

Buckland Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes: 19 June 2019, 7:00 p.m., Buckland Public Library

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

Facilitator: Ellen Kaufmann

Scribe: Margaret Olin

1. *Open the meeting.*
2. *Review and approve minutes from 15 May 2019 meeting.*
 - Approved unanimously as written. (One abstention: Ellen wasn't present at May meeting.)
3. *Discussion of solarize programs – past, present, & future – including state/federal incentives for residents, businesses, and municipalities, community solar initiatives*
 - Discussion about getting more information on “Relay Power”.
<https://relaypower.com>; discussion of community solar: municipal (e.g. Wendell) vs. corporate
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 plan 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 plastics
 - ° No update on MCAP
 - ° Rail: Looks like PanAm is switching out a lot of ties: more piles, possibly of new ties going in; discussion of Pan Am's lack of communication/ notification to towns in general (interstate rail system)
 - ° Woodlands Partnership/ biomass: Discussed possibility of some Energy Committee members attending 10 July BOH meeting to learn more about their position on these topics; discussed possibility of BEC submitting statement to Mass DOER during comment period (necessity to clear any statement with Buckland Select Board before any submission as BEC is an appointed committee: if we draft statement at July meeting, submit to SB before their 23 July meeting); Biomass comment period extended to July 26 (Recorder article on 14 June Pages 1/8)
 - ° Ask Penny to follow up with Mass Save to see if program she mentioned applies to municipalities as well.

- Lighting: Make sure the Buckland SB, Heather have information on services that Jim Lowenthal may be able to provide (re: lighting design, environmental & health impacts); send 17 June Recorder article (p. A-4) about Jim Lowenthal's work to potentially interested parties.
 - Plastics: no update on single-use plastics/plastic bags; Brian's photos of plastic and pipes along river (from dam pipe/wood/plastic barrier failures): discussed possibility of presenting slide show at future SB meeting re: the general plastic garbage plus debris from the dams visible along the river
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 news
6. *Continue discussion of future public events, including:*
- Future winsets workshop? Public forum on energy issues?
 - Summer/Fall 2019 film series and/or discussion groups;
 - budget for events
 - Films: look into possible re-screening of *Burned* (last screening June 2018 - sponsored by another community group, tour funding by Patagonia); Check in about <https://www.linktv.org/shows/burned-are-trees-the-new-coal> (30-minute excerpts from *Burned*, available for free until 30 June); discussion around contacting producers to arrange another showing of *Burned* locally, library screening guidelines
7. *Update on MVP Grant current and future*
- Discussion on possibility that area will experience increased frequency of large storms dumping high volumes of rain over a short period, ways of collecting reliable weather data
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, 17 July 2019, 7:00 at Buckland Town Hall
11. *Adjourn meeting*