

A G E N D A

**Islesboro Energy Committee
Tuesday October 6, 2026**

5:15 p.m.

Town Office & Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85801756712?pwd=DlpggpcM1MH3PY3ZSlf0ZDbKk2tP410.1>

Meeting ID: 858 0175 6712

Passcode: 964304

Members:

Harriet Bering, Chair; Bill Thomas, Vice Chair,
Cressica Brazier, Janis Petzel, Kathleen Kerr, Ava Schlottman, Elizabeth Dyer, Daniel Frohling

Ex-officio: Peter Rothschild, Select Board

Secretary: Carrie Reed

1. Call to Order
2. Establish Quorum (4 members)
3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting
4. Project updates: (5 min)
 - a. Fire station
 - b. EV chargers
 - c. Solar
 - d. Coaching
5. Remembering Holly – Plan for a Plaque
6. Island Fellow Update – Elizabeth
7. ETIPP Update
8. Community Action Grant – establish subcommittee and discuss plans for position
9. Next meeting – November 10, 2026, 5:15 pm
10. Adjourn

Islesboro Energy Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 8, 2026
In-Person and Zoom Meeting at 5:15 PM

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Harriet Bering called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.

2. Establishment of a Quorum

Quorum was established with over 4 members

Members Present: Chair Harriet Bering, Vice Chair Bill Thomas, Cressica Brazier, Kathy Kerr, Janis Petzel

Members Present via Zoom: Trevor Blackford (5:20)

Members Absent: Ava Schlottman, Peter Rothschild

Others Present: Island Fellow Elizabeth Dyer, Daniel Frohling

Others Present via Zoom: None

3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting: August 11, 2026.

Motion: To approve the Minutes of August 11, 2026, as written, J. Petzel, seconded by C. Brazier. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. B. Thomas abstained.

4. Remembering Holly

- Harriet asked for ideas for what the committee might do to remember Holly. She stated that a couple of holly trees are being planted at the ALP Library.
- Janis suggested naming the EV Chargers in her honor, as Holly worked so hard on getting those.
- Kathy agreed and suggested a plaque.
- Janis will talk with Allen, Holly's husband, so that he knows the committee is thinking of doing something. It would be respectful to hear his opinion.

5. Project updates

a. Fire station

- Bill reported that the generator room project is still targeted for October. He will get in touch with Evergreen. Bill has written to Fred and Murt; they are both on board.
- We may need someone to be here from the 1st to the 3rd while Bill is away.

b. EV chargers

- Harriet reported that she took this over from Holly. The agreement with OptConnect has been signed. They will let us know a date that they will install the new chargers. The equipment has arrived.
- Holly negotiated a four-year contract with OptConnect for the payment account. They are getting the information on the network.
- There is an Internet connection access point outside the Public Safety office.

c. Energy Coaching

- Kathy reported that she's been attending the NEEP cohort meetings. The idea of how to develop this in an orderly way is starting to gel. When she finishes the cohort, Kathy will present a plan, probably in November.

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- There are two organizations that offer courses. The goal would be to be ready to recruit people to take the courses. At least one is free. Kathy is leaning towards to one that can be done by attending sessions online or by watching a video. There are quizzes after either option. If anyone wants to help Kathy make the decision on which one to recommend, she is open to that.
- Kathy added that she thought of individual or two to ask personally. She is also open to putting out the call via the Town's messaging systems.
- The goal is to start offering services toward the end of spring, when the course is over.
- Bill stated he will sign up to do it.
- Kathy stated she's thinking we can use the Kill-a-Watt meters in energy coaching.
- Bill replied that he owns a Kill-a-Watt that he can loan out.
- Kathy stated that at the last cohort meeting, she asked about our concern about going for grant funding that would then be used to help people in need get materials or services. The woman in York suggested getting the monetary criteria from other organizations on the island. Kathy has been in touch with Abby Wilder of the Islesboro Community Fund (ICF). They will be meeting Thursday to discuss that and also the possibility of ICF distributing any materials that we develop.
- Kathy will also get financial criteria from Efficiency Maine and Window Dressers.
- Trevor clarified that Window Dressers requires no financial documentation from people who say they need assistance.
- Members agreed that they would feel better doing it this way, without documentation.

d. Solar Arrays

- Harriet reported that she, Bill, and Cressica met to discuss the arrays. We have funding for an array, as a result of the grant Cressica got for the Health Center. We also have funding to put in additional solar arrays. At the time we put that in the budget, we said we wanted to take advantage of tax credits that are in effect until the end of next year. Projects have to be completed by then. The IRS is slow with the payment of those, so it's something to be aware of.
- Cressica will go to the Select Board tomorrow to show them some sketches of the area by the landfill.
- Cressica clarified that at the Transfer Station field, there is a nice northern treeline that might be a good site for an array—all the solar we need could fit there, and they are already maintaining that field. It's close to the electrical equipment. There are other options for sites, but they are more difficult. This site is dry and well exposed, better than the Up-Island Public Safety Garage site, which would require a lot of clearing.
- Harriet added that the presentation tomorrow will be to inform the Select Board and get their feedback. We will probably have to go to the Planning Board for final approval.
- Kathy asked if this will be in lieu of using roof space. Cressica replied that it is. The roof arrays would cost between 30% and 50% more compared to the ground array.
- Cressica added that the Health Center roof is not optimally oriented, so you lose a lot of generation capacity. You get that back if you're able to optimally orient a ground array.

