

Brandon Energy Committee Meeting
November 5, 2018

Committee Members Present: Michael Shank, Lowell Rasmussen, Jack Schneider

Also in Attendance: Barbara Noyes-Pulling, Stephanie Jerome

1. Call to order

Michael Shank, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:05PM.

2. Agenda Approval

A motion was made by Lowell Rasmussen to approve the agenda. **The motion passed unanimously.**

3. Approval of Minutes

October 1, 2018 Meeting:

A motion was made by Jack Schneider to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2018 Energy Committee meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

4. Finalize Questionnaire Document for Renewable Energy Development

The Committee did a review of the renewable energy development questionnaire that had been drafted by Lowell Rasmussen. Barbara Noyes-Pulling had previously reviewed the document and made some adjustments. Jack Schneider asked if there are any residential or larger projects that would not require a permit. Jeff Biasuzzi advised if a project is not net-metered, it falls under local regulations. Ms. Noyes-Pulling advised there are some regional constraints that should be added to the document and will provide them to Mr. Shank. The Energy Committee was in agreement with the document. Mr. Rasmussen suggested there be a statement indicating the Planning Commission/Energy Committee may approach a potential solar developer/owner to request annual data. Each year someone needs to review this information to determine what projects have been added, to determine if the screenings have been put in place and maintained, and to determine if the economic benefits that were stated have been brought into the community. An annual review would provide data of what has happened the previous year and to determine if the document needs to be modified for the future. Jack Schneider noted the information would help to determine what has been contributed to the Town's energy goals.

A motion was made by Jack Schneider to approve the questionnaire document for renewable energy development for forwarding to the Brandon Planning Commission for their approval. **The motion passed unanimously.**

5. Update on Ads for Preferred Renewable Energy Sites

Mr. Shank reported the advertisement has been placed and noted that the Town will be covering the cost for the ads.

6. Review of November 3rd Workshop on Energy Conservation, Efficiency

Mr. Shank noted the November 3rd Energy workshop went very well and there were some very good questions posed. For future workshops to increase attendance, it was noted ads could be placed on Facebook, Front Porch Forum and in the local newspapers. Ms. Noyes-Pulling advised there is also a calendar through Front Porch Forum.

7. Plan 2nd Workshop

Mr. Shank advised that Jennifer Severidt of Efficiency Vermont had provided a presentation at Saturday's workshop and also offered to provide a presentation about heat pumps at the next workshop. It was suggested the next workshop be scheduled in January. Ms. Severidt will provide the Energy Committee a copy of the PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Shank will contact Ms. Severidt to determine what dates work best for their group in January. The Energy Committee has been asked to provide a report to the Select Board. Mr. Shank will provide information on the progress of the Committee to the Select Board at their next regularly scheduled meeting on November 12th. Mr. Schneider volunteered to join Mr. Shank for the Select Board meeting.

8. Begin Discussion on Energy Plan Draft

Mr. Shank advised he will be working on the proposed Energy Plan during November. Mr. Shank noted there has been concern expressed from the Select Board with regard to the Plan update. Part of the discussion at the November 12th Select Board meeting will include the activities the Committee is engaging in to assist with reducing emissions. Ms. Noyes-Pulling stated the time-consuming part is finding the preferred areas that requires a process to work through it. Ms. Noyes-Pulling has been reviewing the plan and doing some updates. It was noted from the last iteration to present, the Town has tripled the number of sites with 100 solar sites and 2 biomass plants in the area. Ms. Noyes-Pulling will provide all members of the Energy Committee the most current proposed plan. She noted the plan is about 60% complete and will require information on preferred sitings, non-preferred sitings and action items. The plans now only have to go through the Regional Planning Commission for approval. A target date to have the Energy Plan completed is March 2019. It was noted there is a preferred list started and the Committee is actively doing outreach.

9. Old/New Business

Jack Schneider requested a status on the charging stations. Michael Shank reported that Devon Fuller and Bernie Carr have advised him the location cannot be changed. Mr. Shank noted the Governor has approved \$2.3 million for electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure in the State. Hannaford's and Rite Aid have been suggested as possible locations for EV charging. Mr. Shank noted it would be up to the Energy Committee to approach businesses to discuss potential locations for EV stations, with the Town's charging station to be behind the new Dunkin Donuts.

Mr. Shank suggested between now and the next meeting that the Energy Committee spend time on the proposed Energy Plan, once the draft document has been provided by Barbara Noyes-Pulling. Ms. Pulling noted she would be comparing the current plan with the proposed one prior to sending it to the Committee members. Mr. Shank suggested concentrating on the current draft document to move the process forward and then think about any amendments that need to be made in the future. Ms. Noyes-Pulling stated view sheds are in the current plan and appear to be an important item. These criteria could be included in the plan; however, the State would require an analysis to certify the view sheds. Ms. Noyes-Pulling provided an example that another town does have view sheds noted in their plan and their plan requires a developer to do a certified analysis. Ms. Noyes-Pulling stated view sheds are tricky and mapping can be difficult.

10. Next Meeting

Next Meeting will be Monday, December 3, 2018 @ 5PM in the Brandon Town Hall

12. Adjournment

The Committee Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:59PM.

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Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant
Recording Secretary

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