

Islesboro Energy Committee  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, April 9, 2024  
In-Person and Zoom Meeting at 5:15 PM

APPROVED

5/14/24

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, Vice Chair Bill Thomas, Dick DeGrasse, Cressica Brazier, Harriet Bering, and Monica Mullins

Members Absent: Holly Fields, Toby Martin, Josh Leach, and Melissa Burns, Ex Officio

Others Present via Zoom: Kizzi Barton, Elizabeth Hayden, Trevor Blackford

3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting

**Motion: To approve Minutes of March 12, 2024, as written, B. Thomas, seconded by D. DeGrasse. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. B. Thomas and H. Bering abstained.**

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

a. Energy Prize update (Cressica)

- Cressica reported that the Energy Hub has launched the Home Energy Plan Survey. She encouraged everyone to go and try it out.
- Still looking for contractors and installers for heat pumps, insulation, etc. Myra added that Tanner Grant installed her heat pump water heater. He does on-island plumbing work, heat pumps.
- Cressica stated we have an article in the Island News to encourage people to fill out the Home Energy Plan Survey. We are up to almost 50 respondents.
- We've made a lot of progress on the solar and microgrid project, thanks to Myra, Kizzi, and Bill. Myra has been exploring potential microgrid developer partners, and we were able to meet with our first one. Kizzi made a meeting with CMP happen. We had a productive discussion about how to move forward with NREL for grid modeling, in addition to planning our first solar arrays and possible first microgrid sites. Bill launched an outreach program with the ICC.
- Bill stated he has been talking with the ICC over the past year or so, and Philip Ladd is interested. He has written a letter regarding setting up a mini-grid solar array in the Town Center, sent to various organizations centered in this area. Waiting for a response. He would like to meet with the Energy Committee. Discussion about possibly meeting April 24<sup>th</sup> in the morning.
- We have a Friday morning meeting with our Island Institute liaison.
- We are looking into applying for the Clean Energy to Communities (C2C) Technical Assistance Program, which would require a partnership with CMP, another community organization, and the Town, minimum. It would allow NREL to be of much greater assistance to us, and some researchers at NREL have expressed interest in being part of

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that. We will be talking with the Island Institute about that on Friday. We can start to plan out the grant proposal. Bill reported that Maggy Willcox got in touch a couple days ago regarding the Letter of support for the energy prize. Bill has provided guidance and woven in some of the considerations for the C2C grant proposal. Waiting to hear back from Maggy. This grant would work well in parallel with the other programs. The first deadline is April 19<sup>th</sup>, but we can wait for the next round.

- We completed the second round of home energy assessments. We went to 20 sites with Colin McCollough.
- We had a weatherization workshop at Carrie's home. We put foam pipe wrap on some plumbing. We cut foam squares for insulating the rim joists and spray foamed around them. We weatherized a door, and installed more insulation in the attic. There were about 5-6 people who participated, plus Colin, Kizzi, and Cressica. We then had a delicious vegan meal. We'd like to do another workshop.
- Bill suggested encouraging people to keep data, for before and after improvements.
- Kizzi suggested using a website for scheduling meetings. Regarding the C2C grant, it relies on us having support from as many people as we can. We're thinking about the State office, and many other organizations. Bill will be talking with Satchel tomorrow. Kizzi encouraged everyone to do the survey and get others to do it, too. Anyone can help someone by talking through the survey.
- Trevor Blackford suggested a creating a flyer with QR code at the ferry terminal. Trevor offered to help generate it.
- Kizzi said the assessments and audits went well last week. We're happy with Colin. His depth of knowledge is amazing. We're planning ways we can help people, hopefully financially, and definitely physically with things. The weatherization workshops were great. It just so happened that all of the participants were women. It was empowering to do these things. It was great to get together and help people be more confident in doing home energy improvements.
- Kizzi will be reaching out soon about Window Dressers. We will be looking for people to join our measuring team. Monica stated her husband Dillan is willing to help.

b. Fire/Public Safety projects update

- Bill has been trying to reach Kurt Penney from Solar Logix, who wants to look at the ICC and the municipal building regarding VRF (Variable Refrigerant Flow) heat pump installation. We got initial quotes, but need adjusted estimates. Proposal is at \$108,000, or \$70,000 with rebate.
- Midcoast, not as responsive or flexible, and their quote is significantly higher, at \$142,000.
- Efficiency Maine may be willing to move existing heat pumps from this building to the library. They won't be needed if we get a VRF system.
- Greg Janney hasn't finished installing thermostat in the garage.

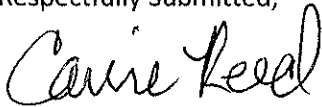
Islesboro Energy Committee  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, April 9, 2024  
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- c. Library/Town Office Update
  - Cressica reported that we might move forward with the lighting at the library within the next month.
  
- d. Municipal Building Project update (Cressica)
  - Cressica provided a handout and reported that we have an important vote coming up in a couple weeks, on April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.
  - It's important that we pass the bond. It's not much money; it will increase taxes by less than 1%. Everybody in the year-round community would only be paying less than a new ferry ticket per year.
  - If we pass the bond, we get another, matching \$845,000 from the federal government for medical and energy equipment. This just got passed by the House and Senate. Because it will fully fund the solar array, we will get free electricity for the new Health Center building, which will save taxpayers at least \$15,000/year, which is more than the share of the bond payment we're asking for.
  - If this project doesn't go through and the Health Center gets shut down, we will spend more on ferry tickets to go to the mainland for healthcare.
  - Monica suggested having a breakdown of the numbers on a handout at the meeting. Bill suggested making the major points first, and have the details on the other side.
  - Public info session tomorrow night.
  - Cressica and Bill will go over current and historical electrical costs for the municipal building.
  
- e. EV Charger update (Monica/Holly)
  - Monica sent email to Murt, Josh, and Jordy. Waiting to hear back. She will see Murt in person next week, and will talk to him about what kind of fire-suppression equipment he wants for the EV charger.
  - Myra stated that we are trying to get this purchased within this fiscal year.
  
- f. Maine utility policy/rates update (Dick)
  - Dick reported that House Bill 2172, which relates to Utility Commission moving into performance-based rate making, didn't pass.
  - Dick doesn't think that bill was detailed enough. It was too open ended.
  - For the microgrid meeting with Philip Ladd on the 24<sup>th</sup>, Dick can open up communication with the Utility Commission regarding performance-based rates for the new buildings.
  - Discussion about rate structures.
  - Kizzi stated that in the meeting with NREL, CMP was positive about the possible microgrid. If it works out, we will be trailblazers in Maine.
  - Bill stated it's critical to find the right person to make things happen. Kizzi feels confident we've found the right people at CMP. Community engagement is key.

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5. Discussion
  - a. None.
6. Homework
  - Myra will make adjustments to the budget report that Toby sent.
7. Next meeting, Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, at 5:15pm.
8. Adjourn  
**Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:21 pm, B. Thomas, seconded by M. Mullins. Roll Call. Motion passed, 6 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed, Secretary