
Orford Energy Committee

Meeting of the Committee

**Traditional In-Person Format per expiration of NH Emergency Order #12
Attendees not fully Covid-19 Vaccinated expected to wear mask and distance
Tuesday 14 September 2021 at 7:00 P.M.
Town Offices, Niles Room**

PLEASE NOTE FIRST MEETING SINCE JULY 13, Meeting August 10 was cancelled

MEETING MINUTES

1. **Meeting Called To Order 7:03 PM**

Those present: Mark Blanchard (Chair), Scott Gagnon, Robb Day, Ted Cooley, Jordon Sutherlin (Vice-chair), John Miller (Secretary)

2. **Approved Minutes:**

13 July 2021 In-person Meeting. Ted moved to approve as submitted, Scott second. Approved.

3. **Reports & Updates:**

- Status of NH “State Energy Strategy” 2021 update
Mark noted that one significant change is an increase from 1MW to 5 MW net metering cap for municipalities via approval of HB315
<https://www.nhpr.org/nh-news/2021-03-09/n-h-community-power-bill-moves-forward-with-new-compromise#stream/0>
- Emerging Technologies
 - Scott elaborated on a report about a roof panel advance from SkyCoolSystems
<https://www.skycoolsystems.com/>
“24/7 Electricity-Free Cooling
SkyCool Systems is a clean energy company focused on energy efficient solutions and new methods for cooling.”
 - Mark again asked if OEC ought to highlight such energy technology news and perhaps create a database of articles for reference. Ted suggests a “Future Tech” section under Energy Committee on the orfordnh.us website.
 - Robb believes that it would make sense to host public Energy tech information workshops / seminars.
 - Scott suggested that outreach to folks planning new home construction with energy saving strategies might be valuable.
- EVs, Batteries & microgrids no new reports on this topic.
- OEC Website & Listserv:
Ted suggests continued use of Orford@googlegroups.com (Listserv) to bring attention to <http://orfordnh.us/commissions-committees/energy-committee/>

4. **Business:**

- Streetlights: (1) Recap meeting Miller/Blanchard with Mary-Kate Daley (Eversource) (2) Public Short Survey draft & timeline
Notes of this meeting follow below:

July 22, 2021, Meeting with Mary-Kate Daly, Senior Strategic Account Executive, Eversource regarding potential conversion to LED lighting for Orford streetlamps

Those attending – Mark Blanchard, John Miller, Mary-Kate Daly (Eversource)

Current inventory of streetlamps in Orford:
10 Mercury
23 Sodium

Approximate monthly savings if converted to LED = \$400

(Summary) Requirements for the LED Option:

- Customer is responsible for selecting and purchasing accepted LED fixtures from a vendor and for providing replacement fixtures (spares) **NOTE: Cost of appropriate / approvable fixtures including LABOR has not been estimated as of 9/14/2021 OEC meeting**
- Fixtures must be accepted by Eversource in advance
- Customer will pay Eversource or an approved private contractor for removal and installation of LED fixtures
- Eversource will hold title to all fixtures. All maintenance of the fixtures will be performed by Eversource or its agent.
- Eversource will correct system volage problems at no charge. Orford will be charged a per-fixture per visit charge for all other issues. (Note from meeting – currently \$95 per fixture plus parts).

Q&A discussion of the above lead to some promised deliverables:

- Approved vendor list
- Benefits of LED lighting
- Known issues regarding public acceptance

Mary-Kate did propose a meeting with one approved vendor. This had not been scheduled / confirmed as of 9/14/2021. Deliverables listed not received to date.

During the meeting it was noted that there are (NHSaves) Incentives between \$150 - \$200 per fixture depending upon wattage saved vs existing lighting. 100 W savings minimum to qualify. It was thought that the inventory listed above would meet this requirement.

Discussion followed regarding path forward. Consensus was that a proposed public survey would best be managed by the Orford Selectboard should they elect to pursue a project once all costs are known. The need for cost estimates for the removal and replacement of the existing streetlamp fixtures must be provided and Mark indicated that he would renew efforts to obtain this information from Eversource and approved contractor(s).

- Up-coming local Energy-related events in our region. See Vital Communities Energy Events / Resources <https://vitalcommunities.org/energy/>
- OEC role re Orford Net Zero and/or Climate Action plans creation
 Jordon introduced and led a discussion regarding the potential establishment of a special committee or commission focused upon an Orford Climate Action Plan and Net Zero strategy. Such a group could focus upon these important and broad goals while drawing upon a broader cross-section of our Orford community. Ted felt that representation from the Energy and Conservation commission would be helpful.
 Mark noted that there is an existing model for such an initiative in the creation of the Orford Town Hall Heritage Center. This began with a special committee and reached a very satisfactory conclusion.
 John wondered if other (smaller) communities might also be working upon similar goals, as we know Lebanon and Hanover are currently doing. NH Municipal Association and the Regional Planning Commissions?
 Robb suggested that Library support toward publicity would likely be both possible and very helpful.
 Mark noted that there are natural synergies in Agricultural concerns and Ted also observed that Emergency Preparedness falls into this category.
- **Action Items:** Robb will speak with Laina at Orford Social Library, Ted will speak with UVLSRPC folks, Jordon will reach out to other community members. Mark will continue to work with Eversource as noted above.

5. **Next OEC meetings:**

12 October, 9 November all Nilas Room, 7:00 p.m. Unless advised otherwise

6. **Adjourned 8:35 PM.** John moved to adjourn, Scott second. Adjourned.