6. Island Fellow Report & Discussion of Energy Resilience Plan

Islesboro Energy Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 8, 2026
In-Person and Zoom Meeting at 5:15 PM

- Elizabeth reported that she's planning the first workshop for a Community Energy Resilience Plan (CERP), which is a roadmap for energy projects. She had a meeting with Harriet and Cressica last week. We've established that we would like that session to cover topics, including community solar, and how we might structure a quasi-municipal group to monitor that program, and how a microgrid might fit in. She will have an outline by next month's meeting.
- We're hoping to get people before the holidays hit; the goal is early November. Islesboro Community Center is planning to potentially implement solar—how can we partner with them?
- We'd like to have a concept talk/dinner, maybe on the Sunday of October 30th weekend, or the following weekend. We'd like to get feedback on how people respond to energy projects, and also pitch some scenarios of what the island's energy future looks like, and give people a chance to have a feeling of buy-in and understanding. Discussion of early dinner, lunch, or both.
- Elizabeth stated that for energy coaching calls, it's important to reach our contractor/builder population. It might be helpful to plan a lunch workshop during a work day, with free sandwiches. Collaborate with Pastor Trish, because she gets a lot of working people in for the Wednesday lunches.
- Bill suggested cascading announcements—stay tuned for events in November.
- Discussion on dates for events. Possibly Sunday, November 1st for an early dinner presentation.
- Bill suggested bringing younger people into the events, so kids develop a lifelong interest.
- Elizabeth stated that in the fall, she will be doing some activities related to energy audits with kids at ICC. She asked the committee if they could allocate some funds for a couple of Kill-a-Watt devices. They show how much energy appliances are using. They're about \$30.
- In November, she will do an activity with kids with an infrared camera.

7. Community Action Grant—next steps

- Harriet reported that we got the Community Action Grant. It's \$75,000, for funding for hiring a consultant to help move plans for the microgrid forward.
- Cressica stated the next step will be drafting a Request for Proposals (RFP). We can provide other options, such as a temporary Town Planner. We will be discussing that in the next couple of weeks. We can get it ready for when the official contract comes through.
- Harriet added that the state has put out a public announcement that we were awarded the grant.
- Daniel Frohling asked about the position of a temporary Town Planner.
- Cressica replied that the project proposes a one-year position that we'd be able to fund. Town planners are often more affordable than consultants. We would be calling it a Strategic Energy Planner, but we want to be flexible with that definition so we are able to find people who are capable of working with us through these complex planning issues, and learning with us, as opposed to finding an expert. It's difficult to find someone qualified for a one-year position without promise of ongoing employment. We may be forced to go with a consultant group. We also have planned within this project a number of support systems, such as legal consultation. The Strategic Planner would be working in collaboration with other groups, including ETIPP.
- Daniel explained that he is interested in sustainability and connectedness in the community. His written proposal for the Select Board included a Town Planner. IESC would fund a one-year

Islesboro Energy Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 8, 2026
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position, then that person and a sustainability committee would figure out how to fund that position longer term.

8. Introduction—Daniel Frohling

- Harriet introduced Daniel Frohling and stated he is interested in joining the Energy Committee.
- Harriet explained the committee's idea to develop microgrids and/or community solar. It's a nebulous plan, as we don't have an entity that would take ownership of that. We talked about creating a quasi-municipal corporation like IESC, but there are other ways of doing that.
- Daniel stated he is interested in joining the committee because he is concerned about the sustainability of the year-round community. There are multiple pieces to it, and he has an interest in bringing all the pieces together and looking at how they interact with each other. There is a need in this area. There's a lot of potential, and really cool things to be done.

9. Next Meeting Date

- The October 13th meeting date conflicts with the scheduled ETIPP meeting.
- Reschedule to October 6th.

Motion to change the October Energy Committee meeting to October 6th, J. Petzel, seconded by B. Thomas. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 6 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

10. Executive Session

Motion at 6:06pm to enter Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(A), for Personnel Matters, J. Petzel, seconded by B. Thomas. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 6 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

Return to Regular Meeting at 6:10pm.

11. Member Recruiting

Motion to accept Daniel Frohling, K. Kerr, seconded by J. Petzel. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 6 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

Motion to invite Elizabeth Dyer to become a voting member, conditional on it being acceptable, as she is being paid by the Town, C. Brazier, seconded by K. Kerr. Discussion as below. Roll Call. Motion passed, 6 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

- Cressica believes being a paid employee doesn't exclude someone from joining a committee.
- Discussion about there being conflict of interest in some cases. Members can recuse themselves from some votes.
- Harriet will check with Janet.

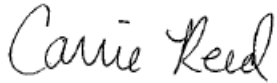
Islesboro Energy Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 8, 2026
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12. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:13 pm, J. Petzel, seconded by K. Kerr. No discussion. Roll Call.

Motion passed, 6 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed, Secretary

DRAFT