

Buckland Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes: 27 March 2019, 7:00 p.m., Buckland Town Hall

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

Facilitator: Ellen Kaufmann

Scribe: Margaret Olin

1. *Open the meeting. (This meeting is on the 4th Wednesday of the month, rather than the regular 3rd Wednesday.)*
2. *Review and approve minutes from 27 February 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*
 - Discussion of recent EverSource bills: noticing net metering charge and other charges potentially associated with solar. "Claw-backs"? For next meeting, all will do some research on the broken-down residential charges
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: Brian attended most recent meeting on 5 March. Discussed possibilities of pipeline companies applying for extensions locally (in Berkshire distribution area); MA HR1419, and impetus for removing "biomass" as a form of renewable energy from Omnibus Energy Bill
 - ° Piles of railroad ties along Route 2 in Charlemont; discussed possibility of getting in touch with Charlemont to potentially collaborate on this issue
 - ° Municipal Electricity Aggregation: Next meeting of towns on April 11th at FRCOG
 - ° Street lights: noted that Gill: didn't hire EverSource to do the change-over: importance of bidding to potentially cut costs; consider cold weather tolerance of fixtures/bulbs
 - ° Bags: Discussed possibility of cloth bags replacing plastic at local businesses; Brian independently looking into potential costs/designs if his company were to manufacture bags

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?*

- Bob has submitted the 2019 grant application: municipal lighting project

- Margaret will contact Jim Barry to get information on how many smaller towns have been able to meet the 20% energy use reduction, opening up possibility of submitting grant proposals for residential use.

6. Continue discussion of future public events, including:

- *Future winserts workshop? Public forum on energy issues?*
- *Spring/Summer 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 and Michael: reported about "Town Hall" meeting with Senator Markey: focus on Green New Deal

9. Other items not reasonably anticipated

- none

10. Choose facilitator and scribe for next meeting.

- Next regular meeting Wednesday, 16 April 2019, 7:00 at Buckland Public Library

11. Adjourn meeting