Plan. – <b>Grant not awarded yet.</b></p>
Subcommittees/ Initiatives	<p>1. Energy Policy Subcommittee (Chair Paul Green)– Article supporting the MA greenhouse gas reduction goals (currently net zero by 2050) – Scheduled for Fall Town meeting. – <b>A motion was approved 5-0 to support the Town Resolution on Climate Change, draft 6.b, discussed at the Select Board meeting on 8/10/21. Revised resolution expected to go back to Select Board 8/31. Need approved to allow time to prepare for Town Meeting in Oct.</b></p>
Membership	<p>No update.</p>
	<p><b>Meeting adjourned 9:00 pm (voted 5-0)</b></p>
Future Meetings	<p>2021: Sep 8, Oct 13, Nov 10, Dec 8. HEAC Meeting Location/Time: 8 pm. – Virtual until further notice</p>

To see if the Town of Harvard recognizes the local impacts of climate change and chooses to address these impacts by adopting the following resolution:

#### BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has a legally binding statewide requirement of an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2050;

The local impacts of climate change are presently evident and are expected to increase in intensity from more severe storm events, increasing heat and drought, increasing pestilence and disease, increasing impacts to water and soil resources, and increasing impacts to native natural and agricultural flora and fauna, resulting in damage to public and private lands and ecosystems in Harvard, and harming the health and welfare of its residents;

Harvard is dependent on greenhouse gas emitting fossil fuels for mobility, heating and cooling, and other basic needs but the availability of energy from renewable sources is growing and becoming more cost effective;

Harvard recognizes that actions taken to address climate change will also benefit our natural resources, be positive for public health, support our quality of life and assure our community's vibrancy well into the future.

#### NOW BE IT RESOLVED,

1 - Harvard affirms its support for the greenhouse gas reduction goals established by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and for any subsequently adopted modifications of those goals, and affirms its willingness to change its practices, policies, and procedures in support of achieving the goals established by the Commonwealth in order to mitigate the impacts of climate change;

2 - Harvard commits to evaluating and mitigating the potential negative impacts of climate change associated with all purchases, public projects, planning processes, and policies;

3 - Harvard commits to developing and requiring an environmental assessment process to review all purchases, public projects, planning processes and policies and to make this information readily available to town residents specifically on warrants requiring citizen approval; and

4 - Harvard commits to addressing climate resiliency and adaptation by coordinating the work of Town boards, committees, commissions, and other entities to plan together how to respond to the threats climate change may have on the built environment, natural resources, and the health of its residents.

To implement the above, the Harvard Select Board will establish the means by which this resolution will be achieved and will provide an update to the town on its progress towards establishing the infrastructure in which to accomplish this resolution within one year of its passage. Thereafter reports will be made annually at Town Meeting on the progress the Town has made in regards to this resolution.