

Islesboro Energy Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 7, 2026
In-Person and Zoom Meeting at 5:15 PM

APPROVED

5/19/26

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Harriet Bering called the meeting to order at 5:16 pm.

2. Establishment of a Quorum

Quorum was established with over 4 members

Members Present: Chair Harriet Bering, Vice Chair Bill Thomas, Holly Fields, Ava Schlottman, Cressica Brazier, Janis Petzel, Kathy Kerr

Members Present via Zoom: Trevor Blackford (5:17)

Members Absent: Peter Rothschild, Ex Officio

Others Present: Island Fellow Elizabeth Dyer

Others Present via Zoom: Tom Tutor (5:51)

3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting: March 10, 2026.

Kathy suggested a grammar correction.

Motion: To approve the Minutes of March 10, 2026, as amended, K. Kerr, seconded by H. Fields. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 7 yes, 0 no. B. Thomas abstained.

4. Project updates

a. Fire station

- Bill stated that Bill Schoppe offered to do the ceiling in the generator room but not the insulation.
- Evergreen has sent a proposal for the work.
- Ethan Spaulding looked at the room last week and is interested in the work. He said it will be a while before he can provide an estimate, but he will be taking an approach that is similar to what Evergreen is proposing. He's going to propose an exterior-quality door to replace the existing door, and his insulation approach will be different. It will focus on rockwool, rather than blown-in cellular.

b. EV chargers

- Holly reported that she has been in contact with three companies: OptConnect, ChargePoint, and what used to be EVgo (they've changed their name).
- The representatives have told Holly that there is no modem in our charger, so it cannot communicate. Eric Jagger has suggested Holly talk with Greg Janney to see if one can be installed.
- Holly also asked what they would charge to install units to replace the one that is there. Waiting to hear back. The existing unit could be sold to someone who doesn't need a modem.

Islesboro Energy Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 7, 2026
In-Person and Zoom Meeting at 5:15 PM

- Cressica suggested going back to SolarLogix to see if we can swap it out. They should be able to recommission the existing unit. They recommended this one, but we didn't look closely at the specs. There should have been better communication on both ends.
- c. Ground Array for Health Center
- Cressica stated that Gartley & Dorsky permitting specialist Alyssa Pulver had a meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers, and reported back to us that the Army Corps are not able to issue permits, because these permits now have to go through the Department of the Interior, and those permits are just not being processed. This has been happening since August of 2025. No one is getting federal permitting, which is required for any infringement on wetlands like we need to do in order to have any useful land. This is the federal administration blocking solar and wind energy development that infringes on any federally protected land.
 - We can go up to the wetland lot delineation line, but we should also look at options. Although we don't have to get a state or federal permit, we are severely constrained.
 - Cressica would like to talk with Kathy and other people to look at a variety of options.
 - Harriet suggested forming a subcommittee.
5. Fellow Update
- Elizabeth stated the Trashion Show is next week at 5:30pm. She thanked everyone for being supportive and for the donations. Thanks to Trevor for volunteering to drive.
 - There will be people coming from the mainland on the last ferry, and will take the Quicksilver back. There will be plenty of room on the Quicksilver for others who may wish to join.
 - Elizabeth will have brochures at the show, explaining the fellowship, with a couple of panels featuring her energy work. She will also display the poster that was at the Sustainable Water Conference.
 - The Island Institute has a Community Clean Energy Grant for up to \$20,000 for at-home upgrades, community energy projects, etc.
 - Harriet stated she passed the grant information along to Islesboro Affordable Properties. Perhaps we could work with them. The next cycle will open in July.
6. ETIPP Update & Site Visit Preparation
- Harriet reported that the ETIPP folks will be here for a site visit on Thursday and Friday.
 - There will be a couple of representatives from the National Lab of the Rockies (NLOR), as well as Skye and Kate from the Island Institute. We will drive them around Islesboro to look at things that they're interested in.
 - There will be representatives from CMP and the Ferry Service joining us. It will be good to talk about energy needs for the new ferry, such as charging and storage.
 - The group will look at Town facilities, certain individual homes, and problem areas.
 - On Friday, they will be attending a meeting at the library for organizations looking to coordinate efforts so events don't conflict with each other. Dan Tutor is talking about publishing a schedule for the summer. Since all those people will be gathered there, it will be a good opportunity to

Islesboro Energy Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 7, 2026
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present the ETIPP program. This will be followed by lunch at the Town Office, with a short presentation.

- Trevor stated he will help follow up with people who haven't responded.

