

Islesboro Energy Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 14, 2023
In-Person Meeting at 5:15PM, Town Office

APPROVED

3/14/23

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Myra Sinnott called the meeting to order at 5:20 pm.

2. Establishment of a Quorum

Quorum was established with over 5 members

Members Present: Myra Sinnott, Bill Thomas, Janis Petzel, Dick DeGrasse, Cressica Brazier, Toby Martin, Josh Leach.

Members Absent: Holly Fields and Melissa Burns

Others Present: Janice Leach

3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting

Motion: To approve Minutes of January 10, 2022, as written, J. Petzel, seconded by T. Martin. No discussion. Motion passed, 7 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

Myra thanked the Committee for the good job everyone has been doing.

4. Updates on Ongoing Projects/Old Business

a. TOU Rate

- Dick stated he has responded to MPUC Docket No. 2023-00019, put out by the State regarding Time of Use rates. (See attached addendum).
- Dick is advocating that Islesboro create an Electric Department, to contract directly with either New Brunswick Power or NextEra, major suppliers to the State. We would include in that agreement Time of Use rates and encourage off-peak power.
- Maine is way behind, because we've had no TOU rate since the separation of supply and distribution.
- Toby asked who would administer the Electric entity that would contract with the supplier. Dick answered that this Committee would administer it. Janis added that it would be analogous to how Broadband is done here.
- Dick will send a copy of his response and proposal to the group.

b. ETIPP

- Janis stated they have not had the final meeting yet. ETIPP hired someone to do an exit interview with us. Bill, Cressica, Dick, Toby, and Janis were part of that interview. There will be another meeting with the regular crew on the 23rd.
- We got the final copy of our report. Bill found a mistake about the number of power outages, which needs to be fixed, along with the photo for the cover page.

Islesboro Energy Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 14, 2023
In-Person Meeting at 5:15PM, Town Office

- We're going into the home stretch of ETIPP. There will be a gathering of representatives in Alaska. Janis will provide info on that when she gets it.
- Bill would like to be involved in the meeting that's scheduled for the 23rd, but can't make that date and would like it rescheduled. Myra also would like to attend. Janis will have it rescheduled.
- Dick asked if there is any mention of TOU rates in the ETIPP report. Bill and Cressica confirmed that there is a brief mention of it in the report.

c. Energy Efficiency Update

- Bill reported that we have not yet received the rebate for the heat pump in the Town Office. Bill spoke with the program director and the check will come soon. Satchel Toole will be the contact person at Revision Energy.
- The dehumidifier is back in the basement and functioning. Bill showed the group a graph of the sensors in the Municipal Building. The baseline before the unit went into the basement was 88-89 % humidity. Now it's down to between 80-86%. Bill is suggesting we target 65-70%.
- Cressica suggested getting to Bill's target and then think about going to the recommended level of 60% for mold management.
- Bill showed graphs of the temperature in the PS Garage. It's cycling around 62 degrees. Bill proposes we don't do much with this right now.
- Bill has tried to keep up with data collection. It's a challenge. Dave has been sending invoices, but not routinely. Laura has been providing delivery volumes. Bill will give an updated report in April.
- It has been a challenge to set the thermostats in the apartment upstairs so they maintain the temperature in a way that makes sense. There is now a sensor set on the far wall. The graph shows it has been steady for the past week, and has no trouble maintaining temperature from 20-40 degrees outside. No data from the deep freeze period.
- Bill discussed the procedure for setting the temperature in the apartment. Bill typed up instructions for the occupants of the apartment.
- Work is ongoing to get an estimate on the library. It will be done by the end of the week if all goes well. The LED upgrade will be done on the 28th. The insulation will be done on April 6th.

d. Municipal Building Project Update

- Myra reported that we received the updated specs for the Up-Island Public Safety Garage.
- Gabe Pendleton will be our new direct contact person.
- PEX tubing is planned for the slab to allow for future radiant heating.
- Cressica reported that there are plans for forced air units for rapid response to major demands, so it's more than what was originally explained to us.

