

Town of Harvard Energy Advisory Committee

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

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:
STUDENT MEMBER:
LIAISONS:

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

Meeting Minutes 2/9/22

Attendees: B. Smith, D. Fay, F. Hodgkins, P. Kelly-Joseph, E. Sachs-Leicher, P. Green
Charles Oliver (PT); Guests: Roy Van Cleef (PT)

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: 810 2104 2323

	Meeting Discussion/Status
Admin	1. HEAC approved the minutes of 1/12/22 5-0 without comment.
Schools	1. HES Solar 260 kW DC Behind the Meter project – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A new bidirectional meter is to be installed to support the new PV system. – NGRID has the meter. b. Select Construction – System is installed. Obtain Permission to Operate from NGRID – expected by 2/28. c. A celebration is planned for early March.
Town Energy Project Updates	1. Green Community Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. GC2021 Spring Competitive grant approved award received for the 4 projects below managed through Energy Conservation Inc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Bromfield Transformers – high efficiency/re-sizing – Invoice submitted to Town Hall for payment. ii. Library Weatherization – Phase 1 insulation in Library attic/roof space. –Supply chain issue with spray foam. Air Barrier Solutions is not able to get the material. Project on hold until Air Barrier Solutions can source the spray foam component in 55-gallon drums. iii. Bromfield Weatherization –Phase 1 work is complete – Invoice submitted to Town Hall for payment. Phase 2 work is complete. iv. TBS Court Lighting –Brian to submit request to DOER to honor grant even though invoice paid prior to grant. Evaluate re-scope of funds if needed, e.g. TBS interior lighting – Request submitted to DOER 2/6. 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. c. Quarterly Report- Brian to prepare and submit to DOER. – submitted 2/6. 2. Charging Station – HEAC is working with ECI to evaluate charging stations at multiple locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Library – Input from Library Trustees – prefer location at end of parking lot away from building; may require new service; facilitates standard or fast charger. b. 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. c. Town Hall – limited spots but supported by Town. d. General Store – needs separate meter; issue with obstruction and limited space.

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	<p>e. Other areas – Harvard Park (track); commercial district? f. Fire/Police stations – Need fast chargers. The MA state EVIP program should provide 100% of the funds required for the equipment and installation, for publicly available chargers. Brian to request ECI to perform inspection of site locations. – No update</p> <p>3. Streetlights – David met with the Historical Commission to discuss the replacement of the existing lights with LED. The Commission wants to eliminate the existing fixtures and has concerns about the light/fixture if the fixtures remain. David will investigate a sample installation to review. The Historic Commission will hold a hearing on March 2 to solicit public comment on the LED proposal from abutters.</p> <p>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. Focus on police cars in next capital cycle.</p> <p>5. Solar (Photovoltaic) Strategy – Initial focus on Public Safety Building – Charles Oliver identified an interest in having this project defined by summer 2022 for the FY24 plan. HEAC to investigate procurement strategy with Marie Sobalvarro.</p> <p>a. Roy Van Cleef of New England Clean Energy (NECE) answered questions about the proposal for a 50-kW system which covers approximately half of the building energy use for \$130k. The break-even is 10 years. The building roof is suitable for solar due to no shading. The south facing roof panels would provide the best production compared to the east/west roof. Although NECE does not offer a PPA option, they do offer a finance option that likely integrates the investment tax credit. Next actions:</p> <ol 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.
Energy Initiatives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Climate Initiative Committee – Brian & Paul are members; David is backup. 2. Climate Plan – Each area (e.g., Buildings, Energy, Transportation) will require one goal and two actions. There is a municipal and residential goal in each area. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Buildings – comments about the goals and actions for the Municipal portion. There is a concern about the costs of recommending replacement of existing heating equipment – it will require careful planning to ensure the equipment is end of life or other justification. For example, if a portion of Bromfield heating is not performing properly, this may justify a priority for replacing equipment. b. Buildings Municipal Goal – Convert Harvard's municipal buildings from carbon-based fuel combustion to high efficiency electric heating. c. Energy Municipal Goal – Convert all electricity generation to 100% renewable energy sources. d. Transportation – HEAC will contribute to the goal setting for the Municipal portion. 3. Net Zero Emissions Plan (Decarbonization) – Funded by DOER/MRPC and performed by John Snell. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Municipal Buildings/Operations – This is a roadmap for the Town to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. HEAC continued discussion from the last meeting and reviewed comments on the plan.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Brian to comment on the work to date section.ii. The report should be revised to ensure the electrification costs are identified as initial rough order of magnitude estimates and do not reflect actual distribution system modifications.iii. David asked what the benefit is of adding on site solar if the generation will be 100% renewable in the future. Possible answers are for cost savings or to achieve net zero earlier.iv. All comments will be sent to John Snell to revise the plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none">b. Review with Town stakeholders – on hold; may be combined with HCIC climate plan.c. Community-wide plan – Further discussion is needed to define where to focus John Snell's efforts on conjunction with the Climate Initiative. These plans support the short-term Energy and Resiliency portions of the Climate Action Plan.d.
Membership	No update.
	Meeting adjourned 9:40 pm (voted 5-0).
Future Meetings	2022: Mar 9, Apr 13 HEAC Meeting Location/Time: 8 pm. – Virtual until further notice