

St. Johnsbury Town Energy Committee

May 10, 2021

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

Guest: Joe Kasprzak, St. Johnsbury Assistant Town Manager

1. Introductions

The committee introduced itself to Joe Kasprzak

2. Town Energy Committee Involvement in Municipal Buildings

Joe Kasprzak gave an overview of the progress of St. Johnsbury's business areas. The momentum in St. Johnsbury's redevelopment before the pandemic continues with \$27.7 millions investment on-going.

Joe stated that the Town Energy Committee's involvement is an important component of the development or redevelopment of municipal buildings. One example is the remediation of the Armory. It makes sense to him that existing properties are redeveloped rather than building new buildings.

Committee members John Ajamie, Scott Campbell, and Ben Deede offered to serve as liaison to the town on existing and future municipal building development. Joe stated that he was looking forward to their involvement.

3. Minutes

The minutes for April's meeting were reviewed and accepted

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. Committee members should be familiar with the plan specifics.

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

Action Item: Steve will send an email about the public hearing to the email list that we have collected. He will also post the information on Facebook and Front page Forum.

5. Climate Science Education

Lynn reported that the Earth Day collection of plastic items at the St. Johnsbury school went well. Teachers were receptive to the project and referred to resources Lynn gave them. Evan Jewell, art teacher at the school, suggested we talk to teachers about activities they can do, rather than waiting for professional development. Evan is waiting for warmer weather to do the outside mandala project at the school.

Lynn submitted an article to the Caledonian-Record on the plastics project at the St. Johnsbury School and was published May 11.

Lynn is still working with VEEP to find cross-curricular climate literacy materials.

Steve created teacher survey on climate science literacy that will be sent to St. Johnsbury School teachers.

St. Johnsbury Academy bought an EV for its Driver Education class at the suggestion of the Energy Committee.

6. 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

7. Legislation Update

Scott reported that there was money in the state budget for workforce training in the energy field

8. Other items

- a. David shared the Town Energy Committee logo
- b. The committee members who viewed the Eddy Lecture Series presented by the Fairbanks Museum on Vermont's changing climate noted how informative it was.
- c. Committee members were reminded of the upcoming virtual forum for residents of NEK on economic opportunities with climate crisis on May 13.

Next Meeting is Monday June 7 from 5:30 to 7:00