

# Buckland Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes: 28 February 2024, 7:00 p.m. (held via Zoom)

**Present:** Committee Members: Michael Novack, Penny Novack, Margaret Olin, Harvey Schaktman, Brian Summer; Guests: *None*

**Facilitator:** Michael Novack

**Scribe:** Margaret Olin

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1. *Open the meeting.*

2. *Review and approve minutes from 24 January 2024 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; possibility of follow-up on pre-pandemic META Grant for Community Shared Solar feasibility study/ Northeast Solar*

- Discussion of rebates. One committee member had applied for the rebate – a very complicated process. Did receive \$3,500 rebate from state; applied for \$7,500 for the EV tax credit too; paid off solar panels, though one is no longer working. Received an additional \$700 rebate from Eversource to cover reimbursement of electrician's invoice for installation of Level 2 charger.

• **MOTION: Move that we go to item #5** and focus on that for the duration of the meeting. (No guests present.) Motion seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

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;
- Alternative electric power suppliers; municipal electricity aggregation program & any updates from Colonial Power Group
- MassSave program updates
- New Massachusetts programs: (including any 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
- Not discussed.

5. *Update on past Green Communities Grant applications; planning for 2024-25*

- 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
- Discussion of new Climate Leaders program
- DOER updates?
  - <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/climate-leader-communities>  
Visited above website. From link on that site, tried watching video of 17 October 2023 webinar: audio didn't come through clearly when shared on

Zoom, so switched to link with the slides from that meeting.  
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/climate-leader-communities-webinar-slides/download>

- Discussion of the program in general, plus slides 1-7. Plan for members to watch video/review slides before March meeting, then discuss:
  - Might the *Climate Leader Communities* program be a good fit for Buckland?
  - If so, what projects might Buckland pursue?
  - Which other committees/boards might we be able to collaborate with?

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

- *Future winserts workshop? Public forum on energy issues?*
- *Winter '24 – Spring '24 film series and/or discussion groups?*
- *Budget for events*
  - Not discussed.

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

- Not discussed.

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

- Not discussed.

*9. Other items not reasonably anticipated*

- Margaret forwarded 27 February email from Alison Gage (“Listening Sessions”) to everyone.

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

- Tentatively Wednesday, 20 March at 7:00pm via Zoom

*11. Adjourn meeting.*

- 8:29 pm