

Buckland Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes: 18 May 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 27 April 2022 meeting.*
 - Approved unanimously as amended.
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*
 - Brian noted: On May 6 2022, electricity demand fell to all-time low, due to weather and region's embrace of solar power. According to article, this 7500MW is the lowest level since ISO-NE began operating the grid in 1997. Demand from the power grid was at its lowest, but usage from the grid was roughly the same because roughly 4000MW was produced by rooftop solar installations. (More information is available at: <https://www.powermag.com/vermont-and-iso-new-england-provide-an-interesting-renewable-energy-transition-case-study/>)
4. *Discussion of local and regional energy-related issues (plus links shared at 27 April meeting), 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
 - Brian presented update of letter.
 - Regarding MTWP: Buckland isn't eligible to vote on membership until October 2023. We'll check Select Board agenda to see when/if the MTWP will discussed again; possible presentation by MTWP at 31 May SB meeting?.
 - It was on our agenda to discuss these 2 links from our April minutes: , postponed until June

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

and the report it's based on:

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

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
 - Continue discussion on event related to Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership – for example, event with panel, speakers; an information center
 - For June meeting, gather, gather more ideas and resources together for discussion on possible public events
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*
 - Bob Dean's email from this morning: **Municipal Energy Planning** A Lunch & Learn Virtual Workshop Series Wednesdays, May 25th – June 29th at Noon
 - See PDF from Guardian, for possible discussion next time:
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/may/11/us-fracking-climate-fossil-fuel-gases>
 - At June Meeting: possibly discuss material Brian shared tonight:
 - Brian's forwarded Bloomberg Green email from 28 April
 - Brian's link from 14 April email: Read More Here:
<https://vtdigger.org/2022/05/13/laney-smith-will-cheap-gasoline-really-make-life-perfect/>
10. *Choose facilitator and scribe for next meeting.*
 - Next meeting tentatively 22 May, 7:00p.m., also via Zoom
11. *Adjourn meeting*
 - at 8:50p.m.