

Minutes of OLEC Meeting

6 June 2008

7:30 PM, Room 126 Town Hall.

Present: J. Coane, B. Kosicki; Martin Graetz, T, McDonagh, G. Green, H. Millett;
Guests, Dean Charter, Terra Friedrichs.

1. The minutes for the 22 April 2008 meeting were accepted.
2. The Board suggested that OLEC should suggest which street lights should be removed. We interpreted this to respond to and investigate the request of those who wanted streetlights removed. We received one request for removal of lights in the Spring discussions of the new street light replacement program. We will respond to this person for more details.
3. We discussed the possible mid-night –off mode that new technology photo-switch provide to streetlights control. We will test some of these photo-switches after the streetlight replacement program is complete. It was suggested that the turn-off time should be 12:30, because the curfew for children of high school age is 12:00 midnight, and lights should be on somewhat after this deadline.

Dean Charter suggested that LELD will be able to install these controls on a limited number of test lights after the retrofit program is complete.

We need to start a dialog with NSTAR as to what their rate structure would be with these light controls.

4. We met with Dean Charter about the replacement program. The bids are due at LELD in three days. This will determine the actual costs that Acton will pay.

We discussed whether there would be additional ways to reduce wattage, in response to the Board's wishes. Dean asked for a proposal in writing within a week. Tom McDonagh will write a proposal for OLEC.

5. Terra Friedrichs, our new liaison with the Board of Selectmen, came to discuss the streetlight project. She said she had not been fully aware of the arguments in favor of HPS over MH lighting at the time of the Board's vote for the latter, and expressed willingness to try changing the Board's decision. But after conferring with Dean Charter, it was agreed that the present path is too far along to change.
6. Possible next projects.

-Earth hour. We agreed that although the main goals of OLEC would remain outdoor lighting issues, this program would be closely related to our objectives of rational outdoor lighting. The next Earth Hour will take place March, 2009. We will make

plans for Acton to join in this program for next year.

-Green team. OLEC will interface with the possible formation of an Acton Green Team as a committee reporting to the Board. MG and TM volunteered to act as liaisons to the Green Team.

-Acton Schools and ABRHS lighting issues. We will make contact with these groups to offer our services to mitigate the lighting of the school campuses. OLEC has received a number of complaints of overlighting on the school campuses.