

Buckland Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes: 16 March 2022, 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

1. *Open the meeting.*
2. *Review and approve minutes from 16 February 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; possibility of follow-up on pre-pandemic META Grant for Community Shared Solar feasibility study/ Northeast Solar)*
 - Former town garage – discussed energy-related use ,possibilities: suggest assessing site to see if there’s any possibility for wind or solar generation to produce electricity for town, or possibly to become a stand-alone generation facility to function as an electric vehicle charging station
 - Discussed energy-related issues from the draft of *2022 Community Development Strategy - Town of Buckland* – including Green Communities Grant possibilities, fleet conversion to EV/hybrid, possible town sites for wind/solar electricity generation
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*
 - Piles of railroad ties still visible from Birch Rd. hill by Elm Street crossing
 - Brian working on Woodland Partnership draft statement
 - Massachusetts is not part of of GreenWorks pace (checked online)
 - Alternative energy suppliers still aggressively marketing town residents via mail; Colonial Power’s aggregated rate good for 3 years, though given the recent degree of fluctuation in energy prices, question whether or not the municipal aggregation supplier may try to raise rates

- Keystone now charging for paper bags
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?*
 - More feasible to apply for new Green Communities Grant in the Fall '22 round rather than April
 - Check with Heather to see if there's been any interest in energy efficiency upgrades at waste water treatment plant, along with solar alternatives; look into possibility of Fire District applying to be an "independent" Green Community, or Buckland applying in conjunction with Shelburne for possible energy efficiency projects
 6. *Continue discussion of future public events, including:*
 - *Future winserts workshop? Public forum on energy issues?*
 - *Spring/Summer 22 film series and/or discussion groups;*
 - *Budget for events*
 - Harvey still hasn't heard from Mohawk on possible collaboration on energy-related issues
 - With mask mandates relaxing, wait until warmer weather to plan possible public events
 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.*
 - Link to heat-pump training in March 2022, at CEERE (Center for Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy) <http://ceere.org/heatpumpworkshop.htm>
 9. *Other items not reasonably anticipated*
 - None
 10. *Choose facilitator and scribe for next meeting.*
 - Next meeting tentatively 20 April, 7:00p.m., also via Zoom
 11. *Adjourn meeting*
 - at 8:30p.m.