

Swampscott Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 10th, 2015 at 7:00 pm
Swampscott Town Hall, Second Floor Meeting Room

Attending: Neal Duffy, Milton Fistel,
Dan Dragani (ex-Officio), Pete Kane, Wayne Spritz, Tara Gallagher, Rebecca
LeBlanc

Agenda

1) 7:00 to 7:10 - Approval of previous meeting minutes – approved

The committee welcomed Rebecca LeBlanc and Dan Dragani as official members of the Renewable Energy Committee.

2) 7:10 to 7:40 – Energy Use Spreadsheets and Carbon Footprint –

The committee reviewed the building energy use spreadsheets created by Rebecca LeBlanc and Dan Dragani and discussed adding a baseline year to the sheet as well as somehow adding a weather normalization column for a more accurate year to year comparison. Dan Dragani wants to develop an energy use index for each building as well.

Rebecca LeBlanc is creating a carbon footprint for Swampscott. She is looking at 2014 and 2015, using 2009 as a baseline, and is making good progress in collecting all the necessary information. She is including waste and yard waste disposal and is going to get that information from Hiltz. The hope is we will have something to present to the Board of Selectmen in late winter/early spring and present to the annual Town Meeting in May.

The committee discussed the problem of gas leaks in the town and the danger, the wasted energy, and the added emissions they present. It was decided that these should not be included in the carbon footprint as it is beyond the scope of the town and really the responsibility of the utility, but is still a serious problem. This item will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Dragani reported that over the last year at the High School we have saved just over \$100k with the systems improvements, operations adjustments and functional cogen unit. During one recent month ~60% of the building's electricity was being supplied by the solar panels. With the cogen running we were supplying about 70% of the electricity to the high school

Wayne Spritz asked if it was economical to buy the solar panels instead of remaining in the power purchase agreement. The committee seemed to think probably not, but worth investigating further.

Tara Gallagher thought this might be something the finance committee could help us with.

3) 7:40 to 7:50 - Municipal Aggregation – Pete Kane reported that there were public forums held to provide residents information on the aggregation of the town's electric supply. Approximately 20-25 people attended. Some outside energy companies are in town aggressively marketing their services to residents, Direct Energy is one company that is particularly aggressive and problematic.

4) 7:50 to 8:20 – Harbor Breakwater project discussion – The committee discussed the potential new breakwater in Swampscott harbor and the feasibility of attaching a wave powered turbine or other wave or tidal energy project to it.

Milton Fistel is on the Harbor Advisory Committee and reported that the proposed configuration in the (draft) report from that committee is ideal for our harbor. It consists of two overlapping breakwaters coming off (but not attached to) Lincoln House point and running nearly parallel to the shore on Fishermen's Beach. The Harbor Advisory Committee hopes to time breakwater construction with an upcoming Boston Harbor dredging to use those materials to construct our breakwater. This would potentially cut the cost of the project in half.

Neal presented information on a wave powered breakwater in Mutriku, Spain with Oscillating Water Column technology. He is going to contact MA CEC to try to find further details of the viability of such a project here and try to figure out next steps.

Dan – the town received a grant for a coastal resiliency study, climate change and adaptation and how to mitigate areas of concern. Climate change maps are different from insurance maps.

5) 8:20 to 8:40 - Any other business that comes before the committee

Tara and Dan, on behalf of the REC, will be meeting with the high school students who are developing a small turbine project next week. The committee looks forward to hearing about this meeting.

Meeting adjourned – 9:15

