

Swampscott Energy Committee

Minutes

Monday, February 11, 2019 at 7:00 PM

Swampscott Town Hall, Conference Room

Attendees: Tom Dreeben, Nick Scibelli, Tara Gallagher, Sam McCafferty, Peter McNerney, Jenna Ide, Brittany Dolan, Peter Spelios, Ellen Goldberg, Nicole Goguen, Danuta Shasha, Erica Oberlin, Enzo Barile, Ryan Hale, Vicky Masone, Josh Doolittle

Agenda

1. Approve minutes from previous REC meeting
 - a. Approved by voice vote
2. Preparing Solarize Plus Application (due April 17, 2019)
 - a. Discuss potential joint application between Swampscott, Salem, Nahant
 - b. Nahant: recently completed Green Communities designation and \$130k grant. Received waiver for certain zoning restrictions, intent to participate in Solarize program. Estimate a low current install rate therefore many of the 1,600 households would be potential participants. Need to collect more data about the which of the second technology would be most appealing to residents. Selectmen would support appointing an official committee to engage existing groups and associations, e.g., SWIM (Safer Waters In Massachusetts).
 - c. "Demonstration of local interest" requirement: options include lists of registrants that did not participate last time, GIS maps of solar capacity, Ryan to follow up with CEC about what types of evidence would support this requirement. Suggestion to use the property tax bills and census forms as a means of communication as this has generated a high response rate for other topics in Nahant.
 - d. Salem: participated in Solarize previously, confident that significant potential remains (~18k households). New technologies add appeal to Salem residents because of the number of older homes with greater heating and cooling demand. Many interested groups and associations to tap into that can support our outreach.
 - e. Revisit the lessons learned and marketing plan from the 2013 program that we will incorporate into the upcoming campaign (e.g., banners, media buys, higher-profile participants, live events)
 - f. Volunteers are interested in simplifying the vocabulary and ensuring that residents get "the honest take" on the purchase decisions
 - g. Request that our representatives from Nahant and Salem continue to promote the program to engage additional volunteers (Tara to send boilerplate language to attendees). Enzo to include an announcement at the upcoming Nahant Selectmen meeting.
 - h. MassCEC website has all the pertinent details about the program application, roles, and timeline.
3. Preparing for Green Communities grant application cycle (Vicky, Josh)
 - a. Projects were completed on time, need DOER walkthrough. Expect application cycle to begin approximately March 8th
 - b. V2C site inspections
 - i. No meaningful opportunities at library, fish house
 - ii. Firehouse seems well maintained and operated. Could upgrade to condensing boiler system for higher efficiency - better to investigate when capital projects due

- iii. Draft proposals for additional ventilation and controls optimizations at Middle School. Estimate \$73k for 10 units less ~\$15k National Grid incentives; 20 year payback.
 - iv. Recommended project: Air handlers \$100k for 7 year payback (can be scaled back ~\$20k per unit) less ~\$15k National Grid incentives. Josh can prepare specific quotes for this project, in additions to ECM 1-4 at High School. Ryan to schedule a touch point in the next two weeks.
 - v. Expect other grant sources could fund EV charging stations so that we could apply Green Communities funding (up to \$250k) to other projects. V2C has scoped ~\$135k in projects, which would include training.
 - vi. Vicky & Josh to follow up with Sean about sewer lift station capital project and understand other line items on the current Capital Plan that show Town contributions to larger, "fundamental" projects.
 - vii. Town plans to purchase 1-2 EV for administrative use. We would pursue grant programs (MassEVIP, Volkswagen settlement) for both vehicles and charging stations. Tara to connect with Sean about pursuing these options.
 - viii. Ryan to contact Tom Prentice about remaining scope and estimated ROI for lighting efficiency projects at High School
 - ix. Program from Mass DOER called META (MAss Energy Tech Assessment), \$12,500 per year, application window in April-May. Nick to research requirements and application details.
4. Preparing Warrant language for Revolving Energy Fund (due March/April)
- a. Ryan to research current rent rates & volumes from Swampscott, and equivalent values from Winchester and other Towns via Susan McPhee so that we can develop a rough business case for a revolving fund at Swampscott (buildings and athletic field).