

# Buckland Energy Committee

**Meeting Minutes: 17 November 2021, 7:00 p.m. (held via Zoom)**

**Present:** Committee Members: Michael Novack, Penny Novack, Margaret Olin, Harvey Schaktman, Brian Summer; Guests: none

**Facilitator:** Brian Summer

**Scribe:** Margaret Olin

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1. *Open the meeting.*
2. *Review and approve minutes from 29 September 2021 meeting. (No meeting in October.)*
  - Approved unanimously as written.
3. *Discussion of solarize programs – past, present, & future – including state/federal incentives for residents, businesses, and municipalities, community solar initiatives; status of awarded META Grant for Community Shared Solar feasibility study and approved proposal from Northeast Solar (still in Phase 1)*
  - Solarize PAB Update: Brian relayed feedback regarding Omnidian's handling of SREC check: despite repeated contact with company and Astrum, most recent check ended up being sent about 90 days late; company sent resident gift card to cover loss incurred due to check's delay. Find out if other residents' checks have been late. (We assume that the funds to cover the SRECS should be in an escrow account and available on the scheduled distribution dates.)
4. *Discussion of local and regional energy-related issues, possibly including:*
  - 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; municipal electricity aggregation program & any updates from Colonial Power Group
  - 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
  - PFAS Testing Program updates
  - Municipal Electricity Aggregation Program update in 16 November email from Colonial Power to towns in aggregation served by Eversource: described Eversource's submission to DPU of proposal for Winter Basic Service rate increase that will affect residents who still have Eversource as their supplier; suggested that all towns share information on town website to remind folks how to opt in to their Town program and take advantage of the fixed rates. (Follow up with Heather about possible Buckland outreach.)
  - Proposed Lighting Committee discussed at 9 November Select Board Meeting <http://fallscable.com/portfolio/buckland-select-board-nov-9-2021/> (SB agenda website that including the PDFs related to this is <https://www.town.buckland.ma.us/home/events/15486> )

Discussed relevant portion of meeting, will keep up to date on what occurs

- Noted PFAS testing link on Buckland home page, in News section – we'll encourage Town to keep it visible on site's opening news page.

<https://www.town.buckland.ma.us/home/news/free-well-water-testing>

*5. Update on past Green Communities Grant applications; planning for 2022-23*

- *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?*
  - Still thinking of potential projects.
  - Harvey's email referencing MassSave: Hadley company will provide free energy assessments, then thru MassSave, possible to get discounts for work to be done, depending on income bracket. Suggested
    - enlisting art students to make posters for spring;
    - keep MassSave brochures in places like libraries and schools;
    - distribute fliers to public;
    - check into publicizing information on local cable station;
    - put this weblink and information on our BEC web page:  
<https://www.masssave.com/>
- Police cruiser spending approved at October STM October. . . F'21 \$5000  
Green Communities Grant going toward purchase

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

- *Future winserts workshop? Public forum on energy issues?*
- *Fall/Winter 2021-22 film series and/or discussion groups;*
- *budget for events*
  - Harvey now in talks with Mohawk to see if it'll be feasible to facilitate discussion among BEC and Mohawk seniors & juniors regarding energy issues and their future.

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

- Margaret with connect with Heather for status update.

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

- None

*9. Other items not reasonably anticipated*

- None.

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

- Next meeting potentially 15 December, 7:00p.m., also via Zoom

*11. Adjourn meeting*

- at 8:33p.m.