

**Brandon Energy Committee Meeting - Draft  
June 1, 2020**

**Committee Members Present:** Michael Shank, Edna Sutton, Lowell Rasmussen

**Committee Members Absent:** Matt Orchard, Jack Schneider

**1. Call to order**

Michael Shank, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:04PM.

**2. Agenda Approval**

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

**3. Approval of Minutes**

*May 4, 2020 Meeting:*

A motion was made by Edna Sutton to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2020 Energy Committee meeting. **The motion passed.**

**4. EV Festival Update**

Michael Shank reported the EV Festival has been rescheduled for 2021. In a conversation with Bill Moore, he advised all major events that the Town was hosting this summer have been cancelled. It was felt that this is the most prudent thing to do. When going to the website for the festival, it does indicate that it will be held in July 2021. Emily is handling all updates with partners and sponsors for the event that have been contacted. Edna Sutton noted the State is moving towards opening with people able to move through stores and questioned why the cancellation due to the event being held outside that could be spread out. The event could be cautious and sensible. Michael Shank appreciated Ms. Sutton's comments but noted there is a general consensus that the Governor has done a good job of reacting early and the virus numbers have been kept low. It is believed the concerts in Town will happen, but they will be small, and there is a lot less interaction with these events.

**5. Virtual Workshops**

Michael Shank posted information on Front Porch Forum concerning the composting workshops being hosted by Rutland County Waste Management that includes information on the reasons for the Energy Committee assisting in these efforts.

Mr. Shank has reached out to Tim Fisher about hosting a virtual workshop in his space. The Energy Committee had previously organized a heat pump workshop hosted by McKernon Group. Mr. Fisher advised they are making some changes with the heat pumps they are selling, expanding to efficiency solutions, and are also reconfiguring their showroom. They expect to have the showroom ready soon that will offer a range of energy options. Once their changes are complete, they will host a virtual workshop.

Mr. Shank contacted Efficiency Vermont's headquarters to discuss the possibility of them hosting other virtual workshops and is waiting to hear back from them.

Edna Sutton noted she is very interested in the workshop on recycling food. Michael Shank has heard from other community members expressing interest in the workshops.

Mr. Shank encouraged the Energy Committee members to forward him any ideas they may have for other virtual workshops.

## 6. Old/New Business

Michael Shank sent the Committee members a GMP press release last week where they launched a new solar sharing app. Mr. Shank noted GMP was kind enough to recognize a suggestion he made in creating some kind of app where people could share their credits to those in need. It is not possible to gift an entire bank of credits and if one is in a net metering group, they are unable to participate. This app is for people who are not in a group but want to start donating extra credits that roll over in their credit balance to businesses, non-profits, or households who need them. Following is a link for additional information on this subject:

[https://vtdigger.org/press\\_release/go-save-share-green-with-gmp-launches-to-help-customers-save-money-and-empower-them-to-help-each-other-the-economy-and-the-environment/](https://vtdigger.org/press_release/go-save-share-green-with-gmp-launches-to-help-customers-save-money-and-empower-them-to-help-each-other-the-economy-and-the-environment/)

Mr. Shank stated GMP is open to suggestions and are very innovative, agile, progressive, and are more open to change than some other utilities in the country.

Mr. Shank reported he was on a call with the Vermont Natural Resources Council. The Council is asking Energy Committee Chairs how they could better assist the committees. Mr. Shank suggested all committees could leverage a collective voice regarding statewide legislations and initiatives. He suggested the committees could collectively make requests like asking GMP to allow solar credits to remain indefinitely, instead of them expiring. Committees across the State could unify to use a collective voice regarding any legislative movement, or anything related to GMP. The Council liked the idea and have been passively doing this in the past, but Mr. Shank suggested a more coordinated way to leverage the statewide representation. Mr. Shank thought the Council would be the one to develop this process. Mr. Shank noted the call provided sharing of ideas and will be helpful in leveraging all voices for one purpose with some regularity.

Edna Sutton stated there is research being done with wind power in changing the nature of the blades in making them smaller and it has been proven that they can be used year-round. A house could have a unit that can power a home 24/7, 365 days per year. Michael Shank has not talked with any providers in Vermont. He had previously researched some small modules and it was his understanding that the return on investment was not great, however, three years could have changed that in the innovation space. He would be happy for the Energy Committee to organize a workshop on this subject. Lowell Rasmussen requested Ms. Sutton provide the information that she has on this subject to the Energy Committee members. Ms. Sutton stated they are doing quite a bit about changing the nature of the blades in scaling them down. One can sustain a house and it is quite reliable. Ms. Sutton stated it would be good for the Energy Committee to track the development and could be a useful alternative to follow. Mr. Shank stated the Committee could help people understand the different energy options, as there is the concept that there are just large wind turbines. Ms. Sutton will forward the information to the Committee members.

## 7. Next Meeting

Energy Committee meetings were postponed to the Fall – date to be announced.

## 12. Adjournment

A motion was made by Lowell Rasmussen to adjourn the meeting at 5:33PM. **The motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant  
Recording Secretary

Brandon Energy Committee  
June 1, 2020