

Islesboro Energy Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 19, 2026
In-Person and Zoom Meeting at 5:15 PM

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Harriet Bering called the meeting to order at 5:16 pm.

2. Establishment of a Quorum

Quorum was established with over 4 members

Members Present: Chair Harriet Bering, Vice Chair Bill Thomas, Holly Fields, Janis Petzel, Trevor Blackford (5:17)

Members Present via Zoom: Cressica Brazier, Ava Schlottman

Members Absent: Kathy Kerr, Peter Rothschild, Ex Officio

Others Present: Island Fellow Elizabeth Dyer, Tom Tutor

Others Present via Zoom: Elizabeth Hayden

3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting: April 7, 2026.

Motion: To approve the Minutes of April 7, 2026, as written, J. Petzel, seconded by B. Thomas. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 7 yes, 0 no.

Agenda taken out of order so that Tom Tutor may speak first.

4. Discussion of fuel oil supply problems on the island, and how we can help promote transition to electric.

- Tom Tutor, Chair of the Islesboro Economic Sustainability Corporation (IESC), stated that the fuel truck that Pendleton Yacht Yard (PYY) uses to service the Island Market failed a couple weeks ago. Gabe Pendleton and Sky Purdy called IESC. They said that without a pump truck, the store would be out of retail fuel in less than a week. Gabe applied to IESC for a loan to buy a new pump truck, which was immediately approved. He bought a \$65,000 truck through Dysart's.
- This is part of the cumbersome arrangement on Islesboro that provides gasoline to the public. IESC was aware of the antiquated infrastructure when they bought the Island Market.
- Dysart's brings a fuel truck over that has 20,000 gallons of gasoline, but they won't service the Island Market directly unless they take a complete load of gasoline in one delivery. The tanks at the store only hold about 2,000 gallons of gasoline, so PYY works as a distributor. They buy the fuel from Dysart's, which brings it over in two trucks on a special ferry run that costs \$3,000.
- There is no other reasonable solution, because the infrastructure at the store is out of code. The state allows it to exist, but it's only changeable for repairs. If we change anything substantive about the system, we would have to make the entire system code worthy, and that would be a \$200,000 to \$300,000 project.
- The key stakeholders have assumed that in ten years, the island will need much less gasoline, as we will have fewer internal combustion engine vehicles. Sky and Gabe both feel the best solution is to limp along with the system as it is, until it fails.

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- Tom stated he has started thinking proactively about how we might foster the electrification of Islesboro and promote electric vehicles (EVs).
- Tom presented his AI-generated proposal. If we are looking toward the sunset of internal combustion engines here, how do we proactively prepare for that? The proposal just has suggestions; Tom is not asking the committee to do anything specific. The proposal lists some things that we as a community should be looking to do.
 - Install additional level-2 chargers (library, ferry terminal)
 - Distribute info to the citizenry about the Efficiency Maine programs. They will now provide anyone a level-2 charger for their home for \$129 (uninstalled). This is an amazing deal.
 - Holly stated that she uses a trickle charger cable that plugs into the outside outlet at her home.
 - Tom added that with a trickle charger overnight, he can get about 50 miles of range. His level-2 charger can charge his EV from zero to 100% overnight. A high-speed DC charger can charge it in 20 minutes. Those are in the \$20,000 range, and put a significant demand on the grid.
 - Trevor asked if the Efficiency Maine rebate program is valid. Tom answered that they do still give rebates on the purchase of new and used EVs.
 - Tom stated we should inform the public about these options.
 - The proposal also suggests contacting dealerships and ask about what they might do for us if we were to promote people selling used EVs to them and buying EVs from them.
- Tom stated that IESC would welcome any kind of invitation to help fund some of these ideas.
- Harriet asked if the rebates apply to plug-in hybrids as well as fully electric. Tom thinks they apply just to true EVs.
- Holly asked why there's a range of rebates. Tom answered that the rebate is income-targeted.
- Janis asked who might use public chargers. Tom replied that it would be used by someone who doesn't have one at home, or someone who is visiting, or renting in the summer.
- Harriet suggested creating a small task force with people from this committee and others, to inform people and create incentives for folks to move in that direction.
- Janis suggested that something be written for the newspaper about the issue with the gasoline.
- Trevor suggested a website with information for transitioning to EVs.
- Bill suggested highlighting the cost of gasoline use on the island for non-EVs.
- Trevor added that we could talk about the additional cost of repair for combustion engines, which is much more than EVs.
- Task Force: Trevor is interested. Harriet will send an email around and ask for volunteers. Janis suggested Gabe at PYY. Bill suggested Barry Wherren.
- Tom stated that the impetus is that it would just take one calamity at the store, and we will have no retail fuel here.

