

Minutes of the Swampscott Renewable Energy Committee Meeting

June 8, 2017, 7pm, Town Hall

Attendance

Members: Wayne Spritz, Tara Gallagher, Tom Dreeben , John Graff, Rebecca LaBlanc,

Guests: Pete Kane, Michael Scola, Frank Chiaravalloti, Ryan Hale, Samantha McCafferty, Dave Zalanowski

1. Michael Scola, Town Facilities Director reported:
 - a. Grants: Discussed existing Green Communities grant for \$241,287 for LED upgrades at five buildings. We will find out if we got the grant later in June.
 - b. Completed projects: Fire Station lighting project upgrade work is complete: \$20K with 3 year payback through on-bill repayment. Just fixed chillers on HS roof. Ongoing projects: Existing capital being spent at Hadley for new boilers.
 - c. ESCO with JCI: Expecting measurement & verification for year #7 by August 1st. Committee will support Michael, as needed, in reviewing.
 - d. Steamtraps: MassSave gives 100% reimbursement audit for Steamtraps +50% for repairs within a 12-month period. Multiple steam traps are regularly failing. Audit report available on request.
 - e. Possible future projects: Calibration of controls is an opportunity via Direct Digital Controls (DDC). Middle School may need replacement of 13 small boilers.
 - f. Building usage: Committee asked Michael how best to consolidate school usage after-hours and during summer. Perhaps Ted Delano can help us get statistical information of current usage?
 - g. Billing: Schools just signed new electrical supplier contract at \$0.09 / kW.
 - h. Solar: Reinstated the \$1.2 million HS roof warranty that was almost voided from original solar panel installations. Failed inverter fixed via PPA with Constellation.
 - i. Committee offered support to Michael. John G. is willing to review PPA agreement and solar installation.
2. Thanks to Pete Kane, **Swampscott received recognition as a top user of green power**, one of only two Massachusetts municipalities to appear on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Green Power Communities list. The town appears for the first time on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) list at No. 37 on the national list, for using nearly 17 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of green power annually, which represents 24 percent of its total power needs. Swampscott's choice to use green power is helping to advance the green power market and support clean renewable energy alternatives.
3. May meeting minutes approved.
4. Next Steps on Solar:
 - a. The committee explored various options for engaging on solar. Topics discussed included community solar, solar covered parking, applying to the state to enter the Solarize Plus program, hosting a Solar Fair.
 - b. John noted that for commercial systems over 25kW, there are net metering caps in MA . This year's cap of 350MW is accounted for meaning that any NEW commercial systems are not allowed to net meter until the cap is lifted. This applies to community solar projects making this option less attractive until the cap is lifted
 - c. The committee decided to invite a solar expert to our next meeting so that we continue to explore our options before embarking on a solar project.
 - d. John reported on his study of solar installations in Swampscott over the last several years. There were 209 roof-top solar projects installed in Swampscott from 2010 to May 2017, covering 3.7% of households. Based on the 102 most complete records, John found the average install cost was \$4.1/W;

with a 255W panel size. These solar installations will enable 1.72 GWh of energy to be produced per year. Installations declined from 2014-15 to 2016-17.

5. Gas Leaks:

- a. Rebecca noted that Mothers Out Front has engaged in community gas leak detection events.
- b. Tara agreed to track down the recent gas leaks report and share it with the committee.
- c. Committee agreed that Rebecca would ask the Swampscott Board of Health to support the MA Chapter of the Sierra Club and join in the effort to combat the health impacts of Fracked Gas Infrastructure by sending a letter to Governor Baker's office.

6. Tabled remaining items on agenda due to time.