

# Buckland Energy Committee

**Meeting Minutes: 16 February 2022, 7:00 p.m. (held via Zoom)**

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

**Facilitator:** Penny Novack

**Scribe:** Margaret Olin

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1. *Open the meeting.*
2. *Review and approve minutes from 19 January 2022 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; status of awarded META Grant for Community Shared Solar feasibility study and approved proposal from Northeast Solar (still in Phase 1)*
  - No updates; heard again from several residents that solar installations have been very cost effective, and company has correctly adjusted the transfers.
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; new Lighting Advisory Committee
  - Recycle-able/biodegradable plastic bags; single-use plastics
  - PFAS Testing Program updates
    - MassSave: Harvey – no further progress on public presentation – MassSave run by the utility companies; suggestion that Harvey try contacting Mark Tajima (a founding partner and COO at Energia LLC, who presented at the Western Mass Green Consortium).
    - PFAS testing in ground water: program launched, publicized on Buckland website <https://dwp-pfas.madwpdep.org/>
    - Plastic bags: Keystone planning to eliminate use of plastic bags – Harvey will get more info on timeline and rationale
    - Harvey conferred with Heather (follow-up from January EC discussion), and we can indeed post something in public media without prior Select Board approval.
    - Woodlands Partnership – emails from Brian tonight re: forest carbon storage on state-owned public land; Brian will work on drafts, circulate for feedback and re-work draft for next meeting

° Margaret updated about FRCOG meeting last night & discussion of issues around ARPA:

-- Mark Rabinsky from DOER briefly described the new proposed stretch code: soon, there'll be online meetings for public input & discussion.

-- ARPA – Chapter 102 of the Acts of 2021

(<https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2021/Chapter102>) is the first ARPA bill. Second bill being drafted now to appropriate remaining funds; urged attendees to spread the word and encourage contacting state representatives regarding priority projects.

-- Mass Save incentives for air source heat pumps

<https://www.masssave.com/en/saving/residential-rebates/heat-pump>; potential for rebates that may cover roughly 50% of the cost to install heat pumps; potential for 0% financing up to \$25,000 to qualified customers via Mass Save HEAT loan <https://www.masssave.com/en/saving/residential-rebates/heat-loan-program>

- Still no one from EC able to be representative to Lighting Advisory Committee
- Penny: shared <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/peak-demand-management-grant-program>

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?*
- No updates

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

- *Future winserts workshop? Public forum on energy issues?*
- *Winter/Spring 22 film series and/or discussion groups;*
- *Budget for events*
- Noted that town mask mandates falling away; if case numbers remain low, greater possibility for future in-person events.
- Articles possibly pertinent for Mohawk discussion:  
<https://www.recorder.com/Four-Rivers-students-produce-documentaries-on-energy-and-climate-change-45109231>  
<https://www.pbs.org/show/earth-emergency/>

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 meeting tentatively 16 March, 7:00p.m., also via Zoom

*11. Adjourn meeting*

- at 9:15p.m.