

Minutes of the Swampscott Renewable Energy Committee Meeting

August 16, 2017, Town Hall

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

Guests: Sam McCafferty, Ryan Hale

1. New website: Committee notes and agendas are archived and will be available once again after IT work is completed.
2. Solar Discussion: The committee reviewed a presentation on the Energy Sage program, which connects businesses and residents interested in pursuing rooftop solar with three instantaneous quotes that they can then pursue further. The committee noted that the website is easy to use and appealing. We plan to invite representatives from Melrose to learn about their experience promoting the program and to help us decide what level of promotion we might commit to.
3. National Grid Event: Wayne informally reported on the National Grid community event held at Lynn City Hall. Concerns were expressed about the large quantity of “small” level 1 gas leaks in the Boston area and specifically on the North Shore. Wayne also learned that NG proposed a “Smart Metering” implementation plan to the state DPU for review this month.
4. National Grid Opportunities: Wayne contacted Rishi Sondhi, National Grid Business Development Manager to discuss options for Swampscott to be a future pilot community for new technologies including Smart Metering and Electric Vehicle charging stations. Group agreed to give Rishi an open invitation to a future meeting to learn more.
5. Electric vehicles: Tom Dreeben worked with Pete Kane to develop a list of possible locations. Mass DEP does help fund EV stations by region, but ours has already run out of funding. We could submit an EV station full proposal for Green Community Grant. Tom will reach out to ChargePoint to ask for an estimate for an installation at Town Hall. Ryan asked if there are any zoning laws or electric codes that requires an EV station based upon numbers of parking spaces. The committee also discussed whether the electricity would be provided for free or if there would be a charge and identified several additional issues to discuss further.
6. Green Communities Grant: We need to start discussing and preparing for the next round which is generally announced in January with an application deadline in late February or early March. Mike Scola is interested in starting a conversation soon and can update us on the existing 2017 projects at one of our next meetings.
7. Solar PPA for schools: John Graff reviewed the school PPA and learned:
 - a. We pay 13.7 cents/kWh, which is a savings compared to the rates from NG
 - b. Panels are 7 years old
 - c. There are opportunities for new installations in town that may be viable at lower rates (8 to 9 cents/kWh).
 - d. 2019 is the start of the roll-off of tax credits. This will put financial pressure on PPA pricing.

- e. We could find out if we can take the tax credit on a new roof if we also install solar at the same time.
8. Regularly scheduled meetings will now be targeted for the 3rd Tuesday of the Month. Next meeting will be September 19th, 2017.