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5. Project updates

a. EV chargers

- Holly reported that the existing chargers can't have a modem. Greg Janney has said it's not possible. She has received an estimate for two new chargers with modems and a service contract for four years, for about \$8,600, which is under budget.
- Holly suggested donating the current chargers to the IAP property.
- Janis added that she won a free EV charger a while back and gave it to the Island Market, but they haven't installed it. If they give it back, we could have three chargers to donate.
- Janis suggested that if we come in under budget for the new chargers, we could use the extra funds to help with the installation of the chargers for IAP.

b. Fire station

- Bill reported that the contract with Evergreen is signed. Work is tentatively set for mid-August. Local contractors who expressed interest in the project have been informed that we've given the contract to Evergreen, and they understand.
- Harriet added that the committee reviewed the proposals over email, and had six votes (a majority) in favor of going with Evergreen.

c. Ground Array for Health Center

- Harriet reported that there's been no progress. She tried to reach out to Nick Batista at the Island Institute, as he had said he might be able to help with the permitting process, but he hasn't gotten back to her.
- Cressica stated that the permitting blocks at the Department of the Interior are now illegal, and they're supposed to be processing permits. We will be able to reevaluate based on new information soon.
- Harriet suggested getting in touch with our consultant.

6. Fellow Update

- Elizabeth reported she has been working with the grant subcommittee. Candice at the ICC informed Elizabeth that Dillon Allen is looking for volunteer opportunities over the summer. Candice gave the Energy Committee first dibs; the Energy Committee might be able to use a young person to do some audits and get our summer community more involved with our work.
- Elizabeth has had a conversation with him, and he's very interested. He has about five hours a week to volunteer, because he works at the Dark Harbor Shop and also has to do SAT prep. Elizabeth suggested doing visits to some of the summer cottages, if he or his family could come up with a list of people who might be interested. Elizabeth will send him some prep material.
- Dillon will be here at the end of June, and would like to be caught up on info by then.
- For ETIPP, we are moving into our technical assistance phase, looking at microgrid design.

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- Elizabeth has also had good conversations with Bill about CMP billing and the data he's collected. She is thinking about ways to continue with a comprehensive data presentation for the summer or fall, combining the residential energy data we did a couple months ago, with a look at the municipal side, and how we can cohesively present information to Islesboro.
- Elizabeth is starting her second-year fellowship work plan that's due at the end of June. She and Janis are thinking about starting a comprehensive energy plan for Islesboro.
- Elizabeth requested that for the next meeting, we set aside 5 – 10 minutes to go over the Google Drive and how that's organized. This is something that really isn't understood as a group, and it would be helpful to have a refresher.

7. ETIPP Update & Site Visit Preparation

- Elizabeth reported that we're moving from the scope phase to technical assistance, working on getting microgrid models and designs on the lab side.
- The lab folks are moving towards getting the Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) with Central Maine Power (CMP) figured out, regarding data sharing. It's on the municipal level now, maybe later into some residences that would want to share data about energy use, so that we can start to draw up models of how much a demonstration microgrid would cost.
- Elizabeth took photos of meters of different Town accounts so that we have those for CMP.
- Harriet asked Tom if the Island Market would be willing to share meter data. He thinks so. He would also be happy for his house to be a part of the data.
- Elizabeth added that part of ETIPP's cost estimates is looking at the difference in island costs to put in solar arrays or construction.
- Bill stated he talked to ReVision. They said that there is no island surcharge other than the cost of the ferry.
- Tom added that ReVision has an online portal called Solar Edge that allows users to see historical production and use.

