

Islesboro Energy Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, July 14, 2026
In-Person and Zoom Meeting at 5:15 PM

 **APPROVED**
8/11/26

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 4 members

Members Present: Chair Harriet Bering, Vice Chair Bill Thomas, Holly Fields, Kathy Kerr, Trevor Blackford, Ava Schlottman (5:26)

Members Present via Zoom: Cressica Brazier

Members Absent: Janis Petzel

Others Present: Island Fellow Elizabeth Dyer,

Others Present via Zoom: Elizabeth Hayden

3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting: May 19, 2026.

Elizabeth Dyer corrected the spelling of Dillon Allen.

Motion: To approve the Minutes of May 19, 2026, as amended, K. Kerr, seconded by B. Thomas. No further discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 6 yes, 0 no.

4. Project updates

a. Fire station

- Bill reported that work on the generator room is scheduled to begin August 15th. Someone from Evergreen has come to check the situation, and a downpayment has been made.
- Bill added that Fred and Murt have been informed and are in agreement with the plan.

b. EV chargers

- Holly reported that she talked with OptConnect. They confirmed that their contract is year-to-year. They would not say if the fee would go up or not, but they don't anticipate it.
- Nova Charge is more expensive, but has a four-year service plan.
- Harriet stated that OptConnect is at the Community Center.
- Bill added that Cressica said last time that OptConnect has the larger network.
- Holly stated that if we have two stations on the island under the same company, they might be inclined to give us better service.

Motion to approve a contract with OptConnect, H. Fields, seconded by K. Kerr. Discussion as below. Roll Call. Motion passed, 6 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

- Trevor asked if this needs to be approved by the Select Board.
- Harriet replied that she thinks we can go ahead, because they've approved the project, and it's within what we have budgeted for it.

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c. Ground Array for Health Center

- Harriet reported that she's been in touch with the previous consultant that wasn't responding to emails. They finally responded and said that person has moved to another office, and now someone else is in charge. The new person didn't think it looked good for getting a permit in time to get this done within the time window we need for the solar credits. He also wants to re-evaluate the wetlands.
- Cressica stated the wetlands have been evaluated twice by Gartley & Dorsky, with the goal of moving the boundary. It doesn't seem reasonable that we'd have a different outcome with a third evaluation. It's expensive, and probably wouldn't give much more space for the array. We need more space than moving the wetland boundary would enable. We need to come up with a different strategy at this point. Cressica is starting to explore alternative options, but hasn't finished the analysis yet.
- Bill stated it seems important to reduce the demand charge in the building. We could put an array someplace else, and that's a good plan for the longer term, but it seems we need to stay close to the building, so we can reduce the demand charge. If we put the array in that we are able to now, in the part that's not the wetlands, and get it going behind the meter, we can then lay out a plan for the ideal array, and down the road we can expand the existing array when we have the opportunity.
- Cressica agreed that's basically what we'll have to do, but we also need to use the funding for the array, so we need to put in another array somewhere. We'll need to discuss this again separately. She added that she's almost done with the analysis, and almost ready to have options available to decide upon.

d. Fuel Oil Task Force

- Harriet reported that the Task Force had one meeting. In attendance were Harriet, Elizabeth, Ava, and Tom Tutor. Others who expressed interest couldn't make it.
- The group talked about how the first priority is to get information to the public that the delivery of gasoline to the island is a precarious thing.
- We can present info at the Summer Info Meeting and in an article in the Islesboro Island News.

5. Fellow Update

- Elizabeth reported that on Friday, she met with Dillon Allen and discussed his summer volunteer work with the Energy Committee. He will start by doing a quasi-energy audit of his house, mostly on the survey side, looking at systems like heating, similar to what we had in the survey.
- Dillon is interested in doing a presentation at the end of summer to share what he's learned. We are thinking of doing that at the Community Center on August 14th, with a test run at the next Energy Committee meeting on August 11th.
- Elizabeth is also thinking about other outreach ideas, like brochures, to help people stay engaged with the Energy Committee and its work.
- The Energy Committee is scheduled to have a table at the Farmers' Market July 30th and August 27th.

