

St. Johnsbury Town Energy Committee

January 3, 2022

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

Guests: Robert Michael, Don Smith

1. Minutes

The minutes for December's meeting were reviewed and accepted.

2. Bike/Pedestrian Upcoming Events Update

Ben reported that the planning committee will meet on Friday January 7.

3. Local School Program Update

Lynn reported that she has not heard back from the Academy about the Sophomore Stewardship Project. Lynn continues to work on the monthly newsletter for teachers and students at the St Johnsbury School. She plans to develop teacher aids on climate literacy and climate anxiety. She is working with an afterschool Earth Stewardship Club with 4th and 5th graders.

4. 2021 Activity Review for Town Report

Pam shared activities that the committee had been involved with during 2021 for the town report. The committee reviewed the list for any additional activities that we were involved with.

5. Selectboard Meetings

The importance of Town Energy Committees having a relationship with their Selectboard was mentioned several times during the recent VECAN conference. To that end, Pam suggested that a committee member attend the Selectboard meeting on a rotating basis. Keith volunteered to attend the January meetings. Selectboard meetings are held on the second and fourth Monday of the month.

6. Guest Speaker

Jon Copans from VECAN has agreed to lead a discussion with the committee about the role of town energy committees and how we can be most effective as a committee. Steve sent Jon an e-mail asking him about attending either the February or March meeting.

7. Legislation Expanding EVs as driver's ed cars

Lynn shared her idea about expanding the use of EVs in driver education programs. Brandon led a wide-ranging discussion on electrifying transportation, strengthening the grid, increasing battery storage. He will see if he can make a public comment on VT's climate action plan, addressing battery storage. There is currently no mention of it in the plan. Redesigning the grid into a more robust, distributed network would be more resilient and

cheaper. Lynn asked if there was a plan if the electric grid failed. Pam will ask Alison Low about a regional hazard mitigation plan.

8. Individual Actions

- a. The committee watched a video by Dr. Katherine Hayhoe and the need for individuals to talk about the climate crisis and how to engage people on the topic.
- b. The committee then discussed what we can do in our role as a town energy committee. Jon Copans can discuss this further when he meets with us at a future meeting.
- c. Pam spoke about how we as individuals can help with the Stop the Money Pipeline movement.
- d. Keith explained how the committee could inform local businesses about incentives that they could utilize when they become available. He will research the topic.

9. Town Energy Committee Community Outreach Inventory.

The Community Outreach Inventory has been uploaded to a Google Drive for committee members to edit themselves.

Next Meeting is Monday February 7 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm