



Minutes

Wednesday, October 27, 2021, 7:00 pm

WEBEX <https://andover.webex.com/andover/j.php?MTID=m46aa61235cb742adba33239e76ed3e02>

Meeting number: 2337 229 0819

Join by phone: +1-408-418-9388 (US Toll)

Password: spDJpQK3G53

Phone access code: 233 722 90819

In attendance:

Amy Latva-Kokko * , Chair

Joyce Losick-Yang, Sustainability Coordinator

Willow Cheeley

Jon Unger *

Harry Voorhees *

Anil Navkal *

Brad Weeden

Prudence Barker

Melanie Cutler *

Maria Bartlett *

Beth Rasmussen *

* = AGAB Members

1. Welcome to new AGAB member, Willow Cheeley
2. Columbia Gas Settlement: A proposal for Sustainable Healing. (Anil)
 - a. [Sustainable Healing presentation for AGAB](#) - a vision for the Merrimack Valley Recovery
 - b. About \$30M in funds available for recovery, including energy efficiency
 - c. Could solar panels on the Sanborn School be eligible for this funding?
 - d. Barriers to general program participation: more difficult for renters to take advantage of funds because landlords have to apply for building changes, language barriers for non-english speakers (75% of Lawrence residents), among others
 - e. Sustainability framework diagram
 - f. Funds support ground source heat pumps, wiring upgrades, weatherization, insulation in individual buildings. Also, community solar, large public and

commercial rooftops, parking lots with carports, residential rooftops, GSHP microgrid (Eversource is already working on it)

- g. Merrimack Valley PPA Co-op is the legal foundation required to create the co-op
- h. Merrimack Valley Sustainability Administration - helps property owners with energy efficiency projects. Recruits property owners to participate in the program. Simplify paperwork. Expedited permitting process. Access to qualified local installers. Adherence to high sustainability standards.
- i. Vision - every family can afford to heat and cool their home without further environmental damage
- j. The Columbia Gas Settlement presents our community with a unique opportunity to realize this vision
- k. Summary - proposal lays out a road to sustainable recovery. Recommends the formation of 2 organization bodies (See above) to facilitate the roll out
- l. Motion: AGAB supports the Sustainable Healing vision presented by Anil
Approved unanimously: Yes - 7, NO - 0, ABSTAIN - 0**

3. Review meeting minutes from September 22, 2021, at this link: [DRAFT Meeting Minutes](#).

Motion: AGAB approved the September meeting minutes.

Approved unanimously: Yes - 7, NO - 0, ABSTAIN - 0

4. Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Grant Project update (Joyce) (\$131,700)
- a. Kicked off in late September
 - b. Subcontractor now under contract- <https://www.fando.com/>
 - c. First task = development of the Climate Adaptation Goals for this project
 - d. Title of project: Shawsheen River Watershed Land Conservation Planning Prioritization for Climate Resilience and Environmental Justice
 - e. Looking at locations where Shawsheen River floods and ways to mitigate property damage
 - f. Looking at acquiring conservation land, planting native species, wetland restoration, preventing development to decrease catastrophic losses due to flooding damage
 - g. Major risks between years 2025-2035: intense rainstorms, flooding, cyclones (winds), more heat waves / year, wildfires. Location-specific climate threats in Andover.
 - h. Looked at plans in other communities
 - i. 3 categories of goals for the Shawsheen River conservation project
 - i. Reduce vulnerability of flooding by increasing capacity for flood storage through nature-based restoration
 - ii. Strengthen connectivity and accessibility - connect trails, develop green corridors on both banks of Shawsheen as much as possible
 - iii. Educating the local community by creating demonstration areas that highlight the value of protecting open space and the watershed
 - j. This is just one project among many MVP projects
 - k. New Playstead = field behind DMS, includes pervious pavement, next to the parking lot = first public green infrastructure installment. Bioretention pond and

filtration system. “Protecting Rogers Brook Stormwater” informational signs installed at the site. Janet Nicosia and Ron will lead some small tours of the site. Also at the site, Village Garden Club’s native pollinator garden.

- I. Study will assess land around the river to determine which areas of land would be most beneficial to reduce impacts
5. Mass Save Community First Partnership grant (Joyce)
 - a. Grant is due 11/12 [subsequently extended to 12/3]
 - b. Extension of the Mass Save Municipal Partnership
 - c. In order to reach the harder to reach populations, have to address barriers, so working with trusted messengers within the community
 - d. Want to work with municipal governments and nonprofits together
 - e. Need an “energy advocate” to champion specific energy reduction projects. Work with homeowners and business owners on energy reduction projects.
 - f. Includes money for salaries for “energy advocates” to work with communities
 - g. Joyce has talked with Andover Community Trust and Jennifer Hughes at MVPC, work regionally with surrounding communities
 - h. Payment is milestone and outcome-based. If you meet your goals, you get paid.
6. Participatory Capital Funding (Joyce)
 - a. New program. Patrick Lawlor is working on it.
 - b. Joyce is on the selection committee.
 - c. Town of Andover is offering CIP funds for the citizens of town to decide.
 - d. \$20,000 for FY2022. To be determined by town members.
 - e. Directly empowers the community
 - f. How do citizens get involved? More information on andoverma.gov under Andover News. “Town of Andover Participatory Budgeting” Proposals are due 12/1. Has to be on municipal property. Ex. smartflower, solar picnic tables.
 - g. Selection criteria?
 - h. Program has worked well in other towns.
7. Waste Disposal in Andover Schools (Melanie)
 - a. No longer sorting waste at Andover Public Schools
 - b. District was paying a lot of money to purchase compostable materials
 - c. Is paper still being recycled? Rachel Ciaramitaro
 - d. There is currently no public space waste management strategy in public buildings in Andover. Recycling is not being enforced.
 - e. At Lovely Field, bins are filled with both recycling and trash.
 - f. Science says it’s important to recycle. Value of recyclables is increasing.
 - g. Everyone needs to pitch in and practice good recycling.
 - h. Brad and intern have looked at waste bins in outdoor spaces. Have observed a lot of cross-contamination. Ex. Lovely Field and Deyermund Park.
8. Andover’s 370th celebration follow up. (tabled until next meeting)
9. DPU letter report out for Andover Community Power. (tabled until next meeting)
10. 11/7 - MA Municipal Leaders are invited to attend a program at 3:00pm. Climate Leadership Fall Session. 3 parts. Organized by MA Sierra Club. Will introduce a

website they developed that accesses all sustainability programming in every town of MA. Website: Masstownsforclimate.org.

Pursuant to S.2475 "An Act Relative to Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency," which was enacted into law on June 16, 2021, this meeting of the Andover Green Advisory Board will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible.

Members of the public who wish to participate in the meeting can do so by calling 978-623-8912, or by emailing joyce.losickyang@andoverma.us. Residents are encouraged to email their questions or comments ahead of the meeting – however, staff will be available to present the Andover Green Advisory Board with questions and comments received during the meeting. Please include your name and address with your question or comment.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so despite our best efforts, we will post on the Town's website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.