

Swampscott Renewable Energy Committee
Minutes (Final)

Tuesday 8 August, 2023 at 7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting on Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm

Received by Town Clerk's Office
September 18, 2023 10:20am

Attendees:

David Zalanowski, Jon Davids, Joe Roman, George Delegas, Martha Schmitt, Doug Thomspson
Julie Harris (Peregrine,Community Power), Paul Wierl

1. Julie Harris gave an update on the Community Power program for Electricity and the new campaign she is leading in Swampscott. Participation offers customers better rates than buying directly from National Grid. Participation in the program by our town is around 70% (which is good). The campaign is intended to get more awareness about the program, increase participation and also to encourage customers to bump up from "Standard Green" to "New England Green" option. This option is only about 2c/kWh higher than the "Standard Green" option. This campaign is also aligned with one of the actions in our Resilient Swampscott plan.
2. Julie asked for support from REC for upcoming events including the Town Block party on Saturday August 12. David volunteered to support this event. Martha will set up a virtual sign up sheet with other events and dates so committee members can sign up for these. Also will reach out to Climate Action Plan committee members for support.
3. The committee reviewed the list of priority actions from our Resilient Swampscott plan that would fall under REC for support/sponsoring. Committee members were asked to add themselves to actions they would want to champion.
4. EV charging stations update:
 - a. Martha reported that she did reach out to Green Communities (Mark.Rabinsky@mass.gov) for any support with EV charging or Solar, but Mark said his organization did not have resources to offer.
 - b. Martha met with National Grid rep Lori Timmerman and shared information on three sets of Incentives available, including charging stations at public parking locations. Charging stations mounted on telephone poles (such as piloted in Melrose) are not recommended since these are owned by NGrid and Verizon, not owned by the town. Standalone ground mounted stations are recommended. The costs for DCHS (high speed chargers) are much greater, especially for the infrastructure and inverters/transformer costs. However the incentives are also significant.
 - c. Some potential locations were discussed, including at the commuter rail station, Fisherman's beach, Clark School, and Phillips Park. Doug said that Phillips Park is a promising site since updates are being planned for this location along with a potential grant. Doug mentioned that Max is also considering installing EV charging stations at the police station; however these would probably not be available to the general public.
 - d. David asked that we find out how much usage our current charging stations are getting, to see if new ones would get used. Most homeowners with EVs would probably just charge at home. However Jon pointed out that renters don't have that option and he decided to buy a hybrid since his landlord did not want to invest in electrical upgrades for a charger at his rental.

- e. If Phillips Park is a viable option for EV charging stations, Martha recommended we get more information on the cost and incentives. Joe offered to help investigate the cost.
- 5. Review/approval of [meeting minutes](#) from July 11, 2023
 - a. Motion to approve by Joe, all in favor
- 6. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58pm, all in favor.
- 7. The next meeting date is Tuesday September 12.