

Islesboro Energy Committee  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, November 14, 2023  
In-Person and Zoom Meeting at 5:15PM

APPROVED

12/12/23

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: Chair Myra Sinnott, Vice Chair Bill Thomas, Dick DeGrasse, Cressica Brazier, Monica Mullins, Holly Fields, Josh Leach, Harriet Bering, and Toby Martin (5:21)

Members Absent: and Melissa Burns, Ex Officio.

Others Present: Town Manager Janet Anderson, Ann Charlton, Kizzi Barton, and Janice Leach  
Via Zoom: Ken Senior, Jim Mitchell, and Fred Porter

3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting

**Motion: To approve Minutes of October 10, 2023, as written, B. Thomas, seconded by J. Leach. No discussion. Motion passed, 8 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.**

4. Discussion and Introduction of Energy Coordinators

a. Updates and next steps on Energy Prize

- Cressica reported that it's been an exciting first week.
- Ann and Kizzi have hit the ground running with many of the activities on our list, and have reached out to residents and other community groups. Harriet, Kizzi, and Ann met with the Sewing Circle to speak about the Energy Prize.
- Harriet stated that the presentation was well received by the Sewing Circle. They are interested in weatherizing and making their building more efficient. A number of people there gave Kizzi their names for a home assessment.
- The next activity is a Home Energy Assessment Day, probably with Evergreen first, and expanding out. After that, there will be several projects involving other organizations and the Island Institute.
- Bill reported on the Sewing Circle building energy audit. They did not do a blower door test, but will do it another time. There's so much to do there that the blower door test doesn't matter at this time. Bill has downloaded the data from their electrical and fuel use, and we will not save them any money on electricity—they already have LED lights, savings will come through insulation, and we have to wait for the report before talking about how to implement. We should have the quote within the next ten days.
- Cressica added that after working with community groups, Ann and Kizzi are starting to build the online resource—a centralized repository for information on all energy activities on the island—called the Islesboro Energy Hub at [islesboroenergy.org](http://islesboroenergy.org). They are also starting to explore grants, and getting

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training and support from the National Prize mentors. At the end of this week, we will be submitting our first report on all of our activities and the Prize budget to Janet and the Select Board.

- b. Introduce Energy Coordinators Ann Charlton and Kizzi Barton
- Ann Charlton introduced herself. She just moved to Islesboro a week ago, but has family ties on the island and is excited to be here, and to be a part of this important project, as well as becoming part of other groups on the island.
  - Kizzi Barton introduced herself. She's been on the island for 12 years and is grateful for this opportunity, and excited to be part of something that could affect real change for Islesboro and help people, cost-wise, and in the bigger terms of ecology.
  - Cressica talked about ways Energy Committee members can help Ann and Kizzi:
    - Asking acquaintances and community members to direct home energy needs toward them, to help with timing of projects.
    - Finding participants for the Prize projects.
    - Suggesting upcoming community events.
    - Identifying contractors and installers who can work on home energy projects on the island.
  - Reporting to Janet and the Select Board will happen bi-weekly or monthly via a progress report. There are a number of metrics we are tracking, including homes contacted, solar hosts, all activities, and budget items.
  - Monica Mullins asked if the coordinators could come to the Sporting Club for one of their monthly meetings.
  - Toby asked if the various meetings in the community will be recorded. Myra answered that the reports and information will be posted on the Energy Hub website. Toby asked about schedules, results, plans. Holly replied that the coordinators report to Janet. Toby clarified that he is concerned about action items for the Energy Committee, and coordinating what needs to be done. Myra suggested the Coordinators could attend Committee meetings sometimes and/or send reports. Otherwise, they will be sharing results with the Select Board and on the website. The Energy Prize project will be managed by the Select Board and Town Manager, with the help of the Energy Committee.

5. Quick Updates on On-going Projects/Old Business

- a. Energy efficiency projects update (Bill)
- Bill reported that the heat pump in the meeting room isn't working. He has contacted ReVision Energy, and it's scheduled to be repaired within a week. It may still be under warranty. It's now owned by the Town and will not come out of the Energy Committee budget.
  - The EV Charger payment system is still being set up.
  - The municipal building and the library are both done, and no upgrades are planned for the near future.

