

Islesboro Energy Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 14, 2023
Zoom Meeting at 5:15PM

APPROVED

4/11/23

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Myra Sinnott called the meeting to order at 5:23 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.

Members Absent: Josh Leach, Holly Fields, and Melissa Burns

Others Present: None

3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting

Motion: To approve Minutes of February 14, 2023, as written, B. Thomas, seconded by M. Sinnott. No discussion. Motion passed, 6 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

4. Updates on Ongoing Projects/Old Business

a. ETIPP

- Janis reported that she spoke via email with Laura Beshilas at ETIPP. They misunderstood what we wanted. Janis told her that we were hoping that they would walk us through the report rather than just ask us for corrections. Janis requested the executive summary. It should be here by this coming Monday. They postponed the deadline for us to give them comments or corrections. They are preparing a slide deck. It's unclear if they will walk us through it before they do the final report. Janis suggested we ask them for paper copies to distribute to the community.
- Toby asked when the report will be ready. Janis replied that a draft of the executive summary will be done this weekend, and then we will have the opportunity to make corrections. She does not know when the final report will be ready. It could take weeks.
- Dick asked if the Island Institute is still involved. Janis answered that they are.
- May 2 – 4, there will be an in-person ETIPP meeting in Golden, Colorado. Bill will be going to represent us. We asked them to put on the agenda some kind of tutorial for how to finance projects.

b. Energy Efficiency Projects

- Bill reported that he is downloading data to update the files.
- Working on the billing on the heat pump.
- Bill will get to the humidifier in the basement in the next week or so and adjust the settings. We are shooting for 60-65% humidity.

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c. Library

- Bill reported that some dates for work have shifted. The insulation work is still targeted for April 6, but we may have to slide the canister light work a little later as they are having trouble getting some parts. Tammy and Justin assured us they will get it done on time for the insulation.
- Then we have to work out the timing for the rest of the light work.
- Discussion about the committee's role in the lighting and esthetics of the library. The Friends of the Library may be able to help fund the lighting that Melissa has chosen, or something similar.
- Toby asked Bill if he and Justin have settled the terms for the lighting that will be installed first. Bill answered that he forwarded the quote from Justin for the canister lights, around \$3,000.

d. Municipal Building Project Update

- Myra reported that Cressica has been on the job of finding possible grants to cover the cost of energy efficiency and other items that may be over-budget for the two new buildings.
- Cressica described an opportunity that she found. Two weeks ago, Toby brought to our attention that Senator King was having a call for congressionally directed spending requests, which usually means a large chunk of money going to local projects much like the Health Center and Public Safety Garage. With the Select Board members and Municipal Building Project Committee, we've arrived at a scope of energy equipment, medical equipment, and other needs that we can submit to Senator King's office and Senator Collins' office. The deadline is tomorrow. Janis had also put this opportunity on Janet's radar. It's coming together, and we have a fair chance of getting some funding for these needs. This could result in about \$900,000 in funding total from each of the projects that was funded in the past two fiscal years. Cressica has allocated about \$350,000 for the energy components, including solar panels, batteries, the generator—everything that can be installed after the envelope construction of the building is completed, and when this funding becomes available in mid- to late 2024. This is under the Health and Human Services Health Facilities account, for the Health Center building only. We are also including medical equipment, technology, and furniture in our request.
- Bill noted that there has been a push to get the building project done quickly, and asked if the MBPC sees the benefit of delaying the project, given the amount of money involved in this grant. Cressica answered that they are now discussing postponing certain parts of the project, potentially even whole phases of the project, like the garage, until we find more funding. Cressica has also entreated the architect and his team to suggest that the construction schedule be slid farther away in 2024. However, that doesn't necessarily

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benefit the project because costs are still going to escalate, along with other potential problems.

- Discussion about the timeline and the grant application process.
- Dick stated he had a long chat with Lauren Bruce on Friday. He was concerned about the timing of the projects, given the complicated rate design issues that are before the State right now. A change in the rate design would change the total energy perspective of the two projects. Lauren informed Dick that because of the high bid that came in, they are redesigning the Up-Island Garage as well as the Health Center. They don't expect the redesign to be done before mid-April. He also learned there are a few individuals who are applying to be the project manager. The project manager will have authority to make further changes in the design on-site if financially appropriate. Dick also gave the architect a copy of a proposal for a heating slab in Illinois for off-peak energy use.

5. Discussion

a. Annual Report Follow-up

- Myra thanked Toby for stepping up and doing the annual report.

b. IEC Treasurer Report

- Toby stated that after looking at the reporting method that the Town Office uses, he suggests a way to decode it somehow, and make it simpler.
- Toby stated he spent about an hour with Kathy Johnson, which was very productive. It was clear we didn't have all our data or documents to back up what was going on. Toby then revised his report.
- Toby stated that we are getting close to having real figures that we can depend on. Toby has an estimated balance for the remainder of the year: about \$18,000.
- Myra added that the committee requested \$49,000 for FY 2024, but no word on that yet. The Select Board is discussing the budget but hasn't voted on it yet.
- Bill suggested finding a way to get copies of every invoice and every check that is sent out against our budget to help clarify where we stand.
- The only thing outstanding is for Justin to put in the remainder of the lights, around \$10,000. The question is how do we use effectively the money that remains in the budget.
- Myra suggested perhaps we can use some of the money for an EV Charger at the library. Bill suggested maybe a heat pump in another part of the building, or the LED upgrade for the section of the Town Office that hasn't been done yet.
- Bill will have Justin update his estimate for the remainder of the work, as well as the LED upgrade.
- We will table next year's budget discussion for April's meeting.

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Myra offered another electrician option: Paragon Electric in Gardiner, Maine. This company installed her EV charger at home, and focuses on green energy solutions.

- c. EV Charger sign for Town Office
- d. ETIPP Handoff

- Janis is stepping down from her role as ETIPP point person and would like to pass the baton. Next month is her limit.
- A big part of the work ahead will be disseminating the gathered information to the community and present the final report to the Select Board.
- Janis is hoping we can take the slide deck that ETIPP is going to give us and make short presentations for other groups in the community, and perhaps do a presentation at the Summer Forum.
- The work that we do with the report is just starting.
- Bill is going to the meeting in Golden, Colorado as representative.
- Toby stated he is willing to help.
- Janis will finish gathering comments for the deadline next Friday. She will distribute the executive summary, a copy of the report that we have at this point, and collate any comments from the committee. At that point, she will hand it over to Myra.
- Bill proposes that we wait a little, digest the ETIPP report, then divide it into big portions for those who would like to help.
- Myra thanked Janis for all her hard work on this project. Janis stated it's been great working with the committee. This is her last meeting.
- Myra also thanked Janis for writing the article for the IIN.

6. Coordination/Communication with Other Groups

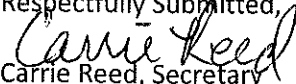
7. Homework for next meeting

- Myra will send members a list of items that were put in for the budget for next year for comments and suggestions.
- Please recruit new members.
- Please give Bill thoughts on what should be on the agenda for his meeting in Colorado.

8. Next meeting, Tuesday, April 11th, at 5:15pm.

9. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 6:37pm, B. Thomas, seconded by M. Sinnott. No discussion. Motion passed, 6 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Reed, Secretary