

Buckland Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes: 27 April 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

1. *Open the meeting.*
2. *Review and approve minutes from 16 March 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*
 - Several solarize program participants have 3G networks at their homes: software that tracks production won't work on 3G in the future. Omnidian needs to replace sending devices with something capable of running on new network.
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; Brian's paper
 - 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
 - Discussion of Brian's paper: editing for submission to Recorder (My Turn or Letter to the Editor) & posting on EC webpage; reminder about these two websites regarding Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership:
<http://www.mohawktrailwoodlandspartnership.org/>
<https://www.savemassforests.com/>;
° discussion of this project:
http://www.mohawktrailwoodlandspartnership.org/uploads/1/1/7/5/117522940/copy_of_mtwp_board_meeting_presentation.pdf
 - Some electrical suppliers in several states have declared bankruptcy in the past few years: get in touch with Colonial about monitoring health of Dynegy (our municipal aggregation supplier); need to also monitor any fluctuations in Eversource's delivery charges

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?*

- None

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

- *Future winsets workshop? Public forum on energy issues?*
- *Summer/Fall '22 film series and/or discussion groups;*
- *Budget for events*
- *Discussed possibility of getting permission to show the film *Canary in a Gold Mine* <https://ptco.org/shows/canary/>, followed by Q&A*

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

- No updates

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

- None

9. *Other items not reasonably anticipated*

- Discussion of Vertex's proposed Buckland Cell Tower:

<https://www.town.buckland.ma.us/planning-board/news/cell-tower-application-buckland>

and the link to Vertex's application:

https://www.town.buckland.ma.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf356/f/news/vertex_buckland_zap_26_martin_rd_03-24-22_0.pdf

plus link to Vertex's website: <https://vertextowers.com/>

- Mentioned recent *Recorder* articles regarding cell towers:
 - Conway (Vertex, April) <https://www.recorder.com/Balloon-visibility-test-planned-for-proposed-Conway-cell-tower-46023950>
 - Rowe (Vertex, January) <https://www.recorder.com/Rowe-approves-cell-tower-with-conditions-44368708>
 - Colrain (Vertex, January) <https://www.recorder.com/With-board-approvals-cell-tower-coming-to-Greenfield-Road-in-Colrain-38205914>
 - Heath & Ashfield (ATT, February) <https://www.recorder.com/Heath-awaits-court-decision-on-proposed-cell-tower-45003652>

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

- Next meeting tentatively 18 May, 7:00p.m., also via Zoom

At next Meeting: Discuss material on these websites re. Community Utilities:

- <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2022/04/18/report-details-how-community-utilities-can-usheer-green-energy-transition>

° And the report on which it's based:

https://democracycollaborative.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/the_power_of_community_utilities_full_report.pdf

11. Adjourn meeting

- at 8:36p.m.