

**Swampscott Renewable Energy Committee
Meeting Minutes (Final)**

January 24, 2023 7pm – 8pm

In Person @ Swampscott Town Hall & On Zoom

Attendees:

Members of Committee: Ryan Hale, Jon Davids, David Zalanowski, Martha Schmitt, George Delegas,
Members of the Public: Emily Pauls

Minute Taker: Martha Schmitt

1. Approve minutes from previous REC meetings

Minutes from the Dec 3 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved.

2. Discuss Goals for 2023

a. Support adoption of the Climate Action Plan, with a specific focus on the Buildings and Energy section of the plan.

Martha gave an update on the Climate Action Plan and Consultant KLA progress. KLA held a meeting on Monday Jan 23 2023 with key Swampscott town officials and committee leads. KLA reviewed a presentation at this meeting which included Greenhouse Gas Inventory results along with a potential pathways analysis leading to net-zero emissions by 2050. KLA presented the 5 focus areas identified for the plan, along with recommended goals and strategies. At the meeting, participants gave input on the goals and strategies, and discussed ideas and barriers to implementing the plan. The KLA presentation was made available to the REC committee. One of the goals discussed was how best to electrify or incentivize residents to convert to heat pumps. A potential barrier was the cost of the equipment as well as the cost of electricity.

b. Accelerate implementation of EV charging stations in town.

Emily asked about the status of EV charging stations, engaging with property owners and how many would be planned. Currently there is one charging station at town hall and two at the high school. Ryan stated that it has been difficult to find the right contacts to engage with at Vinnin Square businesses since the tenants were not the property owners or managers. Ryan also suggested that a good target would be to have a couple dozen charging stations at various town locations including Vinnin Sq, beaches, and sports facilities. It would also be good to get fast charging stations. David asked about checking with EV-go as another alternative.

c. Continue residential Energy Efficiency updates. Investigate commercial updates.

Swampscott and Lynn jointly received a \$60K Community First grant to perform energy audits and weatherization projects in these 2 communities. An orientation/training meeting is scheduled on Thursday Jan 26 2023. Marzie Galazka, Marissa Meaney,

Doug Thompson and Martha Schmitt are planning to attend. The grant will enable us to hire a part-time energy advocate that will assist residents with the application process and take advantage of incentives. Marissa will be our energy advocate.

3. Other business

a. Updates needed to REC page: Highlights, Energy Reduction Plan, Projects

Diana Eddowes started a document with recommended updates to the REC webpage. These were reviewed at the meeting and committee members recommended that we proceed with initial updates. Marzie is the point of contact and will forward updates to the person who maintains the town web pages. Martha will email Marzie with initial changes. Other updates will be done over time to delete older information and broken links.

b. Engaging local property owners (e.g., Vinnin Sq) on EV Charging installation

Martha to check with Marzie to get the right contact information.

c. Summit Estates ASHP evaluation, Glover development, Stretch Code adoption

The initial meeting with Summit Estates in December went well and they are considering Heat Pumps as alternative to gas. NE Ductless did an initial assessment and determined that Heat Pumps were a feasible option.

d. Any other business (including member appointments and roles)

Jon suggested involving HS students and the next generation. Potentially consider Renewable Energy as a career move. Martha suggested that we could possibly get students to help with outreach and education around Community First program.

Ryan is stepping down as chair in June and looking for candidate replacement.

e. Next meeting date

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday February 21th at 7pm

ACTIONS:

Ryan – invite Ne Ductless and NGrid contacts to attend REC meeting and give an overview to the committee

Jon – Approach HS principal for a contact, potentially suggest doing an event around Earth Day as a way to engage with students about careers in Renewable Energy or programs they can get involved with.

Diana – Get update from Revise on energy audits and projects, plans for Community First

Ryan - Meet with Steve Cummings, re: building code related incentives

George – Reach out to Swampscott HVAC to understand what they are recommending for heating systems

Ryan - Follow up with Summit Estates, see if we should do an informational meeting on HPs

Martha – Ask Marzie to post newest energy disclosures to the REC website, and send recommended web updates for REC page

Actions follow up from Dec 6 2022 meeting:

1. Follow up on Community First Grant award (Martha/Marzie) – *We received the award.*
2. Set up a meeting with Revise, and ask for a monthly update. Consider a visit to the senior center to provide info on weatherization. Also ask Revise about other ideas on doing outreach. Also ask who would be the contractor covering commercial weatherization (Diana) *Revise performed 100 audits in 2021/2022 and completed 62 projects. Revise meeting will be set up after the Community First orientation meeting.*
3. Weatherization/Revise. Ask about doing an insert in water bill (Martha/Marzie) *Still outstanding.*
4. Contact Steve Cummings to get input on engaging contractors (Ryan) *Still outstanding.*
5. Send Glover meeting info to this group. (Ryan) *Done. Public meeting took place on Dec 12th. A few REC members attended the meeting. Good news: this project is planning all-electric HVAC systems, will include EV charging stations and be “solar-ready”.*
6. Find out if we can get an update on Solar installations from National Grid? (Martha) *Solar Update is included in the KLA presentation.*
7. Send final copy of “EV First” procurement policy to this group (Ryan or Neal) *A draft for School Committee approval was sent to Martha and the School Committee.*
8. Send info on Summit Estates meeting to this group (Ryan) *Ryan sent the information and Martha attended the meeting.*
9. Review REC web pages and make recommendations for changes. (All) *Work is in process.*