



# Minutes

Wednesday, January 18, 2023, 7:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92555000574?pwd=ekk1aVphRWJuUTVhMnptVDR0ZDc1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 925 5500 0574

Passcode: 710115

Join by phone: +1 305 224 1968

More phone numbers at: <https://zoom.us/j/92555000574?pwd=ekk1aVphRWJuUTVhMnptVDR0ZDc1Zz09>

One tap mobile: +13052241968,,92555000574#,,,,\*710115#

## **In Attendance:**

Harry Voorhees, Chair \*

Aseem Juneja \*

Melanie Cutler \*

Joyce Losick-Yang

Willow Cheeley \*

Amy Latva-Kokko \*

John Unger \*

Brad Weeden

Vijayant Kumar\*

## **1. Approve December 7 minutes**

December 7 minutes approved, YES - 6, NO - 0, ABSTAIN - 1

## **2. Opt-in stretch code warrant article (Amy)**

Massachusetts has updated its energy code

This includes the stretch code



Jan 1 - Residential stretch code went into effect. This uses the IECC 2021 as a base code + MA amendments + stretch amendments

July 1, 2023 - the Commercial aspects of the stretch code will go into effect. Amy is part of a committee working on educating professionals on it

Municipalities can choose to bring a warrant article to Town Meeting to opt in to the municipal specialized code. Watertown and Brookline have already adopted the municipal specialized stretch code.

Highlights of the new code:

- Now applies to renovations and many additions
- EV ready requirements. Need 1 EV plug in space (50 amp) for single family homes, multi family = 20% of parking spots need to be EV ready
- HERS ratings - measures home energy performance. Will do benchmarks for the design of the house and then test the house performance. HERS ratings decrease under the new code.
- In the commercial code, new provisions for demand reduction in envelope leaking. Build tight and ventilate right.
- Required to extract energy from building envelope leaks.

For the opt-in code, no difference from stretch code in terms of additions and alterations for low-rise residential units.

A mixed-fuel dwelling - uses combination of fuel types (includes fireplaces). Required even lower HERS ratings, solar install, and wired electric appliances. Large (>4000 ft<sup>2</sup>) dwellings required to be net zero or HERS score of 42 or passive solar.

Would AGAB like to submit a warrant article for town meeting for the town to opt into the new stretch code?

Questions: How does this affect different size renovations? What happens when a house is sold?



Maybe we need a public education campaign to answer residents' and town officials' questions.

Should we host public meetings? Solicit comments and questions. There is a video recording available from Brookline where residents asked questions and they were answered. Link to recorded meeting in Brookline here:

[https://brooklinema.zoomgov.com/rec/share/lh5wwSvasolyM\\_4i3GM4MUr\\_Qts2lw7KokwnG1vBTltZA8P938lm13iNrR1Qpa7G.iDNMboyP2AJZOv4H](https://brooklinema.zoomgov.com/rec/share/lh5wwSvasolyM_4i3GM4MUr_Qts2lw7KokwnG1vBTltZA8P938lm13iNrR1Qpa7G.iDNMboyP2AJZOv4H)

Link to Brookline's warrant article:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kGe7GL8XSNP2Y0\\_T-1Dc8hy7tDcNHSFk/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kGe7GL8XSNP2Y0_T-1Dc8hy7tDcNHSFk/view?usp=share_link)

Link to Andover's draft warrant article:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1B0cJmmbaLSVsHENL0sIfwQ\\_p\\_eVNfISz/edit?usp=share\\_link&oid=105188052166726707738&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1B0cJmmbaLSVsHENL0sIfwQ_p_eVNfISz/edit?usp=share_link&oid=105188052166726707738&rtpof=true&sd=true)

Decided to table this discussion to a future meeting so that members have more time to consider the draft warrant article.

### **3. High school project update (Amy and Anna)**

Amy and Anna participated in the AHS building project tours.

Visited Danvers High School (CHPS renovation), Arlington High School (major new school, with some salvage of existing building)

Amy showed photos of new Danvers High School

Waste-sorting facilities

Installed linoleum tiles made out of renewable materials, didn't require adhesives

Amy showed photos from Arlington High School tour

Nice use of natural wood materials, STEAM wing

HMFH Team Presentation

Next community tour - Sat, 1/21 from 9:30 am - 11:00 am



Feb 9 - will select 2 building options for pricing

Will meet with Select Board on 1/23/23

4/23 - School Building Committee will make a recommendation for which option to use

May 23 - Town meeting, approval for funds to move forward

Link to 1-12-23 HMFH presentation:

<https://andoverhighbuildingproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/AHS-01122023-SBC-Building-Development.pdf>

#### **4. Green schools checklist (Melanie and Willow)**

Link to Draft of Green Schools checklist:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1yeKq9L2flbjsT1HXBX4IGV2XIz9d5fpb/edit?usp=sharing&oid=105188052166726707738&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Created draft of a checklist that the Town, developers, and AGAB can use when considering the environmental sustainability of future school building projects.

#### **5. Lowell Street plans update (Willow)**

Plan to improve 133 Lowell Street, including a pedestrian lane.

Walk-Bike Andover looked at design drawings and made comments.

Hope to get comments and suggestions recorded early in the process (25% design phase).

Link to plans:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NxG6peOvsQu-zytDInxMAzwK5DSMRqTk/view?usp=sharing>



## **6. Sustainability coordinator report (Joyce)**

Janet and Joyce are working on a warrant article proposal to add PV solar electricity to Bancroft and West Elementary schools

Inflation Reduction Act includes money for solar

Enter into a Power Purchase Agreement with a company called Solect. Have a contract to provide PPA's to municipalities for solar. Get federal tax incentives. Price quoted was lower than previously found through bulk contracting.

Town contracts separately for electricity supply at wholesale prices.

Solar PPA prices are now better than the wholesale electricity prices (which are fixed for 3 years), while PPA prices are fixed for 20 years.

Will use grant money to purchase and install PV for Sanborn School.

Town will provide 80 rain barrels to residents at a discount (\$20 discount / barrel), Will happen on April 26 or 27, late afternoon / evening. Will need volunteers.

Andover Public Works Department and Memorial Hall Library are working together to plan Earth Day events for the month of April. Does AGAB want to work together on an event? AHS Environmental Club will host the TreePlenish sapling sale event again this April - link: <http://tpevents.org/school/3078>. Zero Waste Day, sponsored by the Town? In May? (update: June 3)

Town has a new Communications Director, Phil Jeffrey, from the Town of Lowell. Will help us to work on the Town's Sustainability website.

Heat Smart Alliance. New heat pump coach = Mark Morgan. Will help residents to navigate the purchasing of heat pumps.



## **7. Climate action plan update (John)**

December 12 - meeting to kick off Climate Action Plan. Solicited public comments. Attended by about 80 residents. Goal is to engage 1000 people (residents, employees, and business owners in Andover). 3 formats for community engagement: 1. One-on-one interviews with companies to see what they've already done and what they'd like to try. What are barriers? Future strategies? Supports? 2. Surveys - online and hard copy to ask about opinions, interest, current understanding, what people have done, barriers. 3. Small group conversations about current understanding, what people have done already? Barriers? Supports? Groups will include broad spectrum of Andover. Will address different cultures, youth, indigenous communities, and climate anxiety. Steering group has been meeting every other week. Currently working on survey and engagement questions. February = month of outreach, lots of conversations with different groups.

## **8. Other business / discussion**

Next meeting: 2/22/23