

St. Johnsbury Town Energy Committee

January 6, 2024

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

**1. Review December minutes**

Minutes passed.

**2. Energy chapter for revised town plan**

Ben met with Allie Webster at NVDA to go over the requirements for the revised plan. Allie provided Canaan's new energy plan, which we can use as a template. Pam said that Allie was happy to look at our draft and give us feedback. Lynn noted that we say in that draft we have some of the highest energy burdens in the state and asked if we should say why we have such a high energy burden. Pam said we are referring to the necessity for motorized vehicles and aging homes. Ben said it is the percentage of your total income, which is a function of lower income and which we address in the draft. Ben will update sections based on conversations with Allie. She said we are not on target to meet the 2025 goals for Vermont's comprehensive energy plan and that is common among towns. Members spent time clarifying and simplifying draft language. We will include language that talks about St. Johnsbury's progress and where the town stands in terms of the 2025 and other goals for the state plan.

- 3. Municipal Vulnerability Indicators Tool.** This is a tool developed by the state. It will allow us to zero in on where St Johnsbury can focus to lessen climate-related emergencies. It makes specific the vulnerabilities St. Johnsbury has to climate emergencies, where they are, and what needs to happen to prevent or mitigate them. Robert said he looked at it earlier and it lists a number of items where we rank above or below the state average. Pam noted it also shows specific areas that are vulnerable to different types of climate events. Robert said he will take a closer look at it and report back. Jason added the information to our Google drive folder. Pam said the tool also says what St. Johnsbury has do to address these vulnerabilities. That has weight on whether we get funding.

**4. Public education about thermal energy and EV stations**

The Danville Energy Committee has done a couple of events on EVs and transportation that is sustainable and low carbon. Do we want to take the next step and explore doing a public event that addresses thermal issues and the kind of heating you could do if you are rethinking your heating system? Steve has talked with Kresten Sterling and made a request to do another landlord workshop about energy efficiency options for apartments. We could do that for the general public as well. Steve said that vendors who came last year want to do it again and expenses would be covered by MERP funds. Steve offered to work with Kresten to set up both. The one for the public would be about making improvements to their homes for energy efficiency. It would be similar to

the Button Up workshop. Lynn suggested we do it at the Athenaeum and make it a public presentation. Pam suggested the Fairbanks Museum as another possible site. Jason suggested that the Welcome Center include EV stations on the town map they give away to visitors. Pam and Lynn will drive around to locate EV charging stations and see if they are working. Jason is going to create a St. Johnsbury public charger map that could be embedded on Discover St. Johnsbury and other materials.

Mary-Catherine Graziano is the new regional Efficiency Vermont representative and would like to meet with our committee. Pam said she will meet with her and report back to the committee. Lynn and Susan said that they would like to join as well.

The next meeting is February 3 from 5:30pm to 7pm on Zoom.