

St. Johnsbury Town Energy Committee

April 12, 2021

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

1. Introductions

The committee introduced itself to welcome new member Ben Deede.

2. Minutes

The minutes for March's meeting were reviewed and accepted

3. Climate Science Education

Lynn reported that James Bentley, faculty member and Stewardship Director at St. Johnsbury Academy, informed her that an electric vehicle has been donated for driver's education. He also stated that the Academy will be using the En-Roads climate simulator as part of their climate science literacy education:

<https://www.climateinteractive.org/tools/en-roads/>

Both of these action came out of the meeting that members of the Town Energy Committee had with the Academy on climate literacy education.

Lynn has been working with six-grade science teacher Heather Mulligan to have classes at the St. Johnsbury School gather together all the plastic that is thrown away on Earth Day. What is collected will then be put into context as a learning exercise.

Art teacher Evan Jewell has suggested that students make mandalas out of natural material as way to use art as a learning tool.

**Action Item:** Lynn will contact Jodie Elliot about sending out the teacher survey on Earth Day

4. Enhanced Energy Plan

The public hearing for the Enhanced Energy Plan will be May 18 starting at 6:00 pm. The committee should be present at and prepared to make a presentation about the plan and answer questions at the hearing.

Written comments can be sent to Planning Commission, 51 Depot Square, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819 and/or e-mailed to [zoning@stjvt.com](mailto:zoning@stjvt.com)

John Raser wrote to Pam about low-carbon transportation in St. Johnsbury. The committee will invite John to take the lead on promoting non-vehicle transportation. Pam will reply to John Raser inviting him to take the lead on promoting low-carbon transportation.

**Action Item:** All committee members will reach out to increase public awareness for the plan.

5. Town Energy Efficiency Projects

- a. Scott Campbell's letter to town officials about the town energy committee's involvement in the Armory renovations and new fire station. See text of letter in appendix below.
- b. Pam shared information about improvements to the water treatment plant that is being done with assistance from Efficiency Vermont

6. Publicity and Education Efforts

- a. An article on Jared Cloutier's renovation of the house on the corner of Main and Maple Sts. (formerly Dr. Toll's office) was sent to North Star Monthly for publication.
- b. An e-mail list has been set up. The first e-mail will be information on the upcoming public hearing on the enhanced energy plan. Steve will send out the initial e-mail the first week of May.
- c. The committee's report in the Town report and posted meeting minutes on the town's website has resulted in Ben Deede joining the committee pending approval from the Selectboard
- d. David showed the black and white version of the committee logo. All were pleased with his design.
- e. Members were encouraged to call Governor Scott to commend him on his proposed \$200 million climate-related investment from federal Covid-19 relief funding.

7. Recycling and Composting

John and Lynn are working on spreadsheet that compares the services that Casella and NEKWD offers and their pricing. They shared a preliminary version with committee.

**Action Item:** John A. and Lynn will continue to gather information.

8. Weatherization of Large Institutional Buildings

Information was shared about low-cost home energy audits from Heat Squad. Steve shared the information on the committee's Facebook page.

Next Meeting is Monday May 10 from 5:30 to 7:00

Appendix: Scott Campbell's letter to St. Johnsbury Town Officials

Hi Joe, Chad, and Tim,

I'm writing on behalf of the town Energy Committee.

We are very pleased and excited that the town is pursuing retrofit of the armory as the new police headquarters. The project presents an opportunity to create a structure that will be healthy, comfortable, low maintenance, and low or no utility cost, for the many decades it will be in service. Such a structure also offers by far the lowest lifecycle cost.

Vermont has many architects, engineers and contractors who know how to achieve these results. Another key member of the team should be an energy or building science consultant. That person or firm should be on board from the beginning of conceptual design in order to maximize the benefit and minimize any construction cost differential from a code-minimum building. Again, any such differential will be more than offset by future savings if design and execution are done right.

The same principles apply to any town building projects, including the future new fire station.

We are anxious to know this is at the top of the list of the town's design goals. The Committee would like to be part of the process as well. We would be happy to help vet energy / building science consultants and other design professionals.

Please let us know how we can be involved.

Many thanks,  
—Scott Campbell