

St. Johnsbury Town Energy Committee

September 14, 2021

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

Guests: Maia Lynd, Robert Michael

1. Minutes

The minutes for July's meeting were reviewed and accepted

2. Legislative action Reconciliation bill; Climate Council

Pam reported on the town meeting with Senator Sanders held at the Welcome Center on September 5. Steve reported on VECAN webinar with Senator Sanders. Scott reported on the Climate Caucus meeting last Friday with Lauren Oates who is on the steering committee of The Vermont Climate Council.

3. Button Up event - October 9 at Fairbanks Museum

Pam and Steve met with Becca White of Efficiency Vermont's Button Up Vermont and Alison Low of NVDA to plan for a NEK regional Button Up Event. The Event will be held at the Fairbanks Museum on October 9 from 10:00 to 11:30.

The Title is **WEATHERIZATION FOR ALL: Programs and Resources for Making Efficiency Affordable.**

An all-star panel of experts will explore ways to make energy efficiency upgrades affordable for everyone through grants, incentives, rebates for homeowners, renters and landlords.

4. School projects on climate literacy

Lynn reported on the climate literacy activities she is working on with two teachers at the St. Johnsbury School. There will be a climate literacy feature in the monthly school newsletter starting in October. There is a 15 minute advisory period that will be related to the newsletter article. There also will be two more involved activities each month. Lynn along with the teachers she is working with are providing all the materials for these events. Superintendent Brian Ricca is very supportive.

Lynn also mentioned how well received the Earth Day activities were.

5. Intro of VECAN town energy committee toolkit

Steve introduced the draft communication toolkit that VECAN has developed for Vermont's town energy committees. These tools are designed to help town energy committees plan and communicate events and information to the public. These tools can be adapted to meet the needs of individual committees. Committee members are asked to start filling in the resource tool.

6. Prioritizing action steps

Each committee member gave three goals and action steps that were their highest priority. The committee then decided what goals and action steps were of the highest priority.

Three goals that the committee have been actively working on were of high priority and will continue to be a high priority for the committee:

Theme A, Goal 2, Action B

Share Efficiency Vermont and Drive Electric Vermont incentives, tax credits, and rebate information to potential car buyers

Theme A, Goal 1, Action A

Provide information to residents and visitors about energy conservation, energy efficiency, sustainability, and climate change hazard mitigation

Theme A, Goal 1, Action C

Incorporate climate education curricula in elementary school, high school, and community college

Two additional goals were selected as high priority:

Theme A, Goal 2, Action E

Identify resources and maintain a database of funding programs and partners that can assist with conversion of electrical systems, weatherization and thermal heat switching for homes, properties, and businesses.

Theme C, Goal 1, Action C

Promote walking and bicycling as transportation and support the development of walking and bicycling infrastructure.

Next Meeting is Tuesday October 12 from 5:30 to 7:00