

## **Buckland Energy Committee**

**Meeting Minutes: 12 December 2019, 7:15 p.m., Buckland Public Library**

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

**Facilitator:** Ellen Kaufmann

**Scribe:** Margaret Olin

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1. *Open the meeting.*
2. *Review and approve minutes from 21 November 2019 meeting.*
  - Approved as written: 4 voted in favor, 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): grant awarded, review proposal from Northeast Solar*

- Discussion of proposal from Northeast Solar ("Town of Buckland Solar Coop Review, v. 3")

**VOTE:** We recommend that the SB consider this proposal from Northeast Solar, and here are three of the questions/concerns we discussed at our 12/12 meeting:

- We ask that "and possibly private" be added to paragraph 3, so that it reads "... Northeast Solar will provide the following services to assess town owned and possibly private land for the development of solar cooperative energy systems. . ."
- Please provide an estimated timeline for completion of each phase.
- We have questions about how we would proceed if there are no viable town sites.

**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

- ° Municipal Electricity Aggregation process still stalled in DPU

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??*

- *no updates*

*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*

- *no new discussion*

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

- *Next meeting 18 December*

*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: Wednesday, 15 January 2020, 7:00 at Buckland Town Hall*

*11. Adjourn meeting*