

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

Tuesday 23 May, 2023 at 7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting Held on Zoom

Received by Town Clerk
July 24, 2023, 12:12pm

Attendees:

Members of Committee: Ryan Hale, David Zalanowski, Martha Schmitt, George Delegas, Diana Eddowes, Joe Roman

Minute Taker: Martha Schmitt

1. The minutes from the REC meeting held on March 28, 2023 were reviewed and unanimously approved. Note that the April 28th meeting did not take place as scheduled due to a lack of quorum required to hold the meeting.
2. Notes on Career Event and Earth Fest. Jon Davids organized the Career Event at the high school featuring jobs in Renewable Energy, also supported by Diana and Ryan. At Earth Fest on April 29, REC was represented by Ryan, Diana and Martha. Julie Harris from Peregrine joined at the REC table and talked to community members about Community Power. Ryan created and spoke to a poster featuring a "5-step" Energy Efficiency roadmap. Revise also had a table, and was joined by Marissa Meaney representing Community First Program (CFP).
3. Resilient Swampscott Climate Action Plan discussion
 - a. Resilient Swampscott Climate Action was unanimously approved at the recent Town Meeting. At least two focus areas, Buildings and Energy, and Transportation, have actions that would be relevant for REC to champion.
 - b. Ideas for initial project. The Committee reviewed potential next steps for REC to prioritize. Ideas included the following:
 - i. Tracking/Making information on repair of Gas Leaks more transparent to the community. Martha will reach out to Gino to get a better understanding of National Grid's process.
 - ii. Establishing additional EV charging stations in public areas. For charging stations, Fisherman's Beach was suggested but Martha had asked Marzie and she pointed out that the site was prone to flooding. Vinnin Square businesses would be a good potential, and Martha will re-engage with Marzie to get contacts. Many grants available for EVs - Joe has a list and will send to Diana who will look into more.
 - iii. Setting up a webinar or info session and producing materials for developers and building inspectors. Joe to contact Steve Cummings for ideas.
4. Community First Partnership (CFP) Grant and Revise Partnership.
 - a. Committee members suggested some Ideas on using the donation from Revise, that would support energy efficiency activities. Some suggestions that were made included using the money to buy food for energy efficiency related events, purchasing a number of Nest thermostats to give away, or printing posters to publicize energy efficiency steps.

Martha noted that National Grid occasionally offers programmable or WIFI thermostats at a discounted rate. With a WIFI thermostat, there is also a program to get incentives to reduce energy use during periods of peak electricity demand.

- b. Web updates and how best to promote CFP. The CFP/Revise launching page is set up and the link is on the REC home page, under "Swampscott Saves Energy" link. Also information on the program including free energy audits was sent in the recent water bill. Committee members will review links on the REC web page which need to be updated and bring suggestions to the next meeting.
 - c. CFP will hold a "Main Streets" event targeting energy efficiency updates for small businesses will be held around June 18th timeframe. Marissa Meaney is our Energy Advocate.
5. Dates were considered for the next REC meeting date. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday July 11th at 7pm.
6. Martha made a motion to adjourn the meeting; The motion was seconded by Ryan. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Action Items:

- a. Reporting on National Grid leak repair/replace plan for Swampscott and can we get regular updates. Martha to contact Gino.
- b. Vinnin Square property management contacts for potential EV charging stations. Whole Foods, Marshalls, Stop&Shop. Martha to contact Marzie.
- c. Look into grants to fund EV charging stations - after email from Joe with list he created. Diana.
- d. Ideas on holding webinar for developers. Joe to contact Steve Cummings.
- e. Look into the procedure we would need to follow to allocate funding from Revise (donation made to the town) to support energy efficiency activities. Diana to contact Marzie.
- f. Post the 5-step energy efficiency suggestions (Ryan's poster) on the REC website. Ryan.
- g. Review REC web page links and suggest improvements. All.