

# Swampscott Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 8th, 2012 at 7:00 pm  
Swampscott Town Hall, First Floor Meeting Room

Attending: Neal Duffy, Chair, Wayne Spritz, Vice Chair, Vicky Masone, Pete Kane, Town Energy Manager, Hal Schwartz, Thomas Dreeben, Derek Barnwell

1) Peter Kane reported on Solarize Mass program and webinar

First phase was last year. The project was started with the goal to have 250 MW of solar generation by 2017. The idea is to decrease the cost of installation and increase outreach and education. During the first phase they selected four communities and MA CEC set up a community solar coach. MA CEC did an RFP for solar providers to do a tiered cost dependent on how many households signed up. The solar providers are obliged to provide two forms of installation – outright ownership, PPA or lease to own.

Phase 2 – at least 10 communities will be invited to participate. Monetary benefit is a two thousand dollar award for marketing materials. When you apply you have to set a municipal representative (Pete Kane) and then a community solar coach (TBD). The committee discussed the idea of the whole committee serving as the coach- wondering if we could split the duties. The coach is responsible for organizing a solar 101 event and to educate property owners on solar and how the program works. The coach will be trained by MA CEC and CEC will be at the 101 workshop to help educate and inform the public.

Pete is going to talk to Paul Marquis, Salem Energy Manager, about applying jointly with the hope that we would have a better chance of being accepted.

Neal Duffy proposed a motion that the town of Swampscott apply to the Solarize Mass program being offered by MA CEC and MA DOER. And to ask Salem for the potential to jointly apply. – MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The biggest question remaining is who would be the solar coach.

2) Discussion of Green Communities Grant and next steps

Pete Kane informed the committee that all money from grant round needs to be used before next round, and next round is in the Fall.

Neal will contact Ed about doing projects on the ESCO for GCA and proposed a motion to include the outstanding school projects from the ESCO on our application for the next Green Communities competitive Grant round. – PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3) Prepare for upcoming meetings with Board of Selectmen, Police Station Building Committee and School Committee

BOS meeting - Jill Sullivan said there is a lot of stuff on the agenda and that Neal will be going early. The plan is just to discuss why the committee rejected the wind feasibility study and to make sure the Board of Selectmen realize we will continue to pursue wind in Swampscott.

School Committee mtg. – revised vehicle policy voted on and signed by Board of Selectmen, needs to be signed by the School Committee. Pete is attending their next meeting, Wayne Spritz may go as well.

PS Building cmt. – We hope to discuss the energy efficiency of the new police station and to explore any improvements that can be made at this time.

4) Update on solar publicity campaign

Tara Gallagher and Vicky Masone are organizing a ribbon cutting event for the solar panels on the high school and middle school. Constellation energy is helping to organize it. Vicky had a call with Constellation. Ribbon cutting will be on 4/25 at 10:00 AM. Constellation runs the ribbon cutting. Superintendent was on the second call – she will speak at the ribbon cutting. We will reach out to the press, reach out to local politicians, robocalls, evites. There will be food. The event will be in main entrance of high school. There will be sample panels there, pictures and posters of panels. Ahead of the formal ribbon cutting they decided to give out a flyer to kids in two schools. Can we get kids to speak?

5) Other Business

The committee discussed the awning bylaw change that Hal Schwartz is heading up. Hal had written in that perhaps Black awnings would be required, it was suggested that black absorbs more heat.

Warrant for Town Meeting closes at the end of the month. Jill Sullivan told Pete that the state of the awnings were so bad that they could not finesse the awning bylaw. Interim was to forbid it and someone should pick it up later. The way we would have to proceed is it would go to BOS, they approve it, then goes to planning board, then they have a public hearing, then to Town Meeting.

We need the Board of Selectmen to vote on this next week. I will ask Maureen about how to submit. Hal will have to rewrite the proposed bylaw by next week if we are to make the deadlines to get it on the Town Meeting warrant.