

**Brandon Energy Committee Meeting**  
**May 6, 2019**

**Committee Members Present:** Jack Schneider, Lowell Rasmussen, Edna Sutton

**Others Present:**

**1. Call to order**

Lowell Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 5:04PM.

**2. Agenda Approval**

A motion was made by Jack Schneider to approve the agenda. **The motion passed.**

Edna Sutton requested acknowledgements to communications, as she had not received responses to emails previously sent. Lowell Rasmussen stated the recycle discussion is not on the agenda but is unsure it is an Energy Committee action. Jack Schneider suggested the conversation was likely a concerned citizen's request. Mr. Rasmussen stated the Energy Committee is uncertain of the requirements of the transfer station. It was noted that people are now being charged for recycling. Recycling Conversation to be added to the agenda.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

*March 7, 2019 Meeting:*

A motion was made by Edna Sutton to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2019 Energy Committee meeting. **The motion passed.**

**4. EV Grant Cycle Update**

Jack Schneider reported at the Brandon Chamber meeting, Bernie Carr indicated the Town will be putting in 4 medium level chargers behind the Mobil Station and an application has been submitted for the chargers. The Chamber would like to have a Tesla station installed near the bandstand, which is at no cost, but can only be used for Tesla cars. The Chamber thought that it would be good to have a charger in a highly visible place. Edna Sutton noted concern with Tesla getting preferential treatment. Mr. Schneider advised the medium level chargers will charge other vehicles; however, Tesla will provide chargers at no cost as they want to build a nationwide network. Lowell Rasmussen noted Michael Shank had indicated people with electric vehicles will search out charging stations in an area. Ms. Sutton was concerned with people having to depend on signage, as the Town's chargers will not be in a highly visible location. Mr. Schneider stated there will be a sign near the Tesla charger directing non-Tesla vehicles to the charging stations behind the Mobil Station. The Town was concerned with using too many parking spaces for charging stations; however, the Chamber had made the decision to use one of the spaces for the Tesla charger.

**5. Update on Community-Wide Survey Plan (View shed Ranking, Energy Audit)**

Edna Sutton suggested with the community-wide survey that the best of the two surveys be combined and sent as one survey. Ms. Sutton noted view sheds mean something to certain people and it is important to determine where the hot spots are and suggested that areas should be determined where solar is unwanted. Lowell Rasmussen advised that Michael Shank's intent was to determine the preferred sites for solar, with additional conversations to be held in determining the areas where they are unwanted. Mr. Rasmussen state the question needs to be raised whether zoning can accommodate viewsheds, if the Town determines

the top 10 viewsheds. Mr. Rasmussen will raise the question to the Planning Commission whether there is any reference to viewsheds in either the Town Plan or BLUO. This item will be kept on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

Regarding the Energy survey, Mr. Rasmussen reviewed examples from two other towns and noted he needs to understand what the Energy Committee is trying to solve with the energy survey, i.e. fossil vs. renewal fuels, carbon, energy conservation, behavior, infrastructure, etc. There were good questions, but the other towns were broader with their surveys. Edna Sutton suggested the Energy Committee needs to prioritize what data to obtain, as there are different areas that need exploring. Mr. Rasmussen stated the survey could determine there are many homes that need upgrades. Ms. Sutton stated people should not feel threatened by the survey and suggested there could potentially be research done on joint buying power. Jack Schneider noted people are likely not going to replace items or systems unless there is a necessity to do so. Mr. Schneider suggested the Committee needs to determine what people might consider as far as energy efficiency and provide information to those people who are interested. Mr. Rasmussen requested the Committee members to be thinking about what survey questions to ask for discussion at the next meeting. Mr. Schneider stated one mandate is education and he felt that Front Porch Forum is a good outlet.

## **6. Update on Municipal Inventory**

Jack Schneider stated it is important to show that the Town is involved in energy efforts. There was no information provided to date.

## **7. Update on Energy Plan**

There was no update on this item.

## **8. Library Update**

Jack Schneider reported the project is running behind in the design schedule. Mr. Schneider noted the Library has hired an architect who won an award for energy efficiency in Vermont and Naylor-Breen is also a contractor who considers energy efficiency important.

## **9. Recycling Discussion**

Lowell Rasmussen asked if there is someone who could provide what status quo is for recycling. Mr. Rasmussen would like to know what the waste stream is and what the aspirations are for the transfer station. He noted China has stopped taking recycle, which is having a rippling effect. Jack Schneider stated one used to be able to sell the recyclables, but it is not the case now. Mr. Rasmussen suggested there could potentially be workshops to try to minimize the number of items going to the transfer stations. Mr. Rasmussen stated it would be good to know what the State's aspiration is on waste reduction. Edna Sutton stated food waste will likely be the next mandate. Mr. Rasmussen suggested contacting the State to invite someone to meeting with the Energy Committee to discuss waste stream management. Edna Sutton volunteered to contact the State.

## **10. Old/New Business**

Edna Sutton suggested also obtaining information from the small businesses, as far as what the Energy Committee could do to help support them in their energy conservation.

## **11. Next Meeting**

Monday, June 3, 2019 @ 5:00PM in the Brandon Town Office

## **12. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned by consensus at 5:47PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant  
Recording Secretary