

Minutes Green Marblehead Committee/Net Zero Planning January 5, 2023

Approved at 3/2/23 meeting

Present: Brooks Winner, Thatcher Kezer, Becky Curran Cutting, Dr John Buckey, Lisa Wolf, Andrew Petty, John Livermore, John Albright, Eileen Mathieu, Joe Kowalik; members of the public: Judith Black, Lynn Bryant, Louise Yaroff, Andreas Thanos

Updates:

Judith Black informed the committee that the Inflation Reduction Act will be put into action through state blocks of funding, and that having shovel ready projects will increase our chances as a town to get some funding. She said that there will be 30% back on many solar projects and batteries. She said that weatherization of elderly or special needs housing would be poised to get 50% back. She asked if the idea of putting solar on the school roofs was finalized enough to be ready for such a funding opportunity. Dr Buckey and Lisa Wolf were unsure about where that project is in the planning. She also mentioned funding for transportation such as electric buses and retrofits for coastal communities and urban forestry programs.

She said that shovel ready means that a project is designed, has buy-in from town and other stakeholders, has an estimate from a contractor. Andrew said that Health Department has been advised that regional projects are more likely to get funded. Thatcher said that with Maura Healey adding a cabinet level person on the environment, the state looks to be positioned to get money and to distribute it, and maybe invest in helping municipalities design projects. Brooks urged us to start planning soon.

We agreed to look at the roadmap and see what projects and goals are possible near term, and to work on realizing those projects.

Minutes: from December meeting: tabled until February.

People hadn't had a chance to read them, as Eileen just got them to Brooks the night before today's meeting and Brooks just sent them out today. Plan: look at them in next few days, note any revisions, send to Eileen and Brooks, so we can incorporate those revisions at next meeting.

Update for presentation to Select Board (SB):

Thatcher explained that the SB schedule for Jan is very hectic and challenging; and one of two meetings is dedicated to choosing the next member of the school board, from among 13 candidates, and the other SB meeting has been hard to schedule, couldn't be held Jan 25 which would have been normal time.

Final decision is that we will ask for a slot on the first SB meeting in Feb, which is Feb 8. That gives Brooks a deadline to get an update of draft of Roadmap ready, (just needs to be polished), and to get the slideshow/PowerPoint for the SB ready, to circulate to GMC, by Jan 20. If there are no objection once the committee looks at the draft, we can include a link to it in the press release as well as posting it on the Town website. It will have to be labeled a “near final draft”, as we wouldn’t consider it final until presented to the SB and adopted by the SB, and until presented to the Town.

This means that when GMC meets on Feb 2, we will review the final presentation to the SB. The outline:

Thatcher present the work of the GMC and the Net Zero Planning process (5 min);

Brooks present PowerPoint details of the plan (10 min);

allow time (?20 min) for Q+A.

Update for Net Zero Road Map Public Meeting in February:

Reviewed: Title: Net Zero Roadmap Public Meeting ... NOT “workshop”

Date and Time: Feb 15, Wed at 6 PM

Reviewed process: zoom With Preregistration

Presentation by Brooks, then Q+A

Brooks will send by Jan 20

- 1) outline of agenda for this public meeting
- 2) the “near final” draft roadmap document ;
- 3) the slides (roadmap condensed) that he will use for PowerPoint presentation on Feb 15.

Discussed how to manage expectations: although this is a “draft”, this document has had a lot of public input incorporated into it: this is not open to: changing the table of contents, changing goals, or wholesale changing of priorities; but we are open to tweaks, how to make it better, real issues we might have overlooked. However, some of those details will be worked out by GMC over the next few years; it is a living document, it will need reappraising and resetting of strategies as we go along if we are not meeting our goals.

Possible strategies for input before the Public Meeting:

- 1) Brooks will provide an accessible link to a google drive that Becky can add to GMC and town website, as a link for feedback, and people will be encouraged to read the draft before the public meeting.

- 2) MAPC could develop a set of questions for an intake form on Qualtrix and post for the community on the Town website, to give feedback, before the meeting or if they can't attend the meeting.

Publicity for this Public meeting:

Press Release: Eileen will write draft, send to committee to review, have ready for newspapers by to run Feb 2 and Feb 9 editions. This will necessitate getting them the copy 1-2 weeks earlier, (possibly Jan 18 or Jan 25), so Eileen will draft and send the press release to this committee during the week of Jan 9-13. Papers both online and print to be contacted: Current, Beacon, Marblehead Weekly News;

Kyle to post on Town of Marblehead website for Feb 15, 6 PM

Next meeting of GMC/Net Zero: Feb 2, Thursday at 3-430 PM

Agenda:

Prep for SB meeting

Prep for Community Public Meeting

Plan for future transfer of chair from Brooks Winner/MAPC to another member of the committee