

Automotive Technology Advisory Meeting Minutes

Tuesday May 23, 2023

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Career Center Automotive Classroom & Shop

In attendance:

Jim Valliere - Automotive Instructor

Shawn McMillan - Service & Parts Director @ Brattleboro Subaru

Bob Goderre - Owner @ Performance Motors of Keene

Joe Gauthier - Owner @ 427 Custom Auto & Truck Fabrication

Michelle Hilger - Owner @ Onsite Power Academy

*Discussion about Electric vehicles and the direction it is heading in the automotive industry. Shawn stated that as of now Subaru only has 1 electric vehicle available. Subaru is currently working on adding a 2nd EV to the line-up for 2024 model year but Subaru has no plans at this time to move their entire fleet to EV's. Bob said he has not seen any EV's in his shop for repairs or maintenance. His customers who own EV's are relying on the dealership for all repairs. Shawn stated that most EV repairs are software based and only dealerships have the capabilities to diagnose these issues.

*Tools and equipment needed for EV repairs are computer based software, the average mechanical tools that Technicians possess, EV PPE's and a large area around the vehicle to perform needed repairs. All committee members agreed that it is a hassle and hindrance to come up with the required space for EV repairs.

*When it comes to new tools in industry, the majority of the conversation took place around vehicles and their ADAS systems. With vehicles becoming heavily equipped with ADAS, computer and alignment software is the biggest tool needed. It is getting more costly around updates through dealership and SnapOn upgrades. Shawn stated they spend 2-3 thousand dollars a year just in software updates and upgrades. Bob and Joe said they are in the realm of 1 thousand dollars per year. I was told I should start checking into the alignment software and updates to my scan tool as I will start to see more and more vehicles in our shop with ADAS features.

*The committee was very impressed with our updated equipment and recent purchase of a new drive-on lift. The mutual comment was that the program's equipment was better than what they all have.

*All members of the committee said they would love to take students on co-op status, or at least a job shadow of some kind. We are going to gather as the school year starts and further discuss getting our co-op program up and running.