

Islesboro Energy Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 13, 2022
In-Person Meeting at 5:15PM, Town Office

APPROVED

1/10/23

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Myra Sinnott called the meeting to order at 5:18 pm.

2. Establishment of a Quorum

Quorum was established with over 5 members

Members Present: Myra Sinnott (via phone), Bill Thomas, Janis Petzel, Dick DeGrasse, Cressica Brazier, Toby Martin, and Josh Leach.

Members Absent: Holly Fields and Melissa Burns

Others Present: Murt Durkee and Janice Leach

3. Introduce visitors

- Murt Durkee was present to give a presentation on Thermal Imaging Cameras.

4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting

Motion: To approve Minutes of November 10, 2022, as written, B. Thomas, seconded by J. Petzel. No discussion. Motion passed, 6 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

Myra checked in to make sure everyone got the email invitation to join Google Group. It was sent Dec. 6th.

5. Thermal Imaging Camera Demo

- Murt and Josh gave a presentation on how Thermal Imaging Cameras work and demonstrated the Fire Department's current camera. They are able to detect heat and display the image on a viewfinder. They can be set so that the warm spots show up as darker or lighter areas on the screen. Bill asked Josh to send him some of the photos. Some cameras, but not this one, are capable of recording.
- Bill asked if the Energy Committee could borrow the camera occasionally to assess energy efficiency in municipal buildings. Murt replied that the Energy Committee would just need to schedule the time.
- The Fire Department will soon be acquiring a new camera, and Janice Leach asked the Energy Committee if they could contribute the additional \$800 for a camera with a recording feature that could be useful for Energy Committee projects. The total cost for a new camera is between \$10K - \$12K. The Fire Department doesn't need the recording feature, and will be getting a new camera in February or March, regardless of what the Energy Committee decides.
- Myra stated the Energy Committee will consider adding that to the budget. To be discussed at our next meeting.

6. Updates on Ongoing Projects/Old Business

Islesboro Energy Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 13, 2022
In-Person Meeting at 5:15PM, Town Office

a. TOU Rate

- Dick reported that the PUC said go ahead with negotiations with New Brunswick Power.
- Dick had a response from New Brunswick Power on December 5th stating they will look into TOU rates for Islesboro.
- Myra asked if the PUC approved a TOU rate for all of Maine. Dick replied that we will find out in the new year.
- Dick would like to marry the commercial and residential rates, and the CMP rates with the supply.
- Docket # 2022-00342 is coming up March 3, which deals with special projects for the State. We could qualify with our project with NB Power regarding heat and off-peak power. Dick has signed up for emails and wants to study the details before asking for the Town's permission to proceed with a project with NB Power and the Maine Public Utility Commission.
<https://www.maine.gov/mpuc/regulated-utilities/electricity/rfp-awarded-contracts/combined-heat-power>
- Dick said that if NB Power doesn't come through with the rates we are looking for, Dick will go to Vermont Public Power.

b. Library Update

- Toby reported that the library is in waiting mode until we hear from Justin, who is coming Thursday to talk about options for the work to be done if we get the funding/grant.
- There is a rolling deadline possibility with the Maine Community Foundation. If we get a proper audit, we can apply for those funds, with a deadline in June, and the other application would be due in January.
- Bill clarified that Justin may come Wednesday (tomorrow) instead of Thursday to install fixtures. Bill clarified that Justin is not coming to talk, but to squeeze in the work. The library will evaluate the fixtures over time, and Melissa will give her determination about that later.

c. Energy Efficiency Update

- Bill reported that we are on schedule for the end of the year for a heat pump for the conference room in the Town Office. We have a contract with Revision. Bill will clarify with Will on the location of the installation (where the air conditioner is currently).
- Rebates to subsidize installation. Cressica has been keeping track of options. We can submit a grant application for up to \$2800 to Efficiency Maine for the Municipality Retrofit Grant Program. It has to be submitted before the work is done, ASAP. Cressica and Bill will coordinate within the next few days. If this needs a signature, either Bill or Janet will sign, since Myra is out of town.

