

Islesboro Energy Committee  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, June 11, 2024  
In-Person and Zoom Meeting at 5:15 PM

APPROVED

7/9/24

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Harriet Bering called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.

2. Establishment of a Quorum

Quorum was established with over 5 members

Members Present: Chair Harriet Bering, Dick DeGrasse, Cressica Brazier, Toby Martin, Josh Leach, Monica Mullins, and Holly Fields (5:31pm)

Members Present via Zoom: Myra Sinnott (5:19pm)

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

Others Present via Zoom: Kizzi Barton

3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting

**Motion: To approve Minutes of May 14, 2024, as written, J. Leach, seconded by D. DeGrasse. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 6 yes, 0 no.**

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

a. Energy Prize update (Cressica)

- Cressica reported that the Energy Hub is fully focused on submitting the Clean Energy to Communities (C2C) Technical Assistance Grant. She will submit the proposal on Friday.
- They are also focused on the final goals of the Energy Prize, which is due in one month. This includes signing community solar memoranda of understanding with site owners, and also doing the Home Energy Surveys. We're at about 95 out of 200 surveys. About 60 of those have been submitted in the last month, so we could get to 200. Harriet will contact more people to spread the word. Monica asked if the response has been from more year-round residents than summer residents. Cressica answered that it's definitely been a majority of year-round residents, but we'd like representation from the summer residents as well. We have another announcement planned, and a lottery for gift certificates to the Island Market and Durkee's.
- Harriet stated that Cressica has put in an enormous amount of work on pulling this grant together, and the partners for this grant include a number of island organizations as well as a microgrid developer, the Island Institute, and possibly CMP.

b. Library/Town Office Update

- Cressica stated that we are pushing forward with installing the heat pumps by the end of the fiscal year. We just got the rebate results. We're going to get almost \$110,000 rebate from Efficiency Maine in order to install the whole building heat pump system.
- Still working on the library lighting. We may put down a deposit if we have remaining funds at the end of the month. There should be \$2300 left in the budget for the library.

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- Josh reported on the thermostat at the PS Garage. He spoke with Murt. Someone must have picked it up off the floor and set it on the shelf right below where it would hang. Possibly someone took it off the wall to look at it, but didn't know how to put it back properly. Josh suggested putting a lockbox on it. Cressica stated we just need to determine whether we need a new thermostat. Josh stated this thermostat is still working. Josh suggested setting it to 62 degrees for this time of year.
  - The outdoor unit for the heat pumps needs to be placed close to the propane tanks. Cressica asked Josh if it's possible to move them closer to the stairs. Josh will ask Janet if there will be any issue with moving them.
- c. Municipal Building Project update (Cressica)
- Cressica reported that yesterday she submitted the Congressionally Directed Spending budget. Hopefully that goes through so the Health Center can get medical equipment and new furnishings. The solar array is also proposed for the new building.
- d. EV Charger update (Monica/Holly)
- Monica reported that Murt got some fire suppression equipment, and is moving forward with training with the manufacturer of the equipment.
  - Toby asked about moving the charger to a new location. Monica confirmed that that will happen at some point. There are a few proposed locations: one is near the municipal building, and another is near the wooded area between the Town Office and the Preschool. It could go in the area where the new parking spaces will be.
- e. Maine utility policy/rates update (Dick)
- Dick reminded everyone that the supply part of the electric bill is unregulated by the Utility Commission. The distribution and transmission portion of the bill is regulated. Because the supply is unregulated, we're going to be getting solicitations from other suppliers, but they may be bait-and-switch scams. Please be cautious.
  - Several months ago, CMP was much more expensive, but are now at 10.5 cents/kWh.
  - Dick suggests documenting the offers from other companies that come in the mail.
- f. Finance update
- Toby provided a spreadsheet and reported on the standing of the budget.
  - We need to come up with a clearer budget for the coming fiscal year. Toby needs to know if the figures are right. Harriet answered that we submitted our request to the Select Board, and we will find out if it passes at Town Meeting. We requested \$65,000. Myra hasn't heard any concerns with that number.
  - Cressica created a list of outstanding items. The gift for Janis has been on the budget all year. Nobody was assigned to it. Myra will take care of it and get in touch with Janis.
  - The fire suppression equipment documentation hasn't shown up yet. Cressica stated that Murt has submitted the paperwork.

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- Toby requested that if anyone purchases something, to give him a full statement summary of what was purchased, so he can check the Town records for the proper documentation. Toby gets a monthly report from the Town treasurer, but it doesn't have much detail. He would like to cross reference everything, so the record can be as current and accurate as possible.
- Cressica stated that for the Sporting Club's upcoming community event, she proposes we contribute \$2,000, to come out of the \$5,000 budget for community events.
- Harriet mentioned the deposit on the library lighting for installation, by Greg Janney. The lights have already been delivered.
- The \$30,000 heat pump installation will be done by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

5. Discussion

a. Ongoing grant applications.

- Harriet stated that Cressica has done an incredible amount of work on pulling together that C2C Technical Assistance Program. This grant will supply funding for consultants who can help design the projects we've been talking about, and also resources through the Dept. of Energy NREL. It's very competitive. We will then have to apply for another round of funding to build our projects. There's funding out there, and this is an opportune time to apply for this.
- Toby suggested a list of who is responsible for each project in the Committee. Myra suggested asking Harriet or Cressica if there are any questions. Harriet stated a list will help her, as well. After the grant application goes in, she would like to create a list.
- Toby asked if the grant application is in a Q&A format. Cressica answered that it's a proposal. Harriet stated that there's an RFP document that asks for a number of elements. Each one is itemized with a response. That's what Toby calls a Q&A. Dick suggested sharing the application with the Committee.

6. Homework for next meeting

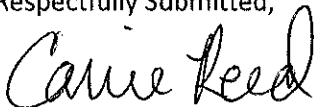
- Myra will get the tree for Janis.

7. Next meeting, Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, at 5:15pm.

8. Adjourn

**Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:02 pm, J. Leach, seconded by M. Mullins. Roll Call. Motion passed, 8 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed, Secretary