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b. Fire/Public Safety projects update (Josh/Cressica)

- Josh reported that Joshua Dutch from Paragon Electric has been contacted about the lights in the garage, which seem to have a loose connection. Will follow up tomorrow.
- Overhead Door Company fixed the far-left door, which was not going all the way down. It's now closing as it should.
- Josh would like to consult with Justin Electric on the louvres on the generator, to see if there's a way they might open when the generator starts. He hasn't been able to get in touch with Justin yet.
- The thermostat at the back of the station gets turned up and down when it gets bumped. Josh would like to move it to another wall. Bill added that the heat from the furnace affects that thermostat, so it shouldn't be on that wall. Bill offered to help find a location and install it. It can be done in house.

c. Municipal Building Project (Cressica)

- Cressica reported that there will be a MBPC meeting tomorrow morning. We will find out more about the Construction Manager process.

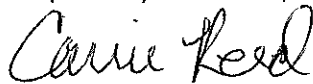
d. Budget update (Toby)

- Toby gave a budget update, with a spreadsheet record of the current fiscal year since July 1. Two items on hold are updates for the Fire Department and two heat pumps for the municipal building.
- Toby would like to add signage for EV charger, about \$250.
- The ICC does not have signage on the road. They have a sign in the parking lot.
- Discussion about the need for signage. EV owners have apps that show where charging stations are. Apple maps also have them marked.
- Toby asked about Town vehicles that will use the charging stations. Cressica answered that they have set up Town accounts at 100% discount. Town vehicles will charge at no cost.
- Fred Porter spoke about safety concerns with the EV charger. He recently read a report that recommends people stay with vehicles while charging, in case of a fire. Fred is concerned that this charging station is right outside the Fire and Public Safety Department.
- Myra stated they could recommend staying with the vehicle, but it would be difficult to enforce.
- Discussion about some people leaving cars for over a day sometimes. Fires in vehicles emit toxic fumes, and the door to the fire station is right next to the charging station. Fires are difficult to put out, and burn for hours.
- The community center has a posted time limit of 4 hours. We could do the same, and also post an alert with recommendations. Pricing can be increased after 4 hours.

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- Harriet asked Josh if the firefighters have training on EV fires. Josh answered that it's been difficult to get an instructor, but Murt will be going to a class soon.
  - Holly Fields suggested it would be more appropriate to move the charger to the other side of the parking lot. The current location was for testing purposes.
  - Cressica suggested coordinating with the MBPC if we move the charging station.
  - Bill stated that the hard part is done, they just need to extend wiring.
- e. Maine Power Options (Dick)
- Dick reported that Town Manager Janet Anderson has signed a contract with Constellation. The savings will be about 5 to 5.5 cents/kWh. The rate is locked in for a year.
  - Dick has notified the ICC, School Department, Boardman Cottage, and other municipal, non-taxable entities.
  - Toby asked if this rate varies with time of use. Bill answered that it does not with this contract.
  - Dick stated that Maine utilities are moving to time varying electric rates. He requested that Public Utilities developments and rate structures be an agenda item for every meeting. All of our energy project decisions will be dependent on the rate structures of the utilities.
  - It's possible for small commercial operations to get a rate almost as good as the Town just got, and Dick is looking into getting lower rates for individuals also.
6. Coordination/Communication with Other Groups
- a. Islesboro Energy Team (IET) is hosting a presentation on a bulk-buy heat pump program at library tomorrow, 11/15, at 5:30.
  - b. Melissa Olson has stated that the Library Board of Trustees would like to be involved in the Sustainable Libraries Initiative, a national program. The Friends of the Library have made a statement that they support sustainable projects.
7. Next meeting, Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, at 5:15pm.
8. Adjourn
- Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:18pm, H. Fields, seconded by B. Thomas. No discussion.**  
**Motion passed, 9 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed, Secretary