

Green Marblehead Implementation Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 12, 2025

Members Present:

Thatcher Kezer (Chair), Julia Ferriera, Elaine Leahy, Alexa Singer, Eileen Mathieu, Andrew Petty, Joseph Kowalik, and Brendan Callahan.

The meeting was called to order at 3:33 PM.

Approval of Minutes

No minutes were available for a vote. Eileen reported that the January–March 2025 minutes have been completed and submitted to Thatcher for formatting and editing. The April minutes have not yet been completed. The May minutes, taken by Alexa in Eileen’s absence, are also pending completion.

Sustainability Coordinator Updates

Municipal EV Transition Plan

Logan Casey presented on the Municipal EV Transition Plan, which includes a draft Zero-Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) First Procurement Policy that is still being finalized. The current municipal fleet consists of 153 vehicles with an average age of 13 years. There are 49 light-duty vehicles (under 8,500 lbs) with an average fuel economy of 25 mpg combined—or 21 mpg excluding the few Town-owned EVs. The 104 heavy-duty vehicles include those operated by DPW, Water and Sewer, Schools, Light, and Fire Departments.

The ZEV-First Procurement Policy will require an “Electric First” commitment for light-duty vehicle replacements beginning in FY 2027. This means prioritizing battery electric vehicles (BEVs) where possible, followed by plug-in hybrids, hybrids, and finally fuel-efficient internal combustion engine models if BEVs are not available. The policy will also enforce anti-idling measures for Town vehicles, including trucks, street sweepers, school buses, and other diesel-powered vehicles during waiting periods. By FY 2027, the Town will complete a full fleet transition plan, and the Sustainability Coordinator will work with Department Heads to pursue grants and plan for EV-related capital expenditures.

Next Steps include finalizing and editing the ZEV policy, presenting it to the Select Board for adoption (effective FY 2027), and leveraging the Mass Fleet Advisor grant to assist with EV

transition planning, charger installation guidance, grant and tax rebate applications, and other materials. The submission deadline for this work is the end of June.

Communication Materials will include an executive summary outlining the Town's goals to transition municipal fleet vehicles to lower or zero emissions whenever possible, a dedicated webpage, and internal engagement resources. The draft plan is expected to be completed by August 2025.

During discussion, members asked about requirements for municipal vehicles to be American made, whether they must be limited to brands that Town mechanics already service (e.g., Ford, Chevy), and the feasibility of other approaches. Examples included Shrewsbury's Ford Mustang EV police cruisers. The discussion also noted that total lifecycle costs should be considered, balancing the higher initial cost of EVs with their lower maintenance costs over time.

Green Communities Update

Logan reported that the Energy Reduction Plan is being developed in partnership with Power Options, with a goal to reduce municipal energy use by 20 percent within five years. This plan must be in place to apply for Green Communities designation. The ZEV-First Procurement Policy is also a prerequisite for application.

The DOER Northeast Green Communities Coordinator will meet with MMLB to discuss the Renewable Energy Charge and will present the topic at a future Select Board meeting. The Green Communities application is due in December 2025.

Project Updates – Sustainability Coordinator

The Town was not selected in the first round of the On-Street Charging Solutions Program grant. Four additional awards are expected to be announced by the end of the summer, and Marblehead will reapply in hopes of being selected.

Project Updates – Members

Joe Kowalik reported that Marblehead has applied for Mass CEC grant funds for resiliency and is awaiting results.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:34 PM by unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted by: Eileen Mathieu on August 5, 2025.

Minutes Approved: September 11, 2025