

**Brandon Energy Committee (BEC) Meeting - Draft
June 6, 2022**

Committee Members Present: Jim Emerson, Jack Schneider, Lowell Rasmussen, Jeff Haylon, Robert Black, Erin Ballantine

Others Present: Barbara Noyes Pulling, Tim Guiles

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 4:32PM by Jim Emerson – Chair.

2. Inspirational Thoughts

The Committee members provided their thoughts on what the Committee can do to work together more effectively as a group. Lowell Rasmussen noted energy costs are becoming more expensive and suggested the focus could be how to help Brandon residents find cost-effective energy. Robert Black suggested creating an affordable energy future for Brandon residents in helping citizens find solutions. Jeff Haylon stated the Committee needs to provide a service and bring awareness to the community the Committee is present to help. Jack Schneider noted the Committee is working cooperatively with the Select Board and assisting them with research in the area of energy. Mr. Schneider reported the Select Board has appointed him as Brandon's representative to the Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC). Mr. Emerson sees the mission of the Committee is to educate and inspire the community. He noted the Committee members could work on individual goals but suggested there could be three working groups that would concentrate on 1) solar, 2) heat pumps and electric cars, and 3) an energy conservation program. Mr. Haylon suggested developing a boiler plate version of what is being done in Brandon to be able to share with other communities.

3. Agenda Adoption

A motion was made by Jeff Haylon and seconded by Jack Schneider to approve the agenda as presented. **The motion passed unanimously.**

4. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Jeff Haylon and seconded by Lowell Rasmussen to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2022, BEC meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

5. Welcome Erin Ballantine

Jim Emerson welcomed Erin Ballantine as a new member of the BEC. Ms. Ballantine recently moved to Brandon and works in the solar industry. She is interested in energy conservation and in helping the Town reach its energy goals.

Mr. Emerson advised that Lowell Rasmussen will be leaving the Committee after the August meeting. Mr. Emerson thanked Mr. Rasmussen for his work on the Committee.

6. Survey Implementation Plans – Working Group Update

Jim Emerson advised Mr. Rasmussen had drafted an article for The Reporter and suggested Committee members provide feedback of any changes, if needed. Mr. Rasmussen stated the mailing is going to be expensive and thought the on-line survey is the most efficient and cost-effective way to do the survey. He suggested some hardcopy surveys could be distributed at the July 4th parade and possibly some available at the Town Office. Barbara Noyes-Pulling advised the RRPC could help with the on-line survey as of July 1st when their Survey Monkey account is available. If hard copies are also done, those could be incorporated in the data. Mr. Emerson suggested there could possibly be a 3rd Class mailing done through The Reporter, similar to what the school district did. Robert Black reported Matt Closer has been meeting with the Green Ways Committee and suggested meeting with him to discuss this option. Ms. Noyes-Pulling stated a QR code could also be done. Jeff Haylon noted there had also been a suggestion to place the QR code

on the float for the July 4th parade. Mr. Rasmussen will contact Elaine Smith at the Town office to request printing several copies of the survey and the possibility of a collection area at the Town Office for completed surveys. Tim Guiles suggested contacting Sue Gage on this subject, as there is space on the first level of the Town Office where information could be displayed. It was noted there are about 1200 mailing addresses in Brandon. Mr. Haylon suggested formatting the survey to one page, two sided. Mr. Black will work on the QR Code and obtain the Survey Monkey information from Ms. Noyes-Pulling when available. The final survey will be sent to the RRPC by Mr. Emerson.

7. Plans for July 4th Parade Float – Working Group Update

Robert Black confirmed the BEC's participation with the July 4th Parade organizer and noted the Committee does have a reserved space for the float. Jeff Haylon provided an example of the float that will be pulled by an electric lawnmower. The plan is to have BEC signage and solar panels on the float. Mr. Black suggested the logo could be displayed on the sides. He also noted there could be people with E-bikes, electric vehicles, and pedestrians walking alongside the float handing out copies of the surveys. Jack Schneider suggested being in close proximity to the SolarFest float. Tim Guiles noted the environmental ethic is aligned with economic incentive and suggested de-politicizing the message. He finds that people need help in determining how to do energy saving efforts. He suggested the call to action could be come talk with the Committee and have one-on-one conversations. Mr. Black noted this is an opportunity to send a message. The following were suggested messages: "We Can Help You Save Money.", "We are the Conduit to Energy Savings." and "We Can Help You Plan for the Future." Mr. Schneider also suggested having a presence at the events after the parade. All BEC members will be present at the parade and tee shirts will be printed with the BEC's logo. For follow-on discussions, Mr. Guiles advised he would be available to assist the BEC with speaking to people about solar and electric cars. He also noted that Fisher Electric is a local vendor for heat pumps.

8. Update on Davenport Festival

Jack Schneider reported the Davenport Festival will be held the Saturday following the July 4th parade at Estabrook Park. GMP will have a variety of electric items. There will also be electric construction equipment and G. Stone Motors will be bringing vehicles. Mr. Schneider has contacted Senator Sanders office about the possibility of his attendance. The Governor has also been invited with the hopes that he would attend and read the proclamation that the Legislature approved. The website for the event is: davenportfest.com.

