

Minutes of the Swampscott Renewable Energy Committee Meeting

June 10, 2017, 7pm, Town Hall

Attendance

Members: Wayne Spritz, Tara Gallagher, Tom Dreeben , John Graff, Rebecca LaBlanc,

Guests: Pete Kane, Sydney Pierce, Dana Anderson

1. Solarize 2.0

The committee discussed taking on a new round of the Solarize program with the decision to obtain more information and discuss again at the next meeting. *{Note that subsequent to our meeting, we learned that the state has a competitive program for towns such as ours that would like to do a second round of the Solarize program}.*

In the original Solarize Swampscott program, there were 36 residential installations (average 5kW) with additional installations fostered outside the official program. We used RGS as the installer and received significant support from MassCEC in executing the contracts, marketing, etc. Pete noted that Newton has been running their own program which the REC could research to see if it might be something to do here. Rebecca to reach out to contacts there to learn more. The committee also discussed liability concerns regarding the selection of the installer.

John raised the option of community solar. He will reach out to some developers to do some high level discovery. The committee also discussed the option of hosting a solar provider fair where residents and businesses could choose their own provider.

2. Rail Trail

The REC has been asked to consider a vote to support the rail trail. Pete offered a high-level update, noting that Town Meeting is being asked to fund design and engineering of 9000' long x 10' wide stone dust trail as well as the acquisition rights. Funding for construction will be private investment. Speaking to how this promotes the mission of the REC, Tara noted that the REC has been trying to promote a long view future of sustainability. This will promote lower consumption of fossil fuels, emissions, etc.

The committee drafted and passed this statement of support: **“The SREC has a core mission to evaluate and makes recommendations to the Board of Selectmen regarding energy conservation, energy efficiency, and/or conversion to greener energy sources. The committee feels that the Rail Trail supports this mission.”**

Motion by Tara, Second by Rebecca. Unanimously voted yes.

3. Motion to approve last meeting's minutes. Motion by Rebecca, second by Tom.

4. Committee priorities: The group discussed personal interests so that we could establish the direction of the group.

- a. *Rebecca*: Would like to have a good control process to run new projects. Creating a calendar. Has interest in taking some project management role. Greenhouse gas accounting. Mentoring process to students interested in energy conservation.
 - b. *John*: Interested in better understanding the energy usage in town at a more granular level of understanding so that we can take action.
 - c. *Tom*: Lighting projects. Would like to do more things with automotive such as promoting auto charging stations in town.
 - d. *Tara*.. Interest in communications broadly and keeping the web page updated and engaging.
 - e. *Wayne*: Establish more community outreach; deploy collaboration tools. Use Swampscott as an R&D test bed for emerging new renewable energy technologies, in collaboration with local research labs & universities.
 - f. *Dana*: Net Zero community work. Can help build and distribute knowledge base thru USGBC group.
5. Tara will write a blurb to paper for the two open vacancies on the REC.