

Buckland Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes: 21 November 2019, 7:15 p.m., Buckland Town Hall

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

Facilitator: Michael Novack

Scribe: Margaret Olin

1. Open the meeting.

2. Review and approve minutes from 10 October 2019 meeting.

- Approved unanimously as written, with 1 correction; 1 abstention.

3. Discussion of solarize programs – past, present, & future – including state/federal incentives for residents, businesses, and municipalities, community solar initiatives; META Grant application for Community Shared Solar feasibility study (submitted 01 August 2019)

- Notice of awarding of META Grant: Buckland (\$12,500) is one of only 20 towns awarded; noted that Heath also got grant for Community Shared solar.

<https://www.mass.gov/news/baker-polito-administration-awards-grants-to-assist-municipal-clean-energy-projects-0>

- Discussion on contacting Northeast Solar for possible proposal: working on Community Shared Solar Feasibility Project; discussion of draft email

VOTE: Send email we discussed tonight regarding META Grant proposal to Greg Garrison of Northeast Solar. Unanimous: All voted in favor.

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

- MCAP
- 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
- Alternative electric power suppliers; regional municipal electricity aggregation plan updates
- 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
- DPU still not moving on municipal electricity aggregation applications from group of Franklin County towns (Colonial Power Group to follow up with DPU; is keeping all towns informed)
- Penny brought information about MassSave: commercial, industrial rebate on water heaters; more rebates on energy-star appliances purchased in 2019, for example, on dehumidifiers:

<https://www.masssave.com/en/saving/residential-rebates/dehumidifiers>

- Discussion on how to help Buckland residents/businesses move from single-use plastics

5. Update on past Green Communities Grant applications; planning for 2020

- 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?

- Streetlight project updates (2019 grant)

6. Continue discussion of future public events, including:

- Future winserts workshop? Public forum on energy issues?
- Fall 2019 film series and/or discussion groups;
- budget for events

- Organize "Fixit Day"?

- Public education opportunities around biomass, before Annual Town Meeting

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

- No updates

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

- None

9. Other items not reasonably anticipated

- None

10. Choose facilitator and scribe for next meeting.

- Next regular meeting: Thursday, 12 December 2019, 7:15 at Buckland Public Library

11. Adjourn meeting