

## Minutes of OLEC Meeting

22 April 2008

7:30 PM, Room 126 Town Hall.

Present: B. Kosicki; Martin Graetz, T, McDonagh

1. The minutes for the 5 March 2008 meeting were accepted.
2. We discussed a draft Beacon article on the merits of metal halide and high pressure sodium lamp types. It is important to get these facts before the public before the Board meeting, to generate resident feedback for the Board to consider.

MG remembered an article in the Globe about 1992 which discussed the switch to high pressure sodium in Lexington. This decision by their Board of Selectmen caused an outcry by people who didn't like the color of HPS lighting. Objections stated that "the sodium lights will alter the character of the town" and that historic districts be spared from the sodium lights, though, as the article pointed out, "there is nothing in the history books to indicate that incandescent or mercury vapor lamps lit the way for our colonial forefathers".

The committee agreed that the goal of streetlights is to show what you have to see. Both types of lights can provide the type of light needed for safety. There are pros and cons of each regarding color preference, glare of the basic spectrum, ability to recover night vision, and other factors.

We resolved to put the facts before the people of Acton and let them make up their own mind on the type.

It was noted that all the members of OLEC present personally preferred high pressure sodium lighting, because of its technical advantages (more efficient, less glare, especially to older persons, and less sky glow per lumen).

3. Earth Day. We discussed last minute preparations for the OLEC Earth Day table. There will be a handout, discussing the facts of MH and HPS lamps, and also raising the question of interest of volunteers in supporting an Acton Earth Hour for March, 2009. TM will also prepare a poster for the table.
4. Next meeting Monday, 14 April, 7:30PM, Room 121)