

## Buckland Energy Committee

Note: Date error --  
should say 19 Feb 2020

**Meeting Minutes: 19 February 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

1. *Open the meeting.*
2. *Review and approve minutes from 15 January 2020 meeting.*
  - Approved unanimously as written, with date change.
3. *Discussion of solarize programs – past, present, & future – including state/federal incentives for residents, businesses, and municipalities, community solar initiatives; moving forward with awarded META Grant for Community Shared Solar feasibility study and approved proposal from Northeast Solar*
  - Northeast Solar's proposal for the Community Shared Solar project was approved by the Select Board at their 21 January meeting; Phase 1 of the project with Tom Kelly to begin within the next month with identification of potential locations
  - Look for options for funding for municipal solar.
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; PACE Program & Green Works
  - 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
  - Municipal Electricity Aggregation applications finally approved by DPU, but now DPU has issued a joint order for all 14 participating towns, requiring that they now submit compliance filings; meeting for towns with Colonial Power to be scheduled soon
  - Railroads: MVP /Hazard Mitigation Plan update draft includes a clause regarding concerted effort among towns to hold the railroads accountable for safety/environmental considerations
  - Noted discussions in Recorder editorials & My Turn columns on Woodland Partnership

- Michael: discussion of alternative electric power suppliers
- Discussion on progress with lighting and grants for streetlights
- VOTE: Margaret will contact Jim Lowenthal and ask if he might be able to provide feedback on Buckland lighting proposal from Arden:**
- VOTE: Unanimous – all in favor**
- Discussion of current MA Senate bills regarding climate change:  
<https://1420wbec.com/state-senate-takes-on-climate-change/>
- 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?*
  - *Spring/Summer 2020 film series and/or discussion groups;*
  - *budget for events*
    - Harvey: public events for community to come and share with us their thoughts about how we can improve energy conditions in town.; try to get info out before town meeting: having newsletter or bulletin board (physical or digital)
    - Penny: taking part in Earth Day events, for example, tabling in public spot in Buckland on Earth Day; for next meeting, all will consider possible events/topics to publicize
- 7. *Update on MVP Grant current and future; Hazard Mitigation Plan Update*
  - Margaret reported back about 28 January meeting.
- 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, 18 March 2020, 7:00 at Buckland Town Hall
- 11. *Adjourn meeting*