

Minutes Green Marblehead Committee/Net Zero Roadmap Planning Feb 2, 2023

Approved at 3/2/23 meeting

Present: Brooks Winner, Thatcher Kezer, Alexa Singer, Andrew Petty, Eileen Mathieu, John Albright, Joe Kowalik, members of the public: Louise Yarmoff, Lynn Bryant, Elaine Leahy, Mimi Hollister

Updates:

Sustainable Marblehead is planning a Green Homes Tour in April, with approximately 10-12 homes that feature new technologies in green heating and cooling and appliances.

Joe K spoke about rate structure changes at MMLD including demand charges which are being discussed and talked about challenges in infrastructure availability for MMLD to achieve distribution and manage growth of electrification.

John Albright and Joe K briefly discussed working together on when people are pulling building permits/sharing info when level 2 or higher chargers are being installed.

Thatcher reported his State of the Town presentation regarding the Town being at a fiscal crisis and having no free cash to borrow from to meet expenses. The road ahead is not clear: whether the Selectboard will agree to recommend a general override to stabilize the town's fiscal situation. If they don't, he will be very constrained and the budget he will be required to present will include cuts and will likely not include HR, IT, or Sustainability Manager. He and Joe K discussed briefly whether both MMLD and the Town could share hiring a Sustainability Manager, so that the position is at least created and the person could start to look for grants to fund the position going forward and then after 1 year, could be expanded to be fulltime for the Town and MMLD could also change its job description to be full time.

Alexa asked what the differences would be in the job description of a Sustainability Manager for MMLD vs the Town. Discussion that followed noted that for the Town, the emphasis for a Sustainability Manager would be Town (municipal) building energy efficiency, vs for the Light Department, the emphasis would be on residential electrification of buildings, community solar, and on widespread adoption of Connected Homes program. Thatcher said that on the Town side, even a half-time Sustainability Manager could pull project plans together, find grants, and generate savings that would show results, and then help convince the town of the need to have a full time Sustainability/Energy Manager. He and Joe K will discuss further.

Brooks mentioned that there will be a webinar on \$2.5 million in DOER grants that will provide funding for seed money for staff for smaller communities that Marblehead might apply for. Contact him for information re webinar.

Presentation to Selectboard on Wednesday, Feb 8, time slot on agenda not set:

Thatcher will introduce Brooks.

Brooks will present PowerPoint (remote).

Thatcher will summarize/conclude

Questions from the Selectboard

Roadmap Document Review:

Roadmap draft was discussed page by page as a committee, and Brooks was editing the document in real time, during the meeting. People requested a paginated version, which Brooks agreed to send immediately as the GMC meeting closed.

Further smaller edits should be sent to Brooks by end of day Friday, February 3 and he will send draft to Town as a pdf on Monday, Feb 6, for Kyle or Becky to post, to link to the announcement on the town website about the Feb 16 meeting, so people could read it before Feb 16 meeting.

Reviewed draft Agenda for Public Meeting to present the Roadmap Document to the Town on Feb 16 by zoom at 6 PM.

How to frame the Public Meeting on Net Zero Roadmap:

Brooks suggested how he would frame the purpose for the Public Meeting on the Roadmap: “this is final check in before we hit publish”, and it was decided to have Q/A, not breakout rooms, after his PowerPoint. GMC felt that people like to be heard, by the entire group, and that as people asked questions, other attendees would hear similar questions/similar issues being raised, and it allows an exchange of ideas compared to breakout rooms, where you are just in one small group. GMC and Brooks agreed that we are not encouraging the attendees to expect that we would make major changes to the document, as there has already been extensive public interaction and collection of public input, ideas and opinions throughout fall 2021 and early 2022, which are consolidated and represented in the Roadmap document.

Schedule for meeting:

Welcome: Thatcher Kezer or Alexa	2 minutes
Overview: Brooks Winner	3 minutes
Meeting organization details and rules:	5 minutes
Icebreaker:	2 minutes
Overview presentation/PowerPoint	28 minutes
Q/A	50 minutes

- a) Brooks will field general questions, others on GMC will answer questions in their field)
- b) minutes per question, timekeeper, and 30 second warning, hard stop at 2 minutes)

Issues discussed:

- A) how to frame the Q/A discussion: suggested 3 questions for the attendees:

What is missing from the report?

What needs to be clarified?

What don't you agree with, how could we make it acceptable to you?

- B) How to give people input and access: Brooks suggested an online input form:

To write their questions if they were not answered during the public meeting

To ask for additional information

To Do List:

Brooks to draft input form to be used on Feb 16

Brooks to send list of who has registered for Feb 16 by Feb 14.

Brooks will tweak Roadmap document based on input from GMC members by Friday Feb 3.

Brooks will send this edited draft on Monday Feb 6, to Becky and Kyle to post on the Town Website (linked to the announcement of the Feb 16 Public Meeting on the Net Zero Roadmap)

Any substantive suggestions sent by members of GMC by Friday Feb 3 will be held, and not added to the document until discussed at next GMC meeting on March 2

Next meeting GMC/Net Zero is March 2, Thursday, at 3 PM

Topics: Review input from Public Meeting on Roadmap and any final GMC changes to Roadmap

Plan final presentation to the Selectboard for their adoption

Plan transition when Brooks leaves: who will be chair