

Swampscott Renewable Energy Committee

Meeting

Tuesday, July 17th, 2018 at 7:00 PM

Swampscott Town Hall, Ground Floor Meeting Room

Attendees: Samantha McCafferty, Thomas Dreeben, Wayne Spritz, John Graff, Ryan Hale, Tara Gallagher

Guests: Nick Scibelli

Agenda & Minutes

1. Approve minutes from previous meeting
 - a. Motion to approve, second, passed by vote
2. Introduce guests - potential new committee members
 - a. Nick: Environmental science student at UMass Amherst. Better availability between semesters, able to attend monthly meetings year round.
3. Review status of open action items
 - a. Tom: Town Hall EV charging project application via MAPC. We, the committee, are not in a position to apply for the funding. Would need to request allocation of funds from Capital Improvement Committee.
 - i. This committee will develop a prioritized list of investment opportunities, e.g., EV charging, Middle School roof PV expansion, new school, vehicle fleet, etc.
 - b. Green Communities grant award has been delayed, no new date.
 - c. Tara will follow up with Sean & Gino about the expiration of PPA contract with Peregrine.
 - d. ACTION: Tara will contact Tom Prentiss about Town's utility demand response.
4. Finalize presentation on town's energy data, recent projects and upcoming priorities
 - a. Tom's inquiry to secure a spot on the agenda with Board of Selectmen led to a determination that we would not present until the fall, date to be confirmed by Tom.
 - b. Peter Spelios' advice was to set an aspirational goal, e.g., Net Zero. Tom attended the Net Zero seminar in July, learned that qualification criteria are loosely defined. We will advocate to the Board that a hiring requirement is a set of qualifications around energy efficient design. Community engagement will help to reinforce these priorities (e.g., rooftop gardens). More meaningful figure of merit would be energy or carbon reduction in absolute terms from new school vs current footprint, as opposed to a certification level. Compile local or regional examples to inspire the Board towards an aspirational goal. At a future meeting we will discuss the specifics of this objective to include in our Board presentation.
 - c. School Committee was seeking interest in joining the planning committee by July 9.
5. Energy Technical Assistance Grant Program Update
 - a. Wayne: after consulting Neal Duffy, and after Sam's research on the META grant program, this committee will not pursue this grant for the purpose of energy efficiency studies for new school production, and we don't have time to submit the grant for other purposes before the window closes on 20 July. Awaiting response from NatGrid contact.

- i. This is an example to highlight in our presentation to the Board of Selectmen about the importance of partnership between Town employees and Committee, and the opportunities that the Town will miss if these positions remain vacant.
- 6. Police Department Fuel Reduction Options Update
 - a. Sam has prepared a memo that summarizes our recent discussions.
 - b. Ryan had additional discussions with Chief Madigan and Lt Bradford from Pittsfield, as well as local bike shops, to understand their experiences and estimate costs. Training and information for the PD on safety and equipment is available through IMBPA. Have been unable so far to identify grant programs that would offset equipment purchase costs.
 - c. e-Bike and hybrid electric vehicles will be on our list of proposed projects. Worth asking Peter about how to request funding from operating budget for the first e-bike purchase as a pilot for PD.
 - d. Action: Ryan to provide text to Sam in order to finalize the memo.
- 7. Other Business
 - a. Tara visited Sterling has the highest per capita installation of battery storage and PV production, the town can be self-sufficient for a month. Head of Municipal Light Plant is a great contact if we want to research battery storage to existing or future PV projects (grant program for state agencies provides significant incentive when batteries included). Add to potential CIC project list.