

Buckland Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes: 19 October 2022, 7:00 p.m. (held via Zoom)

Present: Committee Members: Michael Novack, Penny Novack, Margaret Olin, Harvey Schaktman, Brian Summer; Guests: Jonathan Mirin

Facilitator: Penny Novack

Scribe: Margaret Olin

1. *Open the meeting.*

2. *Review and approve minutes from 21 September 2022 meeting.*

- Minutes from 21 September 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: continued discussion on residential solar – manual reporting to CEC re SRECs – and the apparent need to either upgrade meter or start manual reporting
- Via email today, Penny shared the following excerpt from a recent *News from the Green Communities Division* newsletter; review & discussion followed. (NOTE: people can sign up to receive the Green Communities Division newsletter at: <https://www.mass.gov/forms/green-communities-updates>)

Input Sought on Solar Siting: DOER is seeking feedback on how to determine the best locations for future solar projects. Solar energy will play an important role in achieving our state's clean energy goals, including those established in the [Clean Energy and Climate Plan](#) and the [2050 Decarbonization Roadmap](#).

There are approximately 3,000-4,000 megawatts of solar in Massachusetts today, and it is estimated that an additional 25,000 to 35,000 megawatts will need to be developed to meet Massachusetts' 2050 Decarbonization Roadmap targets. This translates to roughly 32,000 to 44,000 city blocks or 160,000 to 221,000 acres (for scale, MA has 5 million acres of land).

As DOER considers ways to meet Massachusetts' solar needs, we are interested in hearing from residents about their **preferred types of solar development and land use priorities**. Your feedback will help inform policy makers on what types of solar energy Massachusetts' residents are supportive of so that solar policy can be developed to reflect stakeholder priorities, resulting in a robust solar energy landscape supported by all.

Please complete the [brief survey](#) on the DOER website and share with your community's stakeholders.

- Discussion: continuing to explore possibility of Community Solar on Buckland-owned land (continue pre-pandemic process); questions about whether or not a Community Solar project could be sited on state-owned land.

4. *Discussion of local and regional energy-related issues (plus links shared at prior meetings), 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

- None

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?
- Fall & Winter ‘22 film series and/or discussion groups;
- Budget for events

(NOTE: This item was moved to an earlier spot on the agenda, to approximately 7:40.) Discussion with Jonathan Mirin about having a public showing of his film, Canary in a Gold Mine, to be followed by a Q&A session (similar to previous showings described on his website: <https://ptco.org/shows/canary>) To help finance a showing, he has applied to the Buckland Cultural Council for grant funding. EC members will watch the film, then plan to meet briefly – tentatively on 24 October – to discuss submitting a letter to BCC in support of his application.

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

- None

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

- None

9. Other items not reasonably anticipated

- Thanking Steve Daby for his years of service in Buckland, and wishing him well in his new position in Colrain <https://www.recorder.com/Colrain-Selectboard-offers-highway-superintendent-job-to-Buckland-facilities-manager-48214722>

10. Choose facilitator and scribe for next meeting.

- Next meeting tentatively Wednesday 16 November 7:00 over Zoom

11. Adjourn meeting. 8:25p.m.