

Swampscott Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 6th, 2016 at 7:00 PM
Swampscott Town Hall, Second Floor Meeting Room

Members attending: Neal Dufy, Tara Gallagher, Wayne Spritz, Milton Fistel, Hal Schwartz, Rebecca LeBlanc

Non-Members attending: Tristan Smith

Agenda

- 1) 7:00 to 7:10 – Approval of previous meeting minutes - approved
- 2) 7:10 to 7:30 – Introduction of Tristan Smith. Tristan is a student at Salem State University as well as a lifelong resident of Swampscott. He is interested in working on climate and clean energy policy and attended the meeting to learn more about the Renewable Energy Committee's work and explore potential opportunities to become involved in our efforts.

- 3) 7:30 to 8:00 – Discussion of Green Communities Competitive Grant projects –

Prior to the meeting, REC member Tom Dreeben, a lighting engineer with Osram Sylvania, made some suggestions to Michael Scola, Swampscott Facilities Director, on ways to improve and reduce the scope of a lighting upgrade and conversion proposal submitted by Horizon Solutions. The proposal was significantly reduced from an original total net cost of \$577,974 to \$126,046. It is a more targeted and thoughtful approach, and it is the hope of the committee that Dreeben and Scola can continue working together to improve it further before the submission of our Green Communities Competitive Grant application.

Generally, the plan remains that Swampscott will submit a high school lighting project along with an attic insulation project for Clarke Elementary School.

Neal Duffy was looking at Swampscott's energy use on MassEnergyInsight (MEI), and noticed that weather normalized data was not adjusted from year to year when there was a significant difference in cooling degree days. It seemed odd that this difference did not have an impact on electric usage and Neal plans to contact Peregrine Energy, the administrators of MEI, to better understand the data.

- 4) 8:00 to 8:15 – High School Green Scholars update – Brandy Wilbur, STEM Coordinator at Swampscott High School, contacted Neal to let him know that some students had started exploring the small wind turbine that has been in the workshop at the high school for over ten years. Brandy said the students seem

to understand how to operate the turbine and would like suggestions as to where it could be installed, and what the approval process might be. Neal responded that the last time this came up, the light at the end of the dock in Swampscott harbor was suggested as a possible sight. It is highly visible, somewhat windy and it would fill a need. Neal also suggested that this group of mechanically inclined students contact Jack Wurzel and Owen Pearce, two high school students who visited the REC's November meeting to talk about their Green Scholars project. Jack and Owen are hoping to build a charging station that will be powered by a stationary bike, and were looking for some engineering help. Wayne Spritz has been in communication with Jack and Owen and sent them some suggestions as to how to proceed as well as some links to bike chargers currently on the market.

5) 8:15 to 8:30 - Stretch Code update – Tara Gallagher was curious if we needed to do anything to update the town's adoption of the stretch code from 2010. Neal inquired about this, and it turns out that the stretch code has not been updated since Swampscott's adoption. When the code is updated we will automatically adopt the revised code unless we take action not to.

5) 8:30 to 8:45 – Swampscott Carbon Footprint – Rebecca said she can start working on putting together this year's carbon footprint and thinks she could realistically have that ready in the spring. Neal will work with Rebecca on preparing to present the information to the Board of Selectmen as well as make suggestions for emissions reductions targets. Neal would like to contact communities that have set such targets to learn more about their processes and thinking.

6) 8:45 to 9:00 - Any other business that comes before the committee

Wayne Spritz expressed concern about the new LED Streetlights in town, specifically the ones on Farragut Road. Wayne said he felt the light being produced is significantly brighter than what was there previously and finds the lights objectionable for this reason. Wayne also expressed frustration that the town was able to do something that changed the character of the neighborhood, a historic district, when residents do not have the freedom to do the same. Wayne had contacted Pete Kane about this problem, and Kane contacted Siemens (the installer) about putting skirts around some of the lights on the street. One question that came up was if the fixtures on Farragut were brighter than some others in town, and whether they could be swapped out for the less bright ones. This would need to be discussed with Kane.

Submitted by:

Neal Duffy, Chair, Renewable Energy Committee

