

# Orford Energy Committee

*Meeting of the Committee*

**Traditional In-Person Format**

*Attendees not fully Covid-19 Vaccinated expected to wear mask and distance*

*Tuesday 13 July 2021 at 7:00 P.M.*

**Town Offices, Niles Room**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

1. **Meeting called to Order 7:05 PM.**

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

2. **Approved Minutes of June 8, 2021 as submitted**

Ted moved to approve, Jordon 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous.

3. **Reports & Updates:**

- Public online postings and responses, if any & latest on “State Energy Strategy” 2021 update
  - Mark asked members if any had noted response from community. None came to notice, but Mark noted the importance of such information and members agreed to provide this service in the future.
- Topics noted by committee members during June
  - Ted noted that the Connecticut River Dam Relicensing issue has been in the news currently. Information may be found at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScjl\\_qo9ryV5rDhYReSW3QaYaaqy3LRZWGw\\_NqQ7XuVvNh\\_6w/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScjl_qo9ryV5rDhYReSW3QaYaaqy3LRZWGw_NqQ7XuVvNh_6w/viewform)  
Ted asked if OEC should be interested in the comment process and redistribution of such information and members agreed that this is appropriate.
- EVs, Batteries & microgrids
  - Ted has sent out inquiries. No additional information currently.
- Housekeeping: OEC info infrastructure
  - Mark asked the members to consider again how OEC might effectively distribute helpful Energy related information on a regular basis. Several suggestions were offered, and consensus formed around avoidance of partisan and controversial topics. Two or three articles / items might be more effective than too many.

4. **Business:**

- Streetlights: Scope & Objectives, Public Survey? Timeline and reporting to Selectboard.
  - Mark has reached out to Randy Perkins at Eversource toward information gathering about existing terms & conditions for present street lighting. He hopes to gain understanding of potential path toward modernization along with costs.
- Up-coming local Energy-related events in our region
  - Net Metering and Community Solar
    - Mark noted a link provided to OEC members recently by John, as reported by New Hampshire Public Radio <https://www.nhpr.org/post/win-nh-green-energy-advocates-local-net-metering-expansion-moves-forward#stream/0>
    - Mark asked the members if there might be interest in Orford in a Community Solar initiative, if the NH Legislature makes this attractive via approval of S.B 91 (see article at link above). Ted encourages collaboration with Hanover and Lebanon Energy initiatives which are already moving in the direction of Zero by 2050 and Community Solar.
    - Jordon expressed interest in volunteering to explore information related to microgrids, dam relicensing, climate change issues in general. Ted recommended contact with Julia Griffin, Town Manager at Hanover. (See Net-Zero by 2050 initiative). Scott and Jordon noted the potential for “Climate Refugees” becoming a factor in our regional demographic in the foreseeable future.
- OEC Website: Navigation
  - Members encouraged to continue to view orfordnh.us at Committees | Energy

5. **Next OEC meetings:**

10 August, 14 Sept. all Niles Room, 7:00 p.m. Unless advised otherwise

6. **Meeting Adjourned 8:24 PM.**

Ted moved to adjourn, Scott 2<sup>nd</sup>. Adjourned.