

St. Johnsbury Town Energy Committee

November 7, 2022

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

Guests: Chad Whitehead, Town Manager

1. Minutes

The minutes from the October meeting were reviewed and accepted.

2. Window Dressers

Pam, who has volunteered with local Window Dressers projects, stated how much she enjoyed doing so. She encouraged committee members to sign up for remaining volunteer slots at area Window Dressers events.

Chad wondered about Habitat for Humanity joining forces with Window Dressers for their work.

The committee discussed hosting a Window Dressers Community Build in St. Johnsbury next year. Inviting someone from another town energy committee who has put on the Window Dressers event and/or the state-wide organizer to come to a meeting to give us the details of hosting an event. It would involve 10-12 people to run a Window Dressers event. Elmore stated that the National Honor Society at the Academy would volunteer if an event was held in St. Johnsbury as they are always looking for service hours.

The Window Dressers Website is informative.

3. Meeting with Allie Webster

Pam met with Allie Webster of NVDA. Because of the successful growth of renewable energy in Vermont, Renewable Energy Vermont (REV), Vermont's clean energy trade association, is advocating to increase the renewable energy goals. The current standard set in 2015 is to have 75% of energy generated from renewable sources with 10% coming from within Vermont by 2032. They are advocating for 100% energy generated from renewable sources with 20% coming from within Vermont by 2030. REV's website has a lot of useful information. This will be discussed further at the regional meeting of NEK energy committees.

Allie suggested that the town wait for an energy audit for the Welcome Center because there will be more money available as well as matching grants in the near future including Municipal Energy Resilience Grants. Pam pointed out that an energy audit would only be necessary if the work from the previous energy audit was completed.

Pam and Allie also discussed area schools using material from Vermont Energy Education Program (VEEP). Lynn has mentioned the quality and ease of the material available from VEEP.

4. E-Bike Lending Library in 2023

Ben has reached out to Local Motion to arrange for St. Johnsbury to have the e-bike lending library in 2023. He has not heard back from them. John Raser wrote in an e-mail that the former Caplan's store will not be able to store the bikes as its building will be being renovated then. But, he believes another location will be found.

David mentioned that Kingdom Trails awarded grants totalling \$25,000 to towns that Kingdom Trails serve. David is a member of the committee awarding the grants. He will send descriptions of the grants awarded to the Cobleigh Library and town of Lyndonville.

5. St. Johnsbury School Projects

Lynn reported that Heather Mulligan has a lot going on at the St. Johnsbury School. There may be money available to build an outdoor classroom. Heather has stated that there is a great need for kids to get outside.

Heather wants to attend an energy committee meeting to tell us about her work at the St. Johnsbury School. Lynn has given her the date of our next meeting.

6. Future Events

The committee brainstormed ideas for future events. Steve will solicit ideas from town residents via our e-mail list and Facebook.

7. Other Business

Pam encouraged members to attend the next regional meeting of area town energy committees. The date and time will be sent to committee members once it is set.

Next meeting is Monday December 5, 5:30-7:00 pm. It will be in-person at the Welcome Center.