

St. Johnsbury Town Energy Committee

December 5, 2022

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

Guests: Heather Mulligan, St. Johnsbury School Outdoor Education and Communication, Robert Michael

1. Minutes

The minutes from the November meeting were reviewed and accepted.

2. Educational Projects

- Heather Mulligan who is the Outdoor Educational and Communication staff member of St. Johnsbury School talked to the committee about projects ongoing and being developed at the school
 - Programs are being developed on an ongoing basis as this is Heather's first year in the newly approved position
 - There is not a lot of outdoor space available on the school campus
 - She has proposed adding an outdoor facility on campus. It will need approval from the school board
 - There are off-campus outdoor activities planned for Jan to March, 2023
 - A monthly climate newsletter has been sent the school's professional staff
 - There are climate literacy activities during morning meetings
 - Heather stated that earlier grades need to "get aboard," and later grades need to become more aware of climate
- Meeting with Superintendent Karen Conroy
 - Pam and Lynn met with St. Johnsbury School's new superintendent Karen Conroy
 - She was very enthusiastic and engaged with all of the Energy Committee's activities.
 - She is interested in supporting climate literacy at the school and mentioned the possibility of grants
 - She received a copy of the town enhanced energy plan and is excited about it.
 - She likes the idea of having guest speakers come to speak at the school.
 - Pam is going to contact Vermont State Climatologist Lesley-Ann L. Dupigny-Giroux about coming to speak
- Professional Development with VEEP: Vermont Energy Education Program
 - VEEP is offering 5 90-minute virtual workshops on the Next Generation Science Standards and integrating principles of equity and inclusion in teaching and learning.
 - Workshops are Wednesday nights in March, 2023 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm
 - 1.5 professional development credits are offered for each session for a total of 7.5 credits for the entire series
 - The cost is \$25.00 per person per session or \$100 for all five

3. Regional Energy Committee Meetings

Pam and Steve attended the regional energy committee meeting held on November 30 via Zoom. They reported on the Renewable Energy Standards, which are in the process of being updated because of the success of installing renewable energy in Vermont. Some members from neighboring energy committees expressed concern over what counts as renewable energy.

The regional meeting also included information on the municipal energy resilience program that is being developed by BGS to distribute the monies allowed by the legislature. Tuesday Dec 13 at the VECAN conference a webinar on the program will be held. Ben, Pam, and Steve plan to attend.

The last item of the regional meeting agenda was the VCRD's Climate Catalyst Innovation Fund. They funded 25 projects including three from the NEK:

- Glover Energy Committee, library e-bikes for loan
- The Universalist Unitarian Congregation of St. Johnsbury, weatherization
- Town of Sheffield, town solar array

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.

5. VECAN Conference

The annual VECAN conference will be held this coming Saturday and during lunch (12-1:30) next week: December 10, 12-16. It is virtual again this year and is free to attend. Pam encouraged members to attend as many sessions as possible.

6. Windows Dressers

Darlene Ahrens will be invited to attend January's meeting to inform the committee about our hosting a Window Dressers' event in St. Johnsbury.

Next meeting is Tuesday January 3, 5:30-7:00 pm. It will be in-person at the Welcome Center.