

Minutes of OLEC Meeting

6 February 2007

7:30 PM, Room 121 Town Hall.

Present: G. Green, H. Millett , B. Kosicki

1. The minutes for the 6 December 2006 meeting were accepted.
2. We discussed whether or not there was a policy by the Board of Selectmen to follow Outdoor Lighting Bylaw. This continued our discussion during the meeting of 6 December, 2006.

BK reported on phone conversation with Trey Shupert (past contact point of OLEC on BoS) in which Trey confirmed that there was a feeling among Board members that they would comply if they could, but that there was no written record of this that he knew of. Lauren Rosenzweig (present contact) confirmed that there was no formal written policy.

Although the BoS seems to be favorably inclined to generally follow the bylaw, we discussed that their official position to town managers responsible for projects involving lighting is that they don't need to follow it. This is the direction from the formally established fact that the Town does not need to follow its own bylaws. The result of this is that a project will proceed with initial designs and estimates that don't follow the bylaw. Once these initial estimates and designs are prepared it is then often too late to then change direction. Therefore, the current situation will result in not following the bylaw, unless somehow this cycle is interrupted by someone outside these groups.

GG proposed that the Board be approached to write a letter to relevant Town officials stating that the Board intends that the Outdoor Lighting Bylaw be followed unless the Board elects for some reason to decide to not follow it. This would allow initial designs and estimates to proceed following the bylaw guidelines, but would also allow the Town to reverse direction if the need arose.

We anticipated that the Board would discuss the cost implications of this approach. BK said that a current example- the higher cost of following the bylaw on the Elm Street sports lights- is definitely not what we should expect for general lighting. Sports lighting is very special case since large fixtures are needed for good light control. (BK noted that the designer of the new Elm St lights made measurements recently of the spillage of light onto the yards and front of houses across Elm Street. This spillage was comparable to the amount light that normally is designed to illuminate a parking lot.)

In another example following the Bylaw would have resulted actually in savings to the Town. The light fixtures in the High School parking lot are well designed and do

follow the guidelines bylaw. However, the light level on the ground is much higher than normally required and allowed by the new bylaw. Therefore, in this example, following the new bylaw (if it were in force then) would have resulted in somewhat less installation expense and much less operational expense.

We voted to approach the Board with this idea for a letter after Town Meeting. We will take this matter up again in our 10 April meeting.

3. Streetlight Study. We now are able to predict accurately the amount of electricity that NSTAR bills the Town for. Using the new streetlight inventory, our estimates are accurate to within 0.1% of NSTAR's calculations. This means that we can now accurately forecast the electricity cost of any proposed new installation.

We will have two meetings in the near future with Dean; one including representative of Littleton Electric Lighting Department to discuss installation costs, and possible reduced maintenance costs if all lights are replaced; and a second with NSTAR, to discuss how and when new billing can be established after a retrofit. We also will get an estimate of a possible rebate of part of the installation expense from NSTAR.

Our goal will be to have all our calculations and proposals ready to present to the Board in late Spring, for possible inclusion in the 2008 budget.

4. Associate member. We have had no feedback from the Volunteer Coordinating Committee. HM will contact a person he knows who might be interested.
5. Next regular meeting will be 6 March in room 121.