

Islesboro Energy Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 11, 2022
In-Person Meeting at 5:15PM, Town Office

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Myra Sinnott called the meeting to order at 5:20pm.

2. Establishment of a Quorum

Quorum was established with over 5 members

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

Members Absent: Josh Leach, Holly Fields, and Melissa Burns

Others Present: Liv Lenfestey, Island Fellow

3. Introduce visitors

- New Island Fellow, Liv Lenfestey, introduced herself to the Committee.

4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting

Motion: To approve Minutes of September 13, 2022, as modified, J. Petzel, seconded by B. Thomas. No discussion. Motion passed, 6 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

5. Ongoing Projects/Old Business

a. Library walk-through with Justin Electric on 10/27

- Myra reported that Justin Electric is coming to do a walk-through of the library on 10/27 to look at LED opportunities.
- Bill added that Justin is also planning to walk through the municipal building that day.

b. Islesboro Electric Department – update on Time-of-Use (TOU) rate

- Dick reported that he spoke with New Brunswick Electric and the Public Utilities Commission.
- NB Electric has filed a rate for next year, and Dick believes it includes a Time-of-Use provision for the State of Maine. If the State does the right thing, we won't need an electric department on Islesboro.
- Dick spoke with Faith Huntington at the State of Maine Utilities Commission, and she said she stated she couldn't give him a copy of the response because it's confidential until they vote on it in early November. However, this new rate should be on time for the new Public Safety Garage and Health Center. If that rate is good, then we could have some kind of energy storage system being charged off-peak. He's looked into heat-pump/storage combination, as well as solar panels/battery storage and how it would tie into off-peak heating and a heat pump. We just need an economic incentive.

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- Dick has a printout for New England Power Grid total. It shows the power cost peak vs. off-peak. We shouldn't make any decisions on HVAC until we see the economics. Dick will send a copy to the committee.

6. Discussion

a. Up-Island Public Safety Garage Suggestions

- Janis reported that Lauren Bruce had recently asked Janis if the Energy Committee could give the MBPC some ideas for the new building, and gave Janis a list of topics. Janis sent a draft of ideas to the Energy Committee.
- Janis did some research and found insulated bay doors, and hydronic radiant heat for slab flooring.
- Dick added that if you make the cement floor thick enough with electric elements, you can go off-peak. Discussion about radiant heat and supplemental heating.
- There are interesting things going on in Quebec, such as raft slabs, and frost skirts. We should have the engineer look into these ideas.
- Bill added that thicker slabs also have benefits for air conditioning/cooling with air circulation. Conduits could go through the slab.
- There should be battery backup at this building, as the vehicles are plugged in to keep the batteries charged. Murt would like it large enough to cover for four days of outage. Can be tied into solar panels on roof.
- Janis would like to coordinate with Lauren and talk with architect to possibly get our suggestions on the drawing board.
- Bill suggested SIPs (Structural Insulated Panel) for insulation.
- Triple-glazed windows are more expensive, and a great idea for the north face of the building. On the south face of the building, triple-glazed windows block solar uptake. Double-glazed windows are better for the south-facing side with thermal insulation at night. That can be automated based on flux of heat, in or out, with sensors.
- On-demand hot water heat is great, but we have to be careful with hard water, because minerals can build up at the point where the water is boiled, so some thought ought to be given to longevity and maintenance of any potential unit.
- Not everything has to be done upfront, as long as the potential is built into the design. Electric vehicles (fire trucks and ambulances) are a possibility.
- Dick stated that he has a contact at Johnson & Jordan, mechanical contractors in Maine. He asked his brother-in-law about the best engineer in the State who can deal with complex projects, and was given a recommendation to a firm called Haley Ward in Bangor; Phil Badger, electrical engineer.
- Janis added that Josh Leach's boss at Vinal Energy is also doing heat pump servicing.
- Discussion about experts who can oversee highly complex and integrated systems. Bill suggested that perhaps the Town can hire someone to be in this

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position. Janis added that perhaps the next \$50,000 grant could be used for this purpose, as a pilot program. This could morph into a long-term position.

- Myra will talk with Lauren about connecting the architect with the proposed engineer. The Energy Committee would like the opportunity to help select the engineer that is ultimately hired.
- Janis will put the list of suggestions on a Google Doc. Members will add feedback by the end of the week, then Janis will present document to the Municipal Building Project Committee.

b. Municipal Building Energy Efficiency Efforts (Bill)

- Bill reported that he sent out an email to the Energy Committee with data on the fuel oil use at the municipal building over the last few years, which shows a significant decrease in consumption in the sections of the building where efficiency improvements have been made. The Library is now the most expensive building to heat, and the Fire Department is the next most expensive.

i. Fire Station – plans to address thermostat and louvres

- We need to pull together resources to convince the decisionmakers that 65-68° is too high. We ought to drop it at least 5°. There is room for compromise. We should talk with other fire departments, find out exactly what Fred's concerns are, and look up info on the equipment. Cressica will talk with Fred.
- The second issue is the louvered door that vents the generator. Bill will look into this, and invited other members to join him.

ii. LED lighting in Town Office conference room

- Justin Electric is coming to look at the lighting in the Library and Town Office on Thursday, October 27th, time TBD.

iii. Heat pump in Town Office conference room

- Explore working with Revision Energy to install a heat pump. There's a \$1400 rebate incentive for up to three heat pumps per organization through Efficiency Maine. The installation cost is about \$7000.
- Heat pumps are good at maintaining temperature, but not at bringing the temp up after an outage or cold snap. There are no plans to get rid of the boiler at this time. We can coordinate the boiler and heat pump efficiently.
- Bill will contact Will Field at Revision to see if he's interested in giving us a quote for this building. Bill will contact other companies as well.
- The heat pump in the Town Clerk's office is poorly placed. That was installed two years ago. We can explore moving this.

c. Reach out to heating energy storage companies to explore pilot

- Dick will do this as soon as he has the rate structure upon which that would be based.

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7. Coordination/Communication with Other Groups

a. Library report

- Toby sent the group a report on the Library. If anyone has any comments, please send them in writing. The report can be revised for the next steps.
- Toby requested that all Energy Committee members who are going to make presentations submit written reports or short statements before each meeting. What Janis did was a good example. We can then be better prepared to discuss issues. Members agreed to use Google Docs for internal communication and collaboration.
- Bill reported that he wrote to Toby that we ought to go after a Belvedere Grant in spite of the fact that we have the money to do the work in the library. Toby has already been working on this with Melissa. Toby suggested that Bill get in touch with Brian and ask him for the credentials that he brings to the project for historic buildings. Bill will write to Brian. The Belvedere Grant could complement the budget we have for this work.

8. Homework for next meeting

- If anyone wants to join Bill for walk through with Justin Electric on October 27th, let him know.
- Dick will keep us posted on the MPUC Time of Use rates.
- Please get back to Janis by the end of this week on the Fire Barn suggestions.
- For the ETIPP concept paper, please give Janis feedback by the end of the month.
- Cressica will speak with Fred about the temperature EMS equipment in the Public Safety Garage.
- Once Bill gets the electricity analysis data updated, he will share with the group.
- Bill will contact Will Field at Revision and Sundog for quotes on heat pump installations.
- Dick reported that he spoke with Ian Burns at Efficiency Maine about the new Health Center, and he's interested in the project. Discussion about incentives for battery storage for critical care facilities.

9. Next meeting, Tuesday, November 8th, at 5:15pm.

10. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 6:39pm, B. Thomas, seconded by M. Sinnott. No discussion. Motion passed, 6 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed, Secretary