

Green Marblehead Implementation Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 14, 2025

Members Present

Thatcher Kezer (Chair), Alex Eitler, Mike Pfifferling, Elaine Leahy, Alexa Singer, Eileen Mathieu, Andrew Petty, Mike Hall (MMLD), Brendan Callahan, Jean-Jacques Yarmoff (Chair, MMLB)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:33 PM by Chair Thatcher Kezer.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Review of the minutes from prior meetings was deferred to the next meeting, as some members had not yet received them electronically.

Sustainability Coordinator Updates

Green Communities Designation: Logan Casey presented updates on the Town's application process. He has been working on the Energy Reduction Plan, compiling municipal energy use data, and collaborating with PowerOptions to prepare a 20% reduction plan over five years (baseline: CY2024). He emphasized the need for the Select Board to request the Marblehead Municipal Light Board (MMLB) to establish the required Renewable Energy Charge. Logan previously presented the benefits of Green Community designation to the Select Board.

Zero-Emission Vehicle Procurement Plan: Logan is developing a ZEV-First policy for municipal vehicles, with support from Mass Fleet Advisors to identify rebate opportunities, suitable vehicle replacements, and a coordinated approach to municipal EV charging. Discussion included rebate caps and the practical challenges of charger installation for new school vehicles.

Sustainability Communications: Logan is building a webpage for municipal sustainability efforts.

Trail Update: The \$60,000 MassTrails grant project (Smith to Pleasant Street segment) was completed. The ADA-compliant trail will be formally opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on August 26, 2025, at 4:00 PM.

Bike Planning: Elaine Leahy asked about bike-to-school efforts and painted bike lanes. Brendan Callahan noted these issues are being addressed through the Bicycle Facilities Plan.

Project Updates

EV Charging Feasibility Study: Logan reported that the Town received a MassCEC grant for a feasibility study on public EV charging. The project will run from September 2025 through February 2026.

Facilities Projects:

State Street Restrooms: Undergoing weatherization and insulation upgrades before winter; rebates available via MMLD.

Animal Shelter: Needs insulation, heating system conversion, and possible roof repair; eligible for Mass Save rebates.

MHS Roof Project: Mike Pfifferling reviewed the bid process for Marblehead High School roof repairs. Options include “recover” or “restoration” methods. Concerns were raised about whether solar PV capacity could be integrated; however, timing and funding challenges may preclude incorporating PV in this repair cycle.

Brown School PV: Discussion covered the stalled solar project at Brown School and the need to revisit ROI assumptions given recent changes in renewable energy markets and costs. Consensus was reached that recalculating ROI for solar PV at both Brown and MHS is necessary.

Public Comment

No public comments were offered.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was approved unanimously by roll call vote at 4:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Mathieu

Minutes Approved: September 11, 2025