

11/3/08

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Highlights for the past year.

OLEC successfully suggested that the Town consider replacement of its streetlights with fully shielded, more energy-efficient ones. The motion to fund this was passed at Town meeting without a single dissenting vote.

OLEC and Acton were recognized as progressive in responsible outdoor lighting. WBZ weather person Mish Michaels conducted a video interview of Bernie Kosicki in front of Town Hall one week ago.

OLEC future work.

1. Chairman position probably will change this winter.
2. Continue with education thrust, especially with 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Star Parties (in cooperation with PIP), and Town-wide NARA Star Party (sponsored by Recreation Department).

We also are planning a Town-wide observance of Earth Hour (the last Saturday in March). This is a world-wide event in which people are encouraged to turn off their lights for one hour and think of where their electricity originates and how to conserve electricity for the rest of the year. <http://www.earthhour.org/>

We may suggest that the Town's use of lights (not streetlights) be curtailed for this Saturday night also.

We will see whether Earth Hour might be connected with the March 2 Fourth Grade Star Party.

3. Work with Dean Charter to test midnight-off streetlight controller on a limited number of streetlights. The goal would be to see if this technology is reliable enough to be used more generally. If so, then we would survey the town and suggest locations where it could be used.
4. Removal of streetlights. In last meeting, the Board suggested that OLEC be the point of contact to receive requests to remove lights, and to collect and forward these requests to the Board for consideration. OLEC will publicize this effort after the streetlight replacement project is over.
5. Study the South Acton Train station parking lot and suggest possible improvements in lighting there. This is contingent on the Town deciding NOT to accept the MBTA offer of building a parking garage on this site. If a new garage is built, the question is moot, since the present parking lot lights would be replaced.
6. Make contact with the Acton and Regional School Districts, and offer our services and recommendations to them regarding their use of outdoor lights.
7. Work with the Town Manager to discuss ways to institutionalize the intention of the Board to follow its own bylaws, in particular the Outdoor Lighting Bylaw, unless there are extenuating circumstances.