

Buckland Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes: 21 November 2018, 7:00 p.m., Buckland Town Hall

Present: Committee Members: Ellen Kaufmann, Michael Novack, Penny Novack,
Harvey Schaktman, Brian Summer

Facilitator: Brian Summer

Scribe: Brian Summer

1. *Open the meeting*

2. Review and approve minutes from 17 October 2018 meeting.

- Minutes approved unanimously as written

3. Discussion of Solarize programs – past, present & future ~ including state/federal incentives for residents, businesses and municipalities, community solar initiatives

- Michael showed the letter they received from **Borrego Solar** of Lowell, MA a commercial ground mount solar installer looking to lease land locally for large arrays with the promise of significant payments to the land owner. Harvey said he got the same letter.

Committee members agree to keep others aware of these offer letters if anyone approaches them about Borrego Solar.

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

- MCAP
 - Rail transport of fossil and other fuels; concerns about derailments, railroad ties and debris along tracks
 - State-proposed energy legislation, including “woodlands partnership”; response to Northern Pass
 - Alternative electric power suppliers; regional municipal electricity aggregation updates
 - MassSave program updates
 - New Massachusetts programs: (through Mass CEC and DOER; Center for EcoTechnology –CET)
 - Recycle-able/ biodegradable plastic bags; single-use plastic water bottles
- *Note to follow up on with Margaret on 26 October MCAP meeting * No legislative updates

*All to check the links to: ° MassSave minisplits incentives:

https://www.masssave.com/en/saving/residential-rebates/electricheating-andcooling/?utm_source=facebook.com&utm_medium=MScontent&utm_campaign=

paig=ClearResult&fbclid=IwAR2cPnut1alJySz8vAA8jSi66FjweNPwc1EX0lBzjTP0c2i1mm_rMU5rsI

° Garage and groundsource/airsource grants available at CET, technical assistance at UMass Clean energy Extension??<https://www.cetonline.org>
<https://ag.umass.edu/clean-energy/contact>

*Brief discussion of Greenfield's reviving the plastic bag ban due to one of the opposed councilors willing to switch his vote to "Yes"

* **Harvey** said we should figure out if there are any of their programs we could have a hand in publicizing to Buckland residents.

5. Update on past Green Communities Grant applications; planning for 2019

- Continue discussion of future potential projects to include in future applications, especially those that will bring us closer to the 20% reduction in energy use marker
- DOER updates?
 - * **Ellen** to check with **Jim Berry** re: solar for new highway garage
 - *Noted that **Andrea Llamas** had been chosen for the town administrator job by the select board in Northfield. Suggestion was made to perhaps try to meet with her to get update on Green Communities Application and specifically on the interest **Harvey** expressed in LED street lighting. **Michael** said we can at least find out where we are in the replacement "cycle" of the lamps.

NOTE: **Ellen** volunteered to approach **Andrea** to set up a meeting

*Brief discussion of Highway Garage Town Meeting. **Ellen** said the contracted engineering firm gave a much more detailed proposal that before and wanted to put members at ease that they were trying to propose an energy efficient building design, but that grants for solar did not apply to new construction only retrofit of existing building. Discussion of how the existing energy footprint of the buildings could be the baseline for documenting energy savings produced by new structures

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

- Future winsets workshop and cancelled November 2018 event.
- Winter 2019 film series and/or discussion groups; budget for events
 - ***Ellen** produced the list she had from our presentation at the Senior Center to see who actually committed to the workshop. **Harvey** and **Brian** went down the list of the names. Less than half committed or their site was not appropriate. Group discussed how best to target those most in need. It was suggested to approach **Kathy Buntin** to find out who the fix-it/carpenters are and whether they could be of help in letting seniors they do work for know

about the winsert workshop. **Ellen** to get more info on this now so we can anchor this better for the future.

Suggestion made by **Harvey** that the Arms Library might have need of winserts since they could not fit window replacement into their budget. Members agreed to approve of **Harvey** making an initial exploration with the library realizing that it sits on the Shelburne side, but still wanting to explore their interest and the feasibility.

Harvey proposed trying to set up a public get together aimed at soliciting ideas of what to do next on a local level to lower the environmental impact area residents have on the environment. Others voiced agreement with this approach. **Ellen** fresh of her work with an event at the synagogue, gave him encouragement to get the ball rolling.

7. Update on MVP Grant current and future

* Brief discussion of flood potential of dam at Harriman Reservoir and Irene near catastrophe regarding Bridge of Flowers. **Michael** mentioned the pooling fill times of area creeks – the smaller they are the shorter the time to reach flood stage. **Harvey** noted that a breach of that dam would give residents of Shelburne Falls around 30 minutes to evacuate before 10 feet of water flooded the town

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

9. Other items not reasonably anticipated

10. Choose facilitator, scribe. Meeting time and place

* Next meeting 19 December 2018 at Buckland Library

11. Adjourn meeting

REPRODUCTION OF THE VORONOI ALGORITHM

The Voronoi algorithm is a method for finding the shortest path between two points in a plane. It is based on the idea of Voronoi diagrams, which are partitions of the plane into regions, each of which is closer to one of the points than to any other. The algorithm starts by choosing a starting point and a target point. It then finds the Voronoi diagram for the set of points consisting of the starting point and the target point. The shortest path is then found by following the boundary of the Voronoi diagram from the starting point to the target point.

The Voronoi diagram for a set of points in the plane is a partition of the plane into regions, each of which is closer to one of the points than to any other. The regions are called Voronoi regions. The boundaries between the regions are called Voronoi edges. The Voronoi diagram for a set of points can be constructed by a variety of methods, including the Voronoi algorithm.

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