

Islesboro Energy Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 10, 2022
In-Person Meeting at 5:15PM, Town Office

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Interim Chair Myra Sinnott called the meeting to order at 5:15pm.

2. Establishment of a Quorum

Quorum was established with over 4 members

Members Present: Myra Sinnott, Cressica Brazier, Dick DeGrasse, Toby Martin, Bill Thomas, and Janis Petzel (via phone).

Members Absent: Jordy Watson, Josh Leach, and Melissa Burns

Others Present: Lauren Bruce

3. Introduce visitors

Myra introduced Lauren Bruce, chair of the Municipal Building Project Committee

4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting

Motion: To approve Minutes of April 12, 2022, as written, B. Thomas, seconded by T. Martin. No discussion. Motion passed, 6 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

5. Ongoing Projects/Old Business

a. Status of Evergreen work (Bill)

- Bill spoke with Brian at Evergreen. Brian then spoke with Owen about the blower door test for this building. Any Saturday afternoon would be good. Brian will work to find a time that works with the library and the Town Office.
- Brian has experience with Michael Mayhew and has respect for him. Brian agrees with Bill that we will learn very little additionally from a more elaborate assessment of the library building.
- The Belvedere Grant has been awarded to two buildings of which Brian knows personally, either without an audit or with a limited audit, not the commercial-level audit that Melissa Olson thought was required. She should be encouraged to submit an application for that grant.
- Still need to talk with Janet Anderson regarding evacuation of the apartment. Brian is aware of the time schedule. Eric has committed to doing the work in June as soon as the apartment is vacant.

b. Follow-up on Library project (Toby)

- Toby stated we are waiting for Melissa's thinking to clear. Our job is to work with her as closely as possible and collaborate.
- Toby is disappointed that there was some flack that came out of the report that Brent did. Toby made a follow-up call to learn more and discovered that Brent Dudley included Michael Mayhew's name on the report without consulting

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Michael, who did not have anything to do with the report. It is Toby's opinion that the report in no way disqualifies Michael from candidacy. However, Michael was getting "bad vibes" and withdrew from the project. Toby feels that Michael is still the most qualified person to facilitate the process for the library building.

- The committee was supposed to follow up with the review with Brent, which never happened. Jim initiated it when he was still the president.
- Janis recalled that Jim sent a letter to Brent expressing dismay at the quality of the report, and expressed that we may not pay for it, and Brent freaked out. We decided to just pay him and move on.
- Toby felt it was a mistake not to have a meeting with Brent. We missed out on some opportunities.
- Bill stated he is convinced that Mayhew is a competent individual and should we need additional information he would be a reasonable person to go to. Much of what we need to do in the library doesn't require it, especially for \$5000. There will be a blower door test in the near future, and we'll get insight then.
- Dick agrees with Bill about the money.
- Janis suggested sending Mayhew a letter apologizing for the misunderstanding. Toby volunteered to write the letter.

c. ETIPP (Janis)

- There was a check-in on Tuesday but Janis wasn't able to attend.
- The week of the Jamboree, ETIPP people will be on the island Friday and Saturday, and the Eastport people will be here Friday night and Saturday as well.
- Janis was hoping to host a potluck, but has a family member with health issues. Maybe someone else can host, or maybe we can ask the ICC if we can do it in their park.
- Janis is also trying to work with people in town government to set up meetings with the ETIPP people.
- Cressica offered to host a potluck Friday evening on her deck.

d. Energy Jamboree (Cressica)

- Cressica stated there are two issues that Sara and Ann asked about:
 - Covid contingency protocols. There will likely be mask mandates indoors. They are willing to bring the event outdoors as much as possible. If people feel like events should be cancelled, do we want to reschedule?
 - ICC is concerned that we're bringing 15 people from off-island, which is potentially problematic.
- Bill suggested we talk with Owen about this, as he is the authority on the island. If the Covid situation doesn't quickly drop off, we should consider cancelling. Bill volunteered to speak with Owen.

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- Janis consulted the IMHE website for projection. Week of May 15 – May 23, slope of expected infections is going down, but still not low.
- Myra suggested that if we do reschedule, plan to have it completely outside.
- All agreed to have a deadline of Friday for making the decision.
- Toby stated that even though we've done a lot of work on this project, we can view it as a building block for another time.
- Kids can possibly do a Zoom presentation, and the ETIPP group could do an outdoor community conversation.
- Cressica handed out flyers to members to pass along to community members.

6. New Business/Potential New Projects

- a. Lauren Bruce gave a presentation on the Municipal Building Project, and thanked Janis for her participation in the planning meetings and for her input for energy efficiency in the new buildings and renovations. The design is still in the beginning stages, but the architect has the material that Janis put together, and the group will not miss the opportunity to incorporate efficiency in the design.
 - Lauren provided drawings and an overview of the project, including the proposed new Health Center building, Up-island Fire Barn, and renovation of the municipal building for Public Safety.
 - There will be a new website for the project soon, Lauren will be sending out an announcement via Constant Contact. The website will have videos, a timeline, etc.
 - Toby asked about the cost estimate. Lauren answered that there is no answer yet. It will probably be about 50% from the Town, and 50% donations.
 - Bill asked about doing LED upgrades to the Municipal building. The Energy Committee is planning to install LED lighting in areas that won't be affected by the renovation. Lauren will provide copies of revised plans of the building as it becomes available so that the Energy Committee can modify plans.
 - Dick asked about the energy-related decisions on the new building. They are part of future planning.
 - Toby asked if the concept of the design, layout, etc. is energy-related. This building could be a model. Janis explained about the basics: a simple shape, the orientation to the sun, and the pitch of the roof. The architect already has that in mind.
 - Toby asked if there is an energy expert involved with the architect. Lauren will check into it. Janis said that in report that Energy Committee provided to the Building Committee, Cressica had suggested a mechanical engineer be involved.
 - Lauren explained that the Health Center will be built to accommodate future features such as solar.
 - Janis will continue to be the touchstone/liaison between the Energy Committee and the Building Committee.

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- b. Dick DeGrasse presented info on Maine legislation on electric service.
- Dick passed out copies of H.P. 222, An Act to Provide More Options to Maine Electric Service Customers and Support Maine's Climate Goals.
 - Exploring whether Islesboro could go alone with generation of electricity.
 - Central Maine Power does not own any generation.
 - Advantage for Islesboro to negotiate for power.
 - Dick has cleared hurdles with the Public Utility Commission and CMP. Dick is negotiating for Islesboro to purchase generation.
 - Dick explained the Standard Offer with CMP, and is looking into something different. We need an off-peak rate and time-of-use provision.
 - Dick has been talking with New Brunswick Power, which gets most of its power from a hydro generator.
 - It costs nothing to switch over, and we would get better rates.
 - We'd create a cooperative and contract for power from another generator, and create a rate structure, which would allow for charging our future electric ferry, and storage of power.
 - Bill asked how this company would adapt to growing production on the island. Dick answered that its complicated, but he is talking with Next Era about wholesale power.
 - CMP will continue to do billing and maintenance.
 - Discussion about CMP and deregulation. The rates we're getting now are retail. Our demand will be higher at night because of the ferry, so we can get night-time, wholesale rates. We also need to know where the power is coming from.

7. Coordination/Communication with Other Groups

None

8. Homework for next meeting

- Apology letter to Michael Mayhew – Toby
- Talk with Owen about possibly cancelling Jamboree due to Covid – Bill
- Potluck for ETIPP and Jamboree – Cressica

9. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 6:55pm, B. Thomas, seconded by T. Martin. No discussion. Motion passed, 6 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Reed, Secretary