

Minutes of OLEC Meeting

9 January 2008

7:30 PM, Room 126 Town Hall.

Present: J. Coane, M. Graetz, B. Kosicki; H. Millett, T, McDonagh

1. The minutes for the 4 December 2007 meeting were accepted.
2. BK and MG described their recent meeting with John Murray and Lauren Rosenzweig about financing the streetlight project. John showed that it was among the short list to the Board of recommended items for financing for the next FY. He also asked that OLEC describe the project to the joint Board and Finance Committee meeting on proposed capital items to be held on Saturday, 26 January. BK has written a description of the streetlight project for inclusion in the Budget book (attached).
3. OLEC needs to write its annual report for inclusion in the town Annual Report. TM volunteered to do this. BK will send him last year's AR, and also all the OLEC minutes for the year.
4. Web site update. We discussed needed updates to the website, such as location in town of examples of the proposed streetlights, and an updated explanation of the project suitable for publication in the local newspapers. Members agreed to look at the current site as it is on the town server, in preparation for discussion next meeting. TM and HM have expressed interest in spearheading the updating of the site, with input from all committee members.
5. Associate member Steven Feinstein has scheduled the next fourth-grade Acton Star Party for Monday, 3 March, with cloud dates for the next three days.
6. We discussed changing the date for the next two meetings from the first Tuesday to the first Wednesday of February and March. BK will arrange for this change.
7. Next meeting Tuesday, 5 February, at 7:30PM, room 121. (This is as currently scheduled- we propose to change this to Wednesday, 6 February. BK will notify OLEC if this change is finalized)

Street Light Conversion (included in the Budget Book)

Description Acton purchased its streetlights from NSTAR about 10 years ago. Currently Acton pays NSTAR for the amount of electricity used. The bill for the 2007 fiscal year was about \$87,000.

Most of the lights purchased from NSTAR were installed during the 1970s, are of an outmoded design that broadcasts glare, and make use of very inefficient lamps compared to those used today.

This project proposes to replace most of Acton's streetlights (except for those along Route 2A, which were installed in 1990 and of modern design and efficiency).

Benefits The replacement lights would be fully shielded, focusing light down onto the road for improved visibility and reduced glare in the eyes of drivers and nearby residents. The new lamps (metal halide technology) used would be much more efficient (about twice as efficient) and the majority of Acton's current mercury vapor streetlights. This allows significant electricity cost savings (about 41% less than the current amount).

Costs and payback

Cost of the replacement project	\$165,000
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Yearly savings in electricity (at 2007 rates)	\$35,500
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Payback period	4.6 years
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(Note that the payback period assumes no increase in future electricity costs. The actual payback period will probably be less.)

Possible rebate from NSTAR. Acton has applied for a possible rebate from NSTAR for reducing its electricity load. As of January, we have no information on what this possible rebate might be. Acton did receive a rebate when it replaced its traffic lights with more efficient LED lights.

Any rebate would reduce the payback period.