

Minutes Green Marblehead Implementation Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2025

Members Present: Thatcher Kezer Chair, Alex Eitler, Elaine Leahy, Alexa Singer, Eileen Mathieu, Joseph Kowalik, Brendan Callahan

Meeting Called to order: 3:33 PM

Approval of previous meeting minutes: minutes of October 10, 2024, were approved by unanimous roll call vote, Eileen Mathieu recused as she was absent.

Sustainability Coordinator updates:

Electric Vehicle Action Plan Development.

Sustainability Coordinator Logan Casey reviewed goals of both Town, and Massachusetts for adoption of electric vehicles. Current Marblehead statistics: new and 1 year old vehicles registered in Marblehead: 30% hybrid, 6% plug in hybrid, 7% EV.

Marblehead total vehicle fleet by fuel type 2020-2025: 96% fossil fuel in 2020, 90.4% in 2025

Implications: To encourage more adoption of EV's, we need public EV charging.

Steps: inventory and analyze current public EV chargers, use of public chargers, and numbers of ZEV's in Marblehead.

Level 2 charging network is needed. Need to develop on town owned property, incorporate curb side charging, take into account housing density and locations where people don't have driveways. Will need to work with MMLD and other departments re infrastructure. Will also need funding opportunities.

Level 3 chargers: identify future locations, funding opportunities, but not as high a priority as level 2 network of chargers.

Marine Electric Motor charging: research needed, available technologies, fuel types, funding opportunities

Communication and tracking re number of EV's in town

Promoting and incentivizing adoption of EV's,

Work with MMLD,

Advocate for utility rate changes, reducing nighttime electricity rates to make it economical to charge EV's overnight,

enforce existing idling law.

Municipal EV transition plan:

Mass Goals for municipal fleets

Create and adopt a ZEV -first fleet policy

Medium and heavy vehicle recommendations: electric school lbuses and shuttle buses, explore advanced biofuels and renewable diesel

Pilot ZEV at different departments in town

Communicate and understand fleet needs

Distribute info about EV charging infrastructure

Employee EV charging reimbursement policy

Specific: applies to all vehicles under 8500 GVW

Exempt Emergency response vehicles, heavy duty trucks, off road vehicles

Aim to do procurement in stages

Policy take effect in FY27

Steps: Work with Mass CEC for fleet advisor program:

Inventory muni vehicle fleet and collect data. Put together a report and a plan to help us look for replacements. Procurement support.

Apply for Mass CEC On Street Charging:

Program feasibility and planning support

Explore Diesel Emissions Reduction Act Electric Solicitation Grant

Public EV Charging Action Plan:

Release draft public charging recommendations, engage public in May/June

Municipal EV Transition Action Plan:

Draft Zero Emissions Vehicle -first fleet policy in March/April

Final versions of each action plan release in July/August

Project updates:

Joe Kowalik of MMLD stated that the Charge Point chargers at MMLD can have varying rates: one for community and one for muni vehicles. Said there are 100 customers connected to residential scheduled charging and he can share the data to help Logan plan.

Sustainable Heritage Grant update from Logan, the final meeting is taking shape to be held at Abbot Hall Auditorium for the general public's input. Draft guidelines written by Lindsey Randall, the MAPC leader, will be circulated to GMIC and to OHDC before the meeting with residents for comment. She has incorporated local feedback, nearby cities and towns, and state wide best practices for preservation and energy efficiency in Historic Districts. After the public meeting, Lindsey will gather the feedback and create final recommendations. Then we will decide next steps.

State Street Heat pumps will be installed by end of March.

Thatcher Kezer updated the committee on Mary Alley Building HVAC issues, and the path forward which Logan has been instrumental in coordinating. This will be brought to Town Meeting. It will involve heat pumps and window replacement.

Green Communities update: Working on Energy Efficient Vehicle Policy, Energy Reduction Plan for the Buildings – Logan is loading the bills into the state software currently. Then will present to the Light Board to adopt a renewable energy charge. Logan will have updates around May or June and apply in the fall.

Public Comment: none

Motion to Adjourn 5:07 PM approved by unanimous roll call vote

Minutes approved: July 10, 2025