

Orford Energy Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
July 9th, 2019 7:00pm
Orford Town Offices

Present: Ted Cooley (Chair), Emily Bryant (alternate, secretary), Jordon Sutherlin, John Miller, David Smith and Robb Day.

“>>>” indicates action item.

Meeting came to order at 7:07 pm

Emily was seated for Mark Blanchard.

1. Minutes of June 11, 2019:

Motion (John/Jordon) to approve the minutes of June 11, 2019. The motion passed.

2. Discussion about fuel and furnace for the Town Offices:

- Ted: Esther is looking into deals for heating fuel and furnace service contracts. Robb said that Esther found that Dead River had the best deal on fuel (propane).
- Jordon came by the Town Offices when the Dead River service person was servicing the furnace. Jordon asked him what he thought of the furnaces, and he responded that although it's not the brand of furnace they sell, the furnaces looked to be good, and running well. There was discussion about the relative efficiency of running the furnaces with one thermostat (both furnaces come on at once) vs. two thermostats (one furnace comes on and the other comes on only if the first doesn't keep up). The DR service person thought one thermostat would be best, but the Zero by Degrees energy audit of the Town Offices suggested that the furnaces are more efficient when they work harder/longer so two thermostats would be better.
- Ted mentioned that the Energy Committee would like to be involved in the choice of energy and furnace service providers for the Town Offices.
- There was a question about the missing intake pipe for the furnace.

3. Officer elections. Ted said he talked with Mark Blanchard who was willing to continue as Vice Chair. Emily volunteered to be Secretary. Ted agreed to continue as Chair seeing as how no others expressed interest.

Motion (Ted/John) To elect the following slate of officers for the Orford Energy Committee to serve from the present through March 31, 2020: Chair: Ted Cooley; Vice-Chair: Mark Blanchard; Secretary: Emily Bryant. The motion passed.

4. Facilities. There was discussion about possible work around the Town Offices building. Jordon

spoke with Clifton Taylor who said he would donate a day's time with his equipment (small excavator and skid steer). When Jordon presented this proposed work briefly at a Selectboard meeting, they requested that the it be put in writing. Jordon wrote a description of the proposed work, including three tasks:

- Drop the grade behind the building.
- Dig a test hole(s) to see how far down it is to ledge.
- Make a drainage swale to divert water from the hill before it gets to the building. This would be located on the side of the building towards the Free Library. Clifton said he would remove about 8 yards of dirt; he suggested putting this in the hedgerow between the Town Offices and the Free Library rather than hauling it away.

>>> Jordon also plans to make a map of this project.

>>> Jordon and Ted plan to present the project description, including the map, to the Selectboard on their July 24th meeting.

The sense of the meeting was that it is valuable to maintain the building, even if down the road, the Town Offices may or may not be in this building. In particular, even if the Town Offices were to move:

- the town owns the building, and it would be easier to sell a maintained building.
- such a move wouldn't be likely to happen for 5 years or more, and the building should be maintained in the meantime.

5. Furnace shutoff. There was discussion about the fact that the emergency shutoff switch for the furnace is disconnected. This seems puzzling, but Dave thought this was because fire codes now say not to have shutoff switches due to possible sparks igniting leaking propane. The alternative is to shut the propane off at the tank. This may be hard in the winter.

>>> We need to make written instructions on how to do an emergency shutoff.

6. Historic Register. Carl Schmidt sent an email to the Energy Committee with information about the process of putting the building on the NH State Historic Register.

>>> Ted will ask Mark Blanchard if he is willing to read through and follow up on Carl's email.

>>> Emily will re-send to the OEC the notes from the meeting in April with Andrew Cushing of the NH Preservation Alliance (who can help in the process of listing a building on the Historic Register).

7. Selectboard Liaison. The current Selectboard's plan is to read the minutes of the boards'/committees' minutes and to invite each board or committee to a Selectboard meeting once a year, rather than having a Selectboard liaison attending meetings of each town board or committee. Requests to the Selectboard can be put in the minutes. Ted suggested also creating a separate memo to

the Board on any specific requests.

8. Outreach. John reported that the US Department of Energy responded to him saying that it is OK to link to information on their website or to attach PDF's of their documents to emails the OEC might send out (e.g. on the Orford listserv). The NHSaves program, however, requested that he not reproduce their logo in information we put out, but it would be OK to link to their website.

Dave suggested that we need to educate people about new energy saving options, so they don't just, out of habit or lack of knowledge, choose older types of systems that are less efficient.

Jordon suggested that the Town might develop a policy that any new energy work for the Town should be shown to the OEC – not to force a particular solution but so whoever is deciding is aware of options. Ted -- could there be a checkbox indicating that they have talked with the EC. Emily: Make sure this doesn't introduce too much delay. John: Hanover has done this.

9. Electric Vehicle Expo. Ted received notice from Sarah Brock of Vital Communities that the Upper Valley Electric Vehicle Expo will take place on Saturday Sept 14 from 11 am to 3 pm at the Dothan Brook School on Route 5 in Hartford, VT.

10. Next meetings of the OEC:

24th July 2019 – Meet with Selectboard

13th August 2019 Niles Room, Orford Town Offices, 7:00pm

10th September 2019, Niles room, Orford Town Offices, 7:00pm

11. Adjourn

Motion (John/Robb:) to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.

Minutes taken by Emily Bryant.