

Buckland Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes: 16 January 2019, 7:00 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 19 December 2018 meeting.*
 - Approved unanimously as written
3. *Discussion of solarize programs – past, present, & future – including state/federal incentives for residents, businesses, and municipalities, community solar initiatives*
 - Update on stalled Wendell Community Solar project: good summary in Recorder
<https://www.recorder.com/Wendell-solar-co-project-symied-by-National-Grid-decision-22230647>
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 updates
 - MassSave program updates
 - New Massachusetts programs: (through Mass CEC and DOER; Center for EcoTechnology --CET)
 - Recycle-able/biodegradable plastic bags; single-use water bottles
 - Next planned MCAP meeting: 24 January 2019
 - Rail cars: Margaret saw 15-20 consecutive tanker cars at Ashfield Street crossing on Friday, 12 January around 4:45 p.m. – all with 1075 placards – concern about number of consecutive cars, if full. Margaret will contact Herb Guyette for more information
 - Municipal Electricity Aggregation Proposal: Margaret will get in touch with Bob to check in about Selectboard follow-up on options and DPU hearing: 06 February 2019 – see link below
https://www.town.buckland.ma.us/sites/bucklandma/files/uploads/petition_for_approval_by_dept._of_public_utilities_of_municipal_aggregation_plan.pdf
 - Street Lights: Ellen has been in touch with Patrick Roache (MAPC) for more information on process of purchasing streetlights; Bob will look into whether or not it seems like a feasible project; (Harvey has information from Gill's project); be sure to consider color spectrum, efficiency, and possible light pollution
(contact: <http://www.science.smith.edu/~jlowenth/>);

possible vote at May 2019 town meeting?

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

- 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?

◦ July '18 GCG: \$27,707 for removable window inserts for most windows at Town Hall and Police Station: Farnum insulation (VT) is making inserts, possible installation in February. Once finished, need to complete close-out paperwork/process before we can apply for new grant.

◦ Appears that FRCOG will continue have the grant that supports help which Buckland has gotten with closeouts and annual reporting on Green Communities Grants already received, plus application for future grants, procurement, and bidding (cost of administrative services built into GCG application)

◦ Need to find out more about Buckland's progress toward goal of 20% energy-use reduction, and how town garage move affects the figures.

◦ Margaret will stay in touch with Bob re Green Communities Grant programs
<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/green-communities-division>

6. Continue discussion of future public events, including:

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

◦ Harvey: continued discussion of ways to learn about local needs and about what energy issues / programs Buckland residents are interested in; possible forums as follow-up; possibility of collaborating with Shelburne if they have an Energy Committee?

7. Update on MVP Grant current and future

- Andrea has completed the annual report required for continued participation in the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program (overlap with the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan); having MVP designation opens possibility for applying for additional grants

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

- None

9. Other items not reasonably anticipated

- Brian brought up concerns about plastic from the dams on the Deerfield accumulating in and along the river after each time the plywood/plastic barrier is destroyed during high flow

10. Choose facilitator and scribe for next meeting.

- Next regular meeting Wednesday, 20 February 2019, 7:00 at Buckland Public Library

11. Adjourn meeting