
Orford Energy Committee

Meeting of the Committee

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

Tuesday 13th April 2021 at 7:00 P.M.

Online Meeting via Zoom – Details Below

MEETING MINUTES

1. **Meeting Called To Order** 7:05 PM Those present (via Zoom): Ted Cooley (Chair), Mark Blanchard, Scott Gagnon, Jordon Sutherland, John Miller (Secretary). Ted read NH Municipal Assoc Emergency Order authorizing video conferencing format (Zoom) for conducting Town Committee meetings. Roll call called IAW remote meeting protocol.
2. **Approve Minutes:**
9th February 2021 Online Meeting. Scott moved to accept, Mark 2nd.
Unanimously approved as submitted
3. **Election of Officers:**
Nominations made from the floor as follows: Mark (Chairman), Jordon (Vice Chair), John (Secretary). Scott moved to approve the nominations, Jordon 2nd. Unanimously approved per roll call. Ted continued to chair for balance of meeting. Terms will be April 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022.
4. **Reports & Updates:**
 - Town Projects
 - Fluorescent tube and other recycling. Questions had been received regarding safe recycling / disposal of florescent light tubes. Jordon and Scott report that Bethel Mills / Fogg's had been providing this service historically. It was noted that Orford has an existing contract with Floyd's Rubbish for trash collection and recycling. John agreed to inquire of Esther Dobbins-Marsh for any contract specifics regarding light bulbs and other hazardous waste.
Mark observed that concerns related to recycling might be beyond OEC's mission (Energy issues).
 - Grant opportunities
 - Ted had emailed Energy program info to members previously. Community-Based Solar Lending: Bringing Clean Energy to Low-Income Communities
When Wed Apr 21, 2021 6pm – 7pm
 - https://unh.zoom.us/j/92888839960?tk=eyJhbnQteTVrIjBpf3cckkBzzio.DQIAAAAVoJs3GBZNVl4Zm5GbVN5LUIrUGhubkU5Qk5BAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA&uuiid=WN_uykayblmROGzjkAxePMqIA
 - Ted also noted that the Federal Infrastructure Bill ought provide additional funding opportunities for communities / counties having “shovel-ready” projects in hand. Should OEC explore options / opportunities? There is a possible contact at NH Dept of Agriculture as a result of recent contact with Anne Duncan Cooley (CEO Grafton RDC). Ted will provide contact details.
 - Jordon suggests that Vital Communities might be a possible partner.

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- Mark notes that multi-town initiatives are most likely to attract funding. He also observed that there had been some taxpayer resistance to such funding in the past (proposed repurposing of the Orford Academy building). Some such funding is available through the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) administered by HUD.
 - Ted mentioned another possibility – distributed power / micro-grid.
 - Mark noted the most recent insert in New Hampshire Electric Coop (NHEC) invoicing. They highlighted storage battery technology as a potential asset during peak load times.
 - Future Webinars and other Presentations
 - Jordon observed that there have been several new families moving into Orford, and along with them come the possibility of new ideas and energy.
 - Scott reminded the group of the importance of passive solar technologies and suggests that it would be desirable to encourage incorporation of such energy technology in building codes.
 - Ted recalls that Don Metz of Lyme, NH had been active in designing partial under-Earth homes (with one still present near Pinnacle Hill summit) and he enjoyed favorable experience living comfortably in one example.
 - John noted that Hanover and Lebanon energy groups continue to be very active in encouraging energy efficiency and have been welcoming to neighboring communities

5. **Business:**

- Materials for “Town Meeting” dates
 - John has been redistributing selected energy saving / technology articles via the Orford Listserv (Orford Google group). He reports that explicit permission to share / republish these materials will be sought.
 - Ted recalled previous efforts to distribute NHSaves energy saving information and that permission had been granted for reproducing the text of such material, but not the letterhead / graphic components.
 - Jordon brought up another possible focus being Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations. John observed that Grafton County has been mostly neglected in NH State-wide deployments and that there does not seem to be much active interest at the County level. Ted offered to check again with Anne for leads here.
 - Ted suggested that permission be granted in writing, at least for distribution of hyper-links if not re-publication. Mark moved that OEC approve such distribution
- Potential projects
 - Microgrids (above at Grants)
- OEC Website contents (covered above)
- Energy Committee members / candidates - Ted again encourages recruiting.
- Other Business
 - Jordon reported on a conversation with P. Chase Kling where they discussed the desirability of in-person committee / Commission meetings by a Selectboard liaison. Both felt that this is highly desirable and should be encouraged and restarted.
 - Mark made a motion to authorize John to publish such material as concerns Energy and related issues on the Orford website (Orfordnh.us) and to

publicize such material via the Orford Listserv (Orford@googlegroups.com).
Scott 2nd. Unanimous approval via polling.

6. **Next meetings:**

Committee Meetings:

11th May 2021, Online Via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

8th June 2021, Online Via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

7. **Meeting Adjourned 7:59 PM** Jordon moved to adjourn, Scott 2nd. Unanimous approval.

Topic: OEC 2nd Tuesday Zoom Meeting

Time: Apr 13, 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@cooleyllc.com or 603 353 2139