

Swampscott Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 19th, 2012 at 7:00 pm
Swampscott Town Hall, First Floor Meeting Room

Members Present: Neal Duffy, Chair, Wayne Spritz, Vice Chair, Thomas Dreeben, Milton Fistel

Members Absent: Victoria Masone, Hal Schwartz

Others Present: Tara Gallagher, Pete Kane, Swampscott Energy Manager, Matthias Bohler, Next Step Living, Derek Barnwell.

1) Matthias Bohler, Community Program Manager, Next Step Living – presentation of the Mass Save outreach program:

Mass Save Program is a regulated energy efficiency program for state residents which is paid for by the utilities (by customers really). It allows for free home energy assessments as well as rebate and loan programs for energy efficiency improvements – Only 4% of eligible homes have used the program.

Next Step works with communities to help families take action and help them reduce their residential energy use. They are paid per assessment so they are driven to get as many homes to sign up for assessments as possible. They also have a solar program that they do in partnership with Sun Run – the solar program is much more profitable for them than the Mass Save program.

Bohler made the point that this program could work well for our planned solar outreach program - to do solar panels it makes sense to first do an assessment. The outreach program involves hosting workshops attending events, farmers markets, handing out literature to schools. They partner with community businesses, schools, charities to provide a \$10 gift card or donation when folks sign up. The committee could decide on a charity, scholarship, cause that we want to be part of the program and for every assessment done in town through us there would be a \$10 donation.

When they have partnered with other communities (Melrose, Newburyport) they have gotten a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) so the town is officially endorsing the program, endorsing Mass Save. When they worked with Melrose the goal was to have 425 signed up and they have 500. At a good event about 10 people will sign up for assessments but 65% back out. Bohler made the point that Mass Save is one of the best programs in the country for energy efficiency but that incentives will degrade over time.

Next Step Living will also scan for solar the whole town for the good roofs, shading etc.

His hope is for the committee to endorse the program and it would be run through us. Next Step Living would run all the events and the committee would help making them aware of opportunities and help get the word out when events were happening.

Tara Gallagher mentioned the movies on the town lawn as possible opportunities, and other REC members mentioned that we now have a Farmer's Market in Swampscott.

- 2) After Matthias Bohler's presentation the committee discussed the Next Step Living program as well as our solar outreach program in development

Pete Kane said he felt the Next Step Living program would be a good one for us, but when it came to solar we should not limit ourselves to them. Tara Gallagher recommended we set goals for energy assessments and solar installations. The committee decided good goals would be

energy assesments = 200 (5% of households)

solar installations = 100

The committee decided that we would sign up for assessments on our own to test the experience before recommending it to other residents. Neal Duffy and Pete Kane will also contact members of the Melrose Energy Commission to find out what their experiences have been with the program. We decided to vote on participation at the next meeting after discussion regardless of whether or not people got assesments.

- 3) Milton Fistel made a motion to make Derek Barnwell a voting member of the REC. Motion passed unanimously

- 4) Motion passed to accept previous meeting revisions with a couple of revisions – Pete Kane was not listed as present, and Thomas Dreeben was incorrectly listed as present when he was not.

- 5) Possible partnership with Brandy Wilbur, STEM Coordinator at Swampscott High School:

Thomas Dreeben met with Brandy – learned that her job is funded by a four year grant. Interested in a position to keep on working. Role is to get some programs running in general STEM areas. She wants to get things going in Renewables. She was talking about having student involvement on the committee. She mentioned the wind turbine from Physics Club that has not been used. The committee thought a student representative on committee would be helpful and Brandy could perhaps facilitate this, as well as perhaps help us to create some sort of a program for students to work with the town's energy useage data. Thomas will connect Neal with Brandy and the plan is to invite her to an upcoming meeting.

- 6) Awnings Bylaw – Leslie of the Lynn Chamber of Commerce has drafted an email blast for the survey monkey survey. Pete Kane should be able to report data on the survey at our next meeting.