

Minutes of OLEC Meeting

5 August 2008

7:30 PM, Room 126 Town Hall.

Present: J. Coane, B. Kosicki; Martin Graetz, H. Millett

1. The minutes for the June and July meetings were accepted as written and revised.
2. Dean Charter has reported that finishing the retrofit project by Oct 1 may not be likely, considering progress so far. MG will contact Dean to look into this issue.

After the retrofit program is completed, OLEC will advise Dean of the lights that should be test locations for midnight-off timers. OLEC needs to determine these light locations soon.

3. South Acton train station. MG reported that lights were added to light the walkways. Has the HPS flood light that the Town operates to light this walkway been decommissioned? MG will investigate.

The South Acton train parking lights were installed in non-compliance to the bylaw that was in existence at that time. OLEC will study how these lights might be modified to be compliant.

However, the offer by the MBTA to install a new two-story parking garage at this site puts this plan on hold. If the Town accepts the new parking garage, then upgrading the present lights is moot. OLEC will wait until the Board decides whether or not to accept this offer before moving forward with a proposal to modify the existing lights.

4. The email addresses of all OLEC members has been incorrect in the official olec@acton-ma.gov address. BK will institute another test to see if this has been corrected.
5. There is a sense that the Board would like Acton to follow its own bylaws when possible. However, those bylaws that are triggered by Site Plan Special Permit will never be followed by Acton program managers, since the Town does not have to submit Site Plan Special Permits. In other words, Acton follows its bylaws by ignoring those which are triggered by Site Plan Special Permit. This has led in the past to Town projects that directly are in non-compliance with the bylaw existent at that time.

The Outdoor Lighting Bylaws are among those triggered by Site Plan Special Permit. OLEC would like the Board to formally weigh in as to whether or not it wants to comply with the Outdoor Lighting Bylaws unless there are extenuating circumstances. If so, then this should be written into a policy directing Town program managers to plan to follow these bylaws in initial planning for a new project. Then, if it proves impractical to follow

these bylaws, the project manager would seek an exception from the Board to not fully comply with these bylaws.

BK will contact Terra Fredrichs to see how OLEC should proceed with resolution of this question..

6. Planning for the Acton Star Party at NARA, under Recreation Department sponsorship, and scheduled for November 7/8, is proceeding.

7. We discussed the need for a new chair for OLEC. BK has served as chair for an extended time, and it would be best for new people to move into this position. We will look initially for an OLEC member willing to serve as Vice Chair for a time, and then move into the Chair position.

8. 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.

To plan for the content of the renovated web site, all members are asked to answer the following questions: What material should be

- Removed from the Web site
- New material to be added to the Web site
- What should be generally left but changed.

7. Next meeting 2 September..