

5/9/23

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, Josh Leach, Dick DeGrasse, Cressica Brazier, Toby Martin.

Members Absent: Bill Thomas, Holly Fields, and Melissa Burns

Others Present: Janice Leach

3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting

Motion: To approve Minutes of March 14, 2023, as written, C. Brazier, seconded by J. Leach. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

4. Updates on Ongoing Projects/Old Business

a. ETIPP

- Cressica & Myra attended the offboarding ETIPP meeting yesterday with Laura from National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and Emily from the Island Institute.
- They asked us what we thought had gone well. We are the first group to be offboarding, or finishing the ETIPP process. They are figuring out how to best transition us out and support us going forward.
- Myra provided copies of a Q&A sheet ETIPP gave us on what they plan on doing. They will check in on us in 6 months, one year, and two years after the report is delivered.
- They will have our original contacts for the report and for the analysis. They can't help us with funding, as it would be a conflict of interest.
- Toby asked what is going on with the other ETIPP project in Maine, and if we get that info to benefit from it. Myra answered that we've created a relationship with that other group, and could be in touch with them and ask for updates.
- The Island Institute is prepared to support us going forward, especially in community engagement, i.e. how we digest our report and share the information most effectively with the community and the Board. Presentations, news articles, etc. They can help us with finding funding opportunities, as well as implementation of some of the items in the report.
- They expect to have the report done in June. They will also provide an extensive slide deck, with detailed info that we can easily present to the community. Myra will email documents to the group.

Islesboro Energy Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 11, 2023
Zoom Meeting at 5:15PM

b. Energy Efficiency Projects

- Bill reported via email that he had adjusted the dehumidifier in the basement of the Town Office, but by April 5th it had not gone down, and is still at about 73% humidity.
- Cressica and Bill created the instructions for setting the heat in the apartment. It was at 69 degrees most of February, even though it was empty most of the time.
- We're organizing the LED upgrade at the municipal building. Justin Electric is interested in bidding on the project, but wouldn't be able to do it until end of summer/early fall. Myra has asked Paragon Electric to look at the project and give an estimate. They will be here on Friday. They may be able to complete the project before July, which would help us spend down our budget balance.

c. Library

- Toby stated that we are ready to do the second part of Justin's work, as well as the rest of the work that was waiting until after he finished the first stage, to make sure Evergreen finished what they needed to do. We came in under budget on the first stage of Justin's work by about \$1000.
- The first-floor canister lights were installed and invoiced. The stairwell light was installed on its own switch. Basement canister lights have been ordered. We are waiting for an updated quote on the strip lighting. Evergreen has completed the insulation. Bill has started caulking some of the windows.
- We are waiting to evaluate the heating to see how the new insulation works.
- There are decisions to be made about what to do next. Toby would like the Energy Committee to come up with a 2- to 5-year plan.

d. Islesboro Energy Dept

- Dick reported that he received from Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (VPPSA) a wholesale rate of 8.2 cents/kwh. The Standard Offer is 14.2 cents. The savings for this island would be about \$34,000 per month.
- Dick has been working on this with the Maine Public Utility Commission.
- CMP only distributes power, they do not generate it.
- Dick has been talking with the Fox Island Cooperative on Vinal Haven and North Haven. Their rate is 30% less than ours, because they are able to buy wholesale power. They are their own utility, and own all the equipment and have a staff.
- Dick made a presentation to the Select Board and requested the Town create a legal municipal entity. Dick is looking into how to do that. Myra added that the Select Board asked the Town's attorneys, and they have responded that they don't think it's allowed in the State of Maine. We may need to lobby the legislature to change that.
- Dick has been in touch with Mitch Tannenbaum who is the lawyer for the Utility Commission and will speak with him tomorrow about what language to use for this municipality.

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- Cressica clarified what the state does not allow. This is the municipal aggregation option. There are aggregators that are included in the law. What we can do is the opt-in, like with our broadband. We can go door-to-door and ask people to sign up and agree to be part of our aggregated customer base. Challenges are the high transaction cost and the rate design. We also have to think about where we're going with reference to the ETIPP plan and our future, such as possible power purchase agreements with separate solar PV farms, or community-owned solar, etc., and how does that fit with what we're trying to do with this transitional rate with wholesale power. With rate design, when setting up their community or municipal aggregation, many places are designing their rates as "savings-sharing" in order to help fund the next stage of future upgrades. Universities and commercial operations have done this in Maine.
- Myra suggested if we want to propose new legislation, we work closely with the Island Institute.

e. Municipal Building Project Update

- Myra reported that Lauren sent an email stating that the MBPC would like Cressica to be the Ad-Hoc member. Cressica has agreed to do it.
- Cressica reported that she submitted the grant application, and in that process, she was able to connect with the assistant architect. The MBPC agreed it would okay if Cressica helped Lauren to communicate with the assistant architect.
- They are bringing on the construction manager soon, and that person will help redevelop the plans. The architects have already done a lot of the redevelopment, and they will be presenting plans to the Health Center soon. The Construction Manager will work with all of them to develop a budget, so that they can sign a contract by September. They should be able to start construction by the end of the year.
- Linda Gillies has reported to the Town that they have reached their fundraising goal.
- The grant we applied for is \$850,000, of which about \$400,000 is for energy equipment.
- The next MBPC meeting is May 3rd.

f. Treasury Report

- Toby stated he emailed a report to committee members a couple days ago.
- We are up-to-date in terms of all the bills that have been recorded by the Town treasurer. She sent Toby the latest info at the end of the month. Toby sent Kathy the latest figure from the first stage of Justin's work at the library.
- We have over \$19,000 left for this year. We've saved money in a number of areas because the estimates were higher than the work required.

5. Discussion

Islesboro Energy Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 11, 2023
Zoom Meeting at 5:15PM

- a. IEC projects/spending for remainder of 2023 into 2024
 - Myra reported on some ideas for options for the budget. They include the LED upgrade for the Town Office, and the EV charger for the library. Paragon Electric is coming to give an estimate for both of those things on Friday. We will also give Justin a chance to bid on the projects.
 - If we have any money left over, we will ask Janet about rolling it over into next year's budget.
 - Another idea is venting in the fire station for carbon monoxide from the trucks.
 - Toby asked about consulting with Janet on what other projects might be needed in all departments.
 - Discussion about other ideas.
 - Myra stated that she will share the email she sent to Janet with ideas that she compiled when she requested the \$49,000 for the new budget.
 - Josh reported that the purchase of a new thermal imaging camera has been put on hold because of the pause on the Up-Island Public Safety Garage.
 - We will have Revision give us an estimate on an additional heat pump.
 - Dick requested we reserve \$5000 for legal fees to look into the municipal electricity entity. Myra suggested that be in next year's budget.
- b. New committee member ideas
 - We have two seats to fill. Myra and Bill have been asking people in the community.
 - Myra stated that someone with grant-writing experience would be valuable, as well as anyone who would like to learn about energy efficiency. Experience in this field is a plus, but not necessary.

6. Coordination/Communication with Other Groups

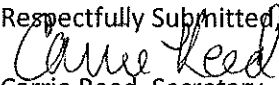
7. Homework for next meeting

- Myra will share a working document for ideas for next year's budget.
- Toby reported that he created a list of criteria for candidates for the Island Reader editing position. He will share that for help in recruiting new members for the IEC.

8. Next meeting, Tuesday, May 9th, at 5:15pm.

9. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 6:49pm, M. Sinnott, seconded by T. Martin. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted

Carrie Reed, Secretary