

St. Johnsbury Town Energy Committee

February 5, 2024

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

Guests: Robert Michael

1. Minutes

The minutes from the January meeting were reviewed and accepted

2. RHIGP Information and Mentoring Event

Steve reported that he and Pam met with Kresten Sterling to organize the informational and mentoring session for the Rental Housing Improvement Grant Program (RHIGP). Kresten has secured vendors for the informational meeting on March 20 from 5:30 to 8:00 pm: Efficiency Vermont, Heat Squad, 3E Thermal, and NETO. There will be a light dinner served. Several members of the RHIGP committee have volunteered to mentor along with Kresten and Zoning Administrator Matt Walsh. Dates for the follow-up mentor sessions are yet to be determined.

3. Window Dressers

Pam reported that orders are coming in for the 2024 build with 149 inserts ordered so far. The price of window inserts will increase by 4-5% on March 31. Four measuring teams are ready to measure windows for orders taken before the price increase.

4. Geothermal Network Meeting

Ben reported that he met with Joe Kasprzak, Assistant Town Manager; Patrick Shattuck, Rural Edge; Jared Rodriguez, Emergent Group; and Debbie New, VCTN about implementing a geothermal network in St. Johnsbury, particularly about one with the Armory and Packard Court on Main Street. A follow up meeting will be scheduled in April when Jared will be in Vermont.

5. Review Enhanced Energy Plan Goals and Action Items

Committee members reviewed the goals and action items from the St. Johnsbury Enhanced Energy Plan. The priorities for Theme A: Energy conservation & more efficient energy use.

*GOAL 1: Promote conservation of energy by individuals and organizations.*

- a) Provide information to residents and visitors about energy conservation, energy and/or efficiency, sustainability, and climate change hazard mitigation
- c) Incorporate climate education curricula in elementary school, high school, and community college

*GOAL 2: Encourage more efficient use of energy in building structures and systems, including upgrades to electrical equipment, improved weatherization to reduce heating energy demand, and thermal heat switching to a renewable fuel source*

- b) Publicize Efficiency Vermont, Green Mountain Power and Lyndonville Electric, and HEAT Squad incentives that promote electrical and thermal efficiency and thermal heat switching on multiple media outlets
- c) Provide information sessions for town residents and property owners about energy efficiency upgrades, weatherization, thermal heat switching, and the economic benefits of efficiency improvements.
- e) Identify resources and maintain a database of funding programs and partners that can assist with conversion of electrical systems, weatherization and thermal heat switching for homes, properties, and businesses

*GOAL 3: Demonstrate municipal leadership in energy conservation and efficiency.*

- a) Investigate funding sources to perform energy audits on municipal buildings and include energy efficiency measures when retrofitting or upgrading Town facilities.

Theme B and C will be prioritized at the March Meeting.

The next meeting of the St J energy committee is March 18 , 2024, at the Welcome Center starting at 5:30.