

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

Tuesday 12 September, 2023 at 7:00 PM
Town Hall and Virtual Meeting on Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm

Received by Town Clerk
November 8, 2023 1:01pm

Attendees:

David Zalanowski, Jon Davids, Ryan Hale, Martha Schmitt

1. Minutes from the REC meeting held on August 8, 2023 were reviewed and approved.
2. A draft of REC's accomplishments for the year was reviewed, which would be submitted for inclusion in the Town's Annual Report. Ryan suggested that we add a statement about REC supporting sustainable development practices especially with the significant new development projects coming up (Vinnin Sq, Glover, etc.). Martha will send the summary which is due Sept 21.
3. Revise is the primary Mass Save Contractor for our town under the Community First Program. Swampscott is partnered with Lynn and we have a joint goal of achieving 600 weatherization or HVAC projects. Notices of free energy audits were sent out to residents in the water bill. Response has been strong, and Swampscott is at or above the target so far.
4. Martha summarized a (virtual) meeting with National Grid (Mike McDonald) that she attended with Max Kaspar and Vicki Masone. Mike is part of the "Future of Heat Services" group and he was soliciting input from municipalities on any plans they have to decarbonize. Martha told Mike about our Resilient Swampscott plan and Max spoke about the Geothermal project for the new elementary school. Mike shared National Grid's vision, which includes 4 parts: 1- Reduce demand via energy efficiency; 2 - Include Hydrogen and RNG to reduce emissions; 3 - Hybrid Electric-gas heating; 4 - Targeted electrification and networked geothermal. Martha voiced concern about introducing hydrogen into the gas distribution system, which would be unsafe and require infrastructure and appliance upgrades; also RNG is methane and when burned, does produce the same emissions as natural gas. Committee members recommended that Martha reach out to Max and Vicki to schedule a followup meeting and determine whether an email response should be sent to National Grid documenting our concerns.
5. We discussed the Solarize campaign that was done a few years ago, and whether the vendors that were recommended were still valid. The vendors included New England Solar (for Hot Water heaters), Boston Solar (for PV panels), and NE Ductless for heat pumps. Marzie mentioned to Martha that she sometimes gets questions about Solar vendors. We discussed whether REC could identify a list of preferred vendors. Ryan to check with Marzie about how many inquiries are happening. Ryan will ask if the vendors utilized under the Solarize campaign would still honor reduced pricing.
6. EV charging stations update:
 - a. Jon raised an issue that he read about, which claimed that Toyota may be working against EV expansion. He asked whether this group should be taking any action. The committee recommended that we focus our efforts at the local level, to promote local expansion (ie by supporting residents, adding charging infrastructure, etc.)
 - b. Is Phillips Park a viable option for EV charging stations? Martha is waiting to hear whether the grant Marzie is pursuing will partially cover the cost.

7. The committee reviewed the actions from the Resilient Swampscott plan that potentially could be sponsored by REC. Committee members were asked to consider which of these they may want to champion and prioritize over the next year
8. Review/approval of from August 8, 2023: Motion to approve by David, all in favor
9. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58pm, all in favor.
10. The next meeting date is Tuesday Oct 17.