

Buckland Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes: 26 July 2023, 7:00 p.m. (held via Zoom)

Present: Committee Members: Michael Novack, Penny Novack, Margaret Olin, Harvey Schaktman, Brian Summer absent; Guests: Cynthia Boettner (7:31-8:00)

Facilitator: Michael Novack

Scribe: Margaret Olin

1. Open the meeting.

2. Review and approve minutes from 21 June 2023 meeting.

- Approved unanimously as amended.

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

- Discussion around Nexamp mailings: some Committee members are still receiving them, assuming other residents are as well

- Comment from one member that their recent SREC payments had been lumped together; depending on broker, SREC checks usually come out quarterly or annually –no inquiries from other residents about concerns regarding SRECS

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; Lighting Advisory Committee
- Recycle-able/biodegradable plastic bags; single-use plastics
- PFAS Testing Program updates

- Rail transport of radioactive materials: Penny & Michael will try to get in touch with Herb Guyette re issue raised at June meeting; discussed concerns about recent derailments

- Woodland partnership: Brian noted that Ronda Anderson has been elected to board of Woodlands Partnership and is a possible contact for updates

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 winserts workshop? Public forum on energy issues?*
- *Summer & Fall '23 film series and/or discussion groups;*
- *Budget for events*

- None

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

- Questions about how recent flooding may affect hazardous situations locally, updates possible

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

- Discussed Bob Dean's 24 July email about upcoming regional EC meeting, and spreadsheet following legislative updates

9. *Other items not reasonably anticipated*

- *(moved this item up on the agenda to roughly 7:35, so that Cynthia wouldn't have to wait until the end)*

Cynthia Boettner– an energy resource person for folks in Shelburne and an administrator of program All-In Energy (an avenue for hooking people up to MassSave resources) – has included Buckland in program she described:

° Folks from Revise went to door to door to share information on Mass Save Home Energy Audits and services.

° *See Attached Fliers (4 pages)* Now, Eversource has decided to hold special event for small businesses during last 2 weeks of August, in both Shelburne and Buckland: Darek Chomiak – from the chosen vendor “Energy Resources” – will be going door to door to businesses in both towns to see if they want to participate in getting an energy assessment – and energy efficiency upgrades usually offered at a 70% discount, will be offered at up to 90% discounts during these 2 weeks. There's also a better incentive for insulation for renters (probably need to coordinate with landlord and Cynthia could help bridge that gap). Darek can pre-screen ask questions over the phone – people can make appointments. If landlord has done MassSave energy audit – different incentives for landlords & renters – it's the occupant of the building that this program is dealing with.

Also town farms – not just electrified buildings – may benefit from this program. Houses of worship and non-profits are also included. If they have questions, they can get in touch with Cynthia.

° Suggest to Cynthia that she contact Buckland Town Clerk to see if she can provide her with a list of Buckland businesses. Also, suggested that she send information to Heather, and inquire about possibility of including the info in Town News.

° Harvey will distribute fliers to businesses on Bridge St, after Cynthia gets copies to him

° There's lots of interest in mini-splits, but that's not part of this program (Energy Resources does mini splits as an extra piece. . . could find out if appropriate by contacting Darek Chomiak

- Discussed Heather's 15 June email about reappointments:

Vote: that we continue with our current structure – approved unanimously

10. Choose facilitator and scribe for next meeting.

- Next meeting tentatively Wednesday, 23 August at 7:00 via Zoom

11. Adjourn meeting. 8:20p.m.



The Town of Shelburne is a **Mass Save®** **Community First Partner**, increasing participation in energy efficiency programs.

Small Business Energy Solutions

Coming to Shelburne and Buckland August 14 - 25

No matter what type of business you own or operate, your facility is likely full of opportunities for energy-efficiency improvements. A few ways we can help you re-energize your facility, improve your profit margins, and stay competitive with year-over-year savings include:



LIGHTING

LEDs are brighter, longer-lasting and lower maintenance with a fraction of the energy use. Indoors, controls can let you use lights only when you need to and create a more inviting ambiance.

