

Islesboro Energy Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 11, 2026
In-Person and Zoom Meeting at 5:15 PM

 **APPROVED**
9/8/26

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, Kathy Kerr, Janis Petzel

Members Present via Zoom: Cressica Brazier, Ava Schlottman

Members Absent: Vice Chair Bill Thomas, Holly Fields, Trevor Blackford

Others Present: Island Fellow Elizabeth Dyer, Dillon Allen

Others Present via Zoom: None

3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting: July 14, 2026.

Motion: To approve the Minutes of July 14, 2026, as written, K. Kerr, seconded by J. Petzel. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no.

4. Project updates

a. Fire station

- Harriet reported that the work on the generator room is set to go, but they've postponed it until the 1st of October to allow Efficiency Maine to complete some projects with rebates that are going to expire at the end of September. Our project is not eligible for those rebates.

b. EV chargers

- Harriet reported that she's been in touch with OptConnect, exchanging some information. They are getting the information on the network.
- Janet Anderson signed the agreement.

c. Energy Coaching

- Kathy reported that there's a new cohort started by North-Eastern Energy Partnership (NEEP) for people who are new to setting up energy coaching programs. There are about 15 people there, mostly from New England.
- Kathy added that a woman she has met before at a previous cohort that was much farther along is now the head of a successful program in York. She is a well-informed, capable person. She gave Kathy great suggestions for applying for grant funds, and how we could equitably distribute it without leaving ourselves open to accusations of favoritism or unfairness. She also suggested getting financial criteria from other organizations on the island that do this. Kathy will reach out to Islesboro Community Fund and Efficiency Maine for providing financial help.
- Harriet stated that she's concerned about being in the position, as a group of volunteers, of asking people to document their tax returns and finances for eligibility. We'll have to think through the process.

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- Kathy added that it seems prudent to proceed slowly and carefully, and have a number of trained coaches available. We could even put word out in the community for those who may be interested in training to be a coach.
- We should start by following up with people who have had energy audits and/or Window Dressers.
- Elizabeth stated that a person reached out to her, looking for help from the Energy Committee. It sounded like an energy coaching type of thing. He and his wife are looking to add heating to their summer home, because they are starting to extend their stays on the island. Their house was built in the early 1900s. Elizabeth will forward the email to Kathy.

d. Other Updates

- Elizabeth stated that the Islesboro Community Center (ICC) is doing strategic planning and thinking about space use, including the acreage behind the Community Park. Phillip Ladd wondering if that would be a good site for a microgrid.
- Harriet replied that it's not clear how much land the ICC owns. When we were doing our grant application last year and looking for potential sites, she talked with Chuck Verrill, the owner of the abutting land back there. He was interested in community solar, but he had plans to put a driveway through that area at some point.
- Elizabeth will follow-up with Phillip Ladd and see if he's reached out in the past.
- Elizabeth stated that Skye Butterson-Dunn reached out. She was wondering if we want to include a brief mention of community energy planning at the next ETIPP meeting on Thursday, to let our lab partners know that we're planning for our energy future. Any data exchange will probably end up in that plan.
- The Farmers' Market is next Thursday, August 20th. Elizabeth will have a table there, with flyers, an email sign-up list for CERT planning, and free cups and water bottles.

5. Summer Volunteer Report – Dillon Allen

- Dillon Allen presented his activities to the group. He has been working with Elizabeth Dyer since mid-June. His goal has been to establish connections with seasonal residents and learn more about their home energy usage.
 - We had a packet with a 30 – 40 question survey, asking if folks are interested in solar panels, how many kilowatts/hour, how often are you in the house, etc.
 - We also asked people if they are interested in renovating or working with us.
 - Dillon reached out to about 80 people through his connections at the Dark Harbor Shop and his family's connections at the Tarratine Club. Out of 80 people, 35 responded via text. His text asked people if they would be interested in helping with his community service project for the summer.
 - Everyone is pro-solar. Those who didn't already have solar are getting it.
 - All of these houses had multiple renovations done, as they are so old, leaving people interested in renovating more, and how to be more efficient. A lot of these houses have a shifting number of occupants. Family and friends come to visit at different times.
 - Many houses have varying levels of insulation; some have zero.

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- When Dillon helped people with the packet, it typically took about 40 minutes to complete.
 - The people who didn't respond were intimidated because they had no idea how to answer the questions. The questions are very specific about their energy use. The summer residents are typically people in business, and when they come to Maine, the last thing they want to do is work. They don't want to fill out a document that has questions they don't know how to answer. About 95% of the people either had no idea how to fill out the packet, or didn't have the time. The data collected came from a few responses.
 - We have a few recommendations on how to make this better and how to get more people to respond.
 - Our next steps would be to develop multiple packets with 5-10 questions each, that have a "yes," "no," or "don't know" format. Once one packet is complete, Dillon can send the next one.
 - Dillon also recommends having the respondents use a Notes app, since they are willing to respond on their phones.
 - Personal follow-ups were helpful in getting people to engage.
 - It would be good to have incentives for people to fill out the surveys.
 - Harriet stated that this is all very interesting and instructive. She suggested making a branch point early in the survey for whether folks are heating in the winter or shut everything down.
 - Janis suggesting subdividing into simple questions. She asked if they'd be willing to have a coach come in and help go over the information.
 - Dillon replied that they might be reluctant to let someone come and talk to them about stuff they're not even sure they're interested in yet.
 - Janis asked if they might be interested in an educational aspect, if we are more explanatory. Dillon thinks that this might be a good idea. He is passionate about this issue, and if we educate people about why we're doing this, they will educate themselves, too.
 - Harriet stated that a lot of people don't look closely at the details of their energy use. Discussion about how that's important information in and of itself.
 - Discussion about a brief printed intro about the reasons for filling out the packets.
 - Harriet stated that the Energy Committee will continue some of this outreach when Dillon is done. It would be helpful to have a list of people that have been contacted.
 - Elizabeth stated she will transfer the information to the Energy Committee Google Drive.
 - Discussion about potential ways to reach people and offer incentives. Dillon may set up a table at the Dark Harbor Shop. If someone fills out a survey, they get an ice cream cone. Incentives would also include shorter, multiple lists, spread out over time.
 - Elizabeth stated that they will talk in this presentation about how we can use community engagement to move our energy goals forward.
6. Island Fellow Report & Discussion of Energy Resilience Plan
- Elizabeth explained that, for the second half of her fellowship, she will be writing a Community Energy Resilience Plan (CERP), which is a roadmap for energy projects.

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- Power Point presentation included examples of other communities that have done similar projects, what work we've completed as a committee that frames why we need to plan for the future, and what that planning can look like. She also defined some focus points of scope of work that the committee can do in the next year.
- There were some exercises on sharing ideas and priorities.
- Elizabeth will map out a timeline of the next year's growth of work. She asked for input from the committee.
- See Power Point Presentation in the committee's Google Drive.
- Brainstorming session on priorities
- Elizabeth stated that she talked with Janet Anderson about the process of proposing a plan and getting that implemented. As long as there's not a financial obligation for the Town, it should pass without issue.
- Janis suggested strategic planning outside of regular meeting.
- Elizabeth will send a poll for a workshop date.

7. Member Recruiting

- Harriet stated that Daniel Frohling is interested in joining the Energy Committee. Harriet will invite him to the next meeting.

8. Next Meeting Date

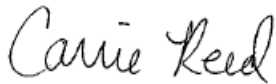
- September 8, 2026, 5:15 PM.

9. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:24 pm, J. Petzel, seconded by K. Kerr. No discussion. Roll Call.

Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed, Secretary