9. SolarFest Update

Jim Emerson reported SolarFest has committed to moving to Brandon. A SolarFest brochure was provided to the Committee. Mr. Emerson advised they are seeking volunteers. The BEC has agreed to be the liaison between the community and SolarFest in having one of the BEC members participate on their Board. They will have monthly meetings and there will be a discussion of who would like to be the BEC representative. There is a one-day event scheduled for September 10th this year. SolarFest has 56 acres that will be their main staging area for their events. They also have two barns on the property where they will be coordinating with SCI to do training with the hopes of being the East coast site for training.

10. Update of Existing Goals and Suggestions for Next Year's Goals

Jim Emerson provided a handout of the BEC's goals for a review of the work the Committee has done over the last 9 months and to determine which goals are completed or need to be rejuvenated or eliminated. Mr. Emerson noted there is an urgency to get the Town at 90% renewable energy and suggested finding ways for people to participate with possibly a community solar array. The members were encouraged to consider what working group they would like to participate in. A partial review of the goals was completed, with the remainder to be done at the next meeting. 1) Monthly Articles in The Reporter – Mr. Emerson to submit this monthly. Mr. Black suggested developing a specific format for the article for consistency. 2) Energy Displays at the Town Hall and other locations in Town - Robert Black to continue with this effort and talk to Bill Moore about the website. 3) Energy Resource Webpage – Jack Schneider to talk with Bill Moore about including links for all rebates and incentives. 4) SolarFest's move to Town is complete. 5) Davenport E-Fest – Mr. Schneider advised the event will be taken over completely by the Town after this year's event. 6) HarvestFest Booth – Mr. Schneider will continue to provide information at this event. 7) Best Practice of Regional

ECs and Reports to BEC – Mr. Schneider will share information from the RRPC as the local Rep. 8) Develop Baseline Data of Municipal Functions – Matt Orchard had put together the data. Tim Guiles reported there is a number for carbon footprint for the Town and Mr. Emerson suggested obtaining information on this data at the end of the F/Y. Mr. Guiles suggested an accurate picture is needed for residential and suggested obtaining data from local gas stations and fuel oil dealers, and at some point, obtain data from the local community. Mr. Guiles will continue with the municipal activity as he handles the Green Fleet for the Town. Barbara Noyes Pulling will research this topic and noted information is received from the State and the regional commissions try to break it out by towns. 9) Analyze Total Savings from Renewable Sources for Municipality – Mr. Emerson noted this ties into the Green Fleet and will be discussed at a later time. 10) Determine Key Information to Support BEC Mission and Goals – Mr. Emerson stated this is relating to the survey and once completed, it will be redone every few years. 11) Efficiency Vermont Energy Audits for Municipality – Ms. Noyes-Pulling stated H518 has \$49 million in funding for municipal buildings in the State for investment grade energy audits and analysis, and funding to weatherize. The first step is for the Town to be ready when this is available with an inventory of all municipal buildings and knowing what needs to be audited. It is not known if there would be a match required but the funding is for both the audit and work to be done. Mr. Guiles stated Dave Atherton is interested in energy efficiency and has had the buildings audited. Jeff Haylon will work on building a relationship with the State relative to the H518 legislation. Ms. Noyes-Pulling advised BROCC would like to attend a BEC meeting to provide information about their services. She noted they work well together with the Heat Squad.

11. Other Business

Jack Schneider asked if anything has been done about moving forward on the landfill solar. Tim Guiles thought it is a good idea and there does not appear to be opposition. Mr. Guiles suggested the BEC champion the project in obtaining an economic model to present to the Select Board. Mr. Schneider suggested a site evaluation and research information of what could be generated with the space available. Mr. Guiles stated even if community solar is developed in Town, the municipality could use what the landfill could generate. Jim Emerson will follow-up on this subject. Mr. Guiles suggested getting a vendor to provide a bid. Barbara Noyes Pulling advised Green Lantern is very interested in doing these types of projects.

12. Review of Committee Members Agreements for Follow-up Actions

Work on logo, QR code and Survey Monkey – Robert Black
Request copies of survey and collection of completed surveys by the Town – Lowell Rasmussen
Look into magnetic signs and tee shirts for the July 4th parade – Jim Emerson
Finalize the parade float and banners – Jim Emerson and Robert Black
Review wording of survey handouts – Robert Black
Discussion with Bill Moore regarding the addition of a resource sheet on the Town's website – Jack Schneider
Discussion with The Reporter about a standardized submission from the BEC – Jim Emerson
Discussion with Dave Atherton regarding H518 – Municipal Energy Bill – Jim Emerson
BROCC to be invited to the next BEC meeting on July 5th – Jim Emerson
Follow-up on the information for a solar landfill – Jim Emerson
Review of goals – All Members at the next meeting

13. Next Meeting

July 5, 2022 @ 4:30PM at the Brandon Town Hall

14. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned by consensus at 5:58PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant
Recording Secretary

Brandon BEC Meeting
June 6, 2022