Islesboro Energy Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 11, 2025
In-Person and Zoom Meeting at 5:15 PM

☑ APPROVED
4/8/25

MINUTES

1. Call to Order
   Chair Harriet Bering called the meeting to order at 5:19 pm.
2. Establishment of a Quorum
   Quorum was established with over 4 members

   Members Present: Vice Chair Bill Thomas, Janis Petzel, Holly Fields
   Members Present via Zoom: Chair Harriet Bering, Cressica Brazier (5:28)
   Members Absent: Trevor Blackford, Monica Mullins, Melissa Burns, Ex Officio
   Others Present via Zoom: Nita Villarreal

3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting

   Motion: To approve Minutes of February 11, 2025, as written, J. Petzel, seconded by B. Thomas. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

4. Fire Station Presentation and discussion
   - Bill had circulated a report to the group. This was presented to Fred and Murt at a meeting with them last week.
   - Bill summarized the report. The idea is a twin heating system. We keep the furnace that's there, and add in heat pumps. The heat pumps are designed to cover the normal heating requirement for the garage. The furnace will stay, with a primary reason of rapid recovery of heat when there is a drop, and as backup, should there be any malfunction. This will prolong the life of the existing furnace. Everyone is at ease with the combined approach.
   - Bill reported that Fred and Murt both had a couple of requests. Fred asked for some heat to be directed nearer the ambulances, instead of having all the heat pumps on the west wall. Bill stated he talked with some of the contractors, and there's no problem doing that.
   - Fred and Murt approve of the plan; we need to decide which of the contractors to engage.
   - Janis stated she thought the meeting with Fred and Murt went well.
   - Harriet added that there was some confusion from a couple years ago, because at that time, the fire station was low on the priority list of energy improvement. It is now the next item of business. After the energy audit was done, a contractor proposed moving the generator outside rather than trying to better insulate the current generator room. Fred and Murt are in favor of this idea.
   - Bill stated that there's no deadline on moving the generator. In terms of timing, what requires our immediate focus is getting the rebate application in to Efficiency Maine. We have a little over two weeks to do that.
   - Bill has spoken with Satchel Toole at Efficiency Maine. He knows our application is coming, and he's prepared to move it as expeditiously as he's able to. It's just a question of who does the work. Three bids are listed in Bill's report.
   - Proposals:

  - ReVision, (2) 18K units, $14,500, which will cover only about 60 to 75% of the heating demand. This is because of the current 100-amp service. If we put more in, we'll have to upgrade to 200-amp service at an additional cost.
  - Mark Ogden, (3) 24K units, $18,720. This does not include electrical work. We don't know how much this will cost.
  - SolarLogix, (4) 18K units, $30,000 including electrical upgrades. He wrote in the Efficiency Maine and Nature Conservancy rebates, which brings it down to about $20,000.
- Discussion about bids. Bill stated that Kurt Penney's response was the most flexible and the most complete. Satchel Toole at Efficiency Maine also expressed that SolarLogix is easy to work with. Bill thinks that they are our best choice.
- Janis added that if we get the OCED grant, we need to have a relationship with someone who can do solar, and SolarLogix can do that.
- Cressica stated that she didn't see a comparison that included the municipal rebates for Mark Ogden. If we include those, his bid is quite a bit lower than SolarLogix. He's doing this same process for the library installation, and he will be submitting the municipal FON with Satchel. It seems like we could figure out what the electrical upgrade costs would be. SolarLogix proposal was too high for the library.
- Cressica added that we're going to have the solar RFP for the health center soon, and we're also doing solar for the library with SolarLogix, so we are developing that partnership.
- Bill added that Kurt Penny spoke to the possibility of getting better pricing because of the cooperative work, but he didn't write that into his proposal.
- Harriet added that Fred requested that we find a contractor who can provide a service contract.
- Bill stated that Mark Ogden and ReVision don't do service contracts. SolarLogix said they do service contracts all the time, and they can be on the island the next day. That was the pivot point for getting Fred's agreement.
- Cressica stated she would like to compare pricing for multi-split heat pumps vs. single unit heat pumps. We could pursue a package with either SolarLogix or Mark Ogden. Either we push on one or push on the other. They could come up with a better price for both.
- SolarLogix and Mark Ogden bids are not that far apart.
- Cressica asked Harriet if she could coordinate to take another look at the library contract with SolarLogix, because they are coming in so low on the fire station project with single unit heat pumps. Maybe that is a direction to go. It needs to be less than $15,000 for the library to be competitive with Ogden. Bill stated he could call them and find out.
- Cressica also asked Harriet if she could push forward with Ogden.
- Cressica stated that she wants to establish what the cost difference might be for SolarLogix vs. Ogden, so that we have it on record.
- Holly stated we need to follow through with SolarLogix and ask them if there is something they can do with the costs on the library, and make a package deal, if they get the contract for the Public Safety building. Ogden doesn't have the service contract that Fred and Murt want.

