

Buckland Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes: 17 July 2019, 7:00 p.m., Buckland Town Hall

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

Facilitator: Penny Novack

Scribe: Margaret Olin

1. Open the meeting.

2. Review and approve minutes from 19 June 2019 meeting.

- Approved unanimously as written. (Two abstentions: Penny and Michael weren't present at June meeting.)

3. Discussion of solarize programs – past, present, & future – including state/federal incentives for residents, businesses, and municipalities, community solar initiatives

- Mailing from Clean Choice Energy: all present got it today (<https://cleanchoiceenergy.com> based in Washington DC) Rate description of 13.7; given a month-by-month price; NorthEast, NY & Penn wind: make statement usage offset by RECS (We'll check with others we know in other towns to see if they got the letter, too – as point of information)

Brian's email about webinar: CEC tracking production solar systems: Brian's reporting is automatic; Michael & Harvey self-report with PB – webinar notice didn't mention what kind of changes coming to reporting website: Brian will follow-up regarding availability of webinar in future

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: (see #7)
 - Woodlands Partnership: unable at this time to make a definite decision/recommendation as a committee; encourage individual members to submit biomass comment by 26 July if so desired, and to go to SB meeting on 23 June.

- Aggregation: no further updates: it may be taking longer because Boston is also applying and may be getting priority at DPU
 - Penny and MassSave: Penny will get information re: possibility of municipal programs' participation for next meeting
 - META Grant opportunity: Will send grant information to Heather, highlighting possibility of applying for Community Shared Solar feasibility study and energy efficiency design assistance for new Town Garage; if the SB decides to apply for the Community Shared Solar study, EC will help get info together from Northeast Solar (regarding process and information on Wendell's project) and Letters of Interest from Buckland residents; Margaret will email copies of grant application to Wastewater Treatment Plant, Fire District, and Mohawk Trail School District, as this time, districts – not just single municipalities – are able to apply.
 - Lighting & Articles: Send email to Heather, and Barry & Whit encouraging them to consult with Jim Lowenthal regarding lighting resources and head design.
 - Plastics: Observe what happens in Greenfield when ban starts – what will happen at Big Y; Harvey: will find out more information about town public recycling bins, and encourage town to have bins readily available & maintained
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*, free availability extended through October); discussion on possibility of screening "Harvest of Empire"*
7. *Update on MVP Grant current and future*
- *Brian, Michael, Margaret went to Hazard Mitigation Plan Update ad hoc committee meeting (09 July at Town Hall): went through each potential vulnerability, consideration of future probability, who would be affected, extent of impact; next meeting 12 August*

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, 21 August 2019, 7:00 at Buckland Public Library

11. Adjourn meeting

