

Islesboro Energy Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, July 8, 2025
In-Person and Zoom Meeting at 5:15 PM

☒ APPROVED

8/12/25

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Harriet Bering called the meeting to order at 5:14 pm.

2. Establishment of a Quorum

Quorum was established with over 4 members

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

Members Present via Zoom: Cressica Brazier, Trevor Blackford (5:16)

Members Absent: Peter Rothschild, Ex Officio

Others Present: None

Others Present via Zoom: Maria Forney, Barry Wherren, Bob Kochan

3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting: June 10, 2025.

Kathy pointed out that in the introduction of new members, "solar" lighting should be "LED" lighting.

Motion: To approve the Minutes of June 10, 2025, as amended, J. Petzel, seconded by K. Kerr. No further discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 7 yes, 0 no. B. Thomas abstained.

4. Project updates

a. Fire station – Bill

- Bill reported that SolarLogix installed the heat-pump system.
- The system met the agreement of Fred and Murt. Bill requested that they leave a full set of documentation with the Town. They left a manual, and said they will send along the technical information.
- The maintenance contract is still outstanding. Bill initiated that conversation, and then forwarded the email to Fred. Bill assumes this is a Town issue, and if they need our help, they will let us know.
- There is a \$4,000 rebate expected to come from the Nature Conservancy. SolarLogix will apply for that, and the money will come directly to the Town.

b. Library – Harriet

- Harriet reported that installation of the solar panels, which are being paid for by the Friends of the Library, is underway but not yet complete.
- Mark Ogden, who is installing the heat pumps, has said there was a delay in getting the rebated approved, and therefore, a delay in getting the equipment ordered.

c. Health Center – Harriet

- Harriet reported that she was in touch with Sundog Solar today regarding the rooftop solar array. They're doing the CMP paperwork before installing. They said they would get paperwork to us today or tomorrow for Town signatures.

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d. EV chargers – Holly

- Harriet reported that Janet Anderson is anxious to get the old charger removed. Greg said he'd do it next week. Our plan is to donate that charger. The credit card software never worked. Otherwise, the charger is fine.
- Cressica added that they were supposed to reconnect our account based on the ID number of the charger, but they never did. It may just be a poor software system. You can actually connect the charger to another commercial payment service. It could be set up at the library, but we'd have to ask Mark Ogden or someone else to evaluate the electrical system. We're already overextending the load allowance on the library.
- Harriet clarified that we don't have the budget to install it somewhere else. The plan is to get two new chargers for the location on the other side of the parking lot.
- Maria Forney stated that, in her experience attempting to use the old charger, it's slow. The charging technology has come a long way in recent years.
- Cressica clarified that it is a Level-2 charger, set up for 240 volts. That would be what we'd want to install in a location like the library or school. A slightly longer-term charger wouldn't put so much of a load on their existing electrical circuits.

e. Fellow – Janis

- Janis reported that the Fellow will have housing at Christine Robb's apartment. She is coming sometime in September. The Island Institute sent the paperwork and the Town has signed it, so it's all official.

f. Window Dressers

- Trevor stated he reached out to Desiree to get a date nailed down. Given where we are with measuring, recruiting, and advertising, they wanted more lead time and suggested early November.
- The build is scheduled for the first week in November, starting November 3rd. We will keep the equipment for a week and then return it. We will need to get a truck. Trevor has lined it up with Candice at the ICC.
- We will soon start measuring windows and putting in the orders.
- Cressica stated she sent out a document today, where she collected all of the kinds of materials and the recording spreadsheets we used last year. She's hoping those could be repurposed for this year. That way, we have somewhere to start with our outreach materials and spreadsheets. Cressica proposed that she can continue setting up the outreach media, and we could set up a team to work on the front-facing outreach. She will give access to whoever wants to monitor that email.
- Ava, Trevor, and Kathy volunteered to help on the team.
- Kathy stated that it's important that the financial aid and sliding scale be publicized.
- Monica stated her dad agreed to write a piece about his experience with the inserts for the Islesboro Island News.
- Cressica added that we had a blurb for the paper last year. Someone can rework that.
- Bill recommended we add this event to Dan Tutor's IIN calendar as soon as possible.
- Monica offered to put a flyer in the Town mailing. Cressica added that August is our main recruitment month. She will create a flyer.

