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## Orford Energy Committee

*Meeting of the Committee*

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

**Tuesday 11 May 2021 at 7:00 P.M.**

**Online Meeting via Zoom – Details Below**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

1. **Meeting called to order 7:11 PM.** Mark Blanchard asked Ted Cooley to read NH Governor’s Emergency Order pertaining to remote meeting and compliance with Open Meeting RSA. Those present (via Zoom) and responding via roll call: John Miller (secretary), Ted Cooley, Robb Day, Mark Blanchard (chair)
2. **Approved Minutes:**  
13 April 2021 Online Meeting. Ted Cooley moved to approve, Robb Day 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous approval indicated via raised hands.
3. **Reports & Updates:**
  - Town Projects: Florescent recycling
    - Ted notes that the spent bulbs are accepted at Lebanon Recycling
    - It has been confirmed that Fogg’s Hardware accepts the spent florescent bulbs (only).
  - Transition of chairmanship
    - Discussed arrangements for safe storage and backup of OEC electronic records. Ted had used Dropbox for this purpose and granted access to the chair and secretary accordingly. Ted suggested that Google Drive might provide a better option as it can be accessed by members having personal Gmail accounts or via Google Apps under the [energy@orfordnh.us](mailto:energy@orfordnh.us) login. This account would be the owner.
    - John observed that Orford Energy Committee currently stores OEC Minutes (Final) within the Documents folder. Other documents deemed appropriate can be stored in this location. Currently there are links to external energy resource materials.
    - Mark expressed concern regarding backup of Orford website and such contents. Ted explained that Google Drive provides ongoing cloud storage & backup to files stored therein.
    - Ted notes that the Orford Selectboard should clarify electronic storage and backup for all Town records including these under discussion.
    - Ted and Mark will discuss details (transition tutorials) off-line and will transfer OEC files (supporting documents) from Dropbox to Google Drive.
  - Grant outlook re Federal \$, regional engagement
    - Mark notes that there is considerable potential for Federal funding for energy related (“infrastructure”) projects, but details and funding continue unresolved at present.
    - Ted agreed that projects will need to be “shovel ready” once funds become approved and available

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- Mark is not aware of any projects are known to be pending at present.
  - Presentations
    - No new ideas volunteered.

4. **Business:** (20 minutes)

- Materials / Actions for “Town Meeting” 22 May
  - John noted the absence of lead time
  - No suggestions made
- Housekeeping: Transition, OEC info infrastructure
  - Addressed at Reports & Updates (above)
- Other EC connections re potential projects such as Microgrids
  - The group discussed collaboration potential with Hanover and Lebanon. Both communities have been very active and profess to be open to working with surrounding communities. John noted that both Lyme and Thetford, VT have active committees working to expand Electric Vehicle (EV) usage in their towns
  - Ted reminds the group of ongoing activity related to microgrids and battery storage. These include Eversource, GMP (Vermont), various solar energy installers.
  - Mark asked for ideas regarding information sharing about such initiatives with our community. He mentioned the listserv, possible program presentations, questionnaires.
  - John observed that Vital Communities continues to be an excellent resource. Mark agreed to renew contact with Sarah Brock at VC. John asked Ted about Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission as a potential resource for energy related projects. Their current focus has been upon transportation issues and Covid meeting restrictions seem to have taken a toll with no in-person meetings during the past twelve months. Zoom has not been highly effective with their large group size.
- OEC Website: Navigation, content
  - John explained that copies of Final Minutes are uploaded there monthly and that there are also links to energy resources <http://orfordnh.us/commissions-committees/energy-committee/> Mark encourages all OEC members to check our section at least monthly.
- Energy Committee members / candidates
  - Mark encourages recruitment efforts with an eye toward diversity. The period of social isolation due to Covid has not benefitted the process.
- Summer Meetings: July, August / Virtual/In-person / Decision Timing
  - Discussion centered around resuming in-person meetings. Robb observed that Parks & Playgrounds had resumed meeting in the Niles Room following Selectboard approval to do so. It is important to note that all attendees have been vaccinated for Covid. Mark agreed to seek such permission for the June meeting after confirming all committee members vaccinated.

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- All expressed support for meeting in person once permission confirmed.
  - Mark noted that it might not be productive to meet regularly over the summer months.
  - Other Business
    - John requested permission to allow the use of his email message to Green Energy Times in their upcoming issue. The note requested permission to distribute energy saving articles and thanked them for their work. Permission was granted.

5. **Next meetings:**

Town Meeting (Business Portion) Saturday. 22 May 2021, 1:00 PM,  
Rivendell Academy Gymnasium

OE Committee Meetings:

8<sup>th</sup> June 2021, Online Via Zoom, 7:00 p.m. (See note regarding in-person meeting, above)

Normal dates: 13 July, 10 August

6. **Adjourned 8:13.** Ted moved to adjourn, Mark 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved.

**Topic: OEC 2nd Tuesday Zoom Meeting**

Time: May 11, 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](mailto:tedc@cooleyllc.com) or 603 353 2139