

DRAFT
Brandon Planning Commission
October 20, 2014

Planning Commission Members Present: Jeff Guevin, Linda Stewart, Anne Bransfield, Marty Feldman, Tracy Wyman

Others Present:

Call to Order:

Jeff Guevin called the meeting to order at 7:08PM.

Approval of Minutes: September 15, 2014

A motion was made by Anne Bransfield and seconded by Marty Feldman to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2014 Planning Commission meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Public Comment Period

Linda Stewart provided a report on the Vermont Economic Resiliency Initiative (VERI) meeting that she attended. The meeting was spearheaded by Noelle McKay, Steve Schild, Barbara Pulling and Evan Fitzgerald. It was noted 25 to 40% of businesses do not come back after a disaster. Businesses need more grants or the ability to obtain loans to rebuild. There were five communities chosen for the initiative that included Brandon. Areas of concern in the Brandon region include Stone Mill Dam corner, Route 53 crossing, the Fjeld property and downtown Brandon. It was suggested that no development be done in the flood plain.

It was recommended that action steps be placed in the Natural Resources section of the Town Plan for this subject.

Other Business as Needed:

. *Continue Town Plan Draft Revisions – Energy, Housing, Child Care, Other Sections as Time Allows*

This agenda item was postponed to a subsequent meeting.

. *November 1st Energy Social*

The Commission held a discussion concerning the Energy Social that is scheduled for November 1st at the Brandon Town Hall. The event will start at 9AM, with the “Button Up” workshop beginning at 10:00AM and expecting to last until 11:30AM. The overall event to end around 1:00PM. Currently there are several vendors interested in participating that include Efficiency VT, NeighborWorks, GMP and a solar vendor. A suggestion was made to invite all solar companies that include G-Electronics and Bristol Electronics. Jeff Guevin will follow-up with Bill Moore to determine if the local hardware stores will also participate in the event. A representative from Vermont Energy Education Program (VEEP) will be attending the event and Mr. Guevin will also follow-up with Laura MacLachlen from VEEP regarding their participation. Following the workshop, there will be a discussion of the draft of the Energy Section of the Town Plan facilitated by Robert Black. Mr. Guevin will confirm Mr. Black’s participation in the program. An advertisement will be placed in the Brandon Planning Commission Meeting
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newspaper announcing the Energy Social and posters will be printed and distributed throughout town. Tracy Wyman volunteered to provide the refreshments and Linda Stewart will provide the drinks for the event.

Linda Stewart stated there has been discussion about solar and what kind of approach PSB should take and whether they should start doing some regulations. The Planning Commission realizes the town does not have control over solar fields or wind farms, but suggestions could be made to consider placing the projects from sight. It was a consensus of the Commission to considering including this item in the Use Criteria. It was noted there could be suggestions included where these projects would be appropriate or inappropriate in parts of the town. It was suggested a discussion of this item could take place during the Energy Social.

New Business:

. Evaluate proposal by Rutland Regional Planning Commission (Municipal Planning Grant Funds)

The Commission reviewed the proposal received from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) relating to the assistance with the revision of the Town Plan. Jeff Guevin met with Ed Bove of the Regional Planning Commission to review the RFP. The discussion included the RRPC assisting with the maps, data update, formatting and review of the completed chapters to assure they meet the RRPC's requirements for approval. Mr. Bove was in agreement with the options. Mr. Guevin and Mr. Bove also discussed budgeting and Mr. Bove suggested that Kevin Geiger could possibly do a presentation on capital planning and tailor the discussion to the level of expertise that is needed. Jeff Guevin will contact Mr. Geiger to determine if he would be available. Mr. Bove is interested in reviewing the information that the Commission has on the Brandon Base Code.

A motion was made by Linda Stewart and seconded by Tracy Wyman to accept the proposal for the Town Plan revision assistance from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Anne Bransfield wished to thank Mr. Guevin on behalf of the Commission for the work he has done on this project.

Next Meetings:

November 1st Energy Social/Button Up Day

November 3rd

November 17th

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Linda Stewart and seconded by Tracy Wyman to adjourn the Planning Commission meeting at 8:03PM. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlene Bryant
Recording Secretary

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