

# Buckland Energy Committee

**Meeting Minutes: 16 April 2019, 7:00 p.m., Buckland Public Library**

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

**Facilitator:** Brian Summer

**Scribe:** Margaret Olin

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1. *Open the meeting.*
2. *Review and approve minutes from 27 March 2019 meeting.*
  - Approved unanimously as written, with correction of 2 typos: 1 in #2, 1 in #4.
3. *Discussion of solarize programs – past, present, & future – including state/federal incentives for residents, businesses, and municipalities, community solar initiatives*
  - No updates.
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
    - ° Penny and Michael reported on FCCR and efforts to eliminate clear cut options on state land; FCCR screening *Burned: Are Trees the New Coal?* (documentary);
    - ° Municipal Electricity Aggregation: Margaret reported on 11 April meeting of involved towns with Colonial Power Group at FRCOG; Sunderland shared survey for possible adaptation by individual towns, (polling residents on priorities for Aggregation supplier option profiles; include questions regarding how residents may prioritize pricing, degree of green, production location, etc.; if possible, include tentative figures for indicative pricing); if Boston proceeds with aggregation process, timeline for these small-municipality aggregations may be delayed.
    - ° Noted 16 April *Recorder* article about Whately and the state woodstove replacement program: [https://www.recorder.com/B1-State-allots-\\$450-000-to-change-out-inefficient-wood-stoves-24821900](https://www.recorder.com/B1-State-allots-$450-000-to-change-out-inefficient-wood-stoves-24821900)
    - ° Noted article on *Ban on Single-Use Plastics* on Buckland ATM Warrant. [https://www.town.buckland.ma.us/sites/bucklandma/files/uploads/article\\_19\\_ban\\_on\\_single\\_use\\_plastics\\_0.pdf](https://www.town.buckland.ma.us/sites/bucklandma/files/uploads/article_19_ban_on_single_use_plastics_0.pdf)

5. *Update on past Green Communities Grant applications; planning for 2020*
  - *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?*
    - No updates.
6. *Continue discussion of future public events, including:*
  - *Future winserts workshop? Public forum on energy issues?*
  - *Summer/Fall 2019 film series and/or discussion groups;*
  - *budget for events*
  - *Look into having another Shelburne Falls showing of **Burned** (documentary) when Arms Library reopens; possibly inviting people who led discussion at FCCR screening.*
  - *Possible discussion groups around reading **Falter: Has the Human Game Begun to Play Itself Out?**, by Bill McKibben (pub. April 2019), and/or **The Overstory**, by Richard Powers (pub April 2018, Pulitzer Prize 2019)*
7. *Update on MVP Grant current and future*
  - No updates
8. *Report back about other meetings/ activities in which committee members participate.*
  - None
9. *Other items not reasonably anticipated*
  - None
10. *Choose facilitator and scribe for next meeting.*
  - Next regular meeting Wednesday, 15 May 2019, 7:00 at Buckland Town Hall
11. *Adjourn meeting*