

Islesboro Energy Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 12, 2024
In-Person and Zoom Meeting at 5:15 PM

APPROVED

4/9/24

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Myra Sinnott called the meeting to order at 5:17 pm.

2. Establishment of a Quorum

Quorum was established with over 5 members

Members Present: Chair Myra Sinnott, Dick DeGrasse, Cressica Brazier, Josh Leach, Holly Fields, and Melissa Burns, Ex Officio

Members Present via Zoom: Monica Mullins

Members Absent: Vice Chair Bill Thomas, Toby Martin, and Harriet Bering

Others Present: Kizzi Barton, Janice Leach, and Owen Howell

3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting

Motion: To approve Minutes of February 13, 2024, as written, D. DeGrasse, seconded by J. Leach. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 6 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

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

a. Committee Chair meeting update (Myra)

- Myra reported on the Committee Chair meeting that took place on February 15th, for the Chairs to give updates to the Select Board. This will probably continue to take place every six months or so.
- Myra's biggest takeaway was that a grant writer is needed for the Town.
- A written summary is posted on the Select Board page of the Town website.

b. Energy Prize update (Cressica)

- Cressica reported that the Energy Hub has been fortunate to meet with a couple more community groups, including the IESC. We will be following up with them.
- We were able to meet with the Sustainable Housing and Development Foundation, who are financially supporting our first small-scale weatherization project on the island, and hopefully also a provide seed fund of about \$1,000-\$2,000 for Window Dressers, which will help us provide window inserts for people who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford them. We will need to find a way to bring that fund up to about \$5,000-\$6,000 in order to organize a community build. Window Dressers inserts will help save 10% or more of heating costs. The Foundation will also be working with us to develop smaller and larger-scale solar arrays at a more affordable price than we could otherwise do, which means cutting people's electricity costs significantly.
- Kizzi has started the Window Dressers training, and we will be recruiting a team to join us in organizing volunteers for building as well as measuring.

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- We have been in contact with Central Maine Power (CMP), for a potential microgrid exploration and how to get more solar. Myra has also put us in touch with a microgrid developer.
- We are meeting with an NREL microgrid modeling researcher who might be able to help us better develop our project design so that it's more viable for a developer. These are very risky projects, and we want to make sure people understand the project so they don't overbid on it once we get our grants.
- At the end of this month, we will bring back Colin McCollough for another home-energy assessment week. He will also be leading DIY weatherization training workshops with a number of people who are interested. We are hoping to get a lot of his recommendations implemented right away.
- We have several other community outreach activities planned.
- Kizzi spoke with Andrew Kahrl at ReVision regarding our projects. He used to live here and has a good understanding of how things work on the island. He designed the array that's on the municipal building.
- Dick asked Cressica to define a microgrid and what it consists of. Cressica explained that if we're allowed to contract with CMP to piggyback on their infrastructure, then we're not allowed to use fossil-fueled generation. It would need to be renewables and some kind of storage in addition to the microgrid controllers. If we were to do it on a specific site, like the Town Office Complex, we could build our own infrastructure and include diesel generators. Those are decisions we need to make as we go along, and that's why we need the research and microgrid developer partners in order to plan out those scenarios and decide what our proposed pathways are. Dick asked if the Hub will have a written description for the committee. Cressica answered that they are working from the ETIPP report, which has descriptions of these microgrids as they laid them out. Final report:
[https://www.pnnl.gov/sites/default/files/media/file/format%20fix%20ETIPP Islesboro%20Maine Energy%20Concepts%20Paper Final%20Report FINALV2 SE.pdf](https://www.pnnl.gov/sites/default/files/media/file/format%20fix%20ETIPP%20Islesboro%20Maine%20Energy%20Concepts%20Paper%20Final%20Report%20FINALV2%20SE.pdf)
- Myra stated she will email the link for ETIPP report with the microgrid. Solar is the main technology. The gentleman we spoke with from the lab is also interested in looking into tidal-wave energy opportunities on the island.

c. Fire/Public Safety projects update

- Josh reported that Bill was able to free up louvres on the generator for outgoing air. We need to determine if it's just a matter of tightening up the generator building more to alleviate the air leakage coming in, or find a new louvre system on the air intake.
- The pedestrian door needs a new lock set, weather stripping, and paint.
- The new thermostat still needs to be connected. Bill had to order a 24-volt transformer to power the thermostat.
- We looked into the attic insulation. We need to take another look with a professional.
- Sticky windows need maintenance. They are Thermopane windows, but they are hard to close.

