

The St Johnsbury town energy committee met via Zoom on Monday, Sept 21, 2026. Attending were Jason Kaiser, Susan Parker, Robert Michael, Pam Parker and Steve Isham. The August minutes were accepted with one correction, that of the September meeting date.

The focus of the meeting was on local resources for the upcoming heating season and various learning opportunities. Susan reported on resources available via NEKCA. Heather Alger writes that it would be helpful for potentially eligible residents to apply for the state's seasonal fuel assistance program before winter arrives. If a household later needs NEKCA's Crisis Fuel Assistance during the winter, the household must have already applied for the state's seasonal fuel benefit. NEKCA's crisis fuel program operates from the last Monday in November thru the last Friday in April and may provide a delivery of 125 gallons of fuel, one ton of pellets or one cord of wood. We could be helpful in getting this information to people before they reach a crisis. We will ask committee members to write Front Porch Forum and Facebook posts, publicizing these programs.

Jason reported on Wheels for Warmth, established in 2005, It creates a resource of DMV-inspected tires that are safe for at least one season, sold back to VTers at affordable prices. The collection point is at 34 Calkins Drive, Thursday Oct 29 and Friday, Oct 30 1-5. Can donate usable tires or get rid of unsafe tires for \$5 or \$10. Last year they raised \$108,000 statewide for fuel assistance.

Steve Isham talked about the importance of local control, having local input when data centers are proposed. Pam mentioned the group Don't Data Center Vermont, which is associated with VT Conservation Voters.

Robert and Jason plan to attend a one-hour VPIRG seminar on plug-in solar. Robert said plug-in solar has been working well in Europe for 10 years, but the buildings are more likely to be concrete and the wiring more modern. Older buildings with old-style wiring circuits are more complicated. Steve said we could do some public education on the topic of plug-in solar. Pam plans to attend a one-hour webinar on virtual, neighborhood-based power plants on Sept 29, sponsored by the Clean Energy States Alliance.

Robert reported that WindowDressers volunteers will be building 210 custom-made interior storm windows and 9 re-wraps at our Central Caledonia Community Build happening at the First Congo Church in Lyndonville, from Friday, Oct 16-Wednesday, Oct 21. We still need volunteers to sign up for some 4-hour shifts.

Next energy committee mtg scheduled for Monday, Oct 5 at 5:30 at the Welcome Center.