

Buckland Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes: 16 November 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 19 October 2022 meeting.*
 - Minutes from 19 October 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*
 - Discussed potential sites for future community solar, then investigate feasibility: parking lot at Mohawk high school? Railroad yard? On state-owned land? (Penny mentioned that France had made it law that parking lots need to include solar coverage, and she will find out more details.)
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 “woodlands partnership”’s update; 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
 - Noted: <https://www.savemassforests.com/>
<https://www.franklinlandtrust.org/mohawk-trail-woodlands-partnership/>
 - Noted recent meeting/articles about the use for railyard development, concerns about streetlights
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 winserts workshop? Public forum on energy issues?

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

- Regarding discussing support for showing of *Canary in a Gold Mine*: 3 committee members had not yet watched the video and the 2 who had weren't in agreement about support, so no action was taken.

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

- Brian noted article about Houston having experienced five 500-year events in the past 5 years: various efforts toward hazard mitigation vs. revision of yardsticks for measuring events

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 Wednesday 21 December at 7:00 over Zoom

11. Adjourn meeting. 8:30p.m.