

## Buckland Energy Committee

**Meeting Minutes: 23 November 2020, 5:00 p.m., (held via Buckland Zoom account)**

**Present:** Committee Members: Michael Novack, Penny Novack, Margaret Olin, Harvey Schaktman, Brian Summer (*arrived after item 2*)

**Facilitator:** Michael Novack

**Scribe:** Margaret Olin

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1. *Open the meeting.*
2. *Review and approve minutes from 16 September 2020 meeting. (No meeting in October)*
  - Approved unanimously as written, with one abstention.

***This meeting was called primarily to discuss #4: regional municipal electricity aggregation plan updates. Due to time constraints (the meeting needed to end by 5:50), only agenda items 2 & 4 were discussed.***

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 (currently in Phase 1)*

- Not addressed due to time limit.

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; PACE Program & Green Works
- Alternative electric power suppliers; **regional municipal electricity aggregation plan updates (this will be a main focus of tonight’s meeting)**
- 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 Plan Updates
  - Communities participating in the MEAP were notified by Colonial Power that due a change in MA law, the contracted pricing due to begin with the January 2021 meter reads would be increasing. For background, see the Buckland page of the Colonial Power Group website:  
<https://colonialpowergroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Buckland-Rate-Increase-Website-Posting-1.21-converted.pdf>
  - We discussed the rate increase and the possibility of holding a public forum soon via Zoom. As Buckland hasn’t yet held a forum on the Community Choice Power Supply Program since the Program began in August, we’re hoping that this forum would be an opportunity for folks

to learn about the rate increase as well as ask any questions they may have about the Program. We'd like CPG to attend to give a short presentation (a brief overview of the program, plus an explanation of the rate increase), then answer questions from attendees. We will need to get Select Board approval at their next scheduled meeting to hold this public forum.

**VOTE:** We will call together a public forum on the rate increase for 3 December 2020 (6:30-8:30 pm), contingent on Colonial Power Group being able to participate at that time; if they are not able to attend on that date, we will email among Energy Committee members regarding new date & time for forum. **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

- No other topics in item 4 addressed, due to time limit.

*5. Update on past Green Communities Grant applications; planning for 2021*

- *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?*

- Not addressed due to time limit.

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

- *Future winserts workshop? Public forum on energy issues?*
- *Fall/Winter 2020 film series and/or discussion groups;*
- *budget for events*

- Not addressed due to time limit.

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

- Not addressed due to time limit.

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

- Not addressed due to time limit.

*9. Other items not reasonably anticipated*

- Not addressed due to time limit.

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

- (Regular meetings discontinued while state of emergency in effect; during this time, meetings will be called & posted on an as-needed basis, and held via teleconference.)

*11. Adjourn meeting*

- adjourned at 5:50pm