

Islesboro Select Board
Regular Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom
Wednesday, July 30, 2025 @ 6:00 PM

☒ APPROVED
8/13/25

MINUTES

Members Present:

Chair Shey Conover, Melissa Burns, Stephen Pendleton, Peter Rothschild

Members Absent:

Vice Chair Peter Anderson

Others Present:

Town Manager Janet Anderson, Murt Durkee, Harriet Bering

Others Present via Zoom:

Fred Porter

Call to Order: Chair Shey Conover called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM, and a quorum was established.

Minutes of July 16, 2025, Regular Meeting.

MOTION BY P. Rothschild, seconded by M. Burns, to approve the minutes of July 16, 2025 Regular Meeting, as written. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no.

VISITOR COMMENTS/PETITIONS

None.

MOTION BY S. Pendleton, seconded by M. Burns, to take the Agenda out of order to hear the Energy Committee's updated mission statement. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Energy Committee Updated Energy Technology Innovation Partnership Project (ETIPP) Mission Statement
 - Harriet Bering stated that in trying to plan a community event, the Energy Committee realized that the discussion was unfocused and came to the conclusion that we needed to take a look at our mission statement.
 - Since the Energy Committee was formed, it has been focused on the Town buildings, updating the lighting, heating systems, insulation, and solar power. That work is still happening for the library, fire station, and new Health Center, but should be completed this calendar year.

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- We have gone through the Dept. of Energy ETIPP program, which produced a report with a concept of creating an overall plan for the energy on the island. It proposed setting up a series of microgrids that are networked, but could be isolated, which would provide some resiliency in the event of power outages, and would require developing storage.
- We just submitted another grant application for ETIPP, which would provide technical assistance to create a more detailed plan.
- The Energy Committee believes their mission statement should be updated.
- Harriet circulated a handout with the current mission statement, some of the projects the committee has accomplished, a proposed updated mission statement, and projects the committee would like to pursue. Some projects outside the scope of the municipal buildings have already been started as part of the Energy Prize work, such as the home energy assessments, the Window Dressers inserts, and grant applications.
- The proposed new mission statement: *"The mission of the Islesboro Energy Committee is to help the Town and residents of Islesboro reduce the cost of energy, improve energy efficiency, and increase the resilience of Islesboro's energy systems to climate change impacts."*
- Planned activities: EV charger on other side of Town Office parking lot, community events for information and feedback, Window Dressers community build, pursuing additional funding for planning microgrid infrastructure. Success will be measured by doing energy cost comparisons over time, and Town funding will be requested on a per project basis while prioritizing outside funding when possible.
- The ETIPP application we just submitted calls for creating a "community energy resilience plan," which is a detailed plan for how the community will coordinate resilience efforts to maintain energy availability in the event of extreme weather and outages.
- The committee hopes to have a more detailed plan to present to the Select Board by next spring.
- S. Conover stated the proposed mission statement is clear and concise.
- P. Rothschild stated that the power on Islesboro goes out very frequently.
- Harriet replied that it is happening more frequently, and that is one of the things the committee emphasized in the grant application. She stated that Cressica Brazier provided a record of the number of outages and how long they lasted. The idea would be to have microgrids with storage associated with them, so if the power goes out in one location, maybe another end of the island would still have power.
- P. Rothschild stated that it seems like we're a low priority for CMP.
- Harriet replied that we've actually received support from CMP for the grant application. If we are successful, it takes a bit of the burden off them. That issue is included in the proposed mission statement. This is the overarching purpose. Individual tasks would be developed from this.

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- P. Rothschild stated that the line about the resilience of Islesboro's energy systems seems to imply that we're talking about how to maintain uninterrupted consistency. Saying that would be good. He suggested adding the word "consistency."
- S. Pendleton asked if the Energy Committee is tracking usage of the EV charger at the Community Center.
- Harriet replied that Bill Thomas has been tracking that closely.
- S. Pendleton stated he's not a fan of giving away charging for EVs. He only occasionally sees the one at the Community Center being used. He is concerned about spending more money to install another charger, where someone doesn't have to use their own power to charge their car.
- Harriet explained that people would pay for charging their cars via the software at the charging station. The money for the installation has already been allocated. If the Board or the Town wants to change that, they can.
- Discussion about different levels of chargers.
- Harriet stated that the Energy Committee would also like to write a blurb for the Islesboro Looking Ahead document. S. Pendleton stated it's not too late.
- The amended new mission statement: *"The mission of the Islesboro Energy Committee is to help the Town and residents of Islesboro reduce the cost of energy, improve energy efficiency, and increase the consistency and resilience of Islesboro's energy systems to climate change impacts."*

MOTION BY S. Conover, seconded by S. Pendleton, to approve the mission statement as amended. No further discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no.

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by S. Pendleton, to go back to the order of the Agenda. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

FERRY SERVICE UPDATE

S. Conover stated that we saw the email that Commissioner Van Note is retiring, and his deputy, Dale Doughty, is being recommended to take his place for now. She has no further update from Peter Willcox.

