

Buckland Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes: 21 September 2022, 7:00 p.m. (held via Zoom)

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

Facilitator: Brian Summer

Scribe: Margaret Olin

1. *Open the meeting.*
2. *Review and approve minutes from 17 August 2022 meeting.*
 - Minutes from 17 August approved unanimously as written; minutes from 22 June (*recorded by new scribe*) currently misplaced, will review in future when they reemerge.
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*
 - Brian has gotten set up to do manual reporting of home's solar panel production; involves reading meter then logging in to system to report production; has heard from no one else having problems switching to manual reporting; Brian will write article describing process for posting on our EC web page
 - Regarding Mohawk school building proposed solar project: refer to August minutes; be in touch with Building Subcommittee for updates; questions about what happens at end of contract term
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
 - Harvey has reached out to Herb Guyette re: articles about likelihood of radioactive waste being transported via rail through town, he will follow up with Herb about Buckland's preparation for dealing with potential radioactive material accident

Michael: discussion about impetus to develop less expensive batteries – for home solar energy storage and other purposes – compared to continued focus on improvement to batteries for vehicles; aluminum sulfur vs lithium batteries & cost factor

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 winsets workshop? Public forum on energy issues?*
 - *Fall & Winter '22 film series and/or discussion groups;*
 - *Budget for events*
- Margaret: will follow up on possibility of a showing of *Canary in a Gold Mine* followed by discussion plus Q&A; will also check on our current budget
 - Harvey: will find out about possibility of participating in Moonlight Magic (informational &/or participatory display/booth)

7. *Updates on MVP Grant current and future; Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates*

- Brian noted that there is no mention in HM Plan of drought-related fires, possible need to update plan to include that hazard which has become more likely than it was at the time of update; Harvey led discussion around concerns about nuclear waste

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 19 October 7:00 over Zoom

11. *Adjourn meeting*