

**Brandon Select Board  
Town Plan Re-adoption Hearing  
May 12, 2014**

**Select Board Members Present:** Blaine Cliver, Devon Fuller, Maria Ammatuna, Ethan Swift, Dave Atherton

**Others present:** Anne Bransfield, Tracy Wyman, Marty Feldman, Richard Baker, Cindy Bell, Robin Bennett, Linda Stewart, Jeff Stewart, Allan Leavitt, Arlyn Bloodworth, Jack Fillioe, Dick Kirby, Lee Kahrs, Steve Bisette, Joseph Ammatuna, Janet Coolidge, Eric LaRock, Tecari Shuman, Gary Meffe, Bernie Carr, Jim Leary

**Call to Order:**

Maria Ammatuna opened the Select Board's 1<sup>st</sup> Town Plan Re-adoption hearing at 6:30PM.

The current Town Plan expires on May 18, 2014 and the Planning Commission has obtained a municipal planning grant (MPG) from the state to assist with future rewrites. This work will not be completed by May 18<sup>th</sup> and the Planning Commission has proposed to re-adopt the current plan to provide additional time to update. Ms. Bransfield reported the process has been started, with copies being sent to the adjacent towns, the Regional Planning Commission and the state. The Planning Commission held two re-adoption hearings in April and statute requires that the Select Board must hold two hearings. The Planning Commission has made two changes to the current Plan, as a result of a consultation with Regional Planning Commission that will make the Plan compliant with the new requirements as of July 1, 2014. One change is in the Economic Development section, whereby stating when the town will opt for Downtown Designation when its designation expires in 2017 and the second change will be to include a Flood Resiliency section by linking the Hazard Mitigation Plan to the Town Plan. The Regional Planning Commission has assisted with the changes and has tentatively accepted the Town Plan with those changes.

Devon Fuller clarified that with the approval of the re-adoption, the Plan will be good for another five years once the hearings have been held and the Regional Planning Commission has approved it. It was confirmed it would be approved for five years, however, Ms. Bransfield reported the MPG will be used to do the Brandon Base Code and Town Plan update simultaneously. This Town Plan needs to be in place to avoid losing downtown designation status. Dave Atherton stated a lot of the percentages are from 2000 and it was noted that the figures will not change until the next census. Ms. Bransfield also noted the Town Plan should be in place to avoid losing grant opportunities. Maria Ammatuna asked if the town budget fully supports the execution of the Town Plan. Ms. Bransfield stated the Plan has not been reviewed in this manner, but she will review it and advise Ms. Ammatuna. Linda Stewart stated the Town Plan

does not fully support the Designated Downtown, as many towns have a paid director. Jeff Stewart stated there are fundraising efforts being considered to fund the Designated Downtown. Cindy Bell questioned the timing of the Select Board hearings for the re-adoption and the quick decision required, due to the expiration deadline. Anne Bransfield stated the Planning Commission held two hearings in April and due to statutory requirements; the Select Board could not hold their hearings any sooner. Ms. Bransfield stated the Planning Commission has been very busy with the zoning issues and noted probably most towns do review a year out prior to approval. Ethan Swift stated this is a stop gap issue to assure continuity of a Plan be in place and is not an unusual situation. The Planning Commission brought this to the Select Board's attention to insure that the Town Plan remains in place. Ethan Swift stated with the adoption of the last plan, he fully supported the document, but also wanted to assure the document accurately reflects the natural resources. Anne Bransfield stated the Hazard Mitigation Plan will be linked to the Town Plan to bring that area into compliance.

The Planning Commission will go through every detail of the Town Plan when doing the review. Maria Ammatuna requested the Planning Commission look into the Transportation section, as it appears to be minimal, and efforts should be made to determine whether there are ways that public transportation could receive any grant funding. Ms. Bransfield stated the Town Plan should incorporate everyone's vision of what the different sectors of the community want the town to be. Ms. Ammatuna suggested when doing the total review, section numbers could be added to further define the sections to make the document more user-friendly. Ethan Swift stated with Act 250 and Act 248, there should be verbiage on energy, in the event issues arise and the town needs to take a stance, as having specific language that speaks to issues is what Act 250 looks for. Ms. Ammatuna asked if there is information in the document that would enhance or inhibit sustainable items. Anne Bransfield stated these areas will be discussed during the review of the entire plan. Linda Stewart stated the Town Plan creates a broad vision of the goals and aspirations, rather than details. It talks of infrastructure and recreation and what the goals and visions would be and what is desired. This was meant to be a 20-year plan and it is hoped that it could be more of an update moving forward. Ethan Swift stated there are specific recommendations that look for more near-term actions, in addition to the longer range plan. There is a level of specificity that guides the town in the direction it wants to go and assists in determining the direction of grants. Devon Fuller stated when developing a Capital Improvement Plan, it would be good to have a document to work from. Ms. Bransfield stated the Planning Commission wants to work collaboratively with the Select Board and all other entities in town to incorporate everyone's vision. Dave Atherton stated this would be a good template for the Select Board to use in working with the matrix.

### **Adjournment:**

The hearing was closed at 6:58PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant  
Recording Secretary

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