
Orford Energy Committee

Meeting of the Committee

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

Tuesday 9th February 2021 at 7:00 P.M.

Online Meeting via Zoom – Details Below

MEETING MINUTES

1. **Called To Order 7:05 PM**

Those present: Ted Cooley (Chair), Scott Gagnon, Jordon Sutherlin, John Miller (Secretary), Robb Day

Ted read the text of Emergency Order #12 Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04 as required (Temporary modification of public access to meetings under RSA 91-A).

2. **Approved Minutes:**

12th January 2021 Online Meeting. Minor edits noted by Ted and corrected. Jordon moved to approve as corrected, Robb 2nd. Unanimously Approved.

3. **Reports & Updates:**

- Town Projects
 - Offices energy Projects
 - Foundation
 - Furnace / Thermostat
 - Other Building Improvement Projects

Jordon reports that he called John Adams, Selectboard Chair seeking status updates. His call was not returned. Jordon noted that during a previous discussion with John that he was asked what the Orford Energy Commission does / accomplishes. As this is summarized annually in the Town Report under OEC Annual Report, this seems to underscore the poor communication between the Orford Selectboard and its various commissions and committees.

Jordon notes that the Selectboard has not engaged with the OEC in the past two calendar years. He feels strongly that this issue should be formally noted via a revision of recently submitted OEC Annual Report for 2020. Perhaps not too late to submit an amendment?

Ted observed that one of OEC's members, Dave Smith has been unable to attend in person since at least March of 2020 due to absence of computer and restrictions imposed by COVID-19 and Executive Order 2020-04. As Dave had previously been a Selectboard member and SB liaison to this committee, an important line of communication to the board has terminated. All such liaison functions had been halted by the Selectboard.

Ted verbally summarized OEC projects going back to a street light efficiency upgrade circa 2015 and moving forward. Vital Communities projects such as Solarize and Weatherize were significant successes but did not involve the Selectboard. Proposed project initiatives such as Town Office foundation,

drainage, insulation, and heating plant – requiring coordination with the board have all faltered. (Heating upgrade moved ahead unilaterally).

Jordon advocated for a motion, formally endorsing an addition to the 2020 Orford Energy Committee Annual Report, noting the ongoing absence of engagement by the Orford Selectboard with this committee.

John moved that OEC revise the OEC 2020 Annual Report to state that, “The Orford Selectboard has failed to effectively engage with the Orford Energy Commission for two years. This has greatly hampered its ability to serve the Town.” Robb 2nd. Unanimously approved.

- Grant opportunities
Ted reports no new opportunities but observed that Vital Communities is generating a fair degree of energy-related project initiatives. Weatherize (NH Saves rebates) eligibility renews every 2 years.
- Future Webinars and other Presentations

4. **Business:**

- Materials for “Town Meeting” dates
Ted noted the recently authorized splitting of Town Meeting allowing for voting for officers in March, with in-person meeting for discussion of Articles in May. Electronic documents might be provided for upload to Orfordnh.us Town website under Committees section, OEC. Also to OEC Facebook pages.

Robb mentioned that physical handout materials ought be considered for the May meeting. Jordon noted that Esther might be able to assist with printing of limited copies via Town resources. John noted the real possibility that COVID-19 might well be a significant factor once again, making electronic options more flexible and accessible.

- Potential projects
Ted mentioned that he has reached out to Lyme regarding another round of Weatherize (this one being locally administered). No reply at present.
- OEC Website contents
As noted above.
- Energy Committee members / candidates
 - OEC Nomination(s)
Ted reminded members to keep recruiting in mind, especially toward women that might be interested in serving.
 - Officers
Ted reminded members that he wishes to step down as Chair in the coming term (March 2021), but will plan to serve in another capacity.
- Other Business
Robb asked about protocol for elections. Ted explained the process of recommending officers and members to the Selectboard for their approval and appointment after Town Meeting. Terms end March 31. Ted’s term and an Alternate (open) are expiring at this time.

5. **Next meetings:**

Committee Meetings:

~~9th March 2021, Online Via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.~~ (Not planning to meet in March)

13th April 2021, Online Via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

6. **Adjourned** 7:41 PM Jordon moved, Robb 2nd, unanimously approved.

Topic: OEC 2nd Tuesday Zoom Meeting

Time: Feb 09, 2021 19:00 Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 964 0392 5937

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,96403925937# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 964 0392 5937

For Help, contact tedc@cooleville.com or 603 353 2139

Respectfully submitted

John Miller

Secretary

Orford Energy Committee