

Orford Energy Committee
Approved Minutes of the Meeting
October 8, 2019 7:00pm
Orford Town Offices

Present: Regular members: Ted Cooley (Chair), Mark Blanchard (Vice Chair) Robb Day, John Miller, Jordon Sutherlin; Alternates: Emily Bryant (Secretary), Dave Smith.

“>>>” indicates an action item.

Meeting came to order at 7:02 pm.

Announcement: Ted passed on to the meeting that the North Country Council has invited local officials to attend their Annual Meeting on October 24 in Shelburne, NH.

1. Dave Smith was appointed as alternate. He was recently sworn in. His term expires 3/31/22.

2. Minutes of Sept. 10, 2019: Changes to the draft minutes:

- under #2, Energy saving tips: last sentence changed to: “Making temporary repairs was discussed since they would help save energy. Date for repairs to be determined pending examination.”
- under #2 Facilities coordinator, at end: add “No action taken.”
- under #3: added NH DES idling policy website.
- other small changes.

Motion (John/Mark) to approve the minutes of September 10, 2019 as revised. The motion passed.

3. Town Offices – Work on drainage. Jordon contacted Clifton Taylor, to ask when he could to do the work, but has not heard back.

>>> Jordon will also get in touch with Mike Wright about doing the work.

Members mentioned that it is getting late in the season for construction work but still possible.

4. Discussion of meeting protocol. Members reviewed informally what kinds of things must be done at noticed public meetings vs. what can be done outside of meetings (e.g. via email). It would be acceptable to share information via email, but things like acting on items, conducting business, making decisions, or spending money would have to be done in a public meeting. Any OEC matters that are in writing (paper or email) must be available for Freedom of Information requests; emails should cc the official Energy Committee email address (energy@orfordnh.us) so they can be more easily retrieved in case of such a request. Some matters (like adding items suggested by individuals to the meeting agenda) are at the discretion of the Chair alone and might not have to cc the committee. Any emails from the Energy Committee to the public (e.g. Orford listserv) should be made from the Energy Committee email address.

5. Town Offices – medium term prospects. Mark re-contacted Miles Stetson of Engineering Ventures, PC in Lebanon (recommended by the NH Preservation Alliance) about coming for a site visit to develop a scope of work to keep the Town Offices building usable for the town. The exact date/time of the visit is to be determined, but may be on October 22 or 29. Mark encouraged committee members to check the website for Engineering Ventures: www.engineeringventures.com

>>> Mark will also send to the committee a one-page description of the process of putting a building on the state Historic Register.

6. Town Offices Furnace. Dave mentioned that there was service on one of the furnaces in the Town Offices recently.

7. Idling policy Jordon sent around links to the state’s idling policy (see end of minutes). He found that “No Idling” signs are available for around \$20.

Motion (Robb/John): That the energy committee present to the Select Board the state idling policy and recommend that they adopt it. The motion passed.

8. Potential Projects - Power wall

Ted contacted Vital Communities about whether they could help people get “power walls” – large batteries installed in a home. This is a form of distributed energy storage. Liberty Utilities is working on a power wall project in Lebanon. Power walls can be a win-win situation because:

- Batteries are charged at off-peak times.
- The utility can draw upon the stored power during peak hours.
- The homeowner can use the battery during power outages.

>>> Ted will contact the company that installs power walls and see if a representative can come and give a talk about them. This might be of general interest to people in town.

>>> Ted will put this on the agenda for the November meeting for more discussion.

9. Membership. Ted encouraged members to look for candidates for OEC membership.

10. Town Offices – holes in foundation. John noted that there are still a couple of holes in the foundation.

>>> Jordon will ask Esther about having the OEC address the holes in the foundation on a temporary basis in a non-invasive/reversible manner.

11. Town Offices issue and Town Meeting. Jordon spoke with a person in town who is eager to have the Town Offices building preserved and to bring the issue before the Town Meeting. Members agreed that this is a matter for the Select Board rather than the Energy Committee.

6. Next Meeting: 12th November: Niles room, Orford Town Offices, 7:00pm

7. Adjourn

Motion (John/Mark:) to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm
Minutes taken by Emily Bryant.

Additional information on idling:

Jordon's email of 9/10/19 with idling links:

“This material is directly from the DES website.

<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/ard/documents/ard-46.pdf>

<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/legal/rules/documents/env-a1100.pdf>

This is an interesting link because it tackles the police and rescue agencies idle situation.

<https://cleancities.energy.gov/technical-assistance/idlebox/>

And buried in the depths of the darkest corners of the DES web page, the Eco Link.

<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/newsletters/ecolink/index.htm>

The environmental dashboard is also noteworthy. You almost want this to show up in everybody's
feed.”

Link from previous minutes, giving reference to NH law restricting idling:

<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/tsb/tps/msp/irc/categories/overview.htm>