

# Buckland Energy Committee

**Meeting Minutes: 24 January 2023, 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

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1. *Open the meeting.*

2. *Review and approve minutes from 27 December 2023 meeting.*

(Because our December meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum, we also reviewed the minutes from our 29 November meeting.)

- November 29 2023 Meeting minutes: Approved unanimously as written
- December 27 2023 Meeting minutes: Approved unanimously as corrected  
(removed Michael's name as facilitator)

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: looking into possibility of rebates for outdoor installations of EV car chargers: Eversource seems to be offering \$700 toward cost of installation of level 2 charger (similar to having a drier outlet – 240V 50amp.outlet).
- Penny: looking into article regarding potential ?Eversource? offering of “free” minisplit with solar panel installation

4. *Discussion of local and regional energy-related issues (plus links shared at prior 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 any “woodlands partnership” updates; response to Northern Pass; PACE Program & Green Works;
- 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; Lighting Advisory Committee
- Recycle-able/biodegradable plastic bags; single-use plastics
- PFAS Testing Program updates
  - Rail: Problems with freight derailments – Margaret shared *Last Week Tonight* link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aj2keSjzYyY> Time in video where focus on freight derailments and oversight begins 2:20
- Woodlands: to grow or not to grow? Brian shared resources:
  - older trees in forest not necessarily best: need selective logging – patches of clearcuts – controversy about national or state forests NH VT MA: older trees should be left to grow?:  
<https://www.wbur.org/news/2024/01/04/forest-management-carbon-storage> .

<https://www.uml.edu/news/departments/news/2022/us-forest-service-should-let-forests-grow.aspx>

- Other websites shared tonight (and to look at and potentially discuss at next meeting)

- <https://betterbuildingssolutioncenter.energy.gov/implementation-models/greenworks-lending-funds-efficiency-renewable-and-microgrid-improvements>

- <https://www.energy.gov/scep/slsc/property-assessed-clean-energy-programs> review PACE

- MassSave updates – none
- Streetlights – Shelburne moving ahead with lighting proposals

5. *Update on past Green Communities Grant applications; planning for 2024-25*

- 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
- Discussion of new Climate Leaders program
- DOER updates?
  - Some members haven't reviewed information for climate leaders program discussion. Shared links again, and will aim for next month's meeting  
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/climate-leader-communities>

6. *Continue discussion of future public events, including:*

- Future winsets workshop? Public forum on energy issues?
- Winter '24 – Spring '24 film series and/or discussion groups?
- Budget for events
  - Nothing in the works at the moment

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

- None

8. *Report back about other meetings/ activities in which committee members participate.*

- During a meeting for constituents with concerns/questions at Buckland Town Hall in December, Brian met with Jonathan Gould – our area's District Director for Senator Paul Mark's office. Brian brought up the issue of flashboards on the dam in Shelburne Falls (including about how they repeatedly break and spread debris downstream). Jon Gould got in contact with Great River Hydro, received a response from Brandon Kibbe, then shared the response with Brian. Tonight, we discussed both the situation and the response.

9. *Other items not reasonably anticipated*

- None

10. *Choose facilitator and scribe for next meeting.*

- Tentatively Wed 21 Feb at 7:00pm via Zoom

11. *Adjourn meeting.*

- 8:12 pm