

St. Johnsbury Town Energy Committee

June 3, 2024

Members Present: Steve Isham, Donley Johnson, Pam Parker (Chair), Susan Parker, Ben Dedee, Lynn Wurzberg

Guests: Robert Michael, Jason Kaiser

1. Review May minutes

Minutes were passed

2. Update on Main St thermal networking project

Steve said there was a second meeting on the Armory and Rural Edge project across the street. Both the Town of St. Johnsbury and Rural Edge are excited to get it going. St. Andrews Church, the United Community Church, and the Fairbanks museum are also interested in participating. Steve said it will be helpful to get this first project established and gather data about costs, efficiency, and cost savings. Pam noted that this is one of the first Vermont geothermal network projects in Vermont.

3. WindowDressers - Oct 17-24 - to-do list

Pam noted that the Lyndonville WindowDressers event will be the first community build in the region. We have the same space in Lyndonville as we did last year. Pam wants to be a shift supervisor and Donley, Steve and Robert might do it as well. Online training to be a shift leader will be in August. Pam said we are in good shape with 225 inserts ordered already. The maximum number is 300. Pam put a notice about WindowDressers in Front Page Forum. Donley asked if we could advertise in other places including the Star Theater. Donley will get the word out to the National Honor Society.

Pam said that the East St. Johnsbury Church will be the fiscal agent and is donating \$3,000 for the special (free) rate where people can get up to 10 free windows. She said she would like to raise another \$1,000 to \$1,500. Donley suggested a coin drive in Lyndonville to raise money. Darlene and Pam met with Ben Roy at Momentum who is publicizing it to his employees as a volunteer opportunity and a chance to order inserts.

4. Prioritize action steps from Theme B of enhanced energy plan (transportation), discussion on how to integrate EEP into new Town Plan

Ben noted that the town is preparing a new town plan for 2025. The town and the planning committee are working on coming up with the best way to integrate the enhanced energy plan. Right now it's simply attached to the town plan. Pam noted that the last one was 2017. In that one, there was an energy section and then an enhanced plan was added. Ben said that this new plan may provide an opportunity to talk about the progress we have seen. Steve said that it is important that the energy plan is in the new plan so it will not have to go through an approval process again. Ben said he will make sure it will happen.

Committee members discussed the action steps from Theme B of the enhanced energy plan (transportation) and agreed on the following priorities:

Goal 1: Promote alternative systems and structures that reduce transportation demand and single occupancy vehicle trips.

Action A: Provide information sessions to town residents and property owners about energy conservation in transportation.

Action D: Promote active transportation such as walking, bicycling, and e-bicycling.

Goal 2: Encourage the use of renewable energy sources for transportation

Action A: Providing information sessions for town residents on renewable fuel vehicles and energy conservation in transportation.

Action B: Share Efficiency Vermont and Drive Electric Vermont incentives, tax credits, and rebate information to potential car buyers.

Action D: Encourage the placement of any new municipal building in existing compact village areas, as appropriate.

Action E: Report annually the energy use of town buildings.

Goal 3: Demonstrate municipal leadership in transportation energy conservation and energy efficiency.

Action D: Providing training and instructional opportunities to municipal leaders and municipal employees about transportation energy efficiency alternatives.

Action E: Install EV charging stations when developing or redeveloping municipality-owned property, such as schools and town buildings

5. Volunteers to meet with Gabrielle Rainville, VT Clean Cities and Communities

Gabrielle asked committee members to meet with her about a potential electric charger station for heavy trucks. St. Johnsbury is one of a handful of towns in Vermont under consideration as a site for a charging station. VT Clean Cities and Communities is gathering input from communities about the impact of a proposed charging station on environmental justice. Several members said that they could attend.

The next meeting is July 1 from 5:30 to 7pm at the Welcome Center.