

Islesboro Energy Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, June 10, 2025
In-Person and Zoom Meeting at 5:15 PM

☒ APPROVED

7/8/25

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Harriet Bering called the meeting to order at 5:17 pm.

2. Establishment of a Quorum

Quorum was established with over 4 members

Members Present: Chair Harriet Bering, Holly Fields, Monica Mullins, Kathy Kerr, Trevor Blackford

Members Present via Zoom: Cressica Brazier

Members Absent: Vice Chair Bill Thomas, Janis Petzel, Melissa Burns, Ex Officio

Others Present: Ava Schlottman

Others Present via Zoom: Peter Rothschild, Maria Forney

3. Approval of minutes from previous two meetings: April 8, 2025 and May 6, 2025.

Motion: To approve the Minutes of April 8, 2025 and May 6, 2025, H. Bering, seconded by T. Blackford. No further discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. K. Kerr abstained.

4. Introduction of new members; meet new interested member

- Harriet introduced Kathy Kerr as a new voting member. Bob Kochan, Eric Jagger, and Barry Wherren have volunteered to be consulting members, available when we need them. They are interested and supportive of what we're doing. They each have expertise that we can call on.
- Ava Schlottman has expressed interest in the committee. Ava introduced herself and stated she graduated college a year ago. In high school, she was involved with the Energy Committee through Bill Thomas. She helped with the LED lighting for the ICC and some school projects. She is living here full time and is available to help the committee.

5. Project updates

a. Fire station – Bill

- Bill was not present. Harriet explained that the committee is working on putting in heat pumps, and updating the generator room, possibly putting it outside the garage.
- We received a copy of the service contract for the heat pumps from SolarLogix. Bill has passed it along to Fred for review.

b. Library – Harriet

- Harriet reported that we have the proposal for heat pumps. We had submitted the proposals for the heat pumps for the fire station and library back in March because there was a deadline to apply for rebates. The rebates have been approved.
- No start date yet. Harriet was in touch with Mark Ogden this week. He hopes to get to the library project soon, but didn't give us a date.

c. Health Center – Harriet

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- Harriet reported that we finalized contract for the rooftop solar array. Sundog stated that they need to do a contract with CMP before starting work.
- Cressica explained that it's standard for them to start with the interconnection application to ensure they have all the right equipment and capacity in place.

d. EV chargers – Holly

- Holly stated that no one has called her back. She spoke with Eric this afternoon, and he said it's almost impossible to get electricians to call back immediately because they're all working a year out. She feels frustrated and ineffective, and is open to suggestions.
- Trevor asked Holly to send an email to the group with info on which electricians she's tried to contact.
- Holly stated that Cressica had suggested a FLO charger. Can we order the charger and have it installed later?
- Maria Forney stated she had a charger that sat for nine months before it was installed.
- Kathy stated that it was a similar experience for the ICC.
- Harriet explained the history of the charger that was installed outside the Public Safety Office. After Fred and Murt expressed concern about the location, the committee agreed to move it across the parking lot. However, we were not able to get the billing system to work on that charger, so we need to get new chargers. We talked about donating the old one to a non-profit.
- Trevor wondered if there is really much demand for an EV charger. He suggested a survey to determine use usage before we commit additional resources to installing.
- Holly believes it would be used, primarily by people who work at these facilities.
- Monica referred to a discussion about the ICC's charger being occupied by one party. One thought was to have another charger available to the public.
- Maria added that some chargers will bill the driver for idle time on the charger, which prevents a situation where someone parks their car and goes off for the day.
- Trevor stated that this brings us back to the question of our guiding principles. Harriet explained that this has been on the project list for a long time. It was decided before she joined the committee.
- Trevor asked what the benefit is to doing this project. Is it to encourage people to have more EVs? Harriet answered that it is also to provide a service to those who have EVs. The conduit has been put in, but the charger hasn't been purchased yet, so it's still open for discussion.

e. Fellow – Janis

- Janis was absent. No update.

6. Mission statement – Bill, Trevor, Monica

- Harriet explained that when the Energy Committee was initially set up, the primary mandate was to make the Town buildings more efficient and get clean energy sources. A lot of that work is nearing completion. This is a good time to revisit the mission of the Committee. We serve the Select Board, so if we decide on a revised mission statement, we take our recommendation to

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the Select Board for approval. Going beyond the Town buildings, we've thought about helping the community, helping people make their homes more energy efficient, as well as making the electrical grid on the island more resilient.

