

Swampscott Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, February 26th, 2013 at 7:00 pm
Swampscott Town Hall, Second Floor Meeting Room**

Members Attending: Neal Duffy, Wayne Spritz, Hal Schwartz, Thomas Dreeben, Derek Barnwell, Vicky Masone.

Members Absent: Milton Fistel

Non-Members attending: Pete Kane, Tara Gallagher

The committee discussed the upcoming school committee meeting where Wayne Spritz and Neal Duffy are going to discuss the following:

Combined Heat and Power Unit:

We decided to walk the School Committee through the problem and provide a timeline of what happened, when the unit went down, how it was handled and when it was brought back online. We thought it best to discuss it in relation to the importance of our 20% reduction plan and as good example as to why better communication is needed between the School Committee and the School Department. We decided to ask the School Committee for a liaison to our committee.

Green Communities Grants:

We will present the School Committee with the proposed projects to make the aware of what we are applying for and give them a chance for feedback on these projects as well as suggest new/different ones.

Vicky Masone provided a positive report on a potential HVAC upgrade at the library for the Green Communities Grant. At first she thought the library was going to be a far stretch, but we have a good HVAC contractor who can provide give good numbers for the Green Communities application. He said he thought the project would be favorable.

Vicky recommended that we stress to the School Committee that they need to also take ownership of these projects, that the grants need follow up and reporting, and if they are not working with us on this then it is really hard. The rest of the committee all agreed that we need a commitment from them.

Hal Schwartz expressed a desire to introduce some new, more visible projects, both for the Green Communities grant and in general, with the idea that visible projects can help to change the thinking in town.

Neal Duffy mentioned how he would like Pete Kane and whoever the Energy Manager is in the future, to do more “energy management” – monitoring use and analyzing data instead of almost exclusively applying for grants. Pete mentioned that most energy managers in other towns have similar duties to his.

Tara Gallagher inquired about the low income housing units and if there was any more information on what they qualify as, in order to help make them aware of energy saving opportunities.