

St. Johnsbury Town Energy Committee

May 1, 2023

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

Guests: Robert Michael

1. Minutes

The minutes from the April meeting were reviewed and accepted with one correction.

2. Green Up

The Energy Committee will have volunteers staffing the Green Up drop off location at St. J Subaru from 9 AM to 1 PM. Ben volunteered to join Pam and Steve from 9 to 11 AM, and Lynn volunteered from 11 AM to 1 PM.

David is giving a talk on Green Up at the Academy on Wednesday May 3.

Green Up postings on Front Porch Forum has garnered a good response, including some wishing to reserve composters if they are not available Saturday. They will pick up trash earlier in the week.

3. Municipal Energy Resilience Program

Steve has confirmed from BGS that the Armory is eligible for the \$500,000 grant towards weatherizing the building. The town can submit all the energy audits done previously for other funders. BGS will then determine if an additional energy audit—at no cost to St. Johnsbury—needs to be done.

Pam and Steve will meet with Kreston Sterling, Code Compliance Officer, about the town holding a weatherization resource event that includes “mentors” who can help people fill out applications for weatherization programs. The town would apply for \$4000 MERP grant for weatherization information events. Steve talked to a member of the BGS staff who thought that this would be a good use of the grant.

4. WindowDressers

There has been a lot of progress on hosting aWindowDressers event since our last meeting.

The date for the Central Caledonia (St. Johnsbury, Lyndon, Burke, and Sutton) event is scheduled for November 10-15. A contract with the Town of Lyndon has been signed to use the Municipal Building (old Graded School gym) rent-free for building inserts.

Volunteer recruitment is moving along steadily.

There are currently more than 150 requests for window inserts. Those wishing to request inserts have to do so at the WindowDressers website. The 200 insert limit may be increased to 250 because of the high interest.

Pam and Steve will meet with Kreston Sterling, Code Compliance Officer, about the town promoting WindowDressers with landlords.

5. School Activities

Lynn reported that students at St. Johnsbury School made Green Up Day posters and distributed to local businesses and organization.

State Climatologist Dr. Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux's visit to St. Johnsbury has been postponed until the Autumn.

6. Other Business

The committee will give an update on committee activities to the Select Board on Monday May 8 at their regularly scheduled meeting.

Steve will talk to Chad Whitehead about a state program that will fund planting trees along town streets.

Pam mentioned that the Third Act VT organization has legislative and climate activities that may interest members. A NEK chapter of the organization for people 60+ is being formed.

Those present thanked David and Elmore for their faithful attendance at meetings for the last 3 ½ years. We will miss them.

The next meeting of the St J energy committee is Monday June 5, 2023, at the Welcome Center.