

# Swampscott Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 24th, 2013 at 7:00 pm  
Swampscott Town Hall, 1st floor conference room

Members present: Neal Duffy, Milton Fistel, Wayne Spritz, Hal Schwartz

Members absent: Derek Barnwell, Thomas Dreeben, Victoria Masone

Non-Members present: Pete Kane

- 1) Pete Kane reports on Solarize MA. Discuss next steps:

We were not selected for round one of Solarize MA but there should be another round in the fall and we are hopeful that we will be selected for that round. We do not have to go through the whole application process again, we just have to say that we are reapplying.

- 2) MA CEC Community Energy Strategies Pilot Program –

No update on this program that Swampscott was accepted into. We are waiting for CEC to get together with Meister Consulting to get things moving, but as of today, there are no official meetings scheduled.

- 3) Outdoor and recreational space committee meeting –

The Outdoor and Recreational space committee has a report on a plan for the town's outdoor and recreational space and is hoping for feedback from relevant committees including ours. Neal Duffy is hoping to attend their presentation of the plan (note that Neal did not make it to this presentation).

The committee discussed what sort of input we should have on the plan, per Hal Schwartz' suggestion, the REC would request inclusion of any open space would consider available use of space to (1) on aggregate be net-neutral on energy use for all such sites (i.e. some form of renewable energy installed to provide power to provide for equivalent of lights draw), and/or (2) consider, on aggregate, be part of use study to expand renewal energy creation by town on a town-wide basis (provide not just net-neutral power, but additive for entire town-activities).

We want to make sure that they understand understand and are aware that as a Green Community we are committed as a town to reduce energy

use.

Pete Kane recommended that all committee members read the plan, especially the “goals and objectives” section which is calling for broader recommendations. He also mentioned that we need to back up any

The question was raised if the Harbor is considered “open space” which lead to a brief discussion of an idea that has been discussed at previous meetings which is to construct a breakwater in the harbor that will incorporate underwater/tidal turbines - Pete met with Jackie Kinney, Jackson Schultz, and one other member of the Harbor Advisory Committee. He discussed the idea with them and sent them some information about the technology. The hope is that the REC will be able to work with the Harbor Advisory committee to study the feasibility and costs of such a plan.

4) Green Communities updates – We have no idea when we will hear about our grant application.

5) Next Step Living update – Neal will email Michael Pegnato, the president of Swampscott Little League about having tabling events at Little League games.

6) National Grid Community Initiative – Ellen from National Grid sent us our status. So far we have already hit the level 3 goal as far as assessments are concerned which will payback \$4,000 to the town. Air sealing and insulation work, we are almost 25% to our goal. Heating and hot water systems – none have been installed to date. The problem is, even if people have had such systems put in, if they did not have them installed as a result of an audit then it does not count and we don't know about it.

Pete updated the Big Blue Energy website to push all of the specific actions. What he recommends we do now is put together a little handout with a break down what residents can do to save money. Handouts for Next Step Living at tabling events?

We should invite NSL to come to the next meeting.

6) REC goals going forward –

Neal brought up the idea that as a committee, we should have goals going forward, and that as individual members we should come up with our own projects and have ownership of the projects that we are doing.

Wayne mentioned reintroducing the Energy Miser article that we used to write for the Reporter - perhaps one committee member writes the article once a month. Wayne volunteered to do the first article and suggested writing one about the National Grid program so residents were aware that the town would get money if they get assessments and work done.

Hal would like to work with the STEM coordinator on a class project to identify small renewable energy projects. The project would include feasibility, cost analysis, grant opportunities, and upon completion the class would present their findings to the committee. It would be a valuable use of STEM but also provide a quasi-valuable feasibility study. Other committee members thought it was a good idea and Hal will contact Brandy Wilbur, the Swampscott High School STEM coordinator.

Wayne Spritz mentioned his conversation with the 7<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher at the middle school and thought we could do something with that grade level as well. Perhaps the kids could walk neighborhoods and map solar potential?

#### 7) New Business –

Streetlights –National Grid put in request from DPU to offer a reduced tariff fee for municipally owned streetlights. If they approve the municipal ones than LEDs will be lower across the board.

Minutes approves – 3 for, Hal Schwartz abstained because he was not present at the last meeting.

Meeting Adjourned 8:52 PM