

Isle au Haut Power Company Annual Meeting

October 2nd 2021

Sam Chamberlin, Secretary

In Attendance:

Present at Town Hall: Bill Chamberlin, Jim Wilson, Bryan Carroll, George Cogan, Fannie Cogan, Sarah Cogan, Jeff Burke, Judy Burke, Sue Foelix, Stewart Foelix, Bob Olney, Gail Holmes, Matthew Skolnikoff, Abigail Hiltz, Rob DeWitt, Mike Fedosh, Ellen Fedosh, Rachel Harris, Mike Delchamp

Present by Video Conference: Sam Chamberlin, Dana Perry, Nick Filler, Bob Schonenberg, George Cole, Staige Davis, Libby Eustis, Fred Eustis, Jean McBean, Marshal McBean, Marrion Breeze, Emma Wendt, Julie Finney, Leeland Small, Mike Pratt, Sue Proctor, Kathy Fiveash, Paul Lewis, Ellard Taylor

Meeting:

Introduction from Jim Wilson

Manager's Report – Bryan Carroll.

Heat Pumps. The town Hall is now heated by two heat pumps. Units going to school, store and two ICDC homes have a recalled part and Bryan is working to sort this out before the primary heating season.

Question – Mat Skolnikoff. How is the special rate allowed without PUC approval?

Answer – Jim Wilson. The Board approved the special rate and was advised by the PUC that their approval was not needed for rate decreases.

Question -Mat Skolnikoff. What if the solar project does not happen and the special rate cannot be justified?

Answer – Jim Wilson. If that is the case, PoCo will deal with the special rate accordingly.

New Members – This year we have 5 new members and one new meter to an existing member.

Sales. Over the last two Covid years we have seen an increase in sales, due to more seasonal residents staying longer into the fall.

Generator Usage - In 2020, 35 hours run time, in 2021, 6 hours (year to date)

Financial Report – Dana Perry

This year we have transitioned from Tina Tully as bookkeeper to Ellie Kastanopolous. Through the summer Ellie has been getting up to speed and learning the company's finances

Poco is now filing a tax form 990. This year's form, which is not quite complete, will be posted to the town website for public access. This should be within a few weeks.

Question – Mat Skolnikoff. How were prepayments for the solar project allowed without PUC approval of the project first?

Answer – Jim Wilson. All payment were voluntary and as such PoCo did not consult with the PUC. None of the pre-payment money has been used.

Solar Project – George Cole

Over the last 12 months a board sub-committee has worked hard to organize analysis of options for future power generation (solar project) and comminate this information to the full board.

-Cable. Much has been learned about maintaining and replacing our cable. We now think there is a viable option to eventually replace the cable at a capital cost significantly less than our earlier assumptions.

-Batteries. While the initial assessment of a solar/battery system looked good the engineering and risk analysis prove difficult.

-The conclusion of the Project management committee, and recommendation to the full board was that the risks associated with the various solar/battery options were too great and that PoCo should instead pursue a cable/solar approach.

Member Questions/Comments

Paul Lewis – Do we have data on line-loss in cable?

-We know we purchase 20% more power than we sell, but not where the losses are. Cable vs island grid.

Marshall McBean – What do we know about future costs of power purchase from mainland?

-Jim Wilson- Industry press predicts around 3% annual increase

Sue Foelix– Has there be consideration of combining the power cable and broadband?

-Adding fiber optics to the cable would require an armored cable and be much more expensive

Gail Holmes – With on island solar can we sell power to the mainland?

-G Cole – PoCo's analysis is that the cost of equipment required to sell power to the mainland is prohibitively expensive.

Gail Homes – Concerned about global trends over the next 20 years and urges PoCo to think big and be leader on clean energy issues.

Judy Burke – Urges PoCo to do the best of the future world and not give up on big ideas.

George Cogan – Notes that the solar/battery systems are complicated and that we are all looking to do the right thing but must remain honest and accurate about all ramification of what we do.

Mat Skolnikoff – States that he believes climate change to be a very important issue to be dealt with but urges PoCo to do what is best for the year round community on Isle au Haut. PoCo should remember that the cost of living on the island is high and not to overburden those who want to remain on the island year round.

Paul Lewis – Strong agreement on the need for renewable energies. We must remember it is easy to say independence from the mainland grid is good but size matters and being part of the larger mainland grid, while counter intuitive, may be the best solution towards a cleaner energy grid.

Solar Project Going Forward – George Cogan

Work for PoCo now

- (1) How to utilize planned subsidies, grants, and low interest loans planned for the solar/battery project for Cable/solar project instead
- (2) Plan to manage the cable
- (3) Further work on solar project proposal

New Board of Directors

Jim Wilson – PoCo proposed a slate of board members for the coming year as;

Abigail Hiltz, Bill Chamberlin, Sam Chamberlin, Bob Schonenberg, Dana Perry, Dane Stevens, George Cogan, Nick Filler, Jim Wilson, Lee Davis, Rob DeWitt, Ruel Little, Mike Fedosh, Ben Sampson, Mike Pratt.

Hand Vote: One vote opposed to this slate all others in favor.

Slate of Board Members Approved.

Comments from Incoming Board President Bill Chamberlin

-Big thank you to Jim Wilson for his time as board president and to the retiring board members for their contributions.

-Will immediately start work with Bryan Carroll and board on planning of solar/cable future with a focus on safe, reliable, economic power for our island.

Motion to adjourn meeting.

All in Favor.

Meeting Adjourned.