


# SBANP Monthly Meeting Minutes

<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	Tuesday, November 18, 2025 @ 9:30AM
<b>Goal</b>	SBANP Meeting
<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.sbanp.org/">https://www.sbanp.org/</a> 
<b>Next Meeting</b>	Tuesday, December 9, 2025 @ 9:30AM

## Agenda

- Community Outreach Representatives from Eversource will join us to discuss resources available to individuals and/or non-profit organizations. A great opportunity to ask questions that may come up from those we serve as the weather gets colder.
- South Boston Community Health Center will share with the membership about the current programs and services.
- Agency Updates

## Notes

### Eversource Presentation

- The Electric Centric Energy Plan was created at the urging of the State
- The purpose was to see how to best serve the community in lowering energy costs overall. South Boston was evaluated as is in the most need in the next 10+ years
- The purpose of this meeting was to start making connections with community leaders, non-profits and/or business leaders now.
- They have done tabling around the community events, including at the Farmers Market on Monday morning on West Broadway.
- Bill Assistance is available and can evaluate quickly if a customer is eligible for a discount or a rebate. They can sign the individuals up quickly onsite without having to call at a later time with a representative.
- Customers were concerned about the following:
  - bills
  - payment plans
  - how to reduce energy consumption
  - heat pumps
  - energy rebates
- Eversource has offered to present to SBANP organizations to discuss with customers their concerns
  - They will talk to customers about their energy bills and dissect what it truly means
  - Why are they paying certain portions of the bill?
  - When they use the most energy?
  - How to save and the programs Eversource offers to reach their goals?

[Understanding Your Electric Bill](#) Video Series by Eversource

**Eversource: Let's Talk Energy Workshops**

## Program details

- Workshops: Eversource holds workshops, often in partnership with local organizations, to discuss topics like energy bill assistance, electric and gas payment plans, and energy efficiency programs.
- Energy efficiency: The initiative connects customers to programs that offer discounts, rebates, and incentives for energy-saving products like smart thermostats and insulation.
- Financial assistance: Eversource provides financial assistance programs and a special discounted energy rate for eligible customers in Massachusetts.
- Home energy assessments: Customers can receive no-cost home energy assessments to identify savings opportunities and receive free energy-saving products, like LED bulbs, according to [Eversource](#).
- Energy-saving tips: The program also offers general tips and tools for reducing energy consumption in areas like lighting, kitchen, and laundry.

-Eversource will be changing the existing meters to [Smart Meters](#).

- They started in Western MA and now will be in Eastern MA in 2026.

-Smart Meters are energy efficient, and the customer can manage it from an app.

-Customers will be able to determine when they use the most energy and how to avoid it. No more surprise bills from Eversource.

- Explained the range of support available for low- and moderate-income customers, including replacement of old appliances, weatherization, and even roof repairs, depending on eligibility.

- Provided practical tips for saving on utility bills and explained how organizations and individuals can get assessments and access Eversource's programs.

- Encouraged attendees to share their contact information to receive invitations to quarterly "tune and learn" webinars and future educational sessions.

## **Weatherization was highlighted as a key component of Eversource's Mass Save energy efficiency programs. Here are the main points discussed:**

- Weatherization services include home energy audits, sealing drafts, adding insulation, checking for leaks, upgrading inefficient appliances, and even repairs to roofs or removal of barriers like asbestos if needed.

- These services can save residents up to 15% annually on energy bills and are provided at no cost to low-income qualifying customers.

- Moderate-income households can receive up to 75% off, and in some zip codes may qualify for full cost coverage.

- The program supports both homeowners and renters (with landlord permission), and applies to single-family and multi-family properties.

- To access weatherization, customers can go to [masssave.com](#), answer a few eligibility questions, and be connected to the appropriate local program administrators (like ABCD for Boston).

- Weatherization is part of the broader effort to make energy more affordable, comfortable, and environmentally friendly for residents and the community.

Beware of third-party suppliers:

- Third-party suppliers are licensed to sell energy in the state, but aggressive sales tactics can lead residents—especially elders or non-English speakers—to unintentionally sign unfavorable contracts.
- Common issues include initial low rates followed by steep increases, difficulty exiting contracts, and hidden or high termination fees.
- Scams and misleading sales pitches are prevalent; residents are often solicited in stores, at their doors, or by phone.
- Eversource emphasized that it will never call customers to request payment or account details over the phone.
- Attendees were encouraged to educate residents to read the fine print, avoid sharing bills with unknown solicitors, and check energy supplier offers using the state’s official site (EnergySwitchMA.gov).
- Both Eversource and the City of Boston offer competitive rates with no penalties for switching between them, but caution is required when considering third-party suppliers.

The main message: residents and organizations should be cautious when approached by third-party energy suppliers and always verify and compare official options before agreeing to any contracts.

[Eversource Savings Flyers](#)

**Agency Updates**

Organization Name	Agency Updates	Important Dates
<a href="#"><u>South Boston Neighborhood House</u></a>	<p>Sign Up: Holiday Helper is available through referral</p> <p>Contact Kathy Lafferty to get holiday help for a family</p> <p>Want to Become a Holiday Helper by sponsoring a family: <a href="#"><u>Click Here</u></a></p> <p>Toy Donations are always welcome and if need SBNH does pickup. Contact Kathy Lafferty about donations.</p> <p>Christmas meal deliveries will happen soon. Referrals are available.</p>	<p><b>Turkey Distribution</b> Saturday, November 22</p>
<a href="#"><u>Julie’s Family</u></a>	<p>Thank you to everyone who donated gift cards during the SNAP benefit pause. Also thanked Mom’s Club and other nonprofits for their help too.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>SPOKE</u></a>	<p>- Spoke is involved in arts and social justice initiatives,</p>	

sponsoring events such as World AIDS Day at the Boston Center for the Arts, with programs including quilt displays, performances, and youth engagement.

- Spoke is running a capital campaign for a new space at 331 East Eighth Street, in partnership with Beacon Properties, expected to open between late February and March. This new facility will offer expanded opportunities for art programming and youth engagement.

- Spoke collaborates with other community organizations for consciousness-raising about social issues, especially regarding the ongoing impact of AIDS on youth and communities of color.

- Youth will be taking an active role, likely through presentations, performances, or sharing their perspectives as part of the World AIDS Day programming.

- The "youth speak" programs aim to empower young people to raise their voices about important social issues, particularly those affecting their generation (such as the ongoing impact of AIDS on youth of color).

- Sixteen quilts from the original AIDS Quilt will be displayed at City Hall and then processed to the Boston Center for the Arts.

- The AIDS Quilt is a powerful, historic symbol of remembrance and activism related to the AIDS crisis.

- The event will include not just the quilt display, but also performances, prayers, and readings, with participation from

	<p>youth and community members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There will also be a special installation at the Boston Center for the Arts featuring 4x5 postcard-sized quilt pieces stitched together—each honoring survivors, families, and those lost to AIDS.</li> <li>- The quilt installation is both a tribute to those affected by AIDS and a consciousness-raising effort about the epidemic’s continued impact, especially on young people of color.</li> </ul> <p>The quilt serves as a focal point for remembrance, community healing, and education during World AIDS Day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- They also mentioned the Youth Council which was described as the first-ever created Boston Housing Authority Youth Council.</li> <li>- This council will be a featured program in Spoke’s new building, opening in partnership with Beacon Properties.</li> <li>- The Youth Council is intended to give young people a platform for leadership, advocacy, and involvement in community and housing issues.</li> </ul>	
<p><a href="#"><u>Boston Harbor Now</u></a></p>	<p>-Recently, several community members attended local park meetings, which provided updates on park design, improvements, and upcoming projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Videos of these meetings—especially the online Zoom meeting—will be uploaded to the relevant website within the next couple of weeks, offering accessible recaps and section-by-section debriefs.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Merry Moakley</b> December 11, 2025 SBNH Preschool</p>

	<p>- Community members are encouraged to check these videos for details and to continue providing feedback as the park design process progresses.</p> <p>- There's also collaboration with community events such as Merry Moakley, and opportunities for tabling, giveaways, and sharing resources at future gatherings. Dylan Rogers (Boston Harbor Now Intern) will take the lead of this event. Please let Jayeor Dylan know if you'd like to get involved.</p> <p>-Carson Beach is one of the key locations for the annual ice sculpture stroll organized by Boston Harbor Now, as mentioned in the meeting. Last year, a sculpture was placed at Carson Beach as part of the New Year's Eve festivities.</p> <p>This event features a variety of beautiful ice sculptures across Boston's waterfront, encouraging community members to visit, enjoy public art, and participate in seasonal celebrations. Expect Carson Beach to continue to be a featured site for future ice sculpture strolls and related community events.</p>	
<p><a href="#"><u>South Boston Neighborhood Development Corporation (SBNDC)</u></a></p>	<p>Donna highlighted her organization's role as a landlord managing 170 affordable housing apartments. She explained that in some units, the organization pays for utilities, while in others, tenants are responsible.</p> <p>She also talked about finding ways to save on electric costs for both the organization and residents.</p> <p>- Ensuring all residents are informed and able to access bill</p>	<p><b>Christmas Stroll</b> December 4, 2025 @ 4PM</p> <p>12 Days of Giveaways December 10th- December 21st</p> <p><b>McDevitt Senior Homes Tag Sale</b> Nov. 22, 2025 @ 10:30am-1:30pm</p>

assistance, weatherization, and energy-saving programs.

- Participating in assessments and programs like Mass Save to help both landlord- and tenant-metered units reduce expenses.

- Addressing special cases, such as buildings with mixed income levels and older properties requiring follow-up for program eligibility.

Donna's comments emphasized the need for education, outreach, and direct support to help both landlords and tenants maximize savings and energy efficiency.

The "12 Days of Giveaways" is a promotional event organized by the local chamber, as mentioned in the meeting:

- It will run from approximately December 10th- December 21st

- Each day, participants can engage with specific posts on the chamber's Instagram to be entered into a pool for prizes.

- Prizes include gift cards and items from participating local small businesses.

- This effort is designed to promote local shopping and community engagement during the holiday season.

- For details on how to participate, follow the chamber's Instagram account, look for daily posts during the promotional period, and complete the daily activity to enter each giveaway.

McDevitt Senior Homes, which will be located in the building

	<p>formerly occupied by the Paraclete Foundation at 207 E Street– is having a tag sale.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is a tag sale at 207 E Street to clear out furniture and housewares from the building before it undergoes construction</li> <li>- The building is being prepared for this new use and the tag sale presents an opportunity for the community to obtain items at very low prices before the renovation.</li> </ul>	
<p><a href="#"><u>Fourth Presbyterian Church</u></a></p>		<p><b>The Children’s Performance: The Lion King</b> December 5, 2025 December 6, 2025 7pm *No ticketing in advance. Donations at the door</p> <p><b>“What the Dickens” Performance</b> December 12, 2025 December 13, 2025 7pm *Tickets \$10</p> <p><b>Annual Christmas Concert</b> December 20, 2025 at 4-5:30pm</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>South Boston Community Health Center</u></a></p>	<p>The health center discussed in the meeting provides extensive services for the South Boston community, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Primary care, urgent care (no need to be a prior patient for urgent care), pediatrics, adult and family medicine.</li> <li>- A variety of medical specialties, including cardiology, podiatry, dermatology, eye and dental clinics</li> <li>- Integrated behavioral health services available for anyone seen for primary care; no waiting list for behavioral health assessments</li> </ul>	<p><b>Youth Ambassadors</b> Tuesdays (4:30pm-6pm) Age 12-16 <a href="#"><u>Sign Up, Click Here</u></a></p>

	<p>and support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Community health workers who assist patients (including help with utility bills and resource navigation). They also have an on-site pharmacy and food pantry.</li><li>- They offer support with insurance enrollment (MassHealth, Medicare counselors, financial assistance)</li><li>- Ongoing acceptance of new patients, with typically short wait times for appointments</li><li>-The health center is committed to “one-stop shopping” for health and social services, aiming to reduce barriers and meet holistic needs in the community. If you need to connect with a specific service or resource at the health center, please reach out directly to their staff.</li></ul>	
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