

Minutes Green Marblehead Committee/Net Zero Planning Feb 3, 2022

Approved at March 3, 2022 meeting.

Present:

Brooks Winner, MAPC, Riley Piva MAPC, Becky Curran Cutting, Andrew Petty, John Albright, Alexa Singer, Steve Poulos, Joe Kowalik, John Livermore, Eileen Mathieu; members of the public: Louise Yarmoff, Phil Padulski, Elaine Leahy

Minutes Jan 6 approved with a few corrections by Brooks Winner.

Updates:

Joe Kowalik updated the group that MMLD will be buying into a capacity battery project of 100 MW, 400 MWh

Andrew Petty updated the group that Health Dept has received the info on how much tonnage of compost Black Earth has hauled from Marblehead in 2021.

Eileen Mathieu updated the group that members of Sustainable were hoping to help GMC by gathering more data on composting, to quantify emissions avoided by the increased residential composting (over 400 households) new since 2016, and reduction in tons of trash hauled to landfills, which in turn generate emissions, and were looking forward to getting some additional data from Andrew Petty. Goal is to update waste data that was provided for the 2018 Marblehead GHG emissions report. Similarly, there is interest in quantifying emissions from commercial lawn equipment, and boat engines. It is quite likely that we won't have this data available before the Net Zero Plan is written. We know that residential vehicles, residential thermal, and the creation of our electricity for our grid, are the 3 largest contributors to GHG emissions, so GMC should focus on them to start to achieve immediate emission reductions. SM is just bringing up the citizen interest and concern around these other issues, and suggests that GMC Net Zero Plan have a mechanism to reevaluate, if new data shows that a sector is contributing >10% to emissions, it should be included in the next iteration of the Net Zero plan when it's suggestions are evaluated and revised every few years.

Discussion of Community Engagement effort:

Decision was made to leave the survey up for another 2 weeks until our Feb 15 meeting. Brooks said there had been 1 additional response in the last week.

Alexa said she had an appointment with one of the people she had reached out to contact on Feb 14.

Brooks reported that he has made contact with Conor Ryan, the Faculty advisor of the Marblehead High School National Green Honor Society and that a student focus group is

planned. Andrew suggested that he work with Kate Reynolds who is leader of the Green Team at Veterans Middle School. He will provide Brooks with contact info.

Becky Curran Cutting will announce that the survey is still up on Town website at the Barbara Warren talk on coastal resiliency next Monday, Feb 7.

After the meeting, Louise Yarmoff reported to Eileen M. that she had reached out to Chamber of Commerce, who put a link to the survey in their monthly newsletter, January 21, 2022, which went to almost 600 people and at least 10 had clicked on the link to the information about GMC.

Eileen asked John Albright whether there was any opportunity to ask contractors who are coming to get a building permit to fill out the survey, but he felt that contractors are very busy and focused on getting their permits and getting started on building what is in the plans, and he felt that there was no point in reaching out through his office. He suggested that GMC reach out to Architects and Developers.

Brooks will send around the link to the Community Engagement spreadsheet and the link to the survey.

Criteria for Key impactful actions review:

- 1) Agreed to add criteria: cost of not implementing, so there are 6 criteria.
- 2) Discussion about how to weight the criteria, or whether to filter all actions through the criteria of how much they reduce GHG emissions, and only keep actions that significantly reduce GHG, and then apply the other criteria. Keep weighted system 1/3/5 for low/moderate/high effects of other criteria.

Brooks said there might be unintended consequences to using GHG emissions reductions as the first criteria, as some activities might have been enabling actions that would reduce GHG by smaller amounts such zoning changes or composting, or equity is important and co benefits are important. Alexa asked him to elaborate and then suggested that there needs to be a way to reevaluate and possibly incorporate those actions that get cut.

- 3) Agreed by majority: Joe K, Andrew, John L, Eileen, Alexa, Becky, in favor of using GHG emissions reduction as first criteria.

However, Alexa and Brooks agreed that Brooks and Riley should flag any actions that get cut by using GHG reduction as first criteria, so the entire GMC can see what effect that criteria has on the many suggestions for impactful actions.

Discussion of our goal of 2040 Net Zero Carbon Emissions:

Joe K. suggested that we consider putting the 2040 Net Zero Goal to Town Meeting vote, possibly yearly.

Brooks responded that to ask the townspeople what is the right date each year would prevent long-term planning.

John Livermore pointed out that Town Meeting is not an effective place to have a dialogue. He pointed out that it is not the only way or the best way to have a discussion, to set goals, and to explain an issue to the townspeople.

Alexa said that there are a lot of people who have not gotten involved, despite the survey and the October Net Zero Workshop for the town, who will have a different point of view.

John L said that we need to plan a way to get ahead of this issue, have talking points, systematic outreach to town, have data driven and data validated answers to questions from townspeople who may be skeptical or opposed.

Louise Yarmoff (from SM) suggested that an open house to showcase the geothermal system at Abbot Hall and Marblehead Muni Light Dept would be a good way to publicize newer technologies and answer questions about them.

Next GMC meeting:

Tuesday Feb 15, at 4 PM

Regularly scheduled GMC meeting: first Thursday of the month

Thursday, March 3 at 3 PM

Respectfully submitted, draft, by Eileen Mathieu, on Feb 10, 2020