

**Swampscott Renewable Energy Committee
Minutes (Final)**

Received by Town Clerk
January 29, 2024 9:50am

Tuesday 17 October, 2023 at 7:00 PM
Town Hall and Virtual Meeting on Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm

Attendees:

Martha Schmitt, George Delegas, Dave Zalanowski, Joe Roman, Diana Eddowes

1. Martha reviewed notes from the meeting on September 12th. Dave moved to approve notes, Joe seconded and the motion was unanimously approved
2. Martha presented her notes from the Municipal Building electrification initiatives meeting
 - Communities are sharing steps they are taking to promote Electrification. Many of these have Climate Action Plans, and are participating in Community First Program. It looks like most towns have a goal of getting the Specialized Energy Code adopted via a Warrant article.
 - A lot of these communities already have sustainability managers on staff
 - Salem has a whole sustainability department
3. Discussion took place about the need for a Sustainability Manager
 - Martha and Marzie worked on a grant from MAPC to fund a sustainability manager. Funding available would be \$60K which may only cover part time
 - We have a grant in place for the Community First Program initiative which is a shared resource between Swampscott and Lynn; Marissa Meany is the Energy Advocate and is funded for 10 hrs/week.
 - Diane offered to help as needed to support the effort and grant follow up
 - Martha had met with Greenscapes with the idea that the grant could also support this effort. Alternatively, we could potentially use money from Revise (sponsored by REC) to fund Greenscapes. Fee is \$3,500, about the same as Revise money given to the town. Recommend that we wait to see if the grant is awarded before making a decision.
4. Electrification FactSheets
 - The Building Electrification Initiative made fact sheets available that were published by RMI (Rocky Mountain Institute), available as PDF downloads. Question to our committee: do we want to post these on the REC website?
 - Martha shared some of those sheets on heat pumps, electrified cooktops.
 - Committee voted unanimously to post the RMI sheets as a resource on the REC website.
3. Martha pointed out that the whole website needs a revamp
 - Martha offered to look at it and asked if anyone could help
 - Could add community tips for vendor engagement
 - It would be good to have recommendations for Solar Companies. Martha mentioned a top 5 list from Forbes that may be helpful.
 - We discussed the committees stance on community solar, solar farms
4. There is ARPA money available to be distributed
 - Sparked by comment about ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act \$4M to be distributed (correction, the \$2.1M is available)
 - Committee recommended a focus on EV car chargers, then solar canopies, if EV chargers qualify.

- Other ideas: Electrification of DPW equipment or headquarters
 - Does the Police Department have any other electrified needs? eBikes, other transportation - Joe will ask Ryan if there are other needs.
5. Community Power vs. National Grid rates
- National Grid 33.9/kw Nov '22 - April '23, May - Oct National Grid is 14.1/kw
 - Community Power for same period from May - October was 11.4/kw
 - In November, National Grid's rate increases to 18.2/kw (Nov 1 - July 31)
6. Discussed how we incentivize electrification in town. Carrot or stick?
- We have adopted stretch code since we are a Green Community
 - Next step is to adopt the specialized energy code
 - Discussed possible outreach to local contractors to discuss their recommendations
 - Some ideas include Community learning efforts; electrification tours (houses), EV days, have local vendors to come out and support this
7. The next meeting date is Tuesday November 14.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM.