

Buckland Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes: 25 August 2021, 7:00 p.m. (held via Zoom)

Present: Committee Members: Ellen Kaufmann, Michael Novack, Penny Novack, Margaret Olin, Harvey Schaktman, Brian Summer; Guests: none

Facilitator: Penny Novack

Scribe: Margaret Olin

1. *Open the meeting.*

2. *Review and approve minutes from 28 July 2021 meeting.*

- Approved unanimously as written. *(MO later corrected meeting date in header: it had mistakenly been labeled as the 26 May meeting.)*

3. Discussion of solarize programs – past, present, & future – including state/federal incentives for residents, businesses, and municipalities, community solar initiatives; moving forward with awarded META Grant for Community Shared Solar feasibility study and approved proposal from Northeast Solar (still in Phase 1)

- META Grant for Community Shared Solar feasibility study update: Heather will contact Tom and Greg (Northeast Solar) for update on project, and discussing possibility of having phone conference with NES, Heather, and BEC members – possibly at future BEC meeting; find out more effects re: COVID-related delays on META Grants (contacting Mark Rabinsky & DOER); still need to check on suitability/availability of land and/or roof at Town Garage site.

4. *Discussion of local and regional energy-related issues, possibly including:*

- *Rail transport of fossil and other fuels; concerns about derailments, remaining railroad ties and debris along tracks*
- *State-proposed energy legislation, including proposed “woodlands partnership”; response to Northern Pass; PACE Program & Green Works*
- *Alternative electric power suppliers; regional municipal electricity aggregation plan reporting from December meeting with CPG*
- *MassSave program updates*
- *New Massachusetts programs: (through Mass CEC and DOER; Center for EcoTechnology --CET)*
- *Municipal lighting/streetlights*
- *Recycle-able/biodegradable plastic bags; single-use plastics*
- *PFAS Testing Program updates*
- We'll each continue to research current status of energy programs and report back at the next meeting: CET (Ellen), DOER (Penny), CEC (Brian), META Action (Michael: tonight shared info about possibility of applying for grants to help with administering or applying for other grants), Mass Save (Margaret: since last meeting, put up link to MassSave on the Energy Committee website: showed the various tabs) Green Communities (Harvey: prior to meeting, emailed chart listing approx. \$271,000 Buckland has received in GCG since 2011)

5. *Update on past Green Communities Grant applications; planning for 2021-22*
- *continue discussion on potential projects to include in future applications, especially those that will bring us closer to the 20% reduction in energy use marker*
 - *DOER updates?*

- Green Communities Grant applications: at the moment, still planning to apply for hybrid police cruiser grant (up to \$5000 grant toward purchase); no other suggestions from BEC for Fall '21 application (application deadline 08 October); keep looking into potential projects (school district? wastewater treatment plant?) in alignment with the new possibility for Regional Green Communities Designation & Applications – continuing to assess for possible tie-ins with grants for ADA improvements

- EC members will think of possible projects for Spring '22 to discuss at next meeting

6. *Continue discussion of future public events, including:*

- *Future winserts workshop? Public forum on energy issues?*
- *Fall/Winter 2021-22 film series and/or discussion groups;*
- *budget for events*

- Will talk about possible future events next meeting (one idea: intro to various available energy-related resources?); Penny will contact Buckland Public Library to find out about possibility of using spaces there for public meeting

7. *Update on MVP Grant current and future; Hazard Mitigation Plan Update*

- Not discussed

8. *Report back about other meetings/ activities in which committee members participate.*

- None

9. *Other items not reasonably anticipated*

- None.

11. *Choose facilitator and scribe for next meeting.*

- Next meeting potentially 22 September, also via Zoom

11. *Adjourn meeting*