

Town of Kennebunk (3)

NOTES (Summary Highlights & Decisions)

Energy Efficiency Committee Meeting – via ZOOM

February 25, 2021: 3:30 – 5:00 PM

Present: Staz, M&N Bartenhagen, Negley, Wolfson, Dater.

Attendee: Lisa Pratt

MINUTES: January 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes approved.

LED STREETLIGHT CONVERSION

Motion (Dater/Negley) - *Chair Staz send her research documentation on the Town's history of street lighting and the Street Light Committee to the Selectboard (SB) by February 26th with a summary cover letter as a follow-up to EEAC's December 4, 2020 letter to the SB on the Draft RFP on LED conversion and recommended CREE lights. **Approved unanimously.***

The Chair's research makes clear that the Town Charter has nothing on streetlights. By the 1950's it was a common law relationship between the town and KLPD and the historic practice has always been cooperation between the town, KLPD and the CMP on the choice of light fixture and the utility poles to which they are affixed. At the July 20 ATM, the town taxpayers/voters approved \$400,000 for the LED conversion with the implied assumption that the town purchases the lights the taxpayers want. Why is it in 2021 that the KLPD claims all decisions on this matter? This seems to call into question the September 2020 meeting between the KLPD, two Selectpersons, town staff and two EEAC members at which it was advanced that the \$400,000 conversion funds could be dispensed by KLPD without any input from the Town. Some responses by the members of the Committee were discussed, including informing the public and/or a dissolution of the Committee if there were no attempt by the Town and KLPD to include the members of the Streetlight Subcommittee in discussion about how to proceed with this conversion, especially after extensive research and documentation on this issue having been provided the Town by the EEC. In order to assure that public tax dollars are being used wisely, it was agreed by the Committee that bids from several manufacturers should be invited via an adequate RFP, and that those bids be evaluated fairly and preferably by a neutral party to screen for the light that meets all/most criteria as discussed by the Town & EEC, at the best possible price, and which accomplishes the carbon emission reductions both the Town and the members of the EEC are expecting

NO-IDLE SIGNS

Motion (M. Bartenhagen/Negley) – *Approve expending \$270 for 27 signs from EEAC's budget for inserting onto the 27 existing signs, "Kennebunk Town Policy" before installation around town.*

Unanimously approved.

The cost is tax exempt.

MAYOR'S CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE

Membership in ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives), joined by the Town in 2018, is now due for renewal. There is interest at TNS to continue working with the EEC on climate change issues via our association with the ICLEI Clear Path program. How to move forward will be discussed/explored when key faculty members return to TNS classrooms.

Motion (M. Bartenhagen/Negley)- *Approve expending \$600 of EEAC's budget to renew ICLEI contract. **Unanimously approved.***

Upon renewal of membership, the Town has an opportunity to work with ICLEI to develop a Climate Action Plan as a next step after the Greenhouse Gas Inventory completed by the UNH Fellow this past summer. Training and Technical support would be provided through this ICLEI program at no additional cost to the Town. The sense of the Committee is that a Climate Action Plan is equally as important as any other Town plan, however the Town Manager is concerned about the time commitment required by this training for staff who are already very busy. It was suggested that a portion of a staff person's time or a VISTA volunteer could be recruited to be trained in, and oversee, the implementation of a climate action plan. Karytko will contact Janice Vance or Betsy Smith from the Comprehensive Plan Committee

to inquire whether they might be interested in being involved with this effort. EEAC's \$600 ICLEI renewal could be supplemented by a Town expenditure to cover the cost of continued membership in ICLEI for the year and one-half duration of the Climate Action Plan cohort training bringing the Town's share to \$480 instead of \$600. If the Town chose to renew for a two-year period, there would be a reduction in the cost for the full amount.

OTHER BUSINESS

Lisa Pratt, who has attended recent EEAC meetings, is interested in joining the Committee. She is meeting with the Town Manager to interview for membership.

Next Meeting: March 10th at 3:30 PM by zoom.