

# Islesboro Island News

July/August 2023

\$5.00



## Islesboro wins \$ Rural Energy Prize

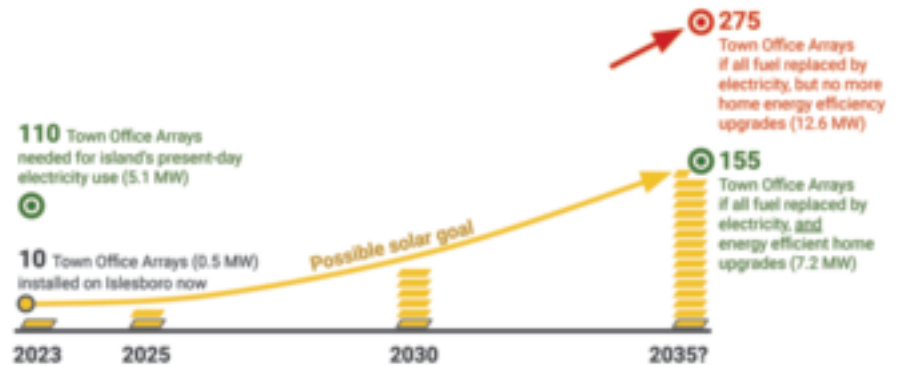
By Cressica Brazier and the Energy Committee

Wildfire smoke, Vermont floods, and heat waves, oh my! While we waded through a fog bank for much of the summer on the island, our mainland neighbors and the rest of the U.S. suffered some of the worst weather extremes in recorded history. Our turn under the heat dome, prolonged power outage, or extended deep freeze is inevitable. Will we be ready?

Now, Islesboro has won a \$100,000 prize to take on the challenge of preparing our homes and community services for power outages and extreme weather events and, at the same time, reducing our energy costs. This Energizing Rural Communities Prize is a competition designed by the U.S Department of Energy (DOE) to incentivize clean energy project planning in rural and remote areas.

During the Prize competition, which runs until July 2024, this award will allow the Energy Committee and our community partners to reach out to island groups, businesses, and residents. We aim to learn more about energy-related needs, interests, and hurdles to making home upgrades. Then we will invite all community members who want to contribute to make a plan with us for coordinated home energy upgrades and island-appropriate solar arrays. With this plan, we will be able to apply for funding to build the first round of projects.

To start, we want to hear from any resident or friend of Islesboro who might consider: (1) hosting a shared solar array on the island, (2) joining a group purchase of solar, insulation, or heat pumps to reduce installation costs, (3) planning a home energy upgrade or no-cost energy assessment with us, as a pilot project, or (4) exploring any other kind of clean energy project, such as wind power, geothermal, or battery storage.



Lower-cost “energy independence” is within reach: The Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project (ETIPP) study found that Islesboro has more than enough rooftops and disturbed land to fit small-scale solar generation for all our present-day electricity needs, at a lower cost than CMP (5.1 megawatts, by adding 100 more arrays equivalent to the Town Office roof, at 18¢/kWh vs. CMP’s 25¢/kWh). We also have just enough space for a future free of fuel imports—if vehicles and buildings are all electric (7.2 megawatts)—as long as we also improve home energy efficiency. Then we’ll also get the resilience benefits during weather extremes. If we don’t, that’s a different story (12.6 megawatts). Now Islesboro has an opportunity to plan how far to go toward energy independence, by finding solar sites and other ways to generate our own cheaper energy.

Prize... continued on page 7



## Update 7/26/23

The planning and approval process for the construction of the new Health Center building and the Up-island Public Safety Garage is nearing completion.

