

Minutes of OLEC Meeting

2 September 2008

7:30 PM, Hallway outside Room 46, Town Hall.

Present: B. Kosicki; Martin Graetz, H. Millett, T. McDonagh, G. Green

1. The minutes for the August meetings were accepted as written and revised.
2. The official OLEC email address does still not reach all OLEC members. HM will speak to Laura Mason to correct the list of email addresses associated with this address.
3. We discussed the ambiguity that currently exists between the apparent desire of the Board to follow the outdoor lighting bylaws of the Town, and the past determination of both the Building Commissioner and the Planning Director that the Town is not obligated to follow this bylaw. The issue is that while the Town is required to follow the section of its bylaws that pertain to site layout and dimensionality requirements, it does not need to file a Special Permit for any of its projects, and therefore is exempt from any bylaw (like the outdoor lighting bylaw) that is triggered by Site Plan Special Permit. So, any Town project manager that asks the Building Commissioner for guidance regarding whether he needs to follow the Outdoor Lighting Bylaw for his project is told that he does not. This has happened at least twice in recent years, and resulted in the outdoor lighting bylaws being not at all followed in one large project.

BK has discussed this with our liaison, Terra F, and she asked us to research this issue, and arrange a discussion with the Town Manager to r discover and resolve any discrepancies between the Board's desire and the understanding of Town staff. She has had informal discussions with the Town Manager on this issue.

TM will carry out some fact-finding on this issue regarding the understanding of some Town officials. BK will forward any related communications to him for review. If needed after TM's review, then BK will arrange a meeting with the Town administration to address this issue.

4. Web Site. HM reported that there has been no further action on renewing the web site.
5. Dean has reported that LELD will likely not be finished with the retrofit project by October 1, but that this should not affect the rebate that NSTAR has promised to the Town. Is the Town planning any type of "ribbon cutting" or celebration event for those involved? Will be discussed with the TM during our meeting.
6. MG has looked at and reported on his survey of the lighting between the South Acton MBTA parking lot and the subsidiary lot. These lights could be improved, but it isn't clear whether Acton or the MBTA owns and provides these lights. To be continued.

7. We discussed possible handouts for the Acton Star Party at NARA, scheduled for November 7/8. BK will send out several previous possible handouts to the group for consideration.

8. Earth Hour is now an international program. Chicago was the largest US city to be involved in last year's event. <http://www.earthhourus.org/chicago.php>

OLEC supports Acton's involvement- either officially or unofficially. Earth Day 2009 is scheduled for 8PM, Saturday night, March 28, 2009. TM is interested in working on this program. We will discuss this in the future.

9. We discussed the need for a new chair for OLEC. MG expressed interest. Continued.

10. HM reported that the Acton program to generate a web site did not work in our attempt on HM's computer. HM will work with Laura Mason to resolve this issue.

11. Next meeting 7 October. BK may not be able to attend, and MG will serve as chair for this meeting.