

Swampscott Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 8th, 2016 at 7:00 pm
Swampscott Town Hall, First Floor Meeting Room

Attending: Neal Duffy, Wayne Spritz, Tara Gallagher, Thomas Dreeben, Milton
Fistel, Rebecca LeBlanc, Pete Kane
Guests: Jacqueline Meyncke Risch, Enviroment Massachusetts, Christina
Rohrbacher, HomeWorks

1) Previous meeting minutes were approved.

2) National Grid Community Initiative and HomeWorks audit program. Christina Rohrbacher gave the committee a presentation about HomeWorks' program to support communities in getting residents to sign up for home energy audits and energy improvements so that we could explore working together. In the wake of Next Step Living's disbanding, HomeWorks has been working with communities such as Melrose, Quincy and Winchester. In addition to their program ambassadors, they do insulation work and 80% of the HVAC in-house and are hiring an in-house electrician. They have positive customer reivews and an A+ customer rating from the Better Business Bureau. If we agree to work with them, they would staff events, and help with advertisements and community mailers. The committee asked some questions about staff bonding, insurance, and level of training and Christina agreed to provide that information the next day. Pete agreed to provide Christina the MOU we had used with Next Step Living and Christina agreed to provide HomeWorks standard MOU to Pete and Neal.

The committee voted as follows:

Pending Neal Duffy, Chairman of the REC, and Pete Kane, Director of Community Development's, approval of the information Christina Rohrbacher will send on HomeWorks' contractors and HVAC/insulation crews, the committee RESOLVED to move forward to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (approved by Kane and Duffy) to initiate a partnership with HomeWorks to promote home energy assessments in Swampscott through the end of the calendar year.

All committee members are to provide Pete with information on upcoming events where it would be appropriate to have an information table. He will provide the information to Christina.

3) Environment Massachusetts: Jacqueline Meyncke Risch explained that her organization was unveiling a report on the Statehouse steps on September 15th at 11:00 on RGGI. Wenham and Swampscott are the only two communities featured in the report and she invited someone from Swampscott to speak at the

event. Committee members were to contact her to let her know of their availability. The REC also offered to provide quotes, as needed.

4) Pete Kane shared the Swampscott Middle School conservation program report detailing the year-long effort to promote energy conservation behavior change. The program was generally successful and students and teachers were highly engaged. The program suffered, however, from a lack of administrative support and opportunities to better integrate the program into the curriculum are unlikely to be fully realized without top-level support. The report recommended that the program be continued and solidified at SMS before being expanded to other schools.

5) Pete Kane reported that the LED streetlight conversion project will commence October 3rd and will take four and a half weeks. Residents will be able to check the town website to view a GIS map of daily progress. Pete is handling the press on the conversion.

6) Peak Demand Update. The committee ran out of time and did not discuss this.

Greenhouse Gas Reductions goals, commercial business pilot program – This program was not discussed as Rebecca LeBlanc is developing it and she was not in attendance.

3) 7:40 to 7:50 - LED streetlight project –

Prior to the meeting, Pete Kane provided an update to Neal Duffy via email - We've finalized the procurement and installation agreement with Siemens, it's now going through DOER review (DOER gets to provide comments on any type of Energy Management Service contract like this one). We anticipate getting the review process done by the end of the month and hopefully have a signed agreement by the end of August. Once we sign the agreement, Siemens will then be able to provide the work/install schedule.

We've selected the Acuity lights at the 3000 Kelvin temperature based on feedback from REC members and recent reports/studies on light temperature.

The committee is going to organize a publicity campaign about the project. Peter Spellios suggested we contact the communications committee and work with them. Peter will contact the communications committee on the REC's behalf to start that process.

4) 7:50 to 8:00 – IECC Building Codes – Neal updated REC members about the upcoming building code vote this fall. The International Code Commission (ICC) updates America's building codes every three years, and it is happening again this fall. Massachusetts, along with most other states, is required to adopt whatever the ICC code is. Local government officials are the ones who vote for the code, and this year the vote will be held online for the first time. Swampscott has 4 votes. It is important for the committee to make sure Swampscott has four registered voters and ensure that those voters will vote for the most energy efficient measures in the proposed code.

5) 8:00 to 8:20 – National Grid Community Initiative - We're continuing to make progress on this program, and are ahead of targets right now. Pete Kane reported that we now have informational stands with take-home info located in Town Hall and the Library with contact information.

Tom is doing a table at the Farmer's Market next weekend.

6) 8:20 to 8:30 – Any other business that comes before the committee

Submitted by:

Neal Duffy, Chair, Renewable Energy Committee