

**Swampscott Renewable Energy Committee
Minutes**

Tuesday 6 December, 2022 at 7:00 PM

Town Hall Conference Room with Zoom option

Attendees: Jon Davids, George Delegas, Diana Eddows, Martha Schmitt, Ryan Hale, Neal Duffy, Sylvia (The Item)

Minutes

- 1) Minutes from the Sept 14th meeting will be reviewed/approved at the next REC meeting in January.
- 2) Review of 2022 Accomplishments
 - a) Energy Efficiency and Revise partnership. Approximately 100 energy audits were completed and about 60 of these resulted in weatherization projects. 30% of the project costs will be allocated back to a renewable energy project in Swampscott.
 - b) At REC's recommendation, a Climate Action and Resilience Coalition formed in early 2022 to work on a Climate Action Plan. A Climate Action Resolution was approved at Town Meeting in May. Swampscott received a \$50K Grant from Massachusetts Executive Office for Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) to support a Climate Plan. Initial focus areas have been defined, and an experienced consultant (Kim Lundgren Associates) is providing support for a communications package and executive summary.
 - c) EV promotion progress:
 - i) A demonstration of EV vehicles in June was very successful with many residents and some car dealers bringing vehicles
 - ii) The town has adopted the "EV First" procurement policy for municipal vehicles. This policy is also pending with the School Committee.
- 3) Goals for 2023 were outlined as follows
 - a) Support adoption of the Climate Action Plan, with a specific focus on the Buildings and Energy section of the plan.
 - b) Accelerate implementation of EV charging stations in town
 - c) Continue residential Energy Efficiency updates. Investigate commercial updates.
- 4) Other business
 - a) Proposed updates to the REC web page to be reviewed at the next meeting.
 - b) Engaging local property owners (e.g., Vinnin Sq) on EV Charging installation. Martha did some initial inquiries at Whole Foods and Stop and Shop, but has not identified the right person to contact. Marzie had mentioned that she had some contacts.
 - c) DOER Stretch code discussion. Stretch code covers new construction and major renovations. Are there levers that we would need to bring to Town Meeting that would include any bylaw or zoning changes. The Climate Action Plan may include recommendation of Stretch Code adoption. Find out what other communities are adopting (Beverly/Salem?)
 - d) What is needed to get Climate Plan approved at town meeting? Select board needs to sponsor it, and we need 2 meetings with Select Board to review specific recommendations and impacts. KLA expects to have a draft plan ready in late January or early February.
 - e) A brief discussion was held on CARC and whether a formal Climate Action Plan Committee should be formed. Neal will send email to CARC with a recommendation, and hopefully get Select Board approval for this new committee in December.

- f) Glover development – Planning Board is holding a public meeting next Monday Dec 12 at 7pm. REC will strongly recommend that this project follow the stretch code. (Meeting is at the high school or Zoom).
- g) Summit Estates Condo association is looking to upgrade or replace an old heating system. This is an opportunity to replace gas heating with all electric heating/cooling. Ryan is doing a site visit on Friday and NE Ductless will present HP options. Upcoming Condo association is planning to have a Q&A meeting. Neal suggested leveraging HeatSmart, an alliance that provides information on efficient heating.
- h) Member appointments and roles. Ryan would like to step down as chair next year, and is looking for a replacement. Also REC should continue to recruit additional members to get broader input and support from the community
- a) The next meeting date was agreed on as January 24 2023 at 7pm.

2) Actions:

- a) Follow up on Community First Grant award (Martha/Marzie)
- b) Set up a meeting with Revise, and ask for a monthly update. Consider a visit to the senior center to provide info on weatherization. Also ask Revise about other ideas on doing outreach. Also ask who would be the contractor covering commercial weatherization (Diana)
- c) Weatherization/Revise. Ask about doing an insert in water bill (Martha/Marzie)
- d) Contact Steve Cummings to get input on engaging contractors (Ryan)
- e) Send Glover meeting info to this group. (Ryan)
- f) Find out if we can get an update on Solar installations from National Grid? (Martha)
- g) Send final copy of “EV First” procurement policy to this group (Ryan or Neal)
- h) Send info on Summit Estates meeting to this group (Ryan)
- i) Review REC web pages and make recommendations for changes. (All)