

**Green Marblehead Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2023**

Present: Thatcher Kezer, chair; Becky Cutting; Andrew Petty; Alexa Singer; Lisa Wolf; Joe Kowalik; Eileen Mathieu; John Livermore

Called to Order: 334 PM

Topics discussed:

Net zero Updates:

- Thatcher said that they had a number of candidates for the Sustainability Coordinator position and interviews were starting next week. Hoping to hire and have on board by February.
- The Select Board has voted to change the mission of the Green Marblehead Committee to be implementation of the Net Zero Roadmap, and to keep the membership of the committee the same.

Town Wide EV Charging Infrastructure Plan:

- All agreed that this was a necessary step and would require Town and MMLD and private partnership to develop. It would be the responsibility of the Town Sustainability Coordinator to work with MMLD and owners of parking lots.

Electric School Buses:

- The availability of EPA and Mass CEC grants was raised by Eileen Mathieu, and the obstacles to further pursuing this were discussed. It was felt that GMC would defer to the school department as to whether to pursue and possibly the new Sustainability Coordinator could play a future role.

Opt-In Stretch Code Adoption:

- Thatcher provided an update from his discussion with the new Building Inspector. Marblehead is currently able to apply for Green Community status because we passed the Stretch Code at Town Meeting in 2018. The decision is to not pursue a warrant article for Town Meeting 2024.

Old and Historic Districts Committee Guidelines:

- Becky Cutting updated the group that she was writing a grant to Mass Historic Society, which she expected we would receive in Feb or March 2024. The grant would allow OHDC to hire a consultant to work with OHDC to research what other towns have done. The consultant will also work with the public, through community engagement with stakeholders and citizens, and will have a community meeting before developing the final plan for the guidelines. She pointed out that citizens of Marblehead need to come to OHDC to get permission to do any improvements on their homes if they live in the Historic District, and that our OHD comprise largest historic district in the state.

Mark Adams, from Sustainable Marblehead, spoke of the fact that when he runs educational panels about making your home more energy efficient and getting your home to switch from gas or oil furnaces for heating to electric heating alternatives such as Heat Pumps, he frequently hears from attendees that OHDC is an obstacle to making such improvements.

He highlighted 3 areas that are currently either not allowed or severely restricted by OHDC guidelines and need to be addressed if the Historic Districts homes are to be part of the Town's Net Zero goals.

- Heat Pumps: line sets that are conduits from the heat pump on the outside of a building to the mini splits inside the home.
- Solar: installation of panels or roof tiles
- Windows: installation of insulated windows

Thatcher Kezer and Becky Cutting indicated that they feel that by collaborating with OHDC and the consultant, and reviewing ways that new technologies can be integrated into Historic homes, that we can find a way forward.

No votes were taken.

Adjourned: 4:16 PM., unanimous motion.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Mathieu