

**Orford Energy Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
November 12, 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

1. Minutes of Oct 10, 2019

Motion: (John/Mark) to accept the minutes of 10/10/19 as written. The motion carried.

2. Town Offices - Drainage and water mitigation. Since the weather has turned cold, and Clifton Taylor is very busy, it is possible that the work will be deferred till Spring. Jordon believes he is still willing to do the work. Mark suggested that we consult with Clifton and pick a date for the work, even if it's a long time away; then he and we can plan around that date.

>>> Jordon will contact Clifton about this.

3. Energy saving tips for the OEC website. John sent around a possible link to put on the OEC website and/or the Orford listserv, and asked members to look at it and see if they are comfortable with it: <https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/new-hampshire/nh-future-of-nature-campaign/> There was discussion about how the OEC can provide links to energy saving information without crossing the line into advocacy on one side or another of a possible political issue. For instance, if the OEC website linked to a website that had good information, but which had further links to sites that advocate a position, would that be OK? Jordon asked whether there is an RSA that clarifies this. Ted said there is, but it is short and very general.

4. Historic Registry for the Town Offices Building:

>>> Mark will write up a one-page summary of the process of putting a building on the Register of Historic Places. (He didn't get to it this past month.)

Carl Schmidt has said he is willing to help with the process.

5. Vehicle Idling Policy: Ted talked with Esther, who said that the Town did adopt an idling policy (dated April, 2019) -- it is not the same as the NH state policy. He also spoke with John Berryman, (Highway Department Administrative Assistant), who reacted positively.

Motion (John/Jordon): That the OEC recommend to the Selectboard that they adopt the NH state vehicle idling policy. There was some discussion, including that the policy and the enforcement of it are two

separate issues, and that it would be good to coordinate with John Berryman; perhaps he could help present the recommendation to the Selectboard. The motion carried.

Motion (Ted/John): that the OEC send a cover letter recommending adoption of the state idling policy (as drafted and revised by Ted), and a copy of NH State idling policy to the Selectboard for their consideration. The motion carried.

6. Town Offices Thermostat: There is a question (unresolved) whether Dead River can come and connect the thermostat in the Town Offices or whether the OEC could do it themselves.

7. Work on patching the Town Offices Foundation: The OEC thanks Jordon for his repair work on the foundation of the Town Offices (patching some holes), with assistance from John and Dave. Jordon had some observations:

- What they did was to patch some holes.
- It was surprising how bad the condition of the foundation is. The mortar between the bricks is bad.
- Most of the foundation is brick (not just the face).
- The repair work looks to be outside the scope of the OEC. While we should keep getting information on the overall state of the foundation and how to fix it long term, the Town needs to spend some money now to hire professionals to do stop-gap repairs.

Other discussion:

- Mark: There is about \$60,000 in an expendable trust for the maintenance of town buildings. Since this is an “expendable” trust, the Selectboard does not need a vote of Town meeting to spend these funds.
- John: Perhaps the reason that the maintenance of the foundation has been neglected is that people see only the side of the building towards the parking lot and front door and don’t realize how bad the rest is.
- Mark: Need to figure out how much work makes sense – do to little and it may not be effective, do too much and it is unneeded, either way a waste of money.

Group: Patching the holes has revealed the bad state of the foundation, leading to feeling that qualified professionals should assess the situation and report to the Selectboard.

>>>> Jordon will contact some local professionals to look at the foundation and report to the Selectboard.

8. Candidates for OEC membership: Ted asked members to think about possible candidates for membership in the OEC. Mark (member)’s and Emily (alternate)’s terms end in March, 2020.

Next Meeting: Tuesday December 10, 2020, in the Niles Room, Orford Town Offices, 7:00pm.

Adjourn Motion (Robb/Ted)) to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:20

Minutes taken by Emily Bryant.