

Swampscott Energy Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 28th, 2017 at 7:00 PM
Swampscott Town Hall, First Floor Meeting Room

Members Attending: Neal Duffy, Wayne Spritz, Tara Gallagher, Rebecca LeBlanc, Thomas Dreeben

Non-Member Attending: Peter Spellios (Board of Selectmen), Gargi Cooper (School Committee), Michael Scola (Director of Facilities), and Bill Gardner (Horizon Solutions)

Agenda

1) 7:00 to 8:00 – Discussion of Green Communities Competitive Grant projects

The committee met to discuss and decide on what projects to include in the Green Communities competitive grant, which is due 3/3/17. Michael Scola had recommended LED lighting upgrades in 5 town buildings: Swampscott High School, Clarke Elementary School, Swampscott Public Library, Swampscott Police Station, and Town Hall.

First, the committee discussed the process of funding approval from Town Meeting, as well as all of the possible funding scenarios (i.e. receiving full or partial funding from Green Communities and the implications thereof). There were some concerns raised that if we received partial funding then we would need to ask Town Meeting for the remainder. Bill Gardner from Horizon Solutions did not think that was the case, and felt pretty confidently that we could use partial funding for one or two of the projects and not proceed with all of them. Despite some disagreement on this point, the committee decided that it was worth moving forward discussing each project.

For most of the meeting the committee asked questions of Bill Gardner, from Horizon Solutions, about the specific lights and technology proposed, as well as the projected savings figures provided. Michael Scola explained to the committee that a large part of his strategy in applying for these projects is they provide instantaneous operating cost savings that he can use in many different areas. Scola agreed with the committee that for the next competitive grant he would like to identify a project, or projects, that both reduce energy use and fill a more pressing need at one of our buildings (such as a new boiler at one of the schools). Scola and Gardner also agreed that, upon approval, they will work with school and town staff to ensure the projects work aesthetically and practically in the buildings. Gardner proposed that Horizon could do a demonstration installation in one of the buildings, such as town hall, so that other users could see what the lights were like before moving forward.

After a long, detailed discussion of these details, the committee approved inclusion of all of the projects for the Green Communities Competitive grant. Neal Duffy will assist Michael Scola in putting the grant application together, and Tara Gallagher agreed to contact our elected representatives (Rep. Lori Ehrlich and Sen. Tom McGee) for letters of support.

2) 8:00 to 8:30 - Any other business that comes before the committee

The committee did not discuss any other business at this meeting.

Submitted by:

Neal Duffy, Chair, Renewable Energy Committee