

Buckland Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes: 18 January 2023, 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 November 2022 meeting. (No meeting in December 2022).*
 - Approved unanimously as corrected (corrected footer date).
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*
 - Article shared by Penny, mentioning that China is increasing initiative of installing “solar strips” along highways – considering a distance out from highways to be unused space; questions about applicability in U.S.
 - Discussion of article shared by Penny re: France mandating solar panels over parking lots:
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/bradtempleton/2022/11/09/france-mandates-solar-panels-on-most-parking-lots-a-great-marriage-with-the-ev/?fbclid=IwAR05TYlpIWJtq6nO9WnWG0lloJntXQUaWtIVF-NV9zge74Zyb-0708E72w&sh=20c4a26e1353>
 - Harvey mentioned solar panel project for roof of Mohawk HS: will send link later
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
 - Note information from January 2023 Shelburne Newsletter: heat pump info session, and others:
https://www.townofshelburne.com/news/newsfile_13271_Newsletter_-_January_2023.pdf

- Jump in energy rates: discussion of the Municipal Aggregation in which Buckland participates, and website with info for residents to join “post-application” <https://www.town.buckland.ma.us/home/news/municipal-aggregation-post-enrollment-opt-options>
 - Discussion of waste water treatment plant’s award of a GAP grant to install PV solar at the plant!
 - Questions about town garage or town hall as possible sites for Community Solar
 - Explore possibilities for Green Community Grants for coming year, and possible collaboration with Ashfield & Shelburne
5. *Update on past Green Communities Grant applications; planning for 2023-24*
- *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?*
 - For Fall ‘23 – applications due by November 4
6. *Continue discussion of future public events, including:*
- *Future winserts workshop? Public forum on energy issues?*
 - *Winter & Spring ‘23 film series and/or discussion groups;*
 - *Budget for events*
 - Regarding discussing support for showing of *Canary in a Gold Mine*: Buckland Arts Council has apparently made their decisions, but not yet public. If Piti Theater got a grant and wants to show the film in Buckland, we’ll discuss it again then.
 - Encourage all BEC members to attend 29 January Heat Pump event at BSE (organized by Shelburne Energy Committee, Arms Library, and The Senior Cente – see #4 above))
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*
- None
10. *Choose facilitator and scribe for next meeting.*
- Next meeting tentatively Wednesday 15 February at 7:00 over Zoom
11. *Adjourn meeting. 8:30p.m.*