

**Brandon Energy Committee Meeting
January 6, 2020**

Committee Members Present: Michael Shank, Jack Schneider, Matt Orchard

Others Present:

1. Call to order

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

2. Agenda Approval

A motion was made by Matt Orchard to approve the agenda. **The motion passed.**

3. Approval of Minutes

November 4, 2019 Meeting:

A motion was made by Jack Schneider to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2019 Energy Committee meeting. **The motion passed.**

4. Review of DIY Solar Workshop

Michael Shank thought the December 14th workshop was very good and suggested the Energy Committee should do more of them. Tim Guiles offered his time and created a worksheet for the event. There were offers of help from people to assist in the construction of solar for community members that could lead to some community barn-raising efforts. That led to a conversation with Wade Davis about community solar through GMP. Mr. Shank asked Mr. Wade to draft an article for review by Mr. Shank and Mr. Guiles prior to submitting to the local paper.

5. Discussion of Upcoming Workshops

Matt Orchard reported Jacob Powsner of 350.org and Carl Diethelm of Rutland County Solid Waste will have information tables at the May 6th Segment 6 Project celebration that will include information on resources available for composting. They have also expressed interest in hosting a workshop on composting. It was suggested to schedule a workshop sometime in the spring. Mr. Orchard also noted he had a conversation with Tracy Wyman regarding the transfer station. Mr. Orchard stated Mr. Wyman is very well informed about what needs to happen, is doing everything in a practical way and is agreeable to suggestions. Mr. Orchard will draft an article for the newspaper prior to the May celebration.

Michael Shank will follow up with Matt Sharp of Efficiency Vermont concerning the funding program through them for home improvements and free appliances. Mr. Shank suggested doing a workshop on appliances to provide information on how to obtain better appliances. Jack Schneider suggested doing a workshop on power walls and heat exchangers, including information about air conditioner aspects of heat pumps. Mr. Shank suggested keeping the workshops open to all and suggested inviting Tim Fisher and the McKernon Group to provide presentations. Mr. Shank will work on scheduling a heat pump and an appliance workshop.

6. Update on Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan/Fund Concept

Michael Shank reported that Tim Guiles, Stephanie Jerome and he had a conversation with Efficiency Vermont concerning the concept of a revolving loan fund for energy projects. Efficiency Vermont liked the concept and there are good conversations happening about the possibility of a pilot project. Efforts are being

made to duplicate the current revolving loan fund concept that Brandon has with one that would focus on weatherization and all-around energy improvements versus business and would be in collaboration with Efficiency Vermont. Mr. Shank noted Efficiency Vermont already has a program with zero interest loans.

7. Discussion of EV Festival Concept

Emily Eckert was brought into the meeting via Facetime to discuss the upcoming EV Festival. Ms. Eckert stated the EV Festival would be held in Brandon that is the birthplace of EVs and it is hoped to showcase the options and get more people informed. Ms. Eckert noted there are incentive programs available for EVs. Michael Shank and Ms. Eckert have met with Bill Moore and have confirmed OVUHS for July 11th for the event. From Noon to 6PM, there will be various activities and vendors that feature all things EV. There will also be a band in the evening with the event ending at 10PM. It is hoped to have all main auto dealers present. GMP will be one of the sponsors. Ms. Eckert has been designing a website, evfestival.org, that will provide all of the specifics of the event. It is the desire to own the fact that Brandon is the birthplace of EVs, and Bill Moore is on board with this. Ms. Eckert will be in Brandon on Wednesday and will do a walk-through at the high school to determine where the vendors and exhibits will be placed. This concept was brought to the Energy Committee to solicit help. Jack Schneider thought it sounded like a great event and suggested it would be a good gesture if one of the vendors donated an EV to the high school for their driver education class. Mr. Shank reported Kevin Thornton will be offering a course at the high school on how to build an electric motor. Bill Moore has a VPR interview to discuss this topic and launch the promotion. The event will require about \$30k from sponsors and the funds would be run through the Town. The exhibits would be placed around the school and in a couple of the side parking lots. The fields would not be used for the exhibits. The school will have restrooms available and it is the desire to be sustainable with no plastic used. Matt Orchard asked if there has been discussion to expand to other items like electric bikes. Ms. Eckert has researched some vendors who are all EV-transport/equipment that include electric snow mobiles, bikes and boats. She noted that Volvo is coming out with an electric excavator. There are now charger app vendors and an EV hotel app to assist people in electrifying their transportation. The goal is to show that there are plenty of tools for those that own an EV. Jack Schneider asked if there are any electric antique cars to be included. Mr. Shank stated there are some available and noted that at the Rockefeller museum in New York there is a 1907 battery run Ford EV that is the first Ford model EV. Ms. Eckert also noted that the Shelburne Museum had a section dedicated to EVs and she will reach out to determine where they found some of the antique EVs. Mr. Shank suggested there could be an EV related documentary shown during the event. Mr. Shank will check in with the other Energy Committee members regarding possible involvement and will begin looping the members in organizing the event. Matt Orchard and Jack Schneider volunteered to assist with the event.

8. Old/New Business

Michael Shank stated with regard to the previous discussion about an Emergency Declaration, the Planning Commission recognizes that the Town needs to be in preparedness mode. Mr. Shank noted the Town Manager supports this concept through FEMA. Mr. Shank stated in speaking with the Select Board concerning this subject, there will need to language drafted with recommendations and a request to be placed on the Select Board's meeting agenda. It was suggested to send the draft language to Tim Guiles. Mr. Shank noted it is recognized that we are in a different climate territory and need to engage everything differently with a lens towards efficiency and resiliency. There is generalized data available that could be used to review for climate risks. Matt Orchard noted there could be economic complications if the Town delays the responses. Mr. Orchard suggested providing potential solutions and directing it to those who are the most vulnerable. Mr. Shank noted getting people off fossil fuels is an objective of the Energy Committee. Mr. Orchard volunteered to draft a document to submit to the Select Board for the Energy Committee's review prior to submission.

Jack Schneider received an inquiry from Dennis Marden of the Friends of the Town Hall as to whether the Energy Committee would like to do a screening of the videos submitted for the Energy Video Competition during the Segment 6 Project event in May. It was confirmed that the Energy Committee would do a

screening of the videos during the event. Mr. Shank noted that he would like to do a presentation at OV and has been in contact with one of the teachers there. He has been posting notices on FPF about the competition. Mr. Shank will confirm with the Town regarding the parking lot behind the Mobil station for the May event.

9. Next Meeting

Next meeting – February 3, 2020 at 5:00PM at the Town Office.

12. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned by consensus at 5:53PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant
Recording Secretary