Motion: To engage with SolarLogix, J. Petzel, seconded by B. Thomas. Discussion as below. Roll call. Motion passed 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

- Holly stated she would like to amend the motion and add a caveat. If we vote to accept SolarLogix today, and if someone contacts them and Ogden tomorrow and gets information that changes these figures, can we change our vote?
- Cressica asked if we need to vote on this, since we've already allocated the funding. Harriet replied that it's complicated. We have some funding, but it's not allocated to the fire station heat pumps. Harriet had a discussion with Melissa Burns about this year's budget getting the project started, given the time frame, and then shifting funds from next year's budget. Cressica clarified that it's all allocated to heat pumps. We would have accomplished the library heat pumps well under budget to the point that we could also fund fire station heat pumps with the same money.
- Janis requested to amend her motion as follows:

Motion: To engage with SolarLogix, unless we get new information that makes Ogden less expensive by several thousand dollars, in which case we would have an emergency meeting to revoke, J. Petzel. Discussion.

- Holly asked about the service contract. Janis agreed. Fred was adamant about that. He was excited about the whole thing with the service contract.
- Harriet recommended rewording the amendment to: "engage SolarLogix unless we get additional information about the competing proposals that require the committee to reconvene."
- Bill stated he is not happy about this. He has been doing this full time since the last meeting, and this is what we have as a result of that effort. This means he has to go back to Ogden and get him to give a complete statement, and then we have to get back together again to talk about it. If we go with him, we'd have to give the paperwork to him and get it in on time. We have no track record with him. SolarLogix can do this quickly. Bill is willing to pay the money in order to be guaranteed that we get the discount.
- Cressica stated that it needs to be conditional that we get the $2800 rebate per unit. Have we confirmed with Satchel that the rebate is still available? Bill replied that he asked Satchel whether the program has the funding that we anticipate could be used, and he said yes, there's no likelihood the funding will disappear. Cressica added that there will be a $4,000 difference if the Nature Conservancy rebate isn't available anymore. It affects the budget overall.
- Cressica stated that the Nature Conservancy rebate is written into the Municipal Funding Opportunity notice from Efficiency Maine. There are about 100 units allowed to get this additional $1,000. It's all through Efficiency Maine.
- Harriet stated she doesn't think we need to put an amendment on the motion. If information changes, we can always come back to discuss.

Janis withdrew her motion with amendment. Back to original motion, as written.

- Cressica registered with her vote that she feels we should have had all the information in terms of a full estimate.
- Harriet stated that Bill did the best he could, given the time constraints.

5. Budget Update
   - Harriet stated we gave the Town some revised budget numbers, which she circulated to everyone.
   - We took out the ventilation system request because, after considerable conversation, it's clearly a separate project. It wouldn't connect with the heat pumps at all. Bill had some discussion with contractors about it, but we decided it was outside the purview of this committee.
   - Bill added that he talked with SolarLogix about it and they said they could do it for about $9,500. It would be less if they were to do the heat and ventilation at the same time. However, that's not under time pressure, so we can always come back and navigate those waters after we move forward with the heat pumps.

6. Quick Updates on On-going Projects/Old Business
   a. Library update—heat pumps and solar
      - Harriet stated that we selected Mark Ogden as the contractor, and we're trying to get that nailed down.

   b. Municipal Building Project Update (Cressica)
      - Cressica had no update.

   c. EV Charger update
      - Cressica requested that someone else take on the EV chargers.
      - Holly asked if there is more than one. Cressica replied that we wrote the grant for two chargers to be installed at the same post, which is already installed.
      - Cressica stated that we could approach All Phase Electric to give us a quote. Their original proposal was really high. We also need to consider which vendor to use for the chargers. We cannot reuse the Grizzly.
      - Holly is interested in working on this. She asked about going to other electricians. Cressica replied that the installation itself is very straightforward. We just need to be aware of what amperage they're deciding to put in, because we don't know how much load the health center is going to draw. It might be small general service vs. medium general service. It would be nice to wait until the health center is operational so that we know how much electricity it's using, but we don't know if that's possible. We would need to talk with the teams involved. They're really worried that the federal funding will be seized, so they want to put everything through as quickly as possible.
      - Bill suggested putting in a gauge wire required for the higher demand. Cressica agreed that we can always change the amperage later.

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7. Community Event
    - Discussion tabled.

8. Grant application status
    - Harriet reported that the OCED Concept Paper has been submitted. We don't know about the future of the funding, but it's still listed as an open opportunity on the website.
    - We can submit a final, full application whether they give us the go-ahead or not. We don't know the timeframe on when to expect a reply.

9. New business
    - Bill circulated a report on the Waldo County Climate Action Committee (WCCAC). They are looking to create a more formal structure that might involve dues. They have not requested any dues from us. We are there in a very informal way. It's up to us if we want to formalize our participation with them. They're happy to host us as visitors.
    - WCCAC is planning two events: Earth Day, April 22nd, and a Resilience Festival in July. They are happy to have input and people to help.
    - Harriet reported that Dick de Grasse formally resigned from this committee. She stated that there are now two vacancies. One person has expressed interest, and there may be others. Maybe by the next meeting, we can pull together interested people and nominate new members.

10. Old Business
    - Janis reported that she received an email yesterday from Lisa Millette from the Island Institute that Islesboro's application for a Fellow was accepted. The Fellow arrives September 5th. Interviews are in April. We have housing available at Christine Robb's apartment. Late July and August, Candice Provey and Janis will do the Advisor training sessions. If anyone from this group would like to participate, that would be great. You just have to decide by mid April.

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

12. Adjourn
    Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:08 pm, B. Thomas, seconded by J. Petzel. No Discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carrie Reed
Carrie Reed, Secretary