

St. Johnsbury Town Energy Committee

November 9, 2021

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

Guests: Bevin Barber-Campbell, Don Smith

1. Introductions

Committee members and guests introduced themselves to each other

2. Minutes

The minutes for October's meeting were reviewed and accepted

3. Report on Pam and Steve's Meeting with Allie Webster

Pam and Steve met with Allie Webster from NVDA to discuss how she could support the St. Johnsbury Town Energy Committee. One possible way she can assist is with coordination between area town energy committees. She requested that we keep her informed on committee meetings and communications. There will be a regional Zoom mtg of energy committees on Dec. 1.

Steve has been accepted to participate in VCRD's third class of Climate Catalysts. It is a year-long program in which Steve will develop a system for area town energy committees to communicate, share resources, and work collaboratively.

4. E-bike, non-carbon transport Spring Event

Bevin Barber-Campbell of Local Motion and a private consultant attended the meeting to give a talk on organizing a bicycle/e-bike event in the spring.

She suggested that we have a combined EV and e-bike to appeal to a broader base of people.

Jennifer Grant of Ride Vermont wants to establish a bike library in St. Johnsbury. Local Motion has a bike lending library that could move between St. Johnsbury, Lyndonville, and Danville over a couple of weeks. Eliana Fox is Local Motion's e-bike lending library program coordinator

Bevin mentioned LINK is a bike coop that fixes up bikes, sells them affordably, has mechanic lessons, and puts on a bike camp. They had a spot next to Whirligig Brewery on Railroad St last summer. Bevin and Ben will work on the details of a spring event.

5. Sophomore Challenge Day

Lynn presented information about the Sophomore Challenge Day at St. Johnsbury Academy.

James Bentley, sustainable coordinator at St. Johnsbury Academy, sent an invitation to the committee to present a proposal.

Bevin suggested that the committee work with Local Motion to do a Parking Day, which is where parking spaces are transformed into fun spaces to show what could be done with that real estate. It demonstrates how much real estate we devote to parking.

<https://www.myparkingday.org>

Lynn suggested a sustainable walking trail through town highlighting buildings and sites that show how much sustainability is going on in St. Johnsbury. This could be an action the committee takes itself.

Lynn will contact Bevin to develop a proposal around the Parking Day idea.

6. Response to Global Foundries energy proposal

Guest Don Smith spoke opposing GlobalFoundries seeking an exemption from carbon reduction goals. Scott Campbell gave context about the exemption explaining the pros and cons of the action.

Brendon stated a more fundamental issue is why electricity rates are so much lower in New York than Vermont. He pointed out that Vermont has the eight highest rates in the country.

The consensus of the committee was that such advocacy was not in line with our mission. Don will research current information about GlobalFoundries' exemption from VT's climate goals. Individual committee members can write Governor Scott if they desire.

7. Effective Communications About the Climate Crisis

Recent webinars featuring Climate Scientist and Evangelical Christian Katherine Hayhoe have been viewed by various committee members. She also has a new book out, *Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World*. She has done extensive outreach to a wide variety of audiences. She has found that the most effective way to communicate about climate change is to listen to what folks value and what they enjoy doing. Then, explain how climate change is adversely affecting them. And explain what action is currently taking place and reasons for hope. Bevin said that Chloe Maxmin, a Maine state rep, has been successful in making strong relationships with constituents across political differences.

Pam has arranged for a book display on climate change at the Atheneum. The display includes a fact sheet of climate action taking place locally.

8. Communication Outreach Inventory

The committee continued to fill out the Communication Outreach Inventory

Next Meeting is Tuesday December 14 from 5:30 to 7:00