

## Buckland Energy Committee

**Meeting Minutes: 27 February 2019, 7:00 p.m., Buckland Public Library**

**Present:** Committee Members: Ellen Kaufmann, Michael Novack, Penny Novack, Margaret Olin, Harvey Schaktman, Brian Summer

**Facilitator:** Brian Summer

**Scribe:** Margaret Olin

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1. *Open the meeting. (This meeting has been rescheduled from 20 February 2019).*
2. *Review and approve minutes from 16 January 2019 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*
  - Buckland resident who had participated in Solarize had contacted Town Hall because transponder not working, and unable to reach DirectEnergy Solar. Margaret called DES number (<https://www.directenergysolar.com/company/contact-us>); representative said that DES still servicing residential customers, but “short-staffed, so repairs taking longer than usual”; passed that information and contact info along to resident
4. *Discussion of local and regional energy-related issues, including:*
  - MCAP
  - 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
  - Alternative electric power suppliers; regional municipal electricity aggregation updates
  - 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 water bottles
  - MCAP meeting rescheduled to 05 March 2019; Brian suggested resource: <http://www.greenenergytimes.org/2019/01/15/2018-a-sustainable-year-in-review/>
  - Municipal Electricity Aggregation Plan: Margaret reported on 21 February meeting held at FRCOG with Colonial Power Group and the 13 regional towns that have been interested in this proposal: attended by Select Board members, Energy Committee members, Town Administrators from those towns. (See 2 attached pages regarding for program update: *FRCOG Municipal Aggregation Implementation Outline*)
    - DPU discovery process may be complete by July, followed by potentially long process of bidding for supply

- CPG reaffirmed that they would not be presenting a bid to the Towns unless it were for a price lower than the one EverSource/NationalGrid offers at that time
- Towns will decide if they want to remain part of the large group, form smaller groups, or pursue the aggregation as an individual Town: the choice may affect pricing
- CPG is looking into the possibility of having two different “default” plans: one which gives the cheapest price, and one which may be more expensive but be more “green”.
- CPG would also be presenting pricing for the different plans with different supply contract lengths (typically from 6 months to 3 years) so that Towns could choose the options that are best for them.
- Follow-up meeting to be scheduled in March/April.

Question regarding aggregation: need clarification on “opt-out” process, especially regarding residents/businesses with solar (e.g. Z-transfers: electricity produced on one account, with some credit going to different account); advantages/disadvantages of going out to bid as the whole group, several smaller groups, or individually.

- ° Municipal Lighting: Bob and Select Board are still in process of exploring possibility of Buckland purchasing streetlights and refitting with LEDs; also Bob has been in touch with Jim Barry about possibility of funding for project through Green Communities grant in 2019-round or other grants; BEC stressed again the importance of consulting with someone like Jim Lowenthal around color spectrum, efficiency, and possible light pollution.
- ° Plastics: **VOTE:** We, the Energy Committee, appreciate and support the Select Board’s efforts around examining the use of plastics in Buckland, and would be happy to collaborate with you in developing and promoting this further. **(motion made, seconded, approved unanimously)**

(We will draft a note including the text of the above motion and submit it to the Select Board.)

#### 5. *Update on past Green Communities Grant applications; planning for 2019*

- *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?*

° July '18 GCG (\$27,707) has been closed out: work has been completed, necessary DOER confirmations completed, all reports submitted. Bob is looking into possible GCG opportunities for the 2019 cycle.

#### 6. *Continue discussion of future public events, including:*

- *Future winserts workshop? Public forum on energy issues?*
- *Winter/Spring 2019 film series and/or discussion groups;*
- *budget for events*

° No updates

*7. Update on MVP Grant current and future*

- No updates

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

- Penny: reported about Mass Power Forward at Beacon Hill

*9. Other items not reasonably anticipated*

- none

*10. Choose facilitator and scribe for next meeting.*

- Next regular meeting Wednesday, 27 March 2019, 7:00 at Buckland Town Hall

*11. Adjourn meeting*



# **Franklin Regional Council of Governments**

## **Municipal Aggregation**

### **Implementation Outline**

- Local Adoption
  - Town Meeting Vote (*completed*)
    - Certified minutes of vote by Town
- Aggregation Consultant
  - CPG consulting agreement executed (*completed*)
- Aggregation Plan
  - Standard Plan presented to Town by CPG (*completed*)
  - Public Posting of Plan for 3 Weeks (*completed*)
    - Hard Copy with Town Clerk
    - Town Website with CPG taking a screen-shot for state DPU filing
  - Selectmen Vote of Plan Acceptance (*completed*)
    - Certified minutes of vote by Town
- State Approvals
  - DOER consultation (*completed*)
    - Coordination by CPG of document submission and conference call with Town
  - DPU Filing (*in process; pending Order*)
    - Coordination by CPG of full filing and presentation at hearing. Town signs letter of support and posts CPG provided hearing notice.
- Supply Bidding
  - CPG meeting with Town regarding program options
  - RFP developed and distributed by CPG
  - CPG provides Town with indicative/executable pricing
  - Bids received and reviewed with the Town
  - Town chooses supplier, or rejects bids

- **Public Information/Customer Notification**
  - Statutory customer notification letters sent by CPG to all Basic Service accounts
  - CPG provided press release issued upon Town approval
  - Informational meetings
  - Local cable programs, if any
  - Social Media content, if applicable, provided by CPG
- **Implementation**
  - CPG manages opt-out process and all public requests for information and questions
- **Ongoing Service**
  - CPG manages future opt-outs and opt-ins
  - CPG files required reports
  - CPG manages ongoing requests for information
  - CPG conducts regular meeting with Town as required/requested