

Islesboro Energy Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 10, 2023
In-Person Meeting at 5:15PM, Town Office

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Myra Sinnott called the meeting to order at 5:18 pm.

2. Establishment of a Quorum

Quorum was established with over 5 members

Members Present: Myra Sinnott, Bill Thomas, Janis Petzel, Dick DeGrasse, Cressica Brazier, Toby Martin, Josh Leach, and Melissa Burns.

Members Absent: Holly Fields

Others Present: Janice Leach

3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting

- Bill pointed out a spelling error in the first section regarding “Janis” vs. “Janice.”

Motion: To approve Minutes of December 13, 2022, as amended, B. Thomas, seconded by J. Leach. No discussion. Motion passed, 7 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

4. Updates on Ongoing Projects/Old Business

a. TOU Rate

- Dick reported that he had picked up a copy of the Up-Island Garage specifications (bid package) after the last IEC meeting, and he returned them the following morning at Janet’s request. He had wanted to look at the electrical usage in detail, so he could study the various rate options, including a heat pump, but didn’t have a chance.
- The Health Center will lend itself to certain kinds of energy storage systems.
- Dick provided copies of the State’s report on Medium General Service Primary Time-of-Use rates with CMP. The off-peak TOU charge is less than 2 cents/kWh.
- Discussion: signing up for the TOU rate and demonstrating the capacity to store electricity, vs. storing heat.
- Bill asked Dick about the electric thermal unit that is being donated. Bill proposed that we get this unit, learn how to use it, and figure out how to optimize the rate structure around it. We can put it in the library and see how it works. People will be able to see it and ask questions about it, and we can possibly loan it out to individuals.
- Toby asked how this unit fits in to the project timeline. Bill explained that this is a side project. Myra stated they learned they could get this unit for free, and the library seems like a good place to experiment with it. People could try it in their homes as well. It can be a supplement to heat pumps. Dick will follow up and get the unit.

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b. ETIPP

- Janis stated that there was supposed to be a meeting on Monday but ETIPP cancelled. The report is written and is being reviewed. She hopes to have it at the IEC February meeting.

c. Energy Efficiency Update

- Bill reported that the new heat pump is installed in the conference room. Cressica and Bill were able to get the \$2880 rebate on this. We had planned for the full cost, so we are ahead.
- There has been one cannister LED light installation in the library. It's being evaluated, and we can be part of the evaluation. Bill is waiting for the invoice from Justin. Cressica asked Bill if he is planning to pursue the Small Municipality Retrofit Program, and if Justin is a qualified partner for the program, because he's not on the online list. Bill answered that he will pursue the program, and that he spoke to someone from Efficiency Maine who said Justin is on the list. Bill will verify.
- Bill expressed concern about the temperature of the conference room; Janet and Tina told him it is hot. It might make sense to get a thermometer with remote access. Toby asked about the preset thermostat. It is set at 62 degrees.
- The apartment upstairs: People who have stayed there said it's been cold. Bill is trying to set a fixed temperature on the heat pump and turn off the furnace loop to see how it does. The thermostat on the wall seems to be inaccurate, so Bill bought a thermometer and placed it above the thermostat. There is someone in the apartment now who has been changing the settings, and that is spoiling the experiment. Hopefully there will be a time soon when no one is in there and we can test again. We may have to upgrade the heat pump.
- Educating people on heat pump usage may be in order.

d. Municipal Building Project Update

- Myra reported on email communications with Lauren and the MBPC. The outcome is that the IEC has been advised to step back on the Up-Island Public Safety Garage, which is now out for bid.
- Discussion about lack of collaboration between the two committees. Data presented hasn't been valued, communication has been lacking.
- We will focus on the Health Center as it is designed.
- Our work has saved the Town a lot of money. We keep doing what we do best.
- Melissa advised on communication with the MBPC. She will help mediate.
- Dick proposed we vote on suggesting a delay on the project until we have more input on the energy systems. The IEC has members with expertise.
- We can suggest they put PEX tubing in the slab to be available for future heating options. All communication goes through Myra.

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5. Discussion

- a. IEC Treasurer Discussion
 - Tabled for next meeting.
- b. EV Charger sign for Town Office and ICC
 - Tabled for next meeting.
- c. Thermal Imaging Camera
 - Murt, Josh, and Janice had presented the idea of sharing the cost for a Thermal Imaging Camera with recording capabilities at our last meeting. The recording feature would cost an additional \$800 - \$1000, and the Fire Department had asked the Energy Committee to contribute that additional cost. Otherwise, they would just get a camera without that feature with funds from Friends of the Islesboro Fire Department (FIFD).
 - Bill stated he did some research on various cameras with recording features. There is no point to the Energy Committee buying a separate camera if we can share a camera with the Fire Department. The recording feature will be valuable.

Motion by J. Petzel to spend up to \$1000 of the Energy Committee budget, in collaboration with FIFD, to purchase the memory capacity portion of the new Thermal Imaging Camera, seconded by B. Thomas. No discussion. Motion passed, 6 yes, 0 no. Josh Leach abstained.

- Toby suggested looking into a rebate option. Bill will check with Efficiency Maine.

- d. Newspaper Articles/Sharing Info with Town
 - Tabled for next meeting.

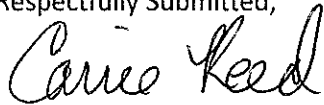
6. Coordination/Communication with Other Groups

- Our representative Paige Zeigler is now the head of the Maine Energy Committee. Myra reported that Holly suggested we engage him.
- Bill suggested we invite him to a meeting and discuss some of the projects we are working on and ask his advice.
- We can share the ETIPP report with him when it's ready.
- Janis contacted Jared Golden's office, and one of his staff members is interested in coming out and looking at our projects also.
- Myra stated that she came across a description, put together by Senate staffers, of how regular consumers can benefit from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). Should we share with the community via the Town Facebook page? Cressica will add a link to the IEC website (islesboroenergy.org or .com).
- Cressica stated that there's a heat pump special rate, and a calculator on the CMP site, that we can link to the IEC website as well.

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7. Homework for next meeting
 - a. As discussed above.
8. Next meeting, Tuesday, February 14th, at 5:15pm.
9. Adjourn
Motion to adjourn at 6:46pm, B. Thomas, seconded by J. Petzel. No discussion. Motion passed, 7 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed, Secretary