8. Town Electrical Use Report

- Bill reported that the Health Center is making efforts to finish the final checklist, which has been complicated by the fact that the contractor, Ledgewood Construction, is no longer in business. They've been working with subcontractors to try to work through the checklist.
- While we would like to be involved in figuring out the energy use and problems, we ought not to complicate what's already going on. There was supposed to be a subcontractor visit tomorrow, but that has been delayed until the end of the month. We will wait until that is resolved.
- Harriet added that Health Center director Chris Bates-Withers is very interested in tightening up the building and making things work better.

9. Event Subcommittee

- No updates.

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10. Grant Subcommittee Update –

- Janis stated that the Community Action Grant application is due June 5th.
- We're asking for funds for a strategic planner to help put everything in order to move toward writing an RFP, even if it's a draft, by the end of the grant funding. This person would also help Elizabeth with an Energy Plan, and with community outreach and energy coaching.
- ETIPP can't give us specifics to build a microgrid, so we're going from the general stuff from ETIPP and getting down to specifics about what it would look like here.
- We're asking for the full \$75,000, for two years. We will be getting a detailed plan to present to the community and Select Board.
- Cressica stated that the Select Board meets tomorrow, and one more time right before the application is due. Ideally, we would present to the Select Board tomorrow and ask for permission to prepare letter of support. Harriet stated she will go.
- Harriet stated she talked with Kathy Kerr, who spoke with Michael Nelson to see if IAP is going to apply for the Island Institute grant. It sounded like they probably were not going to. We don't want to both apply for it. It's for \$25,000, which could be used to help residents with their homes. The application will be available in July.

11. Budget

- Harriet circulated her budget summary and went over some of the charges.
- She reported that Solar Logix has not been paid fully for the EV chargers that they installed. Holly will find out what the story is. The \$1,740 down payment has been made, but no subsequent payments.
- The library solar costs didn't come out of the committee's funds; it was paid for by the Friends of the Library. The remaining \$16,500 is what's expected from rebates. Brian Bohanon says he submitted all the paperwork to the IRS for the rebates on the library solar as well as the Health Center solar, and hasn't received any money yet. In theory, these are still available. We had talked about this for next year's projects.
- The program is called Direct Pay, for municipalities and nonprofits in lieu of a tax credit.
- Harriet added that we got our budget request for next year, which is \$77,500. We have planned to put that to additional solar arrays. She was explicit with the Select Board that we hoped to use what was remaining in this year's budget, which is around \$30,000, towards the solar arrays.
- Harriet asked the group if we want to take some money from what we have and put it towards the installation of the donated EV chargers for IAP.

Motion to approach IAP and find out if they would be interested in having EV chargers installed for their residents, J. Petzel, seconded by B. Thomas. No further discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 7 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

- Trevor asked if there's any room in the budget to help IAP tighten up their buildings.

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- Harriet replied that they were talking about using the grant that's coming available in July.
- Bill stated that he spoke with Michael Nelson. IAP is trying to pursue this first with the contractors. They've evaluated the leakiness of the building and already have input to how to solve the problem, with additional insulation. Bill would like to look at it first to check the weather sealing. They also have a proposition for closing the gaps in the buildings, but they don't want to do that until they can explore holding the contractor responsible.
- Bill asked Harriet about going to the Select Board and asking permission to do something specific we hadn't asked for before, and also about the possibility of creating a fund that would get residents started with projects, and then they pay it back.
- Harriet replied that that's sort of what IESC does. Perhaps Tom can help us with that.
- Trevor stated that IAP has talked about the Energy Committee reviewing plans in the future to make sure that the homes they build are energy efficient.
- Bill stated that we've asked the Health Center for its blueprints. If it's panel construction, they leave channels for the running of wires. We don't know how those channels are insulated.

12. Other Business

- None

13. Next Meeting Date

- The June meeting had been previously moved to June 2nd due to the Primary Election on June 9th. However, since this month's meeting was moved to the 19th, there are now only two weeks to the next scheduled meeting. Proposal to move June's meeting to the 16th.

Motion to move next meeting date to June 16th, B. Thomas, seconded by H. Fields. No further discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 7 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

14. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:11 pm, B. Thomas, seconded by T. Blackford. No Discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 7 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed, Secretary