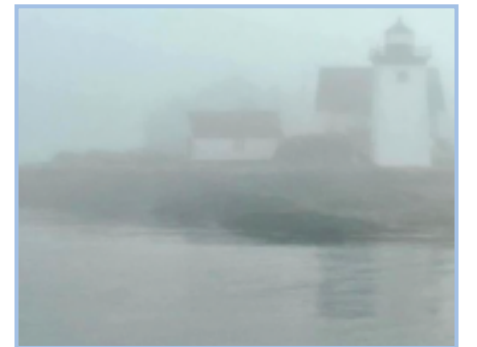
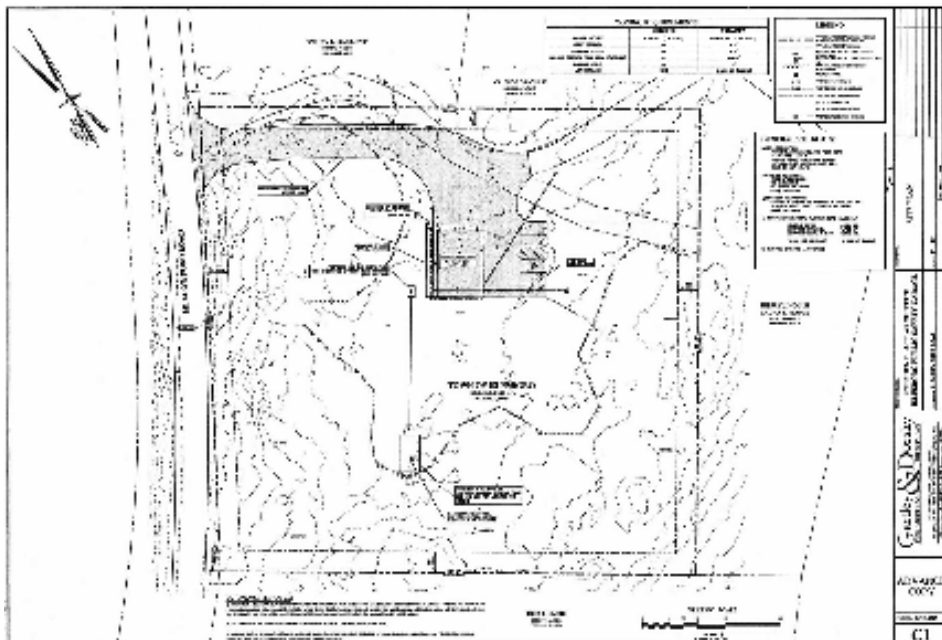
• Planning Board approvals. The process for Municipal construction projects is more rigorous than for residential construction. All Municipal building construction goes through what is termed “development review.” The Ordinances for development review require in-depth examination of the site and all construction elements. Because the new Health Center is a relatively complex building, the MBPC retained Gartley & Dorsky Engineering and Surveying, a Camden-based company that helped with siting the new Health Center, to prepare the application. Pete Anderson and Lauren Bruce did the application for the Up-island Garage. The Planning Board has approved the application for the Up-island Garage. The IHC application has been submitted and the first phase of the PB approval process has been completed. We expect that the application will be approved by August 21st.

• Housing for construction workers. The MBP’s Construction Manager, H. E. Callahan, has leased several houses and apartments on Islesboro for workers from the mainland to live in during construction.

The projected schedule going forward is as follows:

2023	August	Planning Board reviews and approves the MBPC’s application for the new Health Center building. Construction Manager prepares and presents a guaranteed Maximum Price to the MBPC for approval.
	Early Oct.	Construction of IHC building and up-island garage begins.
2024	Late May	Completion of IHC building and up-island garage.
2025		Renovation of the present Municipal Building for Public Safety.

Submitted by the Municipal Building Project Committee



Most of June 2023  
Photo by Tanya Landry

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- Photography by: Deborah Bailey, B Jean Brown, Missa Burns, Laura Graf, Kim Grindle, Amy Hawkes, Tanya Landry, Donna Leone, Loony Mahan, Paul Nichter, Martha Brown Palermo, Phil Seymour, Becky Schnur, Valerie Slater, Rachel Rolerson Smith, Michele Randall

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