

Buckland Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes: 15 February 2023, 7:00 p.m. (held via Zoom)

Present: Committee Members: Michael Novack, Penny Novack, Margaret Olin, Harvey Schaktman, Brian Summer; Guests: none

Facilitator: Michael Novack

Scribe: Margaret Olin

1. Open the meeting.

2. Review and approve minutes from 18 January 2023 meeting.

- Approved unanimously as updated (updated link in #4 – Municipal Aggregation info link).

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

- Harvey will get more information on solar panel roof-mount project at Mohawk HS; most recently available Recorder article: <https://www.recorder.com/Mohawk-Trail-Building-Subcommittee-supports-solar-panel-project-47817298>

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 any “woodlands partnership” updates; 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

- Discussed information from 29 January mini-split/heat pump info session (including advances in technology, increased efficiency, lower cost, availability of grants); sessions were recorded: will share links as they become available. (again, refer to :

[https://www.townofshelburne.com/news/newsfile_13271_Newsletter - January 2023.pdf](https://www.townofshelburne.com/news/newsfile_13271_Newsletter_-_January_2023.pdf))

- Continued discussion of the Municipal Aggregation in which Buckland participates; with increase in electricity rates, more Buckland residents have become interested in this program.

° Discussed 6 February email from Colonial Power (the company helping Franklin County municipalities with aggregation) re: meeting tomorrow to discuss next RFP – Colonial has been watching the market “to

determine the best time for the communities to go out to RFP for their next power supply contract". The current aggregation contract with Dynegy ends in January 2024. Several other communities may also be interested in joining the aggregation at that time.

° Again, website with info for residents to join "post-application":
<https://www.town.buckland.ma.us/energy-committee/pages/municipal-aggregation-opt-opt-out-info>

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?*

- *none*

6. Continue discussion of future public events, including:

- *Future winsets workshop? Public forum on energy issues?*
- *Spring & Summer '23 film series and/or discussion groups;*
- *Budget for events*
- *Regarding previous discussions around possibly supporting application for Buckland Cultural Council grant for showing of *Canary in a Gold Mine*: Piti Theater did not receive a Buckland Cultural Council grant for this, and is exploring other possibilities for public showings and events.*
- *Encourage all BEC members to watch videos of 29 January Heat Pump event at BSE when the links become available (Event was organized by Shelburne Energy Committee, Arms Library, and The Senior Center – 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.

- *Mention of 13 February email from Bob Dean (FRCOG) to Franklin Co. Energy Committee members, with forwarded information re: Inflation Reduction Act, and current actions regarding regional transportation: as not everyone had been able to review it before tonight's meeting, discussion planned for March meeting.*

9. Other items not reasonably anticipated

- *Reminder from Town Clerk for Energy Committee members who have not yet done so, to complete the *Conflict of Interest Law Education Requirement**

10. Choose facilitator and scribe for next meeting.

- *Next meeting tentatively Wednesday 15 March at 7:00 over Zoom*

11. Adjourn meeting. 8:06p.m.