

Buckland Energy Committee

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

NOTE: MEETING WAS ACTUALLY HELD ON 29 MARCH (WAS POSTPONED DUE TO STORM (M.O.))

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 15 February 2023 meeting.*
 - Approved unanimously as updated (updated municipal aggregation info link in #4).
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*
 - none
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
 - Mass Save: Penny will compose draft of letter to send to town boards so that we can be better prepared to be able to apply for support for any upcoming energy-related projects that may be helpful town-wide.
 - 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 next RFP. (The current aggregation contract with Dynegy ends in January 2024.) Leverett and Wendell interested joining group for the next cycle.
 - Discussed 6 March email from Colonial Power (the company helping Franklin County municipalities with aggregation) re: 16 February meeting with member towns:

*“... We’d ask to see **indicative pricing on Monday, 4/10** and **executable pricing on Monday, 4/24**. Indicative pricing is simply for informational purposes but executable pricing would require a signature by 3 PM (from each municipality) if the group decided to move forward that day. ...*

... On 4/10, the indicative pricing is for informational purposes only. No action is required by the communities on that day.

On 4/24, the executable pricing is actionable. A signatory for each municipality will need to be available and authorized to sign a contract by 3 PM that day should pricing be favorable.

On bid day, the group will need to agree on the supplier and term but each municipality may select its own product offering(s).”

° Again, website with info on the aggregation program and 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?*

- *For next time: check on status of grant for EV charging stations, progress on work funded by grant for wastewater treatment plant*

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*
- *None*

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

- *Between meetings, Harvey talked with Buckland’s Emergency Management Director regarding possibility of radiation rail spills.*
- *Follow-up question: is the nearest hazmat team in Springfield?*

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 April meeting.*
- *Discussed differences between air source & ground source heat pumps; discussed information from 29 January mini-split/heat pump info session*

(including advances in technology, increased efficiency, lower cost, availability of grants)—

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

sessions were recorded:

What's All This Hoopla about Heat Pumps Pt 1, 1/29/23

<https://vimeo.com/796418720> (Part 1)

What's All This Hoopla about Heat Pumps Pt 2, Q & A, Frequently Asked Questions and Testimonials (Part 2) 1/29/23

<https://vimeo.com/796419417> (Part 2)

9. Other items not reasonably anticipated

- None

10. Choose facilitator and scribe for next meeting.

- Next meeting tentatively Wednesday 26 April at 7:00 over Zoom

11. Adjourn meeting. 8:34p.m.