



Minutes
Kennebunk Lower Village Committee Meeting
Monday January 25, 2021 – 9:00AM - Via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 with a single agenda item – Lower Village Street Lights.

Chair Betsy Smith gave some background on the Town plan to convert its street lights to LED technology. And she noted that LV street lights had been discussed for several years as a safety concern, i.e., that the heavily trafficked area between Coopers Corner and Christensen Lane is inadequately lighted.

The current inventory of LV streetlights is as follows: 1) Bayberry to Western Avenue – 7 goosenecks and 4 platters, 2) Western Avenue to Bufflehead Cove – 2 goosenecks and 8 platters, 3) Coopers Corner to Boothby – 10 platters and 1 gooseneck. Betsy noted that three potential roadblocks to Lower Village LED conversion have been mentioned:

- 1) A Master Plan for Lower Village was commissioned several years ago and it has been suggested that LV streetlights should be part of that Master Plan rather than part of the Town LED conversion. On this question, the following comments were submitted by Patti Perry, our liaison to the Energy Efficiency Committee:

“I believe at some point Town Hall expressed the desire to defer LV street light decisions to the Harriman Re-Visioning project. It is my opinion that such a decision would be an injustice to LV residents and businesses. Current street lighting in LV provides inadequate safety for

foot and vehicular traffic. To prohibit the installation of LED upgrades which will be made available to other areas of Kennebunk cannot be justified. Given the monetary setbacks resulting from Covid, the future of the Re-visioning project is murky at best. Additionally, the amount of time and expertise the EE Committee has invested in selecting the safest, most economical, and most “livable” streetlights cannot be easily duplicated by some future Re-visioning group.”

- 2) The second roadblock that has been mentioned is the impression that Lower Village is part of the Historic Preservation District and subject to zoning restrictions pertaining to that district. The fact is that the Historic Preservation Overlay Zone runs east from Summer Street but ends at Old Port Road.
- 3) The third potential roadblock is that Lower Village (and the entire Beach area) are in a CMP service area, not the Kennebunk Power and Light service area. Betsy noted that the Town voted in favor of town wide LED conversion, NOT just KLPD District LED conversion.

Sharon Staz, Chair of the EEC, made a brief presentation. She noted that CMP has a process in place to facilitate buy-out of old lights and conversion to LED and that several towns including Kittery, York and Ogunquit have made that conversion.

She then summarized the EEC’s recommendations for Lower Village that “the radial lights in this section (20 or 22 depending on different counts) be replaced with 50 W LED equivalents in most places”. They also specifically cite safety concerns for heavily trafficked areas and recommend that an LED light fixture be placed on every pole (rather than the current every other pole) from Coopers Corner to Christensen Lane.

After a brief discussion, the LV Committee voted 5-0 in favor of **“Recommending to the Town that Lower Village street lights be included in the larger Town LED conversion process and that the specific recommendations of the EEC for Lower Village be followed.”**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 AM

Attendance:

Betsy Smith - Chair

Miriam Whitehouse – Vice Chair

Pat Foley

Nina Spencer

Alex Gramling

Frank Paul – Select Board Liaison

Sharon Staz – Chair Energy Efficiency Committee

Wayne Berry – Select Board

Absent:

Laura Dolce

Theresa Willette

Rick Taranto

Patti Perry

These minutes were reviewed same day by the participants and approved.