

MINUTES
ST. ALBANS CLIMATE & ENERGY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
ST. ALBANS CITY HALL, 100 NORTH MAIN STREET
4 PM MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2023

Committee members present: Jim Stiles, Chair; Mary Harbaugh; Michael Saunders

Committee members absent: Laura Isham; Susan Knightes; Rachel Ledoux, Student Liaison

City staff present: None

Members of the public present: Beebe Potter, Bernie

1. Call to order: J. Stiles called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

2. Public comment: None

3. Discussion of a grant opportunity with a near-term application deadline.

- M. Harbaugh described a possible grant application for the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program, for 55 shade trees to be planted on private property in the City's west side, to provide cooling during extreme heat and stormwater management during extreme rain. The west-side focus relates to an environmental justice grant requirement. The project would involve three phases: Spring 2024, Fall 2024, and Spring 2025. (The grant requires that the project be complete by June 30, 2026.) The committee's work would involve soliciting interest from residents and landlords, working with them to complete a contract defining their responsibilities for care of the trees, determining appropriate planting sites to maximize shade benefits, matching approved tree species to the site, arranging for a landscaping company to plant the trees, and arranging for potential follow-up watering should it become necessary. The no-match-required application for \$50,000 is due January 5.
- **M. Saunders made a motion to approve the grant application. M. Harbaugh seconded the motion.** J. Stiles suggested adding a provision for water/moisture sensors, in case some participating residents wanted help in understanding when to water the trees. The committee accepted the idea. B. Potter and J. Stiles had additional questions, and more discussion followed. **The committee voted unanimously to approve the grant application.**

4. Other business. J. Stiles noted the need for a vice chair. He will address it at the next meeting.

5. Reminders and conclusion: None

6. Adjourn: M. Harbaugh made a motion to adjourn at 4:36 pm. M. Saunders seconded. All were in favor.