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- Elizabeth has talked with Skye Butterson-Dunn at Island Institute about ideas for engagement. She thought it would be nice to create a graphic about what the Energy Committee does in a little half-page flyer, or maybe have a Q&A or suggestion box for anonymous input. People would feel like they're participating without feeling obligated to do more. Elizabeth will draft something and send it to everyone.
- Bill stated that people who go to the Farmers' Market are a subset of the population. Typically, they're the people who are not working.
- Harriet added that it's an opportunity to connect with people, especially the seasonal residents.
- Elizabeth reported that for the second year of her fellowship, she's drafted a work plan. The key goal deliverable of that plan is to produce a draft of a Community Energy Resilience Plan. She would like the whole Committee to be involved. She's hoping that August will be a good mapping session time, especially in light of seeing what Dillon collects in his next month.
- Community Energy Resilience Plans (CERP) like this would be helpful for transitioning our ETIPP work out of a report into actionable steps so that we could get a microgrid feasibly developed on the island within the next five years or so, and we would outline that timeline.
- Elizabeth asked if the group would be okay about dedicating more than her allotted time for a brainstorming session and discussion that she would facilitate in August. Members approved.

6. Google Drive Demo

- Elizabeth demonstrated how to use some of the features of Google Drive. She had sent out a Google Doc to the group, which she shared on the screen.
- There are two drives that this group uses. The committee (IEC) drive, and the Energy Hub drive.
 - The IEC drive has documentation of committee projects, work, contracts, bills, agreements, and other things at the municipal level. One can find things like our 2021 ETIPP work, and CMP bills.
 - The Energy Hub drive has things more related to outreach, data, research, and grant work. The majority of the Fellow work is uploaded in this drive.
- There's a lot in both of these drives, and it's overwhelming. These need continued attention, and we can collaborate on it. We need to think about organizing in ways that make sense.
- Elizabeth would like her fellowship work to live on, and that can't happen if it's not accessible.
- Trevor asked what the objective is—organizing information and making it accessible to committee members or the public?
- Elizabeth replied that it should be for committee members only, because there's a lot of ongoing, incomplete work in there. But, the more polished research and reports should be accessible to the public. For example, the ETIPP report should be published, but it's not on the Town website.
- Carrie stated that she can update the Committee's page of the Town website. Members can send content to her.
- Elizabeth's document has instructions on saving the Google drives to browsers. Elizabeth will resend the document to the group.

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- Bill stated that there is a cluster of information that should be clearly accessible to the community, such as documents we've done, summaries of things we presented, etc. That was one of the reasons we started the Google Drive a long time ago. The problem is the Google Drive has been populated by a variety of logics, and it's dense with information.
 - Cressica added that she had been maintaining the Energy Hub website until she stopped working on the Prize directly. She stated that anyone can send her content and she will put it on the website. There is a link to the ETIPP report through the news blog on the site.
 - Discussion about ways to organize and regularly update the websites.
 - Elizabeth stated she's in the planning process for the energy resilience plan. Once we have our August meeting, a lot of gaps will have been filled. She's interested in establishing continual conversations with the Select Board. She asked for feedback on that process.
 - Bill suggested the ex-officio would be the best conduit to the Select Board. Holly is now the ex-officio. It has yet to be determined whether Holly can be a voting member and an ex-officio at the same time. Janet has reached out to the attorney.
 - Holly can decide on how frequently to report on committee activities to the Select Board.
7. ETIPP update – upcoming webinars
- Harriet reported that on Thursday at 11:00 there will be a wind power presentation.
 - The recording of the presentation on batteries that took place previously will soon be available. We will share that link with anyone who's interested.
8. Grant Subcommittee Update –
- Harriet stated that in June, she brought up the issue of if we're going to apply for a grant that would allow us to help individual homeowners, what the legal constraints would be.
 - Kathy stated she will be at a meeting which involves municipalities, and she plans to raise that question.
9. Summer Informational Meeting
- Harriet reported that the aim of this meeting is to bring summer residents up-to-date on various municipal projects. Harriet plans to do a general update on what the committee is doing, and Elizabeth will talk about ETIPP and what she's been doing. Michael Hutcherson will be running audio/visual, so we will contact him if we have any slides we want to show.
 - Kathy suggested planning for next summer's informational meeting about having a more organized approach to energy audits and energy coaching that could be made available to the summer community. Next summer we will also have a speaker on the forum series.
 - Harriet added that Tom Tutor felt it's important to add the gasoline issue. If anyone is interested in buying an electric vehicle, there are income-graduated rebates available.
10. Waldo County Climate Action Coalition (WCCAC)
- Bill Thomas reported that he is the co-chair of WCCAC. It seems appropriate for Islesboro to be a participant. Associated with that is dues, at \$50/year.

