

**Orford Energy Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
December 11th, 2018
Orford Town Offices
7:00 pm**

Present: Ted Cooley (Chair), Jordon Sutherlin, John Miller, David Smith (Selectboard), Emily Bryant and Mark Blanchard (Vice Chair).

Visitor: Ann Green

Meeting called to order 7:06 PM

Accepted October 9th minutes (Motion/Second) Cooley/Miller, in favor. The meeting for November 13th was cancelled due to worsening weather, lack of quorum as well as partial space conflict with Budget Advisory Committee.

Emily Bryant lead off reporting on November 1st Weatherize Orford, Piermont Lyme (OPL) wrap-up/celebration held in Multipurpose Room and guided by Sarah Brock of Vital Communities. OPL had on per capita basis the leading participation of all the town groups and achieved triple the number of actual contracts forecasted (52 v. 17). Attendance was about 14 people in an informal discussion of their experiences, generally positive. A key recommendation was that participants be better prepared both by program and contractors of time/effort to make weatherize areas accessible. Half humorously proposed was a “Dumpsterize” program to help people move and remove stuff. Blanchard and Miller also participated in November meeting and report.

Cooley mentioned the increasing problems with recycling because of China taking less material due to their tighter standards for recycling. Possibly there may be value in OEC looking at recycling or Stuff Disposal as a potential project area.

Facilities: Smith reported little new on the Facilities front, but the Offices handicap ramp doorbell was installed and the Basement light and furnace switch wiring was corrected. Smith and Cooley then turned to broader discussion of the Town Offices needs, which was the primary topic of interest to Ann Green. She sought whether there would be a warrant article for March Town Meeting regarding the condition and needs of the Town Office building (former ‘Ville School). Discussion covered what we know, recapping the Lalancelette structural analysis. Overall, Lalancelette found the Building is in very sound condition except for parts of the foundation, which does need attention soon. What needs to be determined about the means and potential costs to repair the foundation

requires warm weather and a modest amount of exterior excavation to determine best means of repair. Sutherlin will follow up with the contractor names provided by NH Preservation as well as get ideas from Mike Wright re plausible scopes of work and cost. All of which cannot be ready for any sort of definitive Warrant Article in March. Blanchard raised approaching this issue as a “Sense of the Town” meeting item as was done by the OHS for Town Hall. Smith suggested that the Police interest in additional secure storage in part of the basement may offer granting opportunities to support part of a project cost. The NHSaves Municipal weatherize program likely could subsidize some insulation improvement that may become feasible in conjunction with fixing the foundation. Also raised was applying to the State’s Seven to Save program. There may also be direct low-cost loans from the USDA. Green referred to 2016 studies contracted by the Selectboard and that nothing seems to have been done yet. Discussion recognized public may hold widely different ideas about how best to use our historic buildings, especially the Town Offices, and what is appropriate for Orford for town facilities. The sense was that a town discussion needs to get going. How broad the OEC role in this is a matter for discussion with the Selectboard.

New Business: Cooley turned to Miller a topic recently broached: Should OEC consider providing public information that could assist Orford Residents with understanding implications of Climate Change and actions we might all take. A broad discussion ensued given that the OEC role includes helping residents understand energy related issues and ways live more comfortably economically. Cooley, for example raised use of LED lighting. Bryant suggested initiating a newsletter that could illuminate various topics. It was agreed not to get into approaches that could be misconstrued as politically-based preaching. Blanchard raised point that OEC is an official Town committee and might it need Selectboard permission to be offering such information. This turned to perhaps using the Town website to list, impartially, resources on related topics that people could use if they want to know more. Perhaps use the listserv (380 households per Cooley) to provide weblinks to various info sources. In all an interesting discussion of how OEC might further help residents economize as well as reduce possible harmful effects on the environment.

Cooley offered to draft a short OEC report to be in the Annual Town Report. Offer appreciated by all.

Cooley moved to adjourn. Smith seconded, All in favor. Adjourned 8:23 PM

Minutes taken by M. Blanchard