

St. Johnsbury Town Energy Committee

July 6, 2020

Members Present: John Ajamie, Elmore Dickstein, Steve Isham, Pam Parker (Chair), Keith Whitemore, Lynn Wurzburg, David Zajko

1. Minutes

Elmore read the minutes of the June 8 meeting. Minor corrections were made

2. Composting

Lynn contacted Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District (NKWMD) to get more information about why St. Johnsbury is not in the district. Paul Tomasi stated that he has met with several town managers over the years. They claim it is too expensive to join.

There is no initial fee if St. Johnsbury joined the district. They would be charged by the ton. St. Johnsbury has a higher weight person/day because many folks from other towns come to St. Johnsbury to dump their trash. If the town kept track of its residents' usage, it would lower the cost. Using the non-profit site in Lyndonville is more affordable than Casella.

Action Item: John A. will follow-up with Chad Whitehead to find out when St. Johnsbury's contract with Casella expires.

3. Enhanced Town Energy Plan

Good progress has been made on the enhanced energy plan because of the effort of Nicole Gratton who is interning at NVDA this summer. Meetings are held on Friday mornings at 9 am. The committee members working on the plan mainly need to develop actions steps and objective.

Action Items:

- Pam, Lynn, John A, Keith, and Steve will continue to work the enhanced energy plan with Nicole.
- Pam will share the final draft of the plan before next month's meeting
- Pam will contact Jim Brown to give the Planning Commission a heads up about the plan.

4. Meeting with New Academy Headmaster

The committee wants to meet with Dr. Sharon Howell, the new headmaster at St. Johnsbury Academy. Efficiency Vermont is working the Academy. Some items we would like to talk to Dr. Howell include:

- Increase the number of capstone projects on climate crisis
- Including global heating/climate crisis in the curriculum such as En-Roads simulator
- Using electric vehicles for Driver's Ed
- Adding charging stations at the Academy

Action Item: Lynn will contact the Academy to arrange for a meeting.

5. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations for Local Businesses

Keith demonstrated the questionnaire he developed to help local business decide if and what level charging station would be most appropriate. Once finalized it would be good to share with Google Group for town energy committees and the NEK Chamber of Commerce.

Action Items:

- Keith will share the questionnaire with the committee so we can provide feedback
- John A. will contact Chad Whitehead to find out where

6. 2020 Button Up Campaign

Lynn and Steve attended a webinar on the 2020 Button Up campaign presented by Becca White. This year's campaign is heavily affected by the coronavirus pandemic. All home and business visits will be conducted virtually. Other activities include:

- Livestreamed DIY trainings to help Vermonters get ready for winter.
- Weatherization Wednesdays...a weekly webinar helping Vermonters determine what home weatherization strategy will work best for them.
- Opportunities to help your neighbors, such as contributing to the new Button Up Vermont Fund administered by the Vermont Community Foundation, weatherizing homes for low income Vermonters.

Right now, Efficiency Vermont is offering its highest incentives for weatherization. Projects must be completed by August 31, 2020. After that date, they expect the incentives to return to the previous level unless there is money left over. In that case, the more generous incentives may stay in place.

The Committee decided that St. Johnsbury should be a Button Up Community. Steve volunteered to the Button Up coordinator.

It was suggested that Habitat for Humanity may be interested in co-sponsoring our Button Up Activities.

It was also suggested that we may distribute weatherization information for low income.

Action Items:

- Steve will register St. Johnsbury as a Button Community
- Pam will contact Habitat for Humanity to see if they are interested in being a co-sponsor of St. Johnsbury's Button Up community.
- Lynn will contact Whites and Price Chopper about distributing weatherization information at their stores.

Miscellaneous Action Items:

- Pam will contact NVRH about their effort with Efficiency Vermont
- Keith Volunteered to Attend Selectboard meetings to keep abreast of any issues of interest to the committee