Islesboro Energy Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 13, 2022
In-Person Meeting at 5:15PM, Town Office

- Dehumidifier in basement was malfunctioning. Bill has sent it back to the company for free. They will fix it and Bill will put it back. We have monitoring probes for humidity for keeping track, and Bill has a record of levels. Toby asked if the dehumidifier is part of the HVAC system. Bill answered that it is not; it is isolated from the rest of the building.
- Apartment is insulated, and there's a lock box on the thermostat for the boiler. Linda Wentworth has reported that the apartment is not holding its temperature when it's below 30 degrees outside, and the heat pump may not be working correctly. Bill has spoken with Will Field to ask if he can take a look at it when he's here to install the heat pump in the conference room. We're going to try to get recording thermometers up there as well. We would like to do an experiment when the apartment is not occupied. We could also do weather stripping to reduce leaks. If it turns out the heat pump is badly sized, we can easily replace it.
- Fuel consumption in the municipal building is low so far this season.
- Library: first is the work on the lighting, and then the insulating will follow, probably in early summer, based on Justin's request that the insulating work not be done before he has been able to work on the canister lighting.

d. Municipal Building Project Update

- Myra is the new liaison with the Municipal Building Project Committee.
- Several members of the Energy Committee attended the meeting with the architect. Although it was nice of him to explain some things, many of us felt that he was not taking seriously the idea for slab heating for the Up-Island Public Safety Garage.
- Bill would like to emphasize that he feels the architect's arguments against the slab heating are unfounded. He is not providing arguments that are believable, and those should be countered effectively. The architect would like to plan for a heat pump for the Garage. Bill stated that a heat pump is the worst possible way to heat a space where volumes of air are being exchanged. Heat pumps are good for maintaining temperature in a well-insulated space, but terrible at recapturing temperature.
- Toby stated that he felt the conversation at the meeting was monopolized by the architect, and that the Energy Committee has been on the outside of the loop. He would like the Energy Committee to be more involved and have more input into the process.
- Myra stated she feels there have been some misunderstandings, and we need to come to a better understanding with the MBPC. Myra will reach out to Lauren to follow up. The attempt to include the Energy Committee was appreciated, but it felt like a managed attempt. Myra will try to get more of a collaborative relationship established.

Islesboro Energy Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 13, 2022
In-Person Meeting at 5:15PM, Town Office

Myra had to leave the meeting early at this time.

7. Discussion

a. IEC Treasurer Discussion

- Bill stated he feels this should be tabled until Myra is present to discuss, as she is the one who is dealing with the budget.
- Janis stated that a typical treasurer takes in funds from donations and sends out funds for bills. We don't get donations. We get one line in the Town budget, and monitor that. All our money comes through the Town. We make recommendations to the Town Manager, who approves the spending.
- Toby stated that one of the reasons he proposed this idea is that we don't know the details month-to-month about what's happening with our budget, and we don't have a cumulative report. Bill explained that we draw against the line that we get in the Town budget. We only need to ask Janet for a record of the accounting.
- Toby would like to see someone in the position to monitor this more closely, and that details in contracts are clear so that we can break down the figures and finish the jobs correctly.
- Janis feels that we could have a report on the agenda every month, or quarterly, but a typical treasurer would be overkill. Janet is very good at making it all even out.
- We will share our thoughts with Myra, and next meeting she can comment.

b. EV Charger sign for Town Office and ICC

- Toby presented some graphics for signs he feels should be placed on the road and near the EV chargers to direct people to their locations, especially at the Town Office. A sign with instructions would also be helpful.
- Total cost would be less than \$150.
- Janis stated that we should get a real Level 2 charging station at the Town Office.
- Dick stated that the signage should include an electrical description with the voltage and current.
- Table for next meeting.

8. Coordination/Communication with Other Groups

- Janis suggested coordinating with Islesboro Affordable Properties to create new energy efficient housing.
- Boardman Cottage is thinking about insulating and installing solar panels in the future. Myra is communicating with them.
- How do we communicate with the community about how we can help with consulting? Bill answered that one thing we can do is write articles for the newspaper.

Islesboro Energy Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 13, 2022
In-Person Meeting at 5:15PM, Town Office

- The Energy Committee would like to recommend that the Town buy the streetlights from CMP. We would get rid of delivery fees. Bill has figures for this. The Town has a bucket truck and can do its own maintenance.

9. Homework for next meeting

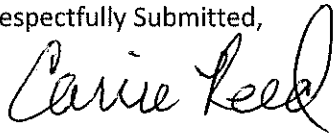
- a. Janis and Bill to write articles for newspaper.
- b. Start thinking about budgetary considerations for next year.
- c. Cressica and Bill will work on the grant application.
- d. Myra to make recommendations to the MBPC and the architect about slab heating.

10. Next meeting, Tuesday, January 10th, at 5:15pm.

11. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 6:38pm, D. DeGrasse, seconded by J. Leach. No discussion. Motion passed, 6 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed, Secretary