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- Ava agreed to be the outreach coordinator.
- Trevor stated that we will start measuring in September; the deadline is October 6th.
- Cressica stated that we can do the training for measuring.

5. Budget

- Harriet reported that she circulated a budget summary this afternoon.
- Harriet stated that the Town passed an Ordinance last year that allows us to carry over money from the previous year provided it's used for the purpose for which it was originally allocated.
- The Prize balance is the money from the Prize last year that has not been spent. We are holding that in reserve for a couple of things, perhaps to fund some activities for the Fellow, and also perhaps for technical consulting when we put together an energy plan.
- With the expected rebate of the fire station heat pumps, we will have a little extra money, which we can keep with the fund for fire station upgrades. Under that category, we planned for moving the generator, sealing up the generator room, and possibly a new generator. It's still under discussion.
- We will continue working on getting a contractor to install EV chargers on the other side of the parking lot.
- Harriet has had some discussions with Shey Conover in the past. We've been able to shift money between projects, as long as we're doing what is within our mandate.

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.
- Trevor presented a slide show. The current mission statement is *"to explore ideas and develop proposals to present to the Select Board of the Town of Islesboro relating to the best options that address the energy needs of the Town. The ideas and proposals will be made available to support efforts toward sustainability among the entire island community."*
- We've done the electrification of the municipal buildings, grant applications, Window Dressers, energy assessments, and other activities.
- The electrification of the municipal buildings includes many efforts, such as the solar array on the Town Office building and the one that's going on the new Health Center, and the grants associated with that, the education of the public to vote for the Health Center building, etc.
- We want to expand into other things. We have a lot of ideas, such as solar arrays on the island, microgrids, a firewood bank—things that are related to resilience and efficiency.
- Cressica's revision: *"The mission of the Islesboro Energy Committee is to help the Town of Islesboro and our residents reduce the cost of energy, improve energy efficiency, and increase the resilience of Islesboro's energy systems to climate change impacts."*
- Harriet stated she would like to focus on the content of the mission statement, rather than wordsmithing. It should cover the overreaching goals.
- Trevor suggested that we use the mission statement as a guide for what matters most.

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- Kathy suggested presenting a package to Select Board with the mission statement and examples of specific ideas.
- Trevor stated we are increasing the specificity of the mission statement, while also addressing the scope of exactly what it is, cost, and resilience.
- Bill stated the original mandate had no range for us to do anything outside the work on the municipal buildings. We added a line in secondarily, but that hasn't been voted on by the Select Board.
- Janis stated that every time we do a big project outside the municipal buildings, we go to the Select Board. Some of the things they have approved match the proposed mission statement already. She suggested we put the new mission statement in the "Islesboro Looking Ahead" document.
- Monica suggested that we focus on the climate change factor. We need to focus on our residents in keeping Islesboro alive. Costs for energy and ferry tickets are high. She added that she found a work guide from the EPA. She will send it to the group via email. It includes a helpful checklist. If we ask the Select Board for Town funds to be used outside of municipal buildings, we're strengthening the community to keep island residents here. We're giving back to the community for what they pay in taxes.
- Cressica added that when we were spending money on broader activities, it was the Prize money, which was allowed to be spent on specific residents or organizations. Now we're coming with a new mission statement that might appear to broaden the mandate of our budget. When presenting to the Select Board, we might want to say we're not asking for Town funds for specific projects in the same way we did them on the Town buildings, and that we will design programs that will benefit the broadest group possible within the community.
- Bill stated it would be best not to shut any doors until we have to. If we say at the outset what we won't do, we're limiting what we're able to plan.
- Janis quoted the Islesboro Looking Ahead document, page 2, regarding sustainable growth. She suggested adding "consistent with the sustainable growth goals of 'Islesboro Looking Ahead'" to the end of the mission statement.
- Bill stated that we've been working on individual buildings with specific budgets that are manageable for the Town. A lot of what we hope to do in the future require funds that are out of the reach of the Town. We're not thinking of committing the Town to huge sums of money. When we construct our budget, we'll have to reflect that what we ask from the Town has to be limited.
- Bill added that when we arranged for CMP to upgrade the lighting of the street lights to LED, we thought it was a great blessing. But they changed the price structures so that they charge us more for delivery and less for power. The only way around that is to own the street lights. Now is a good time to consider outright ownership by the Town.
- Janis stated that as we're writing grants, we can refer to this mission statement.
- Trevor stated that we may not want to refer to a document that could change in the future.

