

# Swampscott Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 17th, 2012 at 7:00 pm  
Swampscott Town Hall, First Floor Meeting Room

**Members Present:** Derek Barnwell, Wayne Spritz, Milton Fistel, Thomas Dreeben, Neal Duffy

**Non-Members present:** Pete Kane, Tara Gallagher

**Members not present:** Hal Schwartz, Vicky Masone

- 1) Approval of previous minutes – minutes approved for all meetings to date.
- 2) Discuss and vote on a possible collaboration with Next Step Living on outreach and education program. At our last meeting, members agreed to schedule an assesmeant with Next Step Living to see if it was something we wanted to recommend to others in the town. Of all the members, Milton Fistel was the only one to have one. He reported no issues, and is looking into having a solar installation as a result of the assesmeant.

Pete Kane reported that his counterpart in Melrose, based on her experience, recommended we partner with Next Step Living, although she also had some recommendations/caveats for the committee:

- 1) She stressed that we set clear expectations as a town and as a committee, and that those expectations be reflected in the Memo of Understanding.
- 2) She also said Next Step Living is experiencing some growth pains and so they have some new, inexperienced people conducting assessments. Tara Gallagher commented that this may not be a problem unique to NextStep Living but that since this is such a new field that a lot of these companies may have inexperienced people.
- 3) She also suggested that we also advertise for Mass Save as a whole even though we are partnering with Next Step Living. We are not forcing ourselves to use Next Step Living. It is more our concern that residents get an assessment. Melrose made sure to brand Mass Save with Next Step Living.

Pete also asked how Melrose set their goal, and she said they looked at what Mass Save had done for assesmeants on average in their town (100/yr) and they wanted to triple that so they set a goal of 1000/3 yrs. They are on track to exceed that easily hitting 500 in 9 month. Melrose got Next Step Living incorporated in all the planned community events. The energy committee talked it up at the event

and in the community. Energy members were the boots on the ground. Only costs that they incurred was \$400 was printing of advertising that was inserted in water bills.

After Pete Kane's report, the committee discussed whether or not to partner with Next Step Living. Tara Gallagher talked about the educational opportunity this presents. Derek Barnwell talked about how it is important that the committee educate folks on all things energy and that we don't just talk about solar or wind, that we talk about everything. Pete Kane recommended that perhaps one of the expectations we set is that if a person is not satisfied, that they can have another audit done with a different person the following year. Tara Gallagher suggested that if we do proceed with the program, that we mention we talked with Melrose and show that we have done some due diligence. Thomas Dreeben also suggested that we stress/welcome feedback, that we want to hear about people's experiences. Tara also suggested talking to Newburyport who also partnered with NSL. After this discussion, the committee voted on the motion below:

Motion – I move that we enter into an agreement with Next Step Living, an energy efficiency diagnostics company, to promote Mass Save - a no-cost residential energy assesment program. A Memorandum of Understanding will be developed and voted on for approval. – Approved 5 - 0

Pete Kane drafted a Memo of Understanding in the event that the committee approved the motion. The Committee discussed the memo of understanding and made some corrections and revisions, mostly grammatical, for Kane to implement in the next draft. Although the discussion was not over, the committee moved to next agenda items (8:30)

9:10 – picked up the conversation again briefly. We talked some more about the MOU and specifically that we should set a timeframe for the agreemeant.

- 3) Awnings survey report – Pete Kane. Pete handed out results of the awning survey that we gave to the Lynn Chamber of Commerce. We only had 5 respondents – all were part of the B1 business district. Red Rock (141 Humphrey Street) was the only one who was really against it (allowing awnings). 80% of the businesses were in favor. Next Step? Zoning By Law review subcommittee is being put together by the planning board right now. One of their members will be the chair of this subcommittee. Most likely this subcommittee will be formed in August. Once they are formed, they will evaluate where the issues are in the bylaw and take on resident requests. We would request that they look at the awning bylaw for the district. Pete Kane suggests maybe we do a survey on our own that we distribute at the businesses with a return envelope, or even better to canvass the district and conduct the surveys in person. Pete rehashed the history of why we do not have a bylaw for awnings currently at Wayne Spritz's request - the previous Zoning Bylaw Review Committee eliminated a number of issues in zoning bylaws, did significant revisions. When it came to awnings they knew it would be a major

issue so they decided to deny future awnings until the issue could be addressed in a more comprehensive way (in the B-1 district). The committee decided that Neal Duffy, Hal Schwartz, Derek Barnwell, and Pete Kane will split the businesses in the district and give them the survey either in person or on the phone. Tara Gallagher suggested we revise the survey and add information about what the current restrictions are in B2 and B3. Pete Kane responded that one possible solution would be to just add B1 district to those bylaws. The committee will also be sure to find out any anecdotal information from business owners or additional comments.

- 4) Green Communities Grant Update – Pete Kane talked to DOER about the next Green Communities Grant round. DOER has shifted the annual grant round to the Spring. There is no program to apply for this Fall which we were hoping to do since we skipped Spring. Pete talked to Chief Kevin Breen about getting quotes for the insulation work he wants to have done to the attic of the Fire Station and we can evaluate. There was some question as to what he is asking for. Is he only insulating the ceiling? Where is he insulating? and what method. If the space is new conditioned space then we may not be able to apply for it for our grant because it is not part of our energy baseline.

Kane also reported that we have not had to do a report to show where we are on our 5 year plan. As long as we stick with our vehicle procurement program and keep stretch code we are in compliance with Green Communities. Tara Gallagher suggested that we look at the energy use of the town once again and see how the plan is going. One thing we have always looked at is schools versus town.

- 5) Other Business – The Committee is planning on creating a more comprehensive and better organized website. Pete Kane is taking the lead on this project and presented a draft of how the site would be organized. The committee commented on some general organizational changes to the site.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM