

Town of Kennebunk

NOTES (Summary Highlights & Decisions)

Energy Efficiency Committee Meeting – via ZOOM

May 17, 2021: 3:30 – 5:15 PM

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

NO-IDLING SIGNS

Wolfson reported McDonalds, Dairy Queen and Hanaford have agreed to install NO-IDLING signs. Kennebunk Savings Bank is waiting for corporate-level decision on its CO² neutral program before installing signs. Aroma Joe refused installation of the signs. Wolfson has three extra signs available for future use. Pratt has distributed signs to local public schools.

LED STREET LIGHT CONVERSION

On April 27th there was a meeting between some Selectmen, KLPD Chair and town staff on the streetlight conversion program. Reportedly, obstacles between the Town and KLPD were removed on having an RFP for a vendor to do the streetlight replacement. At a May 11th meeting Staz urged the town staff to cooperate with the EEC on reviewing a draft RFP that came back from the KLPD.

The Selectboard (SB) Chair Blake Baldwin seeks a lighting professional to evaluate all the streetlights in town under possibly a new street light policy. Negley pointed-out an evaluation of all streetlights was done in 2010 under the policies then in effect. Most important characteristics are watts, height of fixture and distribution of the illumination, and the policies in 2010 and 2021 both covers these. On any revision of the streetlight policies, start with the existing 2021 policies and go from there.

Get information from other towns that have done LED conversion and find-out their processes. Hamden, CT, Newburyport, MA, Ourey, CO and Rye, NH are examples. EEC could do the legwork with these towns on RFPs and deliver findings to the SB and town staff. While EEC has no objection with also working with KLPD, KLPD does not recognize EEC as a partner. Rist was directed to collect information on professional lighting consultants that do only lighting studies and in no way promote the selling of any particular light fixture. Also, review towns that have done successful LED conversions.

The most important next step in doing/reviewing an RFP is providing a detailed scope-of-services for the chosen vendor to follow. The EEC should provide a draft scope-of-services framed as a suggestion to the SB, not a demand. Pratt requests her keeping the Town Development Director in the loop of EEC activities including on the Fletcher streetlight complaint.

The Committee unanimously approved by consensus that Chair Staz do a letter to Blake Baldwin, SB Chair and Mike Pardue, Town Manager containing a draft SB Motion concerning an LED conversion RFP and scope-of-services component. The Chair was authorized to collect comments on her draft letter from Committee members, make any revisions and then send it to Baldwin and Pardue on May 18th or 19th. The letter sent on May 18th:

Mike and Blake:

The EEC met yesterday to discuss how they could continue to be of assistance in moving the LED project along. It was our understanding from the Select Board meeting Tuesday, May 11th that there would be - at the least - a two step process in the near future. The first being a motion to authorize you to engage the services of an exterior lighting professional to be followed by the development of a scope of services for that individual or firm to undertake.

We hope that this email will be accepted in the spirit it is sent and that is to assist in relieving some of the pressure on your work loads by DRAFTING a suggested motion for your and the Board's consideration.

I move that the Select Board authorize the Town Manager to engage the services of an outdoor lighting professional with a background in street

lighting, in particular, to review the existing Town of Kennebunk long-term street lighting policy with the goal of amending, improving and/or affirming parts thereof to ensure that said policy meets street and sidewalk lighting standards for public safety, while maintaining the rural ambiance of our small New England Town.

We also started brainstorming on a draft of the scope of the project based on what we heard discussed at the meeting and those contained in our original draft RFP. Again, this is being done with the intent of being of assistance and offering a starting place for staff on which to build. We will continue to work on this unless I hear differently.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this just contact me, best, Sharon.

STREETLIGHT COMPLAINT

After several emails between Chair Staz and Manager Shea of KLPD, Shea said he would shield the subject problem light on Fletcher Street as requested in the January 13th EEC findings on the matter. But Shea insists he only takes orders from the Town Engineer, who has suggested the subject light could have a longer support arm and be angled more towards the Round-About without shielding. Two and a half weeks have lapsed since latest request by Chair Staz that the subject light be shielded. During this time no action has been done by the KLPD.

OTHER

There are costs to pursuing climate change mitigation and carbon neutrality. Non-commercial household or community solar, wind or heat pump sources of electricity may reduce the revenue of KLPD, prompting some modest increase of KLPD's rate for delivery of commercially-produced electricity. This is the challenge that KLPD should be studying in the present to prepare for the future.

M. Bartenhagen and Staz met with Jono Anzalone, Chair of the Kennebunkport Climate Initiative (KCI) on Monday, May 17th to discuss possible collaboration with KCI, SMPDC and Wells Reserve on public outreach regarding the issue of climate change. On a related topic, the York County Coast Star will publish a piece on the EEAC's work regarding no-idling signs to appear in the paper and online on May 20/21 respectively.

NEXT MEETING: May 26, 2021, 3:30 PM by ZOOM.