7. Town Electrical Use Report

- Bill reported that the four arrays cover about 50% of the electrical demand of the municipality. Each has its own problems and challenges.
 - Library array: We've had difficulties just getting adequate reporting through the website. Another problem is the shade from nearby trees. This diminishes productivity in the winter, when we can really use the help to cover some of the demand.
 - Health Center array: It's steep, so it sheds snow effectively. It produces routinely, but not a lot.
 - Town Office array: It's large, but is obscured for several days after a snowfall, to considerable deficit. That's a maintenance issue.
 - Salt shed array: not much information on that. We will need to look at it.
- If we focus on the two central arrays, the Town Office and the Health Center, the prominent issue is the demand fee we're paying at the Health Center, and the possibility of having to pay the same demand fee in the Town Office account. Cressica had commented that the demand has been inconsequential, as the solar array has been covering it for a good percentage of the year. That was true until the heating system kicked in. The demand started going over the limit for a Small General Service account, keeping the Health Center as a Medium General Service account with a whopping surcharge for the demand fee. Bill was worried that we were in threat of having the same situation at the Town Office, because we've gone over the limit several times, but there were breaks which elongated the 12-month period, so we haven't had more than four months within a 12-month period. These are issues to be aware of.
- Harriet added that Bill has been investigating information to get us some ballpark figures for battery storage, which can be used during high-peak times. We're trying to get more electrical production for the Health Center, behind the meter, which can help.
- Perhaps it would be worthwhile for a couple of us to meet with Health-Center staff and find out how they are using the heating system, and whether there are opportunities to save money. It seems they are using more than we anticipated.
- Bill stated that we are still paying for fuel oil for the apartment at the Town Office. It's an unnecessary expense.
- Janis asked Bill about the passwords for Elizabeth. She needs them to do her work. Bill stated that he and Elizabeth have spoken about this.

8. Event Subcommittee

- Janis stated the group has met, and they are refocusing. They need to have a longer discussion about the events that are well attended vs. those that aren't well attended, and how we can use our time more effectively.
- Our goals for the next meeting are to go over what people learned at MaineCan, and start working on ideas on how to coordinate with other things that are going on, instead of having

Islesboro Energy Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 7, 2026
In-Person and Zoom Meeting at 5:15 PM

our own programs. We could have a table at the Farmers' Market, or a pop-up café at the Community Center.

- We're starting to discuss grants. We'd like to coordinate programs with money that might be available. Harriet replied that we have event money in the budget, and what we present should parallel what we're doing with grants.
 - The Island Institute has a Community Clean Energy Grant for up to \$20,000 for at-home upgrades, community energy projects, etc.
 - Community Action Grant through the Community Resilience Partnership, \$75,000, due in June. It has to be a municipally administered program, and the money can't go directly to residential or commercial upgrades. It can be used for a program that helps residents, such as an energy coaching program. Cressica suggested that this be discussed at a small workshop soon.
 - Cressica added that the FEMA BRIC grant can fund microgrids. It's coming up in June and July.
- Harriet stated the Committee should have a work group focused on grants.
- Harriet, Janis, Cressica, Kathy, and Elizabeth volunteered to be in the work group.
- Kathy stated she has a speaker ready to come to the island. She spoke with Bruce Clafin, who told her there is no more room on the Forum schedule. The idea wasn't presented to them; Peter didn't talk it up. They have no energy to collaborate on a joint presentation with another program. We could field this ourselves, but the Forum is the best place to present information to the population of summer cottage owners as they remodel their homes.
- Kathy recommends putting this off until next summer, when we can get a panel on the Forum. Kathy will go back to Bruce and get a spot on the calendar for next summer. We can coordinate with Trevor's recommended person, and Kathy will talk with Steve Phillips and see if he'd be willing to participate.

9. Proposed Energy Coaching – IAP, ICF Liaison – Kathy

- Kathy stated she attended the MaineCan Conference, where a speaker said that people know what they need, and we should not assume to know what they need. She is thinking about trying to meet folks at their needs. This coordinates with the idea of energy coaching, and with following up with folks who have already availed themselves of things that we've offered, such as Window Dressers and energy audits, to lend them a hand.
- Cressica and Elizabeth have both trained as energy coaches, through the same course. Kathy would be interested in putting together a small coaching group.
- Kathy would serve as a liaison to organizations such as the Islesboro Community Fund (ICF), who is often called for heating fund assistance. This population could be served by the Energy Committee to help them consume less fuel. She would also like to work with Islesboro Affordable Properties (IAP).
- The committee members agreed this is a good idea.

Motion to approve the proposal that Kathy Kerr is to serve as the Liaison for IAP and ICF and help coordinate an energy-coaching initiative, J. Petzel, seconded by C. Brazier. No further discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 8 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

Islesboro Energy Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 7, 2026
In-Person and Zoom Meeting at 5:15 PM

10. Other Business

- Harriet reported that she hasn't heard from anyone who might be interested in joining the committee. She might reach out to Bob Kochan.
- Members will think about other possibilities.

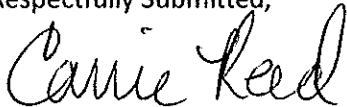
11. Next Meeting Date

- May 12, 2026

12. Adjourn

**Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:11 pm, K. Kerr, seconded by A. Schlottman. No Discussion. Roll Call.
Motion passed, 8 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed, Secretary