Motion to approve joining the coalition at \$50/year, K. Kerr, seconded by T. Blackford. No further discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 7 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

11. Plans for the coming year: develop next steps and assign ownership

- Harriet stated she will add the fuel oil/gasoline issue and the Google Drives organization to the list. We also need to identify priorities, and who will do what.
- At the top of the list are the solar array projects. We have the Health Center project, and we have funding for arrays on the Salt Shed and the Up-Island Fire Station. Cressica, Trevor, and Bill will work on this project.
- Presenting info to the public: Bill stated this is super important. We don't have coherent answers to questions right now, because the data are complex, and they haven't been reduced to a form that can be made to make sense to the public at large. We need cost projections.
- Harriet stated that this ties in with organizing the website and Google Drives, and putting some of the information into a public-facing format. Trevor volunteered to work on this, and Bill is already involved with the data. Cressica added that Elizabeth is working on the data analysis.
- Trevor recommended calling this the Energy Data Presentation working group.
- Working with the staff in Town buildings to help them understand the importance of demand charges, and to see if there are ways to alter how they're using the heat pumps and other equipment.
- Murt Durkee has been hired as the Facilities Manager (building maintenance). We need to make sure he has all the information he needs about the equipment we've installed.
- Energy Coaching/Outreach/Community Events/Communication: Kathy reported that she plans to have a cohesive plan within six months. Elizabeth and Cressica are available.
- Grant Applications: Harriet stated that we don't have anything current. She hasn't checked on the Island Institute grant. The Community Action Grant application was submitted before the deadline.
- Health Center: Harriet reported that the Municipal Building Committee is working on issues with heat loss and other items. We will follow their lead when they want help from the Energy Committee. That's an important one because of the high demand. Bill added that some of these projects should be done before the next heating season kicks in. Harriet stated she will check with Lauren.
- School Board: Bill has contacted them and got information on the school's energy usage. Zach Conover has suggested we meet with their facilities manager. We will have to decide where this fits in our overall scheme of priorities.
- List of solar companies offering discounts: Dick de Grasse had volunteered to do this, but left the committee. We cannot make recommendations for specific companies, but we can get information together for the community. Trevor suggested grouping this with Energy Coaching and Outreach. Kathy agreed. This can be complicated.
- Snow removal on solar arrays: this is a maintenance issue. Tree trimming goes with that.

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- Group buys for expensive equipment: This is on the list as a possibility.
- Town acquiring ownership of streetlights: This is a longer-term item.
- Extend 3-phase service to Transfer Station and Sporting Club: This is probably prohibitively expensive for us to take on. Bill suggested it might be possible to urge CMP to do this, if we can demonstrate that it's in their benefit to do this. The cable to the island may not be able to support this, and Holly sees a lot of infrastructure coming over. It's a bigger deal than we think it is right now. This should be part of a long-term comprehensive energy plan. Perhaps ETIPP can help with this issue.
- Priorities are working with the Municipal Building Committee and the School, and the Fuel Oil Task Force.

12. Member Recruiting

- Harriet has not heard about anyone who might be interested. She asked Dan to put a notice in the paper.
- Kathy stated that she has asked Scott de Grasse if he would troll for a member from the Sporting Club. She will check back with him.

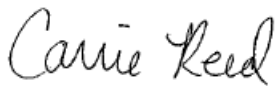
13. Next Meeting Date

- Aug 11, 2026, 5:15 PM.

14. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:18 pm, B. Thomas, seconded by T. Blackford. No discussion. Roll Call.
Motion passed, 7 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed, Secretary