SEA LEVEL RISE UPDATE

S. Conover stated she had no update.

UP-ISLAND PUBLIC SAFETY GARAGE & PUBLIC SAFETY RENOVATION UPDATE

S. Pendleton presented his update. The patient charts have been removed from the old Health Center space, and because of that, the contractor can start soon. The budget for the renovation is \$100,000, and it's going to be in phases. We don't know the exact amount of money that's going to be available after the Health Center is complete, and if

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that's still fluid, because there are some issues that need to be addressed there. As part of Phase I, the locks were changed today. The alarm passcode needs to be redone. Painting and flooring in the offices and reception area will be done. The evidence room is also included in Phase 1, as well as the ADA compliance requirements discussed at the last meeting. As we get through Phase 1, we will look at what money is available, and determine priorities for Phase 2.

For the Up-Island Public Safety Garage, we received the final quotes, and we are still at \$414,850. We don't have the final number for the change on the backup generator, but we're going to put that in as a change of contract, keeping it below the \$430,000 we previously approved. We got lots of information from Northport Builders yesterday and today as far as getting the contract started. Brian Bohanon has told us that there will most likely be money for the well and septic system, so we're going to put that in as a change order.

J. Anderson stated that we won't know for sure that that money is available until we're done with everything at the Health Center. S. Pendleton replied that Brian was 99% sure, so it's close to a positive. The facility is being built, and we're moving forward.

S. Pendleton provided a slide with detailed line items and construction drawings for the UIPSG. He gave Murt Durkee a printout.

P. Rothschild asked if there is any contingency in the plans. S. Pendleton replied that for the UIPSG, there is a little contingency. We've worked down from \$1M to a \$430,000 project.

M. Burns stated that she doesn't think we'll qualify for this round of the US ADA rule for the grant for the renovation, because we need more information about what we anticipate the charges will be for the ADA bathroom and kitchen. It closes too soon, on August 7th. Other members of the group didn't think they'd be able to provide the numbers that quickly, and it was not recommended to guesstimate the numbers. We'll have to wait.

S. Pendleton referred to the things that are popping up at the new Health Center. The same thing will probably happen at the UIPSG. We need to pause the spending and allow these facilities to be occupied and work. Then the priority list becomes addressing real problems, and needs vs. wants.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Planning Board: August 11th, 5:00pm.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- Packet included Agenda for 7/30/25 and Minutes of 7/16/25 Select Board Regular Meeting.
- Minutes of 4/14/25 Municipal Building Project Committee meeting.

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- Minutes of 7/29/24 Dark Harbor Waste Water Treatment Facility Committee meeting. They just met this July.
- Minutes of 4/17/25 Harbor Committee meeting.
- Correspondence
 - Received a check from FEMA for \$26,438.73. More expected, in the range of \$520,00. Had a call today from someone at Jared Golden's office about how difficult and slow it is to get FEMA money. He wanted to know if Islesboro was in the same boat. They're going to check into that and see if they can pursue it.
 - S. Conover asked if this is reimbursement for monies that were spent on storm response. J. Anderson replied yes.
 - S. Pendleton asked if the money received goes into a spare fund to use in the future. J. Anderson replied that she is thinking it will go back into the general fund to pay the overage that we've run from this last fiscal year, at close to \$1M.
 - Maine Community Foundation Health Center Endowment \$1,677,057.
 - 7/28/25 Gov. Mills announces the retirement of MDOT Commissioner Bruce Van Note. Deputy Commissioner Dale Doughty will take over as Acting Commissioner.
 - 6/23/25 Letter from DOT re: towns of Lincolnville and Islesboro Ferry Bridges Approaches, formal on-demand public meeting.
- Old Business
 - ~~Summer Info Meeting~~
- New Business
 - West Shore Drive, open RFPs. Did not receive any.
 - S. Pendleton stated he talked with Dave Dyer last week. Can we make sure he prioritizes cutting back a portion every week?
 - J. Anderson stated she is looking for an off-island company to do the work now.
 - Approve FY25 Sewer Rates
- Handouts
 - None.
- Manager
 - Peter Coombs new septic field completed and sprayed with grass seed.
 - 90% of his payment is in this warrant. After the grass grows, we will pay the 10% balance.

CORRESPONDENCE

Covered in Town Manager's report.