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d. Library/Town Office Update

- Cressica reported that they are working on getting estimates for the lighting project. Originally it was going to be one room, but it turns out that everywhere except for the front room doesn't have LEDs. We're looking into combining budget forces with the library in order to complete the LED project, as long as we can get an electrician on board by the end of June.
- We'll wait on the heat pumps until after the bids are pursued.
- For the Town Office, Bill said he's received two quotes for the heat pumps, one from Solar Logix and one from Midcoast Energy. Conforming to Efficiency Maine requirements is underway.

e. Municipal Building Project update (Cressica)

- Cressica reported there was a MBPC meeting today where the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) was presented. It came in higher than the budgeted amount at \$3.7M, so they're requesting that the Select Board consider asking the Town voters for the additional \$1.2M in funding in order to proceed with the current design for the Health Center. They would then put the Up-Island Garage on hold. Based on getting more funding approved, they'll be able to move immediately on the Health Center, and either find another way to build the Up-Island Garage, or try to come up with more grant funding to try to get it into this current development process.
- Melissa asked about the Energy Committee budget of \$5,000-\$7,000 to help with the remodel of the municipal building. The Select Board will need to know within the next couple of weeks if that money will still be requested. If so, the Board will want the Fire Department & Public Safety projects upgraded.
- Cressica added that part of this project was considering how to cost-effectively move the EV charger. Our budget this year, as well as our proposed budget, wasn't line-itemizing that contribution to the Municipal Building Project. We need to know how much the heat pumps cost, and then we can decide how to move the EV charger.
- Myra stated we will discuss budget changes via email.

f. EV Charger update (Monica/Holly)

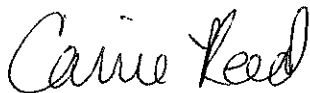
- Myra stated we should go ahead and purchase the equipment that has been identified and discussed with Murt.
- Monica will send information with details on two options. The first option is a fire blanket that covers a car, for \$4,722.00. The second option is a few items. The largest item is a safety case at \$1,549.
- Myra stated we have \$5,000 in this year's budget for this equipment. We should ask Murt what he prefers. Monica will bring it up at the Fire Dept. meeting on Monday.

g. Maine utility policy/rates update (Dick)

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- Dick reported that he has been in touch with Gerry Runte, a representative from York County, and with Paige Zeigler, representative from Waldo County, with regard to legislation that's before the Legislature in Augusta. He's been asked to talk about whether or not that would be useful for the Maine Public Utility Commission (MPUC). Dick has been in touch with the MPUC regarding off-peak power and load management principles and how it's applied. If some of these rates and policies are implemented, we might be able to incorporate some of it into our buildings. The MPUC may decide to have the standard offer include some load management, storage, and off-peak power provisions.
 - Dick provided a handout with his correspondence and a graphic of the load curve for the State.
 - Myra added that the Governor's office just released a draft report assessing 200-megawatt of utility-scale storage in the state. This could benefit us, even though it's on the mainland.
- h. Annual Report update (Toby)
- Toby has been ill, so Myra will take over this project. Please send info to Myra.
5. Discussion about new ferry design. As we talk about microgrids, we can incorporate the ferry charging infrastructure into the design. We will stay alert for updates.
6. Homework
- Myra will work on itemized budget.
 - Monica: Sporting Club open to working with Energy Committee. Will write up a description of how they would like to work with the committee.
7. Next meeting, Tuesday, April 9th, at 5:15pm.
8. Adjourn
Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:06 pm, H. Fields, seconded by J. Leach. Roll Call. Motion passed, 6 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed, Secretary