

Minutes of OLEC Meeting

6 February 2008

7:30 PM, Room 126 Town Hall.

Present: J. Coane, M. Graetz, B. Kosicki; H. Millett, T. McDonagh, G. Green

1. The minutes for the 8 January 2007 meeting were accepted.
2. BK reported that Dean and he would make a phone call to NSTAR on Friday, 8 Feb to discuss Kevin Morley's email to Dean about the application.
3. We discussed the lack of a Building Commissioner after Garry Rhodes left in November. BK had communicated to the Planning Department (who is handling Special Permits in the absence of a BC) that OLEC would be willing to help look at submitted plans for their outdoor lighting portion. Roland accepted this offer. There have been no plans submitted since the BC has resigned and left.
4. We discussed a review of all Special Permit projects that were done after the new Outdoor Lighting Bylaw was passed in April 2004. We will wait until a new Building Commissioner has been selected and is in place, and use this opportunity to introduce ourselves to him. BK will ask Roland for a list of all Site Plan Special Permits since April 2004.
5. Web site update. HM has expressed interest in spearheading the updating of the site, with input from all committee members. He will contact Laura Mason to see if we can get an account and password to make initial changes ourselves, before asking help from her. The first order of business is to review current content to see which should be saved/updated, and what new content should be added.
6. Beacon article. We need to start now to create articles for the newspaper to educate residents about possible upcoming issues regarding the streetlights before Town Meeting. TM will write an article about light pollution in general. BK will summarize the streetlight plan. We also need to add news about the NSTAR application.
7. Earth Day. OLEC has been invited to participate in Earth Day again this year (10am-3pm Saturday, 3 May). We agreed that OLEC should do this. BK will contact Karen Rivera that OLEC will take part.
8. BK reported on an investigation of LED streetlights for John Murray. He has found four probably viable manufacturing companies of LED streetlights, and initiated contact with all of these to get more specific information than exists in their web sites. Only two of the four companies manufacture LED streetlights that comply with the "fully shielded" requirement of the Outdoor Lighting Bylaw. (All the standard HID streetlights considered are "fully shielded".
9. Next meeting Wednesday, 5 March, 7:30PM, Room 121)

Street Light Conversion (included in the Budget Book)

Description Acton purchased its streetlights from NSTAR about 10 years ago. Currently Acton pays NSTAR for the amount of electricity used. The bill for the 2007 fiscal year was about \$87,000.

Most of the lights purchased from NSTAR were installed during the 1970s, are of an outmoded design that broadcasts glare, and make use of very inefficient lamps compared to those used today.

This project proposes to replace most of Acton's streetlights (except for those along Route 2A, which were installed in 1990 and of modern design and efficiency).

Benefits The replacement lights would be fully shielded, focusing light down onto the road for improved visibility and reduced glare in the eyes of drivers and nearby residents. The new lamps (metal halide technology) used would be much more efficient (about twice as efficient) and the majority of Acton's current mercury vapor streetlights. This allows significant electricity cost savings (about 41% less than the current amount).

Costs and payback

Cost of the replacement project	\$165,000
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Yearly savings in electricity (at 2007 rates)	\$35,500
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Payback period	4.6 years
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(Note that the payback period assumes no increase in future electricity costs. The actual payback period will probably be less.)

Possible rebate from NSTAR. Acton has applied for a possible rebate from NSTAR for reducing its electricity load. As of January, we have no information on what this possible rebate might be. Acton did receive a rebate when it replaced its traffic lights with more efficient LED lights.

Any rebate would reduce the payback period.