

Buckland Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes: 23 August 2023, 7:00 p.m. (held via Zoom)

Present: Committee Members: Michael Novack, Penny Novack, Margaret Olin, Harvey Schaktman, Brian Summer; Guests: Tom Johnson, and one Buckland resident

Facilitator: Brian Summer

Scribe: Margaret Olin

1. *Open the meeting.*
2. *Review and approve minutes from 26 July 2023 meeting.*
 - Approved unanimously as corrected.
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*
 - No updates.
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
 - Tom Johnson (*Shelburne Energy Committee*): as Shelburne is considering purchasing streetlights, discussion about Buckland’s 2020 experience (purchased 94 streetlights from Eversource, replaced fixtures with LEDs). Suggested that Tom contact Heather for detailed information on the process, subsequent energy usage, community response.
 - Discussion about derailments, especially those involving hazardous materials: future preparations/precautions plus discussion of experiences around December 2016 derailment at Elm Street/Ashfield Street crossings. Particular concerns about possible derailments involving hazardous chemicals and radioactive materials. Hopefully local towns can work together to detect and mitigate hazards as well as respond to future events.

Action Items:

- Advocate for CXS to be required to report all derailments, even if it involves just 1 car.

-- Find out when Buckland's *Hazardous Mitigation Plan* will be updated (MO): propose amendment to include exit plans for residents on dead end streets

-- Contact FRCOG to find out about local resources related to derailments (MO)

-- Get more information on Buckland's current resources for dealing with derailments and events involving hazardous materials (PN, MN)

° Contact Cynthia Boettner to find out how their recent MassSave program went. (MO)

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?*
- *Fall '23 – Winter '24 film series and/or discussion groups;*
- *Budget for events*
- Perhaps organize public meetings about derailments and MassSave initiatives?

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.

- Discussed Bob Dean's 3 August email summarizing 24 July summarizing regional EC meeting, and upcoming Solar Forum

9. Other items not reasonably anticipated

- Reminder for EC members to check recent email from Town Clerk regarding Open Meeting Law and ethics training, then complete necessary items.

10. Choose facilitator and scribe for next meeting.

- Next meeting tentatively Wednesday, 27 September at 7:00 via Zoom

11. Adjourn meeting. 8:33p.m.