



LIGHT AIR NOISE (LAN) Bylaw Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2020

Conference Room A, Pepperell Town Hall

8:00 - 9:00 PM

Attending: Tony Beattie, Margaret Scarsdale, Harvey Serreze, Michael Veit, Renee D'Argento, Pat Kenneally, Ron Karr, Tim Brothers, Sherrill Rosoff

Absent: Casey Campetti, Mark Little, Vince Premus

Meeting came to order at 8:10 PM

Tony Beattie motioned to approve the December 11, 2019 minutes, Harvey Serreze seconded, minutes were unanimously passed.

Tim reviewed for the committee the Planning Board meeting just concluded. He was granted 10 minutes to present the Light Bylaw draft to the committee. However, the Planning Board was working from an old version of this past September. Tim noted to the Planning Board that the latest version had eliminated every reference to the Planning Board being the enforcement agent as that is now the Building Inspector. The Planning Board now has the latest version and will review it, and provide their comments.

The residential curfew language was eliminated - section 4.3.2.

Margaret passed out the latest 3.0 version as members didn't have that version. She will send the 3.0 version to committee members so that everyone has an electronic version.

Tim walked the committee through the changes he had made in this 3.0 version which reflected our comments from our December meeting. Tim eliminated sections of enforcement language among other edits so that the latest version is 10 pages shorter than the initial draft.

Renee D'Argento added some additional edit suggestions:

- a. to section 2.5: language should read something to the effect of: To minimize the impact of light pollution, particularly blue light to the greatest extent possible,
- b. consider combining sections 2.1 and 2.5
- c. section 3.2.4: reflect language of the town's building codes so section reads: "Any repair, alteration, renovation or reconstruction of more than 50% of the total appraised value...."

Tony Beattie commented that section 2.5 does not mention agricultural impacts and that should be added.

Ron Karr raised the question of website references included with this bylaw and that perhaps we should run this by Town Counsel given that ten years from now these references may no longer be valid or timely. Pat Kenneally suggested keeping them in while the bylaw is under review by various boards and committees as they would be helpful.

Ron Karr suggested having a single page that accompanies the actual bylaw as an executive summary or introduction to light pollution - why this issue is important - that would include the references. Ron stated his belief that an executive summary with references may be more important to establish the context for the Light Bylaw than it was for Noise.

Tim Brothers said that he's testified about light pollution at the State level and has a fact sheet which we could use in our public meetings and at Town Meeting. Tim can also provide IDA pamphlets.

Sherrill Rosoff mentioned that Lorden's already has LED bulbs with 2200 kelvin; the committee thought that local businesses could advertise that Pepperell residents could either obtain their Dark Skies light bulbs in their stores and/or that their business was Dark Skies compliant.

The committee was in favor of using the "Losing the Dark" video as an introduction to public meetings.

Tim Brothers said that he was waiting on final comments from the Building Inspector; Tim believes we've addressed his comments from our last meeting. Tim reported that the Police Chief has no issues with the draft. The Fire Department may not have much to say about the draft but may be concerned about reducing the lighting at the Park Street station. This could be a potential issue.

Tim suggested that the current version (with the tweaks made tonight) should now be distributed to the various town Boards/Committees and that a copy be sent to the Board of Selectmen as a courtesy copy.

Harvey Serreze commented that we should see conservation as an ally not just as a recipient of this bylaw draft. He thought they would be interested in supporting our efforts. That led the committee to discuss other possible interested groups such as local conservation groups such as the Wild and Scenic Rivers, NRWA. We should do a presentation for them at the library.

Margaret Scarsdale will email Paula Terassi to organize a meeting with Cons Comm.

Discussion turned to Lawrence Library and its effort to change their lights. Lawrence Library would be setting an example for the community if it were to reduce their light skyglow and pedestrian/motor glare while increasing their energy savings. Key message to the community: by reducing light skyglow you will save money, increase pedestrian and motorist safety, reduce

light trespass, preserve Pepperell's ability to see the Milky Way, and increase health of local habitats.

Tony Beattie suggested getting to high school, middle school and tech school kids to talk with them about light pollution. The kids will go back to their parents and we'll reach more people that way.

Tim Brothers has maps from space that shows how light pollution has increased in recent years - he can only go back to the 1970's.

Harvey Serreze asked about Joe Radwich's stance on the Light bylaw draft, given his earlier stated opposition to it. Tim Brothers responded that he thinks Joe Radwich's main objections have been taken out of the current draft. Margaret Scarsdale said she doesn't know his current thinking as the Board of Selectmen have not discussed the Light Bylaw draft so the committee's presentation to the Board of Selectmen will be important. Sherrill Rosoff inquired about the Pepperell Business Association and its potential concerns. Tim Brothers responded that the Light bylaw could save businesses money and we do have an exclusion if there's a safety issue for parking lots.

Michael Veit suggested the idea of creating a sticker or placard that says that a business is Dark Sky compliant. We could also have a sign at major arteries entering Pepperell announcing that we are a Dark Skies community.

Tim Brothers suggested a Star Party on a town field or Heald Orchard. That would bring people to Pepperell and could be an economic benefit to the town much like Bar Harbor's Dark Skies week. Pepperell has darker skies than Groton, for example.

The suggestion also was made to see if Pepperell Community media can convert our Dark Skies presentation to YouTube.

The committee concluded that we would organize a Dark Skies presentation that included local conservation groups and our committee, as committee members were also interested in hearing Tim's presentation. Tim will provide possible dates.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Submitted by: Sherrill Rosoff