

Members Present: Steven Isham, Jason Kaiser, Robert Michael, Donley Johnson, Susan Parker, Ben Deede, Pam Parker. Kathy Kark was a guest.

February 2, 2026 Minutes

### **Minutes Review**

The January minutes were passed with two corrections.

### **Update on Central Cal WindowDressers project**

Members had a meeting with Donald de Voil who is the regional coordinator for WindowDressers. Last year we did 150 window inserts. This year we signed up to do 250 inserts. Robert said we have nine new orders totaling 82 inserts. One of those orders is for 32 inserts. Robert is checking with the Unitarian church about the possibility of getting WindowDresser inserts there.

Pam brought sheets with information on WindowDressers for us to bring around to local businesses to post.

Pam also noted we spent \$2181 last year to cover the special rate, where people don't have to pay for inserts, that we expect more orders of that type, and we need to raise more money to cover it. Christine James is writing a GROW grant to a foundation to get money to cover these costs. Pam estimates that we need raise \$4,000 to \$5,000. Members talked about other ways to raise money including asking faith communities to contribute. Lynn met with NEKCA about the program and they said they would publicize the program. Ben suggested that during the measuring we could ask people if they would be willing to pay extra to cover the costs for people who can't pay. Robert said they have been asking that. We could also put collection jars at various places.

Jason said that the build process of WindowDressers is very well organized, like an old-school assembly line. He said he got quickly trained and felt competent and was able to switch to other tasks easily with oversight. Jason asked if we could mail a postcard to people on a certain street. The Danville group suggested going to people you know rather than just going door to door. Jason said it's a good idea to put ads in the Caledonian Record about WindowDressers.

Kathy Kark said she is hoping to have a WindowDressers display at the Winter Farmer's Market.

### **Weatherization**

Steve said our MERP funds are about \$1,900. The town is not going to do another landlord program because they did not get a large turnout at the last one. The weatherization program for the public cost \$200. Steve said if we have a weatherization program in the spring someone else needs to organize it. Even if we do that, we will not use most of that money. Members discussed other ways to use the MERP money. Ideas included putting out mailers like postcards

to a mailing list of St. Johnsbury residents. Donley said the National Honor Society sustainability committee might want to help run it or organize it. He said he will ask them.

#### **Thermal network - response to Debbie New ?**

Pam said Debbie has asked the Energy Committee to keep pursuing thermal networks in St. Johnsbury and we need to respond. Pam will get back to Debbie and say there is not enough interest at the moment to pursue this. Steve concurred.

#### **Review of materials from November NEK Network mtg**

Pam said that there is a meeting on Wednesday 12 to 1:30pm and wanted to know if anyone was planning on attending. Kathy and Ben said he could attend.

#### **State legislative action**

Members talked about state legislative policy. Jason said the Vermont Conservation Voters have a weekly newsletter on these issues. He also asked about the committee's role. Pam said we are looking at what impact energy committees can have in stopping roll back of renewable energy.

Jason will facilitate the next meeting in March.

Our next energy committee meeting will be March 2, 2026 from 5:30 to 7pm at the Welcome Center.