

Town of Kennebunk

NOTES (Summary Highlights & Decisions)

Energy Efficiency Committee Meeting – via ZOOM

March 10, 2021: 3:30 – 5:00 PM

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

Attendee: Lisa Pratt

MINUTES. Minutes for 7/15/20, 2/3/21 and 2/10/21 were approved.

LED STREETLIGHT CONVERSION - major discussion points

- Need for Town and KLPD to agree on a process for conducting the recently KLPD accepted RFP for LED conversion of Town's streetlights.
- Need for neutral lighting expert to answer the Town's questions on streetlight matters to assist Select board (SB) in coming to an objective decision on the conversion specifics.
- An RFP evaluation group needs to be formed to review RFP responders: Town Manager and Engineer plus representatives from the SB, KLPD and EEAC.
- What about the 200+ lights identified by EEAC in 2010 for possible removal? Have RFP designee evaluate these as part of conversion program?
- What about special locations in town, e.g. Fletcher St. Round-About for special design consideration per EEAC's recommendation?
- EEAC's role in the conversion should be supportive and commensurate with its work on developing the RFP. What should EEAC's role be next?
- Town has a fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers for the new lights.
- Need to field-test 2 or 3 fixtures from top RFP responders for the residents to view and comment upon.
- Town staff could telephone other towns that have already installed the Kennebunk candidate lights for information.
- While the SB says that KLPD owns the town's streetlights, EEAC's history clearly shows that all new lights have initially been paid-for by the Town which has determined the location, fixtures, their specifications and the vendor. KLPD then has installed the new lights and with its monthly tariff, charged the Town on each fixture, uses these funds to maintain them and buy replacement lights, when needed, of the kind specified by the Town.

REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Town is waiting for ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) to certify our Clear Path program.
- Next step would be joining a climate action plan cohort of ICLEI.
- The cohort entails a one-and-a-half year program of monthly training sessions open to communities with Greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories certified by ICLEI.
- The action plan (after the 1+1/2 year sessions) specifies actions to be taken by the town – but who in Kennebunk to do them?
- Town needs to do the Action Plan in-house and either assign a town staff or VISTA volunteer to do it. But the Town Manager is concerned about the availability of staff due to a heavy workload.
- There is a grant opportunity for the Town to hire someone to do it. Next summer the Town could front the cost for a climate action implementer until the grant came through. There is uncertainty of whether the grant would be awarded.
- York Sustainability Group has an engineering advisor doing its climate action plan – but we do not know if York has done the ICLEI action plan cohort.
- Perhaps Kennebunk could get a college junior, USM maybe, for the year and half project? But the Town should collect all the information about the action plan program first before determining on moving forward.

OTHER BUSINESS

So far there has been no shielding by KLPD on the complainant's streetlight on Fletcher Street. Staz will check on this.

MEMBERSHIP

Five member's appointments are up in June 2021. If all were to re-up there would still be one vacancy on the committee to fill.

Next Meeting: Wednesday March 24, 2021 at 3:30 PM by ZOOM.