

Swampscott Energy Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 14th, 2012 at 7:00 pm
Swampscott Town Hall, First Floor Meeting Room

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

Non-Members present: Pete Kane, Suzanne Snyder (Next Step Living), Tara Gallagher

MINUTES

1) Next Step Living Outreach program – next steps

Suzanne Snyder, from Next Step Living reported that the first workshop held at the Senior Center was not as great as hoped. We discussed that the televised Presidential Debate may have been a factor in poor attendance as well as the location at the Senior Center. They received three sign-ups for energy audits with one other person who said she was going to try to sign up. They also had a table at a Friends of the Library event last weekend (11/10) and said they received 12 sign-ups there and will be having a table at the Unitarian Church this weekend. We are hoping to do another workshop, hopefully at the library, and when we decide on the date we will send out a new press release and would like to put an ad in the paper.

Suzanne brought some information about Sun Run and talked about solar outreach, and potentially making our next workshop solar centric. She proposed the town partnering with NSL on a solar program – it would not be a tiered program like Solarize Mass, but residents would be given a gift card to a local business and a contribution would be made to a local project (like tree planting for example) to incentivize involvement. Suzanne pointed out that generally only 15% of homes qualify so it takes a lot of outreach.

The committee discussed participation in such a program but also talked about the potential of being part of the next round of Solarize Mass which may begin in Q1 of 2013. Pete Kane suggested we call some of the other communities who were part of the last round and find out how it went for them. We also will contact the new Salem Energy Manager (Jeff) and ask him his interest level in a joint application for Solarize Mass. Suzanne said she would discuss with others at NSL if a tiered program would even be a possibility or if the current offer is the only incentive they

could provide.

Suzanne talked about working with the PTOs of the schools and trying to organize a challenge with all the schools. Committee members agreed to contact people they know on various school PTAs.

Suzanne also said they are going to try to have a table at the football game on Thanksgiving Day.

We still have not contacted Stop and Shop or Whole Foods about having a table there.

- 2) National Grid Community Initiative – Pete Kane reported on the National Grid Initiative where they are trying to get people to sign up for audits and assessments as well as to purchase Energy Star appliances. For every sign up for an assessment or for Energy Star purchase the committee gets money. This program is basically exactly what we are doing with Next Step Living, but there is no conflict with the Next Step Living program and we get credit for all assessments we bring in. Maximum reward for us would be \$8,100 for tier 3. The money would go to the town's general fund for now. At the May Town Meeting we are going to try to get our own budget so money like this that we get for the town goes to our committee instead of to the general fund. Proposals are in, interviews are supposed to happen this week. Notification of the winning proposals is on Thanksgiving (after the meeting we were notified that we were accepted into this program).
- 3) STEM program with High School – Thomas Dreeben.

Thomas met with Brandy Wilbur about the STEM outreach. Brandy introduced Thomas to Chris Ratley who teaches the AP statistics class. He is interested in coming up with a project for AP students and tying it into sustainability. Brandy had 3 main objectives:

- 1) Outreach and publicity – wants the town to see what is going on
- 2) Influence students
- 3) Make a difference – have students change energy use and save money for the town

Big question Chris and Brandy had is how do they get their hands on raw data for the town? How much power is being consumed by different things in the high school? What can they get in real time? They are interested in what-if scenarios – shut off lights for a day as an example. They are also curious about the rate for the panels and the energy rates. Pete gave Brandy and Chris access to our Mass Energy Insight information so they can see the energy usage in town. It was also

mentioned that the students could physically read the meters for real time data which may be a good learning experience. Neal said we would love for the students to break down the energy useage by building for the last two years as we did for 2009. Neal will send Thomas our 2009 useage slide to forward to Brandy and Chris. They are thinking this program could start this academic year.

Wayne asked if we can blog things that we come up so we can send to people who are decision makers in town. Committee saved this idea for further discussion as to how this would work and what would be sent to people.

Athletic Field Committtee – Tara brought up that the lights at the High School track do not have solar panels and wanted to know why. Neal will get in touch with someone on the committee for the new fooball field and make sure efficient lighting is part of the plan. Tara asked if we can have a mechanism to be informed about energy purchases like lights at the soccer field? We discussed the difficulty of doing this as it can really bog down the process in town if decisions have to run through many committees.

- 4) Awning Surveys – Derek still working on it. Hal did his, has two left to find, Neal did his as well. Pete will gather all the data to present to the planning sub-committee.
- 5) Biodiesel generator for baseball field lights – Barry Greenfield was applying for a grant for a grease to diesel fuel converter for the town but that is no longer happening so this dicussion did not happen.

Minutes – motion to accept minutes of 9/27 - approved unanimously (8:59)

- 6) Vertical Wind Turbine – Not much of a discussion here. Neal will look for more information about the technology. Tara mentioned that North Face just installed verical wind turbines partly as a demonstration.
- 7) Other Business –

9:14 - Meeting adjourned

