
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 October 12 2021 at 7:00 P.M.

Town Offices, Niles Room

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:**

September 14, 2021, In-person Meeting. Ted moved to approve as submitted, Mark second. Approved.

3. **Reports & Updates:**

- OEC Participation / review of Energy organization activities
 - Mark noted information provided by OEC members continues to be helpful. He feels that activity reported in neighboring communities, such as Hanover and Lebanon toward Climate Action Plans and Zero by 2050 initiatives ought to inform OEC / Orford efforts, but that focus of OEC's attention should be upon potential Orford municipal actions. He continues to collect this information / links for further study and potential use in assisting Orford citizens.
- Emerging Technologies
 - Ted commented upon a proposed "Future Trends" section under the OEC section of the Orford website <http://orfordnh.us/commissions-committees/energy-committee/>, noting that micro-grid technology including energy storage options are in the energy news. Ted observed that current guidance for building heating and cooling is to utilize green electrical energy sources such as solar coupled with heat pumps for primary heating / cooling source (vs. oil and propane). Mark noted activity in Hinesburg, VT regarding micro-grid energy (small-scale wind turbine) and increasing use of solid-state controls. Ted will be looking at an initiative in Lebanon through his participation in Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC) during their upcoming meeting on Wednesday, 10/13. Jordon observed that there had been several micro-hydro power installations locally, with at least one in Orford. When implemented with pond configurations, these can provide energy storage capabilities. Mark commented that such small and medium scale projects often present environmental concerns, while also requiring significant capital outlays. He did remind the group of an existing hydro-generation facility off Route 12A near Powerhouse Mall. The Mascoma River runs through a penstock under the highway. Ted mentioned that he inquired about battery storage during the recent meeting with Eversource / Affinity.
- EV Charging Stations
 - Investigation continues. Mark encouraged the group to reach out to contacts at exiting local implementations, such as Hannaford in Bradford, VT. Robb notes that Vermont and New Hampshire are considerably different in terms of incentives and that focus upon NH-based installations would be wise. Ted looked

up existing locations on a web-based finder and noted Lebanon, W. Lebanon and Lyme. Jordon and Scott volunteered to pursue further.

4. **Business:**

- Streetlights: meeting Blanchard/Cooley with Mary-Kate Daley (Eversource) and Cassidy Brennan of Affinity LED Lighting www.affinityled.com
 - Mark and Ted presented highlights from this meeting. Mark notes that OEC's request for a simple, like-for-like upgrade to LED technology using the same number of streetlights yielded a Net Project Cost of \$9,216, which reflects the current incentive savings of \$3,250. The cost would otherwise be \$12,466. Further, the existing annual cost of the current street lighting is \$9,037 and 15,077 Total kWh consumed. Should the LED upgrade project be approved and implemented the new annual cost of electricity would be \$2,474 (under current tariff rates) and 4,110 Total kWh consumed. Given the above assumptions, the Simple Payback for the entire project would be 1.40 years
 - John suggested that the spreadsheet format quote be summarized in a recommendation to the Orford Selectboard. Others emphasized that OEC should proceed toward further refinement, including citizen input, should the Selectboard approve. Mark agreed to request inclusion of this proposal in upcoming Selectboard Meeting.
 - Discussion ensued regarding options to potentially reduce the number of streetlights, examine effective lighting patterns, etc. It was noted that John Karol had suggested technical specifications for LED prior to this meeting. Mr. Karol acknowledged the previous (March 1984) controversy that a similar initiative caused. Mark agreed to respond to John's email with the expectation of John's participation.
 - Jordon moved that OEC propose a project for conversion to LED streetlights. Ted 2nd. Unanimously approved.
- Up-coming local Energy-related events in our region.
 - Mark noted the Vermont Energy and Climate Network (VECAN) Annual Conference which has been held at the Lake Morey Resort on or about December 1 of each year. <https://vecan.net/conferences/14th-annual-vecan-conference-2021-2/>

5. **Old Business:**

- Town Offices foundation and insulation
 - Jordon noted that this dormant initiative might be once again prioritized. He listened to a recent radio program highlighting the pending influx of Federal Infrastructure funding. Funding, such as the recent rounds of Stimulus funds for Broadband have been quickly disbursed to "shovel ready" projects and provided short notice and rapid expiry. Much work had been done toward estimates for upgrading the Town Office to an architecturally and environmentally sound foundation. With minimal additional efforts, this project might qualify for similar funding, Jordon proposed. John agreed. Mark cautioned that OEC might best advance one project at a time.

6. **Next OEC meetings:**

9 November, 21 December all Niles Room, 7:00 p.m. Unless advised

otherwise

7. **Adjourned 8:36 PM.** Scott moved to adjourn, Ted second. Adjourned.