

Minutes of OLEC Meeting

5 March 2008

7:30 PM, Room 126 Town Hall.

Present: B. Kosicki; H. Millett, T, McDonagh

1. The minutes for the 6 February 2007 meeting were accepted.
2. We discussed writing Beacon articles to inform residents and generate support for the article that will propose replacement of streetlights. BK has written one article that is about the right length. TM will also write an article on glare and submit it.
3. The OLEC web site needs to be rejuvenated. HM is leading this effort, and has met with Laura Mason of the Town IT department. OLEC now has a user name and password, so that we can make small changes ourselves. The IT department has an editing interface. Laura wants to insert pictures herself
One of the first priorities is to publicize the test streetlight locations. TM has located these on a Google map, which can be inserted into the website. BK will take pictures of flat and drop lens fixtures for possible use in the web site.
HM will make up an outline of the new site and review current content to see which should be saved/updated, and what new content should be added for discussion in a future meeting.
4. Town star party. We will plan a Town-wide Star Party at NARA for May 2, with a cloud date of May 3. BK will contact the Recreation Department to reserve NARA for those dates, and also see if the Board can declare this a Town event.
5. Earth Day. We discussed plans for the OLEC table at Earth Day this year. The date of Earth Day is May 3, which means that the Star Party can be coordinated with this event. TM will consider a poster layout for the OLEC table.
6. Next meeting Monday, 14 April, 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.