OLD BUSINESS

2. August 13, 2025 Summer Info Meeting

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- S. Conover stated she will not be here on that date. In talking with Pete and Janet, it seemed like there was nothing burning, and no one has asked for it. We'd have to reschedule it. Towards the end of the month, people go back to school. She proposed we cancel the meeting. All agreed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Open RFPs for West Shore Drive to Babbidge Road Trimming.
 - No RFPs were submitted. In two weeks, let's discuss the next round of planning.
2. Approve FY25 DHWW Sewer Rates

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by P. Rothschild, to approve the FY25 DHWW Sewer Rates. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

3. Parking at Grindle Point
 - S. Conover stated that we read the email from Attorney Kristin Collins at our last meeting.
 - P. Rothschild reported that he had a genteel meeting with Taylor Watts. He understands the Town's position regarding parking on Ferry Road.
 - P. Rothschild stated that, on behalf of the Board, he offered Taylor Watts improvements to the edge of the public land abutting his property, in the form of some barrier, and perhaps some landscaping, that would prevent people from trespassing on his land. Our attorney has spoken with DOT and confirmed that we have the right to pass an ordinance that gives the Town authority over the state right-of-way, and that includes the property that abuts the existing guard rail adjacent to line 3, which is also being used without revenue being generated.
 - P. Rothschild recommends pursuing an ordinance that gives the Town control over both areas where people park, which currently amounts to 30 or 40 parking spaces.
 - In accordance with Kristin's letter, the statute provides that such an ordinance can be adopted by the Select Board after notice in a public hearing.
 - P. Rothschild suggested creating a physical plan that suggests a barrier installed at our expense along the south side of the right-of-way. We also need to understand how this will be administered.
 - P. Rothschild met with David Pendleton, chair of the Grindle Point Parking Committee, and his issues had nothing to do with parking on Ferry Road. They had to do with the impact of parking along the existing guardrail and how it affects access to and from the ferry landing. Access seems to be a separate issue. We should rationalize the wild-west show on Ferry Road and create revenue for the Town and satisfy to the best of our ability Taylor Watts' complaints about incursion onto his property.

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- Is this a matter of hiring an engineering firm to do a plan? P. Rothschild spoke with Jeff Glotzl about doing a photomontage of what it would look like, to give to our attorney, as she requested.
- We need to develop the specifics of what the ordinance might say in terms of how it's administered. At the next meeting, we can pass a generalized ordinance, which merely claims our right to oversee the land, but ultimately, we need to understand how many spaces there are, what we can charge for them, and any signage required.
- S. Conover asked J. Anderson for her recommendation for the best way to get this mapped out.
- J. Anderson asked if we should have the Parking Committee do this or keep it with the Select Board. P. Rothschild is willing to shepherd the process if he knows what the steps are.
- S. Conover replied that P. Rothschild could have the resources to come up with a plan that we could bring to the Parking Committee for approval.
- P. Rothschild stated that installing posts and a barrier marking the edge of the public land would be an enormous beginning to having this rationalized. The Private Property signs that Taylor Watts posted have been run over into the ground, and people are parking on his property. He would like to eliminate all parking. P. Rothschild stated he offered for the Town to control parking so that it doesn't encroach on private property.
- Discussion about types of barriers.
- S. Pendleton stated it would be nice to get it mapped out.
- The public road includes 25' from the center line. The paved edge from the center line is at 10.6'. There's another 15' of land off the pavement, which will accommodate generous parallel parking spaces.
- S. Conover stated that it would be helpful to have a map so we can determine if we could fit some perpendicular or diagonal parking spaces in, which would be advantageous.
- J. Anderson stated she would contact Gartley & Dorsky.
- M. Burns stated that a fence or other barrier would firmly delineate where a property owner's responsibilities end.
- P. Rothschild added that he believes the rocks that were installed to eliminate parking on the north side of the road went far beyond what was necessary to preserve sight lines from the former Phillips driveway.
- S. Conover stated that this right-of-way has the potential to be expanded, should there be additional parking spaces required in the future.
- P. Rothschild stated he is concerned that there may be more vocal objections to all this if it goes to a public hearing, if it is billed as being the entire edge of Ferry Road. At the moment, it's just about the boundary of Taylor Watt's property.
- Contractors have stated that it's fundamental to their business out here that they're able to leave their trucks in that area.

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- J. Anderson asked P. Rothschild if he's thinking this area will be paved. P. Rothschild replied that, ideally, it would be a duplicate of what's next to the existing guardrail, with 20' spaces painted, and a sign noting a permit is required to park.
- Discussion about the types of municipal parking already in place.
- S. Conover would support having one parking fee or schedule of fees, but not having different rates for different lots.
- Add this to the Agenda when we have a plan from Gartley & Dorsky.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. None.

APPROVE WARRANT: FY25 A/P & FY26 #3

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by P. Rothschild, to approve Warrant FY25 A/P & FY26 #3. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

APPOINTMENTS:

None

CHAIR COMMENTS

S. Conover: No comments.

VICE-CHAIR COMMENTS

P. Anderson: Absent. No comments.

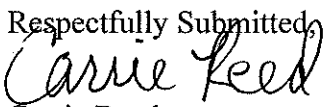
INDIVIDUAL SELECT BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

M. Burns: No comments.

S. Pendleton: No comments.

P. Rothschild: No comments.

Motion by P. Rothschild, seconded by M. Burns, to adjourn meeting at 6:58 PM. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Reed
Secretary