

**Brandon Energy Committee Meeting - Draft
October 5, 2020**

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

Committee Members Absent: Matt Orchard, Edna Sutton

1. Call to order

Michael Shank, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:03PM.

2. Agenda Approval

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

3. Approval of Minutes

September 21, 2020 Meeting:

A motion was made by Jack Schneider to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2020 Energy Committee meeting. **The motion passed.**

4. Fall Workshops (Review Brandon Celebration Event)

Michael Shank thanked all for helping with the Energy Committee event during the Brandon Celebration. It was thought that the construction on the corner of the town office hindered people from flowing to the town hall to view the tables there, however it was a better crowd than some of the other Energy events. Tim Fischer had conversations with several people, but it was not sure how many people took Efficiency Vermont information.

5. Old/New Business

Michael Shank suggested a future Energy Committee project could be to fundraise for a type of scholarship for Brandon area students to get trained in electric vehicles to grow skill sets in that area. It was noted Kevin Thornton had planned to begin a class that teaches electric motor making that will likely happen in the spring. Mr. Shank contacted Stafford Technical regarding EV skills and it was noted that one of the instructors is providing training in this area. Mr. Shank asked if the instructor would consider a fee-based program in this area, however, it was noted that the instructor is not certified to do that. Stafford Technical will look into whether there is someone who may be available for this type of program.

Mr. Shank provided the following links concerning this subject:

<https://support.skillscommons.org/showcases/open-courseware/energy/e-vehicle-tech-cert/>

<https://cleantechinstitute.org/Training/CEVT.html>

<https://www.futuretechauto.com/accessonline.html>

<https://www.sae.org/learn/content/acad06/>

<https://electrek.co/2018/03/26/tesla-start-automotive-training-program/>

Mr. Shank noted it would also be good for the Energy Committee to create a scholarship to build skills among youth in the area as Tim Fisher has indicated there is a need for more training programs on heat pumps. It was noted that with four years' experience, an electrician can earn about \$40/hours working on heat pumps. Mr. Shank stated training programs exist and jobs are there, but finding the young talent is the problem. Mr. Shank suggested building a Brandon Careers program that could be a career-oriented workshop for careers that assist with energy or environmental impacts such as EV's, heat pumps and weatherization. Mr. Shank advised that he is running a similar program with Castleton University on different types of jobs and stated he could possibly build one with them. It was noted other types of contractors are also in need of young talent.

Michael Shank stated there was previously a conversation around a revolving loan fund for energy efficiency but had been put on the back burner due to COVID. Mr. Shank has begun conversations with Tim Guiles and this item will be revisited this fall. Efficiency Vermont expressed an interest in assisting with this program so that people in Brandon could take advantage of some of the zero interest loans.

Mr. Shank reported he has emailed the VT Natural Resource Council who assist with energy building for energy committees throughout the State. The Council brings energy committees together for discussions. Mr. Shank contacted Johanna Miller regarding certification for towns that have reached a certain level of green energy to provide incentive for cities and towns to do better. Safer Cities is a similar program that is based on pedestrian-friendly cities and Mr. Shank suggested if there is not a similar program for energy it should be created to provide standards and certifications in this area.

Lowell Rasmussen asked if Efficiency Vermont is open to using some of their capital with regard to the revolving loan fund for energy projects. Mr. Shank advised that there have been conversations with Efficiency Vermont, and it was noted this is something to consider, with the hopes of exploring some sort of partnership. Efficiency Vermont would maintain the fiscal management and the Town would do the branding for it.

Jack Schneider asked if Emily Eckert might have contacts for EV vehicle trainers. Michael Shank noted he has included Ms. Eckert on the correspondence regarding this subject. There is no Vermont school that has a program with Tesla, but it is not certain if this could not be done with one of the schools.

Mr. Shank stated as an Energy Committee, there has been a lot done on weatherization and suggested concentrating on a revolving loan fund and energy related careers to move towards more system-related items. Mr. Shank noted workshops are still important.

Lowell Rasmussen suggested a workshop on winter composting in Vermont and how to do composting on a small scale. Michael Shank suggested asking Brian Sales of Rutland County Waste Department if he is interested in doing a workshop about winter composting.

Jack Schneider asked if there is still going to be an EV Festival next year. Michael Shank will circle back with Emily Eckert concerning this concept.

Michael Shank advised there is a solar-sharing app created by GMP for local businesses and local non-profits and noted he will check on how well this is being utilized. Mr. Shank suggested this could be something the Energy Committee could promote. Mr. Schneider suggested organizations might be interested in this type of workshop. Mr. Shank will contact Kelly at GMP and noted it is a good pilot and he would like to help them make it successful.

6. Next Meeting

November 2, 2020 @ 5:00PM via Zoom
Brandon Energy Committee
October 5, 2020

7. Adjournment

A motion was made by Lowell Rasmussen to adjourn the meeting at 5:35PM. **The motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant
Recording Secretary