

# Swampscott Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 14th, 2013 at 7:00 pm  
Swampscott Town Hall, 2nd floor conference room

Members Attending: Neal Duffy, Derek Barnwell, Hal Schwartz, Wayne Spritz, Milton Fistel

Members Absent: Thomas Dreeben, Victoria Masone

Non-Members Attending: Pete Kane

## 1) Committee long term goals and projects discussion –

The committee discussed individual projects that members could take the lead on.

Wayne Spritz volunteered to be the REC representative for the Community Energy Strategies Pilot Program (see below, agenda item #2, for program description).

Hal Schwartz had introduced the idea of working with the Brandy Wilbur, the high school STEM coordinator to develop a program where students would conduct feasibility studies for various renewable projects. Hal reached out to Brandy a couple of weeks ago but she has not yet responded to his inquiry.

Neal Duffy mentioned that he would like to explore the idea of having a breakwater in the harbor with a turbine in it, but it seems that could be something that is researched through the Community Energy Strategies Program so he will hold off on that effort. He will look at the Mass Energy insight website and do some data crunching as well as some research as to what the site provides, possibly recommending the type of data the committee should be actively monitoring and reporting on a regular basis.

Thomas Dreeben, who was absent at this meeting, and Derek Barnwell, both lighting professionals, expressed an interest in researching the

streetlights pricing issue (see New Business for more detail). Derek agreed to write an article for the [Patch](#) about the issue.

Derek also introduced the idea that perhaps our committee should be included somehow, in a more official way, when plans are being made for new construction of town buildings. Pete Kane mentioned that it is the Planning Board and ZBA (Zoning Board of Appeals) who sign off on plans and that we would have to add to the zoning bylaws that we are another body that has to grant approval. Seems unlikely that we would be successful in such efforts and most on the committee agreed that we have to continue to aggressively become more involved in such projects.

## 2) MA CEC Community Energy Strategies Pilot Program - updates

Pete Kane attended the kickoff meeting for municipal representatives on Monday in Salem. He learned that it is going to be a little more intensive than originally expected. Overall, the program will help us evaluate potential renewable energy projects. All four communities in our group (Swampscott, Hamilton, Wenham and Salem) will get a solar feasibility study. This study will be extremely helpful for some targeted marketing when/if we start a solar outreach program. Meister consulting will do the feasibility study. Meister is the only consulting firm for the whole program. Each of the four communities within our group is going to have a working group consisting of [three](#) or [four](#) residents. The committee decided that we would have one REC member (Wayne Spritz), one non-REC member, and business representative/owner. It was decided that we would ask Tara Gallagher to be the non-REC member representative. They are expecting to have a maximum of 6 meetings [as well as](#) two community forums - one in July and one in September. The July meeting will be a general, informational one where hopefully community members are providing ideas and input, the September meeting will be about the information found at the end of the study. The whole project will be looking at clean energy options for all four communities but also opportunities that are unique to each individual community. Meister will help come up with potential project ideas as well as look at the feasibility and limitations/barriers of potential projects. The hope is that a clean energy plan will be developed with a section for each of the towns and that such a plan will be completed by November. It will be incumbent on the town to follow through with the plan. Potentially Salem and Swampscott, and Hamilton and Wenham will work separately on some of this.

3) Outdoor and recreational space committee updates – Pete sent Neal the instructions on how to submit the RECs recommendations to the Outdoor and Recreational Space committee and Neal will submit them after the meeting.

4) Green Communities updates – no updates.

5) Next Step Living update – Michael Pegnato, the Little League president, agreed to have an NSL table at the Little League picture day this Saturday, 5/18. Suzanne Snyder from NSL has been put in touch with Pegnato and will follow up to make arrangements. Neal will follow up with Suzanne on event planning.

6) New Business –

Updates on streetlights - National Grid has been going through the review process with DPU for a new proposed rate for more energy efficient streetlights. The proposal is a reduced tariff on municipally owned streetlights but not utility-owned lights. National Grid wants rates based on a 50-watt basis – rounding up to 50 watt. MAPC is arguing that the model National Grid proposes is faulty - the problem being that communities will be losing out on thousands of dollars of savings with such large increments between rates (50wattt). The committee is excited that some progress has been made in the right direction on this issue and Derek Barnwell will write an article for the Patch to help make community members more aware of the problem. The committee also discussed that if/when a new rate is set, we should propose a pilot sight where we can test the savings as well as the aesthetics of the new lights before changing over the whole town.

Previous meeting minutes were approved unanimously by members present.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:55 PM