- Monica, Bill, and Trevor had volunteered to be part of a subcommittee to do some brainstorming on a new mission statement.
- Trevor reported that the group is still brainstorming. He suggested taking this over email.
- The group came up with an outline with "Goals" and "Things to do in pursuit of those Goals."
- Monica added that she jotted down a few ideas. One Goal is to "Increase Islesboro's resilience in the face of growing climate challenges." If there is a power outage, the stores are affected. The stores aren't part of the municipality, but it would be beneficial for the town if we can help them with generators or other clean power options. There's been talk of creating a firewood supply for outages. There are many downed trees that could be used for this. Maybe we can dip into the Community Outreach budget to pay Dustin Reidy or someone else to process wood.
- Trevor stated that these are activities. We can keep a list of these projects. First, we need to focus on the mission statement and resilience, and figuring out how we can measure that. Maybe a survey of how people might feel more secure in outages. Distribution of aid on the island could be something we can measure.
- Monica asked about measuring data from before and after the weatherization projects we did last year. Cressica confirmed that we are planning for the island fellow to measure this data.
- Kathy asked if the group has considered something global as a goal, that we could do in small pieces. Increased independence from the energy grid? Harriet answered that this is definitely one of the things the committee has talked about.
- Trevor stated that there are four items for the mission statement:
 1. Increase Islesboro's resilience in the face of growing climate challenges
 2. Electrify the island
 3. Reduce (eliminate) use of fossil fuels
 4. Reduce the amount of money island residents spend on energy
- Holly asked for clarification on "electrifying the island." Trevor replied that it means being able to support the demand projected for electrification on the island, partially by eliminating the use of fossil fuels, and also having the capacity and an updated grid.
- Trevor added that these are all broad and non-specific. We need to decide which ones we want to pursue and are useful to the island, according to the Select Board.
- Trevor suggested we have the discussion with committee members over email, and then vote on the goals at our next meeting. After we have the goals, we'll figure out how we can measure success for the goals, and then look at the individual tactics.
- Cressica stated she will send the original ETIPP proposal and report, in which Janis and Holly took a lot of time to lay out some goals. This might inform the discussion.
- Harriet stated it's worth looking at whether there are things on our list that we ought to drop.
- Holly stated she doesn't want to drop the EV charger project, because it encourages people to use that resource, but at the same time, she's frustrated with the lack of progress.
- Trevor suggested getting EV charger usage information from the ICC. Kathy stated that the charging software tracks the usage, so it should be possible to get it from the staff or Bill.

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7. Community event

- Harriet stated we haven't been able to organize an event for the summer. Kathy expressed a willingness to help work on that. If we're working on our mission statement and what we want to accomplish, the content and how we want to structure a community event would flow from that. Do we want to wait until fall?
- Trevor suggested we can formalize the structure in July, and maybe hold an event in August.
- Monica asked if we might be able to do data collection at the fireworks display, have a table set up with information and/or a survey. Monica and Trevor would be willing to man a booth.
- Kathy stated that it takes a lot of work to organize a conference. It would be difficult to pull that off by August. Inviting experts takes time.
- Discussion about different types of events, some that don't require a long-term planning.
- Trevor asked if we would like to do the Window Dressers community build annually or semi-annually.
- Monica stated that people have been asking about how well the window inserts work. Hers have made a big difference. The pricing is an obstacle for some folks.
- Holly stated that some people don't know that the older inserts can be rewrapped at a lower price. We can push out this information.
- Trevor added that Window Dressers has sliding scale pricing and financial assistance for those who can't afford to pay full price. You can get up to ten free, but are expected to volunteer at the build.
- Trevor stated he would be interested in doing it again this fall. He suggested that this is one of the things we can present at a fair in the fall.
- Cressica stated that last year, they finalized the dates for the build in August and did the measuring in September. We can do more to reach out to people in advance.
- Trevor suggested a Window Dressers working group. Trevor, Holly, Kathy, and Cressica volunteered. We can collect data from some of the organizations that got inserts.
- Maria suggested that someone who got them last year and has good things to say could write something for the Islesboro Island News. Monica will ask her father.

8. ETIPP Application

- Harriet explained that this is run by the Department of Energy. We did the first round a few years ago.
- They are taking applications for another round. Receiving this would allow us to develop more detailed plans for implementing the recommendations that were made in the first report, and also getting some consultants to help us do that.
- Cressica added that the due date is July 27th. The Island Institute is still interested in having us submit. Cressica stated she could start this and follow up with Janis.
- This will help us with the development of microgrids, which involves solar arrays and storage. The technology for storage seems to be evolving rapidly.

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9. Other business

- Carrie reported that a citizen has asked if the Energy Committee could get grants for new lighting at the Kinnicutt Center.
- Monica stated that this was brought up before, and the School Board discussed how the roof needed repair before lighting could be done.
- Discussion about how the school is not under the jurisdiction of this committee. We can look into it and make recommendations to the School Board. If the School Board needs help pursuing energy efficient lighting, we can possibly help.
- Trevor volunteered to reply to Cindy.
- Kathy stated that when the ICC did LED lighting, they were successful in getting grants from the Island Institute. She'd be happy to speak with someone from the school about it.

10. Executive Session

Motion to enter into Executive Session at 6:03 pm, H. Bering.

Executive Session notes

Return to regular meeting at 6:05 pm

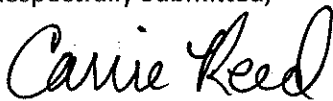
Motion to recommend that the Select Board appoint Ava Schlottman as a voting member of the Energy Committee, H. Bering, seconded by J. Petzel. No Discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

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

12. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:11 pm, T. Blackford, seconded by M. Mullins. No Discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 6 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed, Secretary

