

Buckland Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes: 27 March 2024, 7:00 p.m. (held via Zoom)

Present: Committee Members: Michael Novack, Penny Novack, Margaret Olin, Harvey Schaktman, Brian Summer; Guests: *None* (Harvey left the meeting at 8:04)

Facilitator: Penny Novack

Scribe: Margaret Olin

1. *Open the meeting.*
 2. *Review and approve minutes from 28 February 2024 meeting.*
 - Approved unanimously as written
 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*
 - Nothing new
 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: (including any 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
 - Also including discussion of the following links shared by Brian:
<https://www.eversource.com/content/residential/save-money-energy/clean-energy-options/electric-vehicles/ev-charger-managed-charging>
<https://cleantechnica.com/2024/03/18/ev-battery-prices-dropping-a-lot-this-year-next/>
- Penny will see who winner is in the CEC Embodied Carbon Energy, Energy Reduction Challenge, and will look for spin-offs. See websites below:
 - Reduction Challenge <https://www.facebook.com/MassCEC/>
 - <https://www.masscec.com>
 - Brian will get in touch with Mohawk HS to see if they post information on electrical production and cost savings per month since installation of solar panels (A reduced cost may affect amount people pay in taxes?)
 - Brian’s above Eversource Link: On 13 March, Brian participated in panel on EV ownership during event in Greenfield at the First Congregational

Church, sponsored by the church's energy & environmental working group.
Some points:

- ° Panel also included representatives from Green Energy Consumer Alliance (Boston), a Hyundai dealership in Keene, and GreenEnergyConsumers.org
- ° Assumption that folks with EV not paying gasoline tax, which goes toward road repair/bridge repair: in the future may have charge on electric bill to offset gas tax – for infrastructure improvement?
- ° Managed Charging – best to charge overnight – prices best & will even out demand (if use managed charging – ability to set it to charge vehicle at certain times)
- ° EV purchases flattening – e.g. attempts to develop new types of batteries, delays in solar battery development
- ° Meeting recorded and will be aired on GCTV

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 Leader Communities program (including resources on <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/climate-leader-communities>)*
- *DOER updates?*

- Continued discussion of Climate Leader Community program, needing more information; Margaret will contact Heather to find out about Buckland's possible application status

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

- *Future winsets workshop? Public forum on energy issues?*
- *Spring /Summer '24 film series and/or discussion groups?*
- *Budget for events*
- *Discussion of participation in Shelburne Energy Committee event (scheduled for 27 April, 2024)*

- At next meeting on 17 April, discuss & decide upon possibility of participating in 27 April Shelburne Energy Committee event: possibly having a table and showing video shorts? Sharing web resources? EV info/panel?

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.*

- Link shared by Brian: https://www.commonnews.org/issue/755/755CTRiver_dams
 - Brian volunteers to prepare a draft for a potential EC comment submission for the above link's mentioned comment period, and will email copies of the draft to us prior to our April meeting

9. Other items not reasonably anticipated

- See attached flier about the event at the Sunderland library on Friday, March 29, at 9 AM with Rep. Natalie Blais (Franklin 1st) and Rep. Jeffrey Roy (Norfolk 10th), Chair of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy).

10. Choose facilitator and scribe for next meeting.

- Tentatively Wednesday, 17 April at 7:00pm via Zoom

11. Adjourn meeting.

- 8:40 pm

In Partnership with
the Sunderland Energy Committee,
Please Join

**State Representative
Natalie M. Blais**

for a conversation with
the Chair of the Joint Committee on
Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy

**State Representative
Jeffrey N. Roy**

at the
**Sunderland Public Library
20 School St, Sunderland**
on

**Friday, March 29, 2024
at 9:00 am**

RSVP at: www.tinyurl.com/SPLRoy
by Wednesday, March 27 at 5pm