

Swampscott Energy Committee
DRAFT Minutes

Wednesday 7 April 2021 at 7:00 PM

Attendees: Neal Duffy, Ryan Hale Nathan Young, Diana, Talia Steiman, Joe Roman, David Zalanowski

Agenda

1. Approve minutes from previous REC meeting - approved by voice vote
2. Report on action plans for current REC priorities
 - a. Residential Energy awareness & efficiency: "Green Building Standard," Home Energy Score / MLS, MassSave Assessments, etc.
 - i. Team has identified 8 companies as potential partners. Goal for May is to get feedback from the companies and advise on selection.
 - ii. Marzie shared that since 2018, 1021 households have completed Home Energy Assessments with a 34% conversion rate to weatherization projects (vs average of 24%) per National Grid data.
 - iii. Neal suggested that Marzie can assist in connecting us with National Grid support for community outreach to increase participation, with small but meaningful incentives. Neal to connect Diana and Marzie over email. Can we identify "preferred" vendors who have a track record of high conversion / satisfaction?
 - iv. Ryan shared that we are on track to renew our Town's power supply contract at a better price and a higher share of New England Renewable sources - great message to share with the Town via newsletter etc. Include the awareness of false advertising campaigns (Marzie and Peregrine Energy available to assist).
 - v. Aggregation will be an important component of achieving a Net Zero goal as a community - steadily increasing the % of power sourced from renewables in the base plan.
 - vi. David raised the topic of Municipal power contracts - Ryan to follow up with Ron.
 - vii. Nathan provided an update on the Salem Green Building Ordinance. It is currently under review by subcommittee, expecting a public hearing and City Council vote in a few months.
 - viii. The new law goes into effect in June, and requires update to Stretch Code in 18 months (opt-in). Local incentives around permitting and opting in to the top-tier code would be the best path for Swampscott because Towns have more scrutiny of by-laws than Cities.
 - b. EV adoption and charging station access
 - i. Joe presented ideas to expand EV charging locations at schools, MBTA, beaches, shopping areas. Will pursue these ideas with support from Marzie and Max.
 - ii. Ryan shared that Capital projects for feasibility of solar canopy and charging at the Police station has been discussed with positive support.
 - iii. Neal shared that state programs exist to support funding for these development projects. Some communities have established procurement policies to require EV -->Hybrid-->ICE. Neal to forward some draft documentation that REC could take to Select Board and School Board to pass. Ron has sought assistance from National Grid on a fleet inventory and replacement plan. ACTION: Joe to connect with Max.

- iv. EV demo/drive days for residents as a means of increasing awareness. Is this possible during COVID times? Perhaps plan for the fall? Let's raise this idea again over the summer - perhaps combine with Farmers' Market?
 - v. Other post-pandemic ideas: movie night, speaker from the industry.
 - vi. Talia to write a blurb for the Town newsletter advocating for EV "it's better than you might think"
 - vii. Neal to discuss with Allie about doing some video / social media posts to promote EV adoption among fleet and private vehicles.
 - c. GHG Inventory (on hold)
- 3. Coordination with other Town Committees
 - a. School Building Committee - Sustainability Subcommittee. Neal and Ryan have attended the meetings and we are moving towards a ground-source heat pump system with target EUI in the low 20s. Perhaps we can push harder for Passive House design / lower EUI? Will the voters be receptive to a higher initial cost and lower operating costs? Joe shared an example of a school in Maine that operated without backup systems, and the success of VRF technology in the industry. Possible to achieve Net Zero with PV on site. Talia reinforced the risk and costs associated with natural gas lines.
 - b. Putting together a Net Zero plan for Swampscott - Neal wants to participate, we expect additional funding to become available in the coming months/years. Getting a baseline measurement done is still an important first step.
 - c. Town Meeting, Capital Improvement Committee, Finance Committee, Select Board etc.
 - d. Affordable Housing
- 4. Green Communities milestones
 - a. Actions to complete previous grant cycle
 - b. Reporting milestones
- 5. Recruiting REC members
- 6. Other business
 - a. Target next meeting on Thursday 6 May at 7pm.