

Minutes March 2, 2023 Green Marblehead Committee

Approved at May 4, 2023 meeting

Present: Brooks Winner, Alexa Singer, Thatcher Kezer, Becky Cutting, Andrew Petty, John Buckey, Joe Kowalik, Lisa Wolf, John Livermore, Eileen Mathieu, member of public, Phil Padulsky

Minutes Dec 15, 2022 were approved unanimously by roll call vote with corrections

Minutes Jan 5, 2023 were approved unanimously by roll call vote

Minutes Feb 2, 2023 were approved unanimously by roll call vote

Updates:

Eileen Mathieu informed the group that Sustainable Marblehead is hosting a green homes tour on April 8, 2023 from 10-2 PM and expects to have 12 homes for visits, to learn about different green technologies.

Lisa Wolf said that MMLB would like Brooks to attend and do a 15 minute presentation with discussion and Q&A to follow, to bring the perspective of GMC, the Roadmap goals, and role the Roadmap envisions MMLD playing in the Net Zero effort, at their March 28 meeting at 4 PM. This will be virtual. Lisa asked that he highlight those actions relevant to MMLB in the Roadmap, what actions MMLD needs to take to move the goals forward. One major issue is that, because the electrification of Buildings and transportation is key to achieving the roadmap's goal of net zero by 2040, the more non-emitting the sources of electricity are, the quicker we can get to our goal. MMLD has a plan to comply with the state goal of Net Zero by 2050. SM goal and Roadmap goal would be to have MMLD get to 100% carbon free electricity sooner than 2050.

Brooks stated that Climate and Housing issues webinar will be held Tuesday March 6, suggested we check the events calendar at MAPC .org. Also, he has done a blog post about EEBG and other funds available to smaller communities, that don't qualify for EEBG funding. These funds will amount to 3 million dollars and will be distributed by Mass DOER through competitive grants, and will be available for staff, equipment, installing equipment, energy audits, EV infrastructure, planning, consultant, hiring personnel.

Becky and Thatcher said that the Sustainability or Energy or Project Manager position has not yet been rated by the compensation committee because it has not met due to unfinished budget processes. They expect that in 2 weeks, it will have met.

Brooks pointed out that there were late revisions sent in to the Roadmap by Joe K and Eileen M. These are not included in the current draft but he will go over these revisions with the whole group before finalizing the draft into a final document.

Debrief of the Public Meeting on the Net Zero Roadmap:

Brooks said that biking safety and encouraging biking, pedestrian access, safe and navigable sidewalks, and planting trees seemed to be the items people felt were missing from the draft Roadmap.

Thatcher congratulated Brooks on an excellent presentation and well-run meeting. He also said that in response to the concerns about trees that were mentioned, he and Jon Fobert, the tree warden, had developed a warrant article which would allow Town street trees to be planted on the inside of the sidewalk on the edge of homeowner's land, with the proviso that the Town would maintain, prune, and protect the trees.

Andrew also complimented Brooks on an excellent job running the meeting and presenting.

Becky said she was finishing a complete streets update to put out to the town.

Eileen said she found in the transcription of the chat, the transcription of the presentation and Q+A, and the feedback on the "input forms", many references to planting more trees and having assessment of tree canopy, having planning and funding to be systematic about replacing the street trees lost. Also many comments about Biking safety, the need to encouraging walking and biking. Also many comments about how this "Roadmap" was going to be communicated and enforced or implemented. And interest in measuring our progress towards emission reductions, updates and reevaluation regularly.

Joe K asked if planting trees is a cost-effective strategy to lower emissions. Brooks pointed out that when we ranked actions by their emissions reduction potential, trees rated as a moderate not high but significant action, so he will add this back to an action item, not just listed as other.

Brooks brought up that Town must take leadership to get public EV charging jumpstarted for people in condos or who park on street and don't have off street parking available. Even though increased EV adoption is also a Light Department goal, this issue of public EV charging is an example of where a Sustainability Coordinator could coordinate, or could apply for a grant from MAPC for Technical Assistance in planning this strategy, identifying who needs public charging, identifying locations, etc.

Edits submitted by Joe K: review

Brooks edited the document in real time while we looked at different paragraphs where Joe K had made revisions, and there were still several contentious paragraphs, where there was not consensus, so Brooks will work on a comprehensive edit based on the discussion and send back to the group in 3 weeks, by March 24.

Some points that were discussed included that Time of Use rates which the Light Dept wants to institute, may penalize working families, who need to use all their devices, air conditioning, and appliances in the early evening because everyone is home from school/work and cooking dinner, and laundry and dishwasher have to be done for the next day and homework has to be done, vs someone who can spread out the appliance use overnight or during the day before peak time. Also concerns that tenants often live in energy inefficient housing and spend more money to cool or heat their apartments, may not have option to have Air Source Heat Pumps installed, may not have access to smart control devices, etc. The Light Department is concerned about vulnerable residents, and any trends that might be unfair to low-moderate income residents and is trying to find ways to be fair.

Plan:

Brooks to incorporate edits and send to committee by March 24.

Becky to hold an “online open house” for 1 week with the Roadmap available for people to read and comment. She will publicize via Town of Marblehead website, Town Facebook Page, Town code red recipients, Town twitter feed, to encourage input.

Brooks to present to MMLB on March 28 at 4 PM

Meanwhile the input forms will stay up on the GMC website to keep accepting input.

Next meeting of GMC April 6, 3 PM to finalize the Roadmap

Present final “Net Zero Roadmap” to Selectboard, probably right after Town Meeting in early May (?May 11).

Thatcher needs to ask Select Board when they adopt the “Roadmap”, to vote for continuation of the GMC, to be sure the Roadmap is implemented.

Brooks expects to wrap the his part of the project/grant up by May 16.

Thatcher will be the chair as Brooks transitions to end of the project. Thatcher may appoint someone else to be chair going forward.

Then GMC will decide on the Net Zero Roadmap roadshow to disseminate during summer and into fall 2023: Brooks will create a PowerPoint that we can take to present to different Town boards and committees, and to community organizations. We have a draft list of relevant boards, committees and organizations, and we will firm that up in April or May.

Respectfully submitted by Eileen Mathieu, March 4, 2023

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