

Buckland Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes: 17 August 2022, 7:00 p.m. (held via Zoom)

Present: Committee Members: Michael Novack, Penny Novack, Margaret Olin, Harvey Schaktman, Brian Summer; Guests: none

Facilitator: Harvey Schaktman

Scribe: Margaret Olin

1. *Open the meeting.*

2. *Review and approve minutes from 22 June 2022 meeting. (no meeting in July)*

- Minutes from 22 June meeting will be reviewed at September meeting.

3. *Discussion of solarize programs – past, present, & future – including state/federal incentives for residents, businesses, and municipalities, community solar initiatives; possibility of follow-up on pre-pandemic META Grant for Community Shared Solar feasibility study/ Northeast Solar*

- Some solar systems from the Solarize PAB Program were set up to communicate via 3G for meter reading & reporting: 3G has sunset for that process, so everyone who had that system will be in need of upgrade (eg. Sunbug solar can pull out old meter and upgrade to one that will communicate in 5G -- a \$1000 estimated price; residents with no cell service already get email reminders to report amount of solar power generated per month (self-reporting the meter reading on this website <https://www.masscec-pts.com>) Brian will write up a note on the processes then send it to Margaret to post on EC webpage.

- Mohawk school building – proposed roof solar project:– try contacting Greg Garrison (NE Solar, <https://www.northeast-solar.com> consulted with Buckland on potential Community Solar Project, 2020), Mark Rabinsky (Green Communities Rep for our area <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/contact-gc-coordinator>), UMass CEE (Clean Energy Extension, consulted on other energy-related projects <https://ag.umass.edu/clean-energy>) for information on possible scenarios; Margaret will 1. check in to see where building subcommittee/school committee is in decision-making process, and if decision still not made, encourage them to reach out to each member-town's energy committees, 2. pass on contact info listed above for possible input

4. *Discussion of local and regional energy-related issues (plus links shared at April, May, and June meetings), possibly including:*

- 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; Brian’s paper
- Alternative electric power suppliers; municipal electricity aggregation program & any updates from Colonial Power Group
- MassSave program updates
- New Massachusetts programs: (through Mass CEC and DOER; Center for EcoTechnology --CET)

- *Municipal lighting/streetlights; new Lighting Advisory Committee*
 - *Recycle-able/biodegradable plastic bags; single-use plastics*
 - *PFAS Testing Program updates*
- If anyone hears of future MTRP public meetings, email fellow EC members so we can participate.
 - Discussed Recorder article about railroad ties catching on fire:
<https://www.recorder.com/Railroad-employees-firefighters-quickly-quell-railroad-tie-fire-in-Deerfield-47614048>
5. *Update on past Green Communities Grant applications; planning for 2022-23*
- *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?*
 - None
6. *Continue discussion of future public events, including:*
- *Future winserts workshop? Public forum on energy issues?*
 - *Fall '22 film series and/or discussion groups;*
 - *Budget for events*
 - *Explore possibility of a showing of Canary in a Gold Mine followed by discussion plus Q&A (Margaret)*
7. *Updates on MVP Grant current and future; Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates*
- 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 meeting: tentatively Wednesday 21 September at 7:00p.m., also via Zoom
11. *Adjourn meeting*
- at 8:30p.m.