

Buckland Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes: 29 September 2021, 7:00 p.m. (held via Zoom)

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

Facilitator: Ellen Kaufmann

Scribe: Margaret Olin

1. *Open the meeting.*
2. *Review and approve minutes from 25 August 2021 meeting.*
 - Approved unanimously as written.
3. Discussion of solarize programs – past, present, & future – including state/federal incentives for residents, businesses, and municipalities, community solar initiatives; status of awarded META Grant for Community Shared Solar feasibility study and approved proposal from Northeast Solar (still in Phase 1)
 - Feedback from 2 Buckland residents on customer service from Omnidian (re: previous Solarize Mass program with DES—now Astrum Solar): facilitated prompt fixing of problem by hiring local plumber; cutting then sending out replacement check for missing SRECS check.
 - Because the META Grant for the Community Solar project has closed before project was able to be completed (pandemic-related complications), we'll ask Heather – if it's possible to get another grant – to pursue asking the SB and Conservation Commission whether or not it may be possible to use one of the identified potential sites
 - Quarterly report from Colonial sent September 7: get more information from Colonial (perhaps inviting them to a meeting for discussion); also get information on what appears to be an increase in streetlight electricity rate
4. *Discussion of local and regional energy-related issues, 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
 - 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
 - Recycle-able/biodegradable plastic bags; single-use plastics
 - PFAS Testing Program updates
 - Notes in Recorder about Woodlands Partnership
<https://www.recorder.com/Five-Franklin-County-towns-in-Mohawk-Trail-Woodlands-Partnership-Region-receive-grant-funding-42158626>
Brian: Climate Change Solutions: MA takes the Lead, State Rep. Paul Mark and State Rep. Joan Meschino (Hull) 18 September at Energy Park – crowd

let them know that there's not much support for biomass

<https://www.recorder.com/Legislators-speak-on-emissions-reduction-goals-in-new-law-42551197>

- Ellen: reviewed CET website – very dynamic, offers a lot – encourage others to take a look and discuss next time; potentially put the link up on our web page for public information.

- Resident has gotten in touch with Heather about forming a Lighting Committee (following-up from suggestion during 2021 ATM). If there are concerns about the streetlights, we believe that it would be more effective for the interested people to form a separate committee or task force rather than a subcommittee of the Energy Committee. We encourage the town to keep on the homepage – in an obvious and easily accessible place – 1. the links about the streetlight purchase process & that Green Communities Grant, 2. the online form for residents to request changes to lighting, and 3. the link to the 11 August 2020 Select Board meeting via Zoom at which the project was discussed in depth (with numerous Buckland residents in attendance) <http://fallscable.com/portfolio/buckland-select-board-august-11-2020/>

5. Update on past Green Communities Grant applications; planning for 2021-22

- *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?*

- Between now and our next meeting, we'll think about potential projects for which to apply in the spring round.

6. Continue discussion of future public events, including:

- *Future winserts workshop? Public forum on energy issues?*
- *Fall/Winter 2021-22 film series and/or discussion groups;*
- *budget for events*
 - Harvey will see if he can facilitate discussion among BEC and Mohawk seniors & juniors regarding energy issues and their future; Ellen suggests talking with teacher there.
 - Ellen will contact CET to see if they organize and deliver community information forums.
 - Discussed more possibilities

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

- None

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

- Encourage others to watch the video from the Planning Board public meeting from last night (28 September); encourage Planning Board to include something about promoting energy efficiency in these new buildings; encourage people to go to the Special Town Meeting in October to vote

9. Other items not reasonably anticipated

- None.

11. Choose facilitator and scribe for next meeting.

- Next meeting potentially 20 or 27 October, also via Zoom

11. Adjourn meeting