

## **Swampscott Energy Committee Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, June 19th, 2014 at 7:00 pm  
Swampscott Town Hall, First Floor Meeting Room

Members attending: Neal Duffy, Wayne Spritz, Tara Gallagher, Christine DePalma, Milton Fistel, Thomas Dreeben, Hal Schwartz  
Non-Members attending: Daniel Dragani, Brian Szekeley, Gargi Cooper

### **Agenda**

- 1) Approval of previous meeting minutes. Approved.
- 2) Introduction of Gargi Cooper, newly appointed REC liaison from the School Committee. Gargi was just recently elected to the school committee, having served as the president of the Hadley School PTA in years past. She is excited to work with the committee on school related projects.
- 3) Conservation program with schools. Report on CES grant and next steps.

Brian Szekeley reported that an MAPC grant of \$30,000 is to be shared between Swampscott and the other CES communities (Hamilton, Wenham, Salem, Swampscott). This grant is to help the communities create behavior based programs. The likely use of the funds will be to pay a consultant to look at the bigger schools in each town (SHS) and help develop such a program. School Superintendent Pamela Angelakis has the proposal for her review. MAPC is currently creating an RFP for the project and will put it out soon and hopefully the program will start in the fall.

- 4) High School Energy Audit and Senior Center HVAC updates – Daniel Dragani.

Brian Szekeley and Dan Dragani met a representative from Guardian Energy for the high school energy audit today. This turned out to be more of a preliminary meeting than an audit. They are going to proceed to set up the audit soon. Dan and Brian need to give National Grid some guidance as to what we want. National Grid pays for a portion of this audit and the Senior Center will be included.

### **Other school building energy reports:**

One example of a potential energy saver Dan noticed already - When the Senior Center calls for heat but the high school does not, then both boilers turn on. One idea is we could possibly tie in a residential sized boiler just for the Senior Center.

Dan will receive training of the HVAC systems for the high school. \$1,000 for 4-hour training. Per Christine's suggestion he will have the training videotaped to

document the information.

M&V (Maintenance and Verification) of the ESCO with JCI is happening now.

Dan Dragani reported that the lighting in nine of the stairwells in the high school, which is on 24/7, is tied into the emergency lighting circuit. He is looking into the possibility of converting those lights to LED. Tom Dreeben suggested a simpler solution - remove half the bulbs, potentially saving the same amount of energy and providing the same amount of light as an LED conversion. The question was asked if we could install a motion sensor which may not be possible because they are emergency lights. Dan will further explore possible energy saving measures.

The committee discussed the fact that we still have no methodology to capture and track daily energy use at the high school and in the town generally.

Brian and Dan, possibly through Gargi, will try to have all the school energy bills forwarded to them.

Hal Schwartz introduced the idea that we could simply take pictures of the meters daily and input the information into some simple spreadsheet. It could be done by high school volunteers and could tie into both the behavior based program we are launching and our continued desire to work with the schools on educational programs.

Gargi Cooper suggested we contact Emily Barnum-Zoto, a Guidance Counselor at the high school about recruiting student volunteers. She will provide that contact information to Neal Duffy who will contact Emily about this idea.

The committee hopes to launch this tracking program as soon as possible at the high school and then hopefully expand it town wide.

Dan Dragani will try to talk to other communities about how they are monitoring energy useage. Tara Gallagher suggested that Acton seems to be on top of such initiatives and could be a good place to start. Lunenberg was also suggested as a potential resource.

##### 5) CHP unit update – Daniel Dragani

They are going to look into the underground piping to check for the suspected leak. JCI (Johnson Controls) is paying for excavation work and the plumbing company that installed the piping is going to be there. The town will pay for the plumbing company. Tom Younger wants the schools to pay for the unit to be fixed.

We are looking into the glycol mix that was used in the unit.

6) Discuss potential for divestment of fossil fuel companies from town portfolio – tabled for another meeting.

7) New Business –

Dan Dragani reported that through a National Grid lighting program the town is receiving 150 free LED bulbs to replace old 100w (some 75w) incandescent bulbs. This will be in town and school buildings. This will save about \$20/yr/bulb= \$3,000/yr.