Islesboro Energy Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 14, 2023
In-Person Meeting at 5:15PM, Town Office

- Bill added that it's important to know the thickness of the slab, as well as the depth of the tubing in the floor. That will have an effect on the long-term storage capacity.
- Cressica gave an update on the MBPC meeting of earlier today. There was only one bid on the Up-Island Garage project, of over \$1M, which is way over the budget of \$400,000. They voted to recommend to the Select Board that they reject that bid and roll this project into the Health Center project under the guidance of a Construction Manager. There are several candidates interested in the project. The one contractor that bid did not include the PEX tubing as an alternate option as they were requested to do, so we don't have a reference price for that. The architect mentioned that the site work was likely a major component of the cost that he was not expecting.
- They did not get a professional estimator to estimate the cost of this building. The architect got an independent cost estimator to price out the Health Center, which came to just under \$500 per square foot, resulting in \$2.5M. Then the architect cut that in half as a guestimate for the Garage building, and put that in the budget.
- The architect speculated that the Construction Manager may suggest cost savings by cutting out energy efficiency recommendations, such as the pitched roof for solar panels.
- They did a break-out cost estimate for solar panels. For 26 panels, it was \$42,000. For half as many solar panels, they put half that price. Basically, there are many uncertainties as well as inaccurate cost estimates going into this bid.
- Steve Blatt told the MBPC, "We're going to be under the microscope of the Energy Committee for the Health Center, and we want to be able to respond to them positively and creatively."
- They may decide to not build the Up-Island Garage at all, in which case this project will probably go back to the Town for a vote.
- Dick added that he spoke at the end of the meeting about the docket regarding TOU rates, and said it would be irresponsible to not use slab heating because it would save the Town money. He said he had a private conversation with Steve Blatt and asked him if the Construction Manager would have the authority to change the heating system design. Steve told him he will. Dick said he also talked with the largest slab company in the US, and discussed a radiant heating mat with a 2-inch thick concrete layer on top of a regular slab. They promised any engineering we might need at no cost. They've done a lot of fire stations. They gave an estimate of \$10,000 for the mats.
- Janis spoke about how she had offered to look for grants. At one point she had spoken with the Congressional Offices about IRA grants. Jared Golden's staff was interested in coming out here and seeing they could help facilitate funds. However, Lauren wanted to do all this, so Janis handed it off. Do we want to look into this again? Myra responded that there is new guidance from the

Islesboro Energy Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 14, 2023
In-Person Meeting at 5:15PM, Town Office

Treasury Department around funding for small, rural communities. Janis will ask Janet if she wants us to contact Golden's office again.

5. Discussion

a. Budget/Annual Report

- Myra presented the IEC budget for July 2022-June 2023. There is \$30,000 left, plenty for the library work we want to do, and the EV charging signage. Discussion about costs and projects.

b. EV Chargers

- Discussion about full charger at the Town Office.
- The Library would like a charger, but we have missed the opportunity for a rebate. That will come around again soon.
- Discussion about type of charger and electrician. There is a variety of pricing.

c. Treasurer for IEC

- Discussion about role of the Treasurer. It would be for tracking costs, and organizing invoices and estimates.
- Toby is interested in volunteering for the role and starting the process.

Motion by J. Petzel to create a Treasurer/Financial Coordinator position, seconded by M. Sinnott. No discussion. Motion passed, 7 yes, 0 no.

Motion by M. Sinnott to nominate Toby Martin as Treasurer, seconded by J. Petzel. No discussion. Motion passed, 7 yes, 0 no.

6. Coordination/Communication with Other Groups

a. Newspaper article for IIN

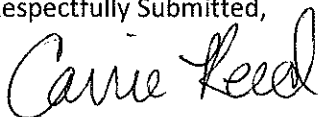
- The article was submitted to the IIN. It's a summary of how the energy use and spending has changed since we've done our projects.
- Janis wrote the text and Bill did the graphs.
- Janet said she's hoping to put paying off the solar panels in this year's budget.

7. Next meeting, Tuesday, March 14th, at 5:15pm.

8. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 6:44pm, J. Petzel, seconded by J. Leach. No discussion. Motion passed, 7 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed, Secretary