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Motion to approve the proposed Mission Statement as written and present it to the Select Board, B. Thomas, seconded by K. Kerr. No further discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 9 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

- Trevor stated he will work on a package to present to the Select Board.

7. Community event

- Harriet stated that we all realized that none of us had the bandwidth to do an event over the summer, but perhaps we can plan one for September.
- Janis suggested a "Welcome" event for the new Fellow.
- Kathy and Monica volunteered to help plan.

8. ETIPP Application

- Harriet explained that ETIPP is the Energy Technology Innovation Partnership Project of the Department of Energy. We participated in this program a few years ago, and Janis was the lead. They did a study of the island's energy use and came up with a general recommendation for island-wide microgrids, which would increase the island's self-sufficiency.
- This recent application is for technical assistance to create a detailed plan. It doesn't provide construction funds, but a detailed plan would facilitate applying for additional grant funding.
- Janis has created a draft document for the application. She requested that everyone look at the draft in Google Docs and make comments. The deadline is July 27th.
- We also need letters of support. Gabe Pendleton at Pendleton Yacht Yard is happy to write one, wearing two hats: PYY and the Ferry Service Advisory Board. He just needs a draft of what we want him to say. He also needs to fill out a form.
- Bill stated he reached out to the ICC Board and communicated with John Rex-Waller. They're having an executive board meeting tomorrow, and will bring that up.
- Bill has sent some of the text that's available already. It needs to be updated.
- Harriet stated that Shey Conover is willing to write on behalf of the Select Board and Islesboro Marine Enterprises. The IESC said they'd be willing to do one, too.
- Cressica clarified that in the last round, the Energy Committee was the applicant and the Town was a decision-making stakeholder.
- Bill stated that, even though they only require two letters, the fact that we can demonstrate collaborative, overlapping support from a number of organizations would only strengthen the application and show that it is a community driven, and not a committee driven, effort.
- Cressica stated that she will contact CMP about a letter from them now that we're close to having a draft.
- Harriet added that the Island Institute is partnering with us for this application.
- Bill asked about getting a letter from the Sea Level Rise Committee, as the issue at the Narrows is the most compelling issue of resilience in the immediate future.
- Cressica stated the Island Institute recommended a focus on businesses, large energy consumers, and economic groups. Stakeholder forms are very involved.

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- Harriet stated she'd ask Shey when we get a statement from Islesboro Marine. They will benefit from energy storage at the upper end of the island in the event of being cut off at the Narrows.
- Cressica pointed out that we need to focus on extreme weather and other non-climate-change ways to say something. Climate-change wording can't be used in this application.

9. Other business

- None.

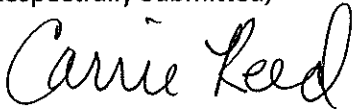
10. Next meeting Tuesday, August 12th, at 5:15pm.

11. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:14 pm, M. Mullins, seconded by K. Kerr. No Discussion. Roll Call.

Motion passed, 8 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carrie Reed". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carrie Reed, Secretary