

Minutes of OLEC Meeting

14 April 2009

7:30 PM, Room 126 Town Hall.

Present: B. Kosicki; Gary Green, Tom McDonagh

1. The minutes for the March meeting were accepted as written and revised.
2. TM discussed an informal report that he had received from an architect he personally knows regarding the HS parking lot lighting layout. The architect gave his impressions from pictures that TM had sent.

TM will also send the report on lighting levels that OLEC had prepared in 2007 with a student group to this architect, so that the lighting engineers at that company can comment. This design and engineering firm has undertaken school building projects in the past, and so they are aware of current standards.

The point of this activity is to help resolve a disagreement between the HS Facilities director, JD Head, and TM and BK of OLEC, over the proper levels of lighting for school facilities. Comments by Mr. Head giving his idea over lighting levels were read into the March minutes.

Mr. Head also gave as references supporting present level of lighting some documentation he had read online from the University of New Hampshire and University of Houston. He was not able to give the exact URL of these documents. TM has tried to retrieve these documents, but was unsuccessful. OLEC will attempt to call the facilities directors at these two schools to follow up on this reference.

3. Energy Fair May 17. There will be an Energy Fair on May 17 conducted mainly by the Green Acton Group. OLEC has been invited to participate. TM volunteered to make a poster for this event. BK will send him information on the streetlight project that can be used as source material for this poster.

5. Earth Hour. The Earth Hour event was successfully completed. BK and the other organizers sent a letter to the Beacon thanking all those who contributed. That letter was read into the minutes:

On March 28, 2009, Acton lead the way as the first in New England to be registered as an Earth Hour town. During Earth Hour, households, businesses, government organizations, and entire towns turned off non-essential lights and electrical appliances for one hour from 8:30 and 9:30pm.

Acton and Boxborough (AB) became Earth Hour communities through proclamations signed by their Board of Selectman (BoS). Special thanks to the Acton selectmen, especially Lauren Rosenzweig and Terra Friedrichs, and to the Boxborough selectmen for their support for AB Earth Hour.

A local Earth Hour Team spearheaded AB Earth Hour activities. That team included members from the

Acton-Boxborough Parent Involvement Project (PIP), the Outdoor Lighting Education Committee (OLEC), and Green Acton. The Earth Hour team would like to give special recognition to the youth in our community who stepped up to observe Earth Hour and spread the word.

In particular, we want to congratulate local teens for their involvement in the Earth Hour campaign. Thanks to Chris Batson, Green Student Council Representative, and to Jenn Kappel and Isabel Krakoff for leading the AB Earth Hour effort among ABRHS students. Over 250 AB students and members of the community joined the AB Earth Hour Facebook event. In the elementary grades, the Blanchard 5th and 6th graders passed out flyers at the transfer station to encourage energy conservation and promote Earth Hour activities.

The Acton and Boxborough schools joined in, thanks to efforts by Eileen Sullivan and MaryEllen Driscoll, and for continuing support from Acton, Boxborough and AB Regional teachers.

Thanks to Acton Town Manager, Steve Ledoux and Municipal Properties Director, Dean Charter, for closing down lights on the Acton War Memorial Monument and Town Hall and announcing the event on Acton's programmable sign. In Boxborough, a big thank-you to Sargent Memorial Library and the Blanchard PTF for hosting a nocturnal animal presentation and to Rita Grossman and Jeff Coldwell of the Boxborough Conservation Trust for leading night hikes at this event.

Thanks to local businesses Dunkin Donuts, Sorrento's, and Sweet Bites of Acton and Pasture House Market of Boxborough for donating prizes for the AB Earth Hour contest, to Sue Muller of Custom Signs for creating the large AB Earth Hour sign, and to Savoury Lane for hosting a candlelight Earth Hour dinner.

Other businesses who took part in AB Earth Hour included Roche Brothers and Staples of Acton and Cisco Corporation of Boxborough, and Littleton Electric Light Department.

The AB Earth Hour team also wants to thank our communities for your continued support, awareness and responsible use of electricity to minimize its environmental impact. We recognize that Earth Hour is only the first step toward making our planet more livable. Check out actonpip.org and greenacton.org for energy saving tips and resources and upcoming green activities in the near future.

Karen Herther, Macleod Lane

Bernie Kosicki, Fort Pond Road

Tom McDonagh, Mohawk Drive

Joanne Mills, Stow Road, Boxborough

Janice M. Ward, Brucewood Road

6. Website. BK has had discussions with Laura Mason regarding the new format for the Town website. Laura will send a view of how the current OLEC web site will appear in this new format. Laura will be on leave from her IT position until August. OLEC's goal is to learn whether we can make changes to the current web site, and then update the new content when she returns. The question is what format should the new format be written in, and can these files be uploaded into the new Town software? BK will continue discussions with LM.

7. Massachusetts Light Pollution bill. A bill for requiring shielding on all State and Town lights that are purchased with public funds is working its way through the House

and Senate. BK will draft a letter from the BoS, and send it to Terra Friedrichs for Board consideration..

8. Next meeting May 3, Tuesday, at 7:30PM in room 121.