

## **Swampscott Energy Committee Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, January 26th, 2016 at 7:00 pm  
Swampscott Town Hall, First Floor Meeting Room

Members present: Neal Duffy, Milton Fistel, Tom Dreeben, Hal Schwartz, Pete Kane, Dan Dragani, Tara Gallagher, Rebecca LeBlanc

Non-Members present: Madeleine Barr (Next Step Living)

### **Agenda**

- 1) 7:00 to 7:10 - Approval of previous meeting minutes - Approved.
- 2) 7:10 to 7:30 – National Grid/Next Step Living program update – Madeleine Barr, Community Programs Coordinator from Next Step Living, joined the committee to discuss the National Grid community initiative. The initiative is a similar program to the one Swampscott participated in 4 years ago (2012). One difference Madeleine reported is they may, at some point, offer incentives for wireless thermostats. National Grid will have monthly check-ins with all communities as well as monthly progress updates. The program is one year long and Swampscott's goals are 268 assessments, 45 air sealing jobs, 58 insulation projects, 14 heating system upgrades, and 27 Wi-Fi thermostats. Each line item has an incentive amount tied to it and if we hit all these benchmarks the town gets approximately \$15,000. The auditing process - Mass Save sends their assessments to Clear Result (used to be Conservation Services Group). Clear Result does a lot of the Quality Control/Assurance for the program. A press release went out to all the local papers and the Globe's North Shore editor. Next step is some action from our team. The committee decided we will try an "ice bucket challenge" approach, where we all get our assessment and challenge other groups. We'd like to try to get "well known" residents for publicity. A couple workshops will be scheduled throughout the year. We will try to have table events at Whole Foods and Stop n Shop. We'll also reach out to school PTOs to see if they'll partner with NSL. Tara will try to market it with the Unitarian Universalist church and Hal will check with his temple.
- 3) 7:30 to 7:40 – report from BASG's Clean Energy Transition event – Tom, Tara, Rebecca attended. They watched a film about the coal industry and the damaging health impact of the particulate matter from coal-fired power plants. Massachusetts will be completely off of coal by 2018. Lori Ehrlich talked a lot about the challenge of getting the word out about the damage coal does. The Attorney General's office representative talked about gas leaks legislation.
- 4) 7:40 to 7:55 - Gas leaks legislation and MAPC project/study - Swampscott is participating in a pilot study with MAPC. MAPC will interview towns about their practices of repairing streets and promote coordination between towns and gas

companies so companies know which pipes they should/can repair. HEET (Home Energy Efficiency Team) is going to do an audit of the leaks reported by the utilities to see how accurate they are. The audits are stage two of the program and we are not guaranteed participation in it. Tom Dreeben asked if Lori Ehrlich is aware of our involvement in the program and suggested perhaps she can help ensure our involvement in phase two. Dan wants to see a map of National grid leak prone gas pipes so the Town can plan construction (if needed) on these roadways at the same time as the gas company. The goal would be to follow with roadway repaving on these streets a year or two after all infrastructure is fixed. DPW would also like to prevent repaving roadways with leak prone gas pipes that are in the gas companies capital plans”.

4) 7:55 to 8:05 - decorative streetlights – there are currently two projects happening with LED streetlights. For the Green Communities streetlight upgrade, we had an audit done by Siemens and Pete will be getting a report in a couple of weeks. We will know incentives and cost after we get that report. We need to discuss lighting temperature. The 3000-degree fixture is more expensive and the 4000 is more efficient light. There is some difference. We are making a recommendation as will the municipal design committee. We are purchasing the last of the National Grid owned lights (Humphrey St. and monument). We are switching 12 of those in the core of Humphrey St. to be decorative. Those 12 will be new everything (post etc.). Those lights may need to be individually metered (one meter for all 12 lights).

Library trustees want lights on the sidewalk as well. The Historic District commission decides what we do at the library and we should probably try to coordinate with them so they are the same or similar to the Humphrey Street lights.

Library Solar – Dan. There is potential \$150,000 grant for solar at the library. Dan reported that one challenge is the roof is about exactly at its half-life. The roof that has the best potential is the oldest, and a small one on the side. Neal will email Sydney Pierce (who was the Solar Coach for Solarize Swampscott) to see if she recalls reasons why the library was not pursued then.

5) 8:05 to 8:15 – Harbor Breakwater project discussion – Neal talked with Nils Bolgen, a Program Director at MA CEC (Clean Energy Center) to try to find out more information about incorporating a wave powered turbine within the proposed breakwater. Nils said there are no current programs for wave energy with CEC, but referred Neal to some other contacts in the industry (both academics and business people) who may be able to help. Neal is following those leads and will report on any further developments.

6) 8:15 to 8:30 – Carbon Footprint update – Rebecca needs to spend a little more time with Dan to fill in some blanks. DPW is the first thing to take care of

because it is the most complicated. Scope 1, 2, 3. Needs to be clearly presented. There are certain things that are very significant in scope 3 that we want to include. Especially if we are asking for money for the streetlight conversion, we want to mention the effect it will have on the town's carbon footprint.

8) 8:45 to 8:55 - Master Plan Sustainability Chapter (if time allows).  
Recommended everyone look at updated chapter. Emphasize goals/strategies.

Meeting Adjourned – 9:10 PM