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## Orford Energy Committee

*Meeting of the Committee*

\*\*\* **PLEASE NOTE FORMAT CHANGE DUE TO COVID-19** \*\*\*

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 7:00 P.M.**

**Online Meeting via Zoom – Details Below**

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### **MEETING MINUTES**

**1. Call To Order**

Meeting called to order 7:03 PM. Those attending: Ted Cooley, chair, Mark Blanchard, Jordon Sutherlin, John Miller. Robb Day joined in progress.

**2. Approve Minutes:**

13<sup>th</sup> October 2020 Online Meeting, Minutes approved with clerical change. Jordon moved to approve with change, Robb 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**3. Reports & Updates:**

- Town Projects

- Offices energy Projects

- Foundation

No additional information regarding Selectboard interest in pursuit of foundation structural and insulation issues.

- Furnace / Thermostat

Mark spoke with Esther, asked if heat working as expected. Esther reported, “OK”. She indicated that it is “more comfortable”. Jordon has not obtained an update/confirmation aside from Mark’s informal conversation.

- Highway Department Project

Jordon’s recommendation to Selectboard regarding addition of insulation to poured concrete floor. Issue appears to be included in Selectboard Agenda for 11/11. He will try to speak with John Adams ahead of meeting.

- Grant opportunities

Ted again noted that NHSaves rebates continue to be available to municipalities for weatherization project costs.

- Future Webinars and other Presentations

Discussion centered around interest in collaboration with Lyme toward weatherization (NHSaves Button-Up webinar and possible additional (local) round of the Weatherize campaign). Robb asked about (community) attendance (within virtual format). Ted notes difficulty in measuring attendance within the Zoom webinar format. This is not reported. Mark noted that the Town Office foundation issues continue to be unresolved, and that perhaps focus upon such initiatives might better provide a return on OEC efforts. Mark further suggested that a community survey requesting feedback regarding level of interest in various energy saving information and / or projects could be helpful. He volunteered to draft a questionnaire for such use. Further, Mark requested reminders from the group. Ted informed the group of an inquiry from a recent arrival to Orford seeking information about Green Building technologies for their proposed new construction.

**4. Business:**

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- Potential projects

Jordon reported on his investigation of Fairlee's Energy Committee (FEC) activities. While he was not in direct contact with FEC members, he spoke with Geoff Martin of Two Rivers-Ottauqueche Regional Planning Commission (TRORPC) who reports that the commission has just begun working with FEC on the following initiatives:

- Gathering info on energy use of town building including energy audits
- Researching renewable energy sources for the town
- energy purchasing plan
- Charging station for EV
- Requiring energy efficient building practices for town buildings
- Having the town become Net Zero

Jordon suggests that there may be a number of opportunities to collaborate, based upon these objectives. Ted notes that he is a member of the Southern Windsor Country Regional Planning Commission (SWCRPC) and that this commission provides a similar focus but notes that this is fee-based. There is an initiative to form an alliance between SWCRPC and TRORPC. He notes that "Green Initiatives" have not been warmly embraced within member communities and tend to result in the phrase, "Here we go again!". This shouldn't rule out renewed attempts which are viewed as worthwhile and not necessarily futile. Mark reminded the group of Vital Communities works with regional Energy Committees and asked about current projects there. John reported that he attended the Annual Energy Committee Roundtable some months ago but couldn't recall specifics.

Mark inquired of the group about local interest in battery storage technologies, such as the Tesla PowerWall. Several community members installed solar photovoltaic systems a few years back during Solarize Orford initiative. Might they be upgrading / augmenting with storage? Ted noted that there are a number of competing storage technologies on a larger scale and noted a recent seminar conducted at Dartmouth in September. He also noted that Lebanon had a pilot project with Liberty Utilities, but that it seems to have stalled.

- OEC Website contents

Ted continues to encourage members to watch for material / information of interest.

- Energy Committee members / candidates
  - OEC Nomination(s) – Again, Ted encourages recruitment efforts.
- Other Business – none noted.

5. **Next meetings:**

Committee Meetings:

8<sup>th</sup> December 2020, Online Via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

12<sup>th</sup> January 2021, Online Via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

6. **Adjourn**

**Topic: OEC 2nd Tuesday Zoom Meeting**

Time: Nov 10, 2020 19:00 Eastern Time (US and Canada)

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://zoom.us/j/96403925937>

Meeting ID: 964 0392 5937

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For Help, contact [tedc@cooleyllc.com](mailto:tedc@cooleyllc.com) or 603 353 2139