

**Brandon Planning Commission Meeting
November 4, 2019**

Board Members Present: Lowell Rasmussen, Ethan Nelson, Michael Shank, Stephanie Jerome, Bill Mills

Others Present: Brent Buehler

1. Call to order

Michael Shank, Interim Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:12PM.

2. Agenda Approval

A motion was made by Ethan Nelson to approve the agenda. **The motion passed unanimously.**

3. Consent Agenda

a. Approve Planning Commission Meeting Minutes – October 21, 2019

A motion was made by Ethan Nelson to approve the Planning Commission minutes of October 21, 2019, as presented. **The motion passed unanimously.**

4. Zoning Administrator Report

Michael Shank was unsure if the rescheduled Planning Commission meeting was sufficiently posted. In an effort to assure that the motions made in the meeting were official, Mr. Shank requested a motion on the permit process change that had been approved at the October 21st meeting.

It was discussed at the meeting to change the permit notification process in the interest of saving time and financial resources. It was suggested notification be in the form of a postcard, referring the recipients to the three physical locations where the notices are posted, as well as the website. Stephanie Jerome suggested the address of the permitting location be included on the postcard.

A motion was made by Ethan Nelson and seconded by Bill Mills to authorize the Zoning Administrator to change the practice concerning the permit application notification process due to cost and time efficiency. **The motion passed unanimously**

Mr. Nelson spoke with Lee Kahrs of The Reporter concerning an article relating to this subject and Ms. Kahrs suggested the Planning Commission consider inviting The Reporter to attend a meeting to discuss this topic for an article.

5. River Corridors Update

Michael Shank will be meeting with Ed Bove of the Regional Planning Commission to discuss the new River Corridors language. Mr. Bove will be providing the final language for the BLUO. Jeff Biasuzzi has agreed to be the point of contact for this subject.

6. Energy Plan Update

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Michael Shank reported the Energy Plan has been forwarded to the Regional Planning Commission and will be reviewed at their November 19th meeting. The Energy Plan has been integrated into the Town Plan.

7. Old/New Business

Michael Shank reported the EV Drive event sponsored by Garvey Nissan and GMP was well attended. Many people had the opportunity to drive the cars. Currently the best deal on an EV is a 2019 Nissan, which has a cost in the \$30,000.00 range, however, with incentives, the cost is reduced significantly.

Michael Shank has had a conversation with GMP concerning the possibility of hosting an EV Festival. One of the points mentioned for Brandon hosting the festival is due to the invention of the battery-powered electric motor by Thomas Davenport in Brandon. There was discussion of possibly tying the festival into the Brandon Carnival.

Mr. Shank reported Tim Guiles advised he has had a conversation with Keith Whitcomb of the Rutland Herald concerning the proposed Energy Revolving Loan Fund. Stephanie Jerome advised she also had a conversation with him and provided information regarding Efficiency Vermont funds. Mr. Shank noted he has not spoken to Efficiency Vermont about the Energy Committee partnering with them on a revolving loan fund for energy projects.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Planning Commission regular December meeting was cancelled.

Next meeting – January 6, 2020 at 6:00PM at the Town Office.

9. Adjournment

A motion was made by Bill Mills to adjourn the meeting at 6:29PM. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant
Recording Secretary