Outdoors, LEDs create a safer environment for your employees and customers.



REFRIGERATION

Commercial refrigerators and freezers use a lot of energy, operating around the clock to keep perishable products cold.

Installing controls, upgrading compressors and coil maintenance reduce energy, lower maintenance costs and prevent food spoilage.



HVAC CONTROLS

Modern HVAC systems create a more comfortable environment for customers and employees, with timers helping you only heat or cool when you need to.



ELECTRONICS

Plug loads account for about 25% of the electricity consumed within office buildings. Advanced power strips and controls can help you easily power down devices like computers and copiers when they're not needed.



WEATHERIZATION

Weatherizing increases comfort and efficiency, while keeping out drafts, moisture and pollutants.

Reduce strain on your HVAC system by keeping conditioned air in with insulation and air curtains.

What to expect:

Eversource is sending authorized energy-efficiency experts to the towns of Shelburne and Buckland from August 14 - 25 to analyze your energy use and perform non-intrusive upgrades, working with you at every step.

You'll receive a customized plan, assuring you have the expert guidance and financial assistance to help reduce energy bills and maintenance costs, while shrinking your carbon footprint and enhancing your brand.



**Schedule Your No-Cost
Energy Assessment Today!**

(413) 376-8575 • dchomiak@energyresourcesusa.net





We replaced our entire building's office ceiling fixtures. Great care was taken to make sure that we were getting what we would enjoy.

The installation was promptly scheduled, and the installers carefully worked around the business operations in progress to quickly finish the entire project in a couple of days. Everyone was very pleased with the results.

A second project, which was recommended during the office lighting upgrade, was the replacement of the lighting inside our large multi-bay garage. The lighting had previously been upgraded, but this time we got it right because the difference is literally like night and day. Our garage is open 24 hours a day, and the technicians really appreciate the improved lighting.

– Helen Koczera
Cape Cod Express, Wareham, MA

I was surprised how smooth the install was. I am very pleased with the all around benefits of the upgrade such as energy savings, maintenance savings, and how everything looks unified and all tubes are the same color.

– Brian Sullivan, Facility Director
South Boston Catholic Academy, South Boston

We have noticed a significant savings on our bill.

The install was very professional and the electricians were never in the way of customers and made the install very easy.

The generous incentive Eversource provided us through the small business program enabled us to not think twice about doing the project and the small amount we had to pay we were able to finance at 0% over two years."

– Chris Bossi, General Manager
Huntington Wine and Spirits



"This program was a breeze. The work was done well and quickly, we got big discounts on the installation, and we are saving just over \$300 a month on our utility bills."

– Scott Gregorian, Owner
Gregorian Rugs, Newton Lower Falls, MA

Eversource is a proud sponsor of



EVERSOURCE

For a limited time
Eversource will cover
up to **90%**
on select efficiency
solutions.



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Refrigeration



Electronics



Insulation and
Air Sealing



Energy
Management
Systems



Indoor and
Outdoor Lighting



Hot Water
Savings



HVAC Controls



Pipe
Insulation

Small Business Energy Efficiency experts from Energy Resources will be in Shelburne/Buckland between August 14 - 25.

They will stop by to assess energy use and provide your business with a customized list of recommended solutions to save you money and energy and boost the comfort of your customers and employees. Follow the instructions on the back of this card to reserve a convenient day and time.

Ask us about other rebates available on heat pumps, food service equipment, new equipment and more.

In partnership with:

ENERGYresources

Here's how to get started.

Schedule your no-cost, no-obligation energy assessment today in 3 easy steps:

- 1 On your smartphone, point your camera to the QR code below.
- 2 Follow the link and complete the form so we can learn more about your business.
- 3 Energy Experts authorized by Eversource will contact you to schedule the best time to assess your needs.

You can also contact us at (413) 376-8575 or dchomiak@energyresourcesusa.net

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