

St. Johnsbury Town Energy Committee
May 5, 2025

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

1. Review of April minutes

Approved

2. WindowDressers update

Pam said our number of core team members is increasing. Christine James from East Burke and Pam are working as local co-facilitators. They prepared a talk for the Burke Mountain Club. Janel Hinrichsen from Lyndonville will be training this year as the volunteer coordinator, under Darlene's leadership. Robert is the measuring coordinator in training. Robert said we have orders from 23 customers for 169 inserts. They have measured 44 inserts for 9 customers. Robert said that some customers are not responding to their calls to schedule measurements. He and Ben are sending reminders. We are looking for a total of 275 inserts.

Jason asked if anyone from his church which is hosting the WindowDressers Build have asked for inserts. They were interested last year. Jason will follow up..

Jason will post about WindowDressers this week on Front Porch Forum and create a spreadsheet for us to keep track of who is submitting posts.

Lynn will publicize WindowDressers through the St. Johnsbury School newsletter.

Build dates are October 17- 24, 2025. SignUp is open and activated.

3. Updated town plan

Steve said that it was approved with the energy chapter updated, which was the most detailed of any section. Pam noted that it is readable and it references our 2021 enhanced energy plan, which we can continue to work from.

4. How to publicize energy committee priorities and activities

Steve said two weeks from tonight, May 19, 5-8pm is the landlord weatherization event. We are invited to attend. Pam said Ann Lawless is doing an energy fair in Wheelock on May 17 with many of the same organizations, but also including WindowDressers. Steve noted the fire marshall, Tim Angell, still says that landlords can't use WindowDresser inserts. Allison Pouliott, WindowDresser coordinator for Vermont and western New Hampshire, sent him some materials and is interested in talking further with him.

Jason said Front Page Forum is probably the best bang for the buck in terms of publicity. Steve said we should have an ask if we are publicizing our work, such as the Weatherization for All.

5. Weatherization beyond WindowDressers

Steve said we have enough MERP money to do a meeting for the general public like the one for landlords.

6. Federal funding impacts

Pam asked about federal funding cuts that would impact weatherization. Susan mentioned LIHEAP, which isn't directly weatherization but provides funding for heating homes. Steve read about potential cuts to electric chargers. Pam said that Scott Beck introduced an amendment to the budget that would roll back significant parts of the Global Warming Solutions Act and Renewable Energy and Clean Heat Standard. Steve said the Lt. Governor deemed it was not germane to the budget. It did not go to the floor.