

St. Johnsbury Town Energy Committee
April 7, 2025

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

1. Review of March minutes

Approved

2. WindowDressers update

Pam said we have a good core team of measurers. What we need is orders. Pam and Lynn will talk to the Select Board to let them know about WindowDressers, which will then be in the minutes that a couple of hundred people read. Lynn said she will try and publicize it in the St. Johnsbury School newsletter. Pam was on a WindowDressers Zoom outreach. She learned that tabling is much less productive than Facebook and other social media publicity. Front Porch Forum is the most effective. Given that, Pam suggested that we consider not doing a table at MapleFest. Members agreed.

Pam asked if the group could rotate writing posts for Front Porch Forum. Members suggested leading with saving money and feeling cozier. Steve said that Kingdom Access Television would provide coverage. Pam said that we might be able to get free radio ads on Magic 97.7

Members thought about other names to describe WindowDressers. One idea was interior low- cost storm windows.

Members decided to take turns posting on FPF. Pam asked if there was a Lions club in St. Johnsbury because one of their missions is preserving the environment.

Donley asked if there was any coverage in the Caledonian-Record. Steve said you have a better chance if you write an article and send it in as news. Donley said he would write the article.

3. Landlords event

It is scheduled for May 19 and Kresten Sterling, the St. Johnsbury town code compliance officer will arrange the event as part of the Landlord Rental Improvement Grant program. Will provide information on weatherization for landlords. Participants will include Efficiency Vermont, Heat Squad, Rural Edge, and Neto. Weatherization will qualify landlords for grants from towns. Steve said that landlords can get matched dollar for dollar up to \$ 6,000 and a landlord can get up to 3 grants for three different units. Last year 30 landlords came. All the vendors wanted to come back from last year's event.

Pam mentioned the position of the local fire marshal who said that rental properties cannot have WindowDresser inserts, because they are not safe. She said the town of Thetford gained approval for the use of WindowDressers after going through a process that demonstrated that the WindowDressers cannot be lit on fire. She said there is a video demonstrating this.

Steve said the Kresten can use this information to meet again with the local fire marshal. Susan suggested we have a table at the event to promote WindowDressers.

Pam and Lynn will present to the Selectboard about WindowDressers

4. VLCT training on April 16 on Zoom

Vermont League of Cities and Towns is doing a Zoom training on open meeting laws. 10-11:30am. Pam and Steve will attend. Lynn and Robert might be able to attend.

5. Info from Jack Pitblado at VNRC: listening tour for Climate Action Plan, VECAN day at VT state house, proposed VECAN conference in Nov

The VT Climate Council is doing a statewide listening tour to see how people feel about the current climate action plan. Pam noted that progress toward climate change is getting a lot of pushback. The climate action plan is actionable and open to accommodations. But there is concern from the Climate Council and Vermont Natural Resources Council that accommodations will be detrimental to long term progress.

The Climate Action plan is part of the Global Warming Solutions Act that was enacted a few years ago. They are updating it, as required and have to have public input. It is an opportunity for people to have input on pushing forward or slowing down. Pam and Susan will attend the meeting in Hardwick on April 14.

6. Updated town plan - where are we in the process?

In the selectboard's hands. Steve said they need to have two public hearings on April 21 and 28 and hope to approve it on the 28th.