



LIGHT AIR NOISE (LAN) Bylaw Committee

Remote Meeting, September 17, 2020

4:00 - 5:00 PM

Attending: Harvey Serreze, Ron Karr, Renee D'Argento, Vince Premus, Tim Brothers, Sherrill Rosoff, Michael Veit

Absent: Casey Campetti, Pat Kenneally, Mark Little

Meeting came to order at 4 PM.

Tim Brothers motion to approve minutes of 4/29/20; Michael Veit seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Tim Brothers motioned to approve minutes of 7/14/20; Harvey Serreze seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Tim Brothers and Sherrill Rosoff gave an update to the committee regarding Fall Town meeting. As of today, Fall Town meeting is scheduled for 11/14/20. Quorum has been reduced to 30 persons due to Covid; there may be 7 articles, two of which are budgetary. Amendments to the Marijuana Bylaw are on the warrant. The question to the committee is whether it wants the Outdoor Lighting Bylaw to be placed on Town warrant. We have until the last week in September to make a decision; we can pull the OLB before Town Meeting if needed.

The following points were made during the committee's discussion:

- a. Our preparation for presentation to Fall Town Meeting is largely done
- b. We have continued with public outreach: Zoom meeting, 10/9/20 at the Albert Harris Center; CEN presentation, 10/21/20. Other opportunities: presentation to Board of Health.
- c. Our terms expire the end of December, 2020. We don't yet know whether the Select Board intends to renew the LAN Bylaw committee for another year
- d. Andrew MacLean's preference, as expressed to Tim Brothers and Sherrill Rosoff, is to revive a Bylaw Review Committee, a standing permanent committee in the Town Charter, in

lieu of the LAN Bylaw Committee which is an Ad hoc committee established by the Select Board. Should the LAN Bylaw committee be dissolved at the end of the year, not clear who or what would move the ball forward on the Outdoor Lighting Bylaw.

- e. Real Term Energy is moving quickly; there will be a two-week window for public input on lighting designs for the streetlight retrofit; anticipate that to happen over the Christmas holiday. Tim Brothers noted that having LAN at the table has had real benefits with agreement to install 2700K lighting, public input, and sourcing Dark Skies compliant lighting.

Tim Brothers said he saw no reason to delay placing the Outdoor Lighting Bylaw on the Fall Town Meeting warrant. Renee D'Argento agreed with that strategy, but disagreed that the Select Board may disband the LAN Bylaw Committee. The Select Board would not want to start all over again, populate a new committee which may not view the Outdoor Lighting Bylaw as a priority.

Harvey Serreze noted that if the Fall Town Meeting quorum is only 30 people, those opposing the Bylaw could attempt to pack the meeting and vote the Bylaw down.

Michael Veit responded that it could work either way. Sherrill Rosoff noted there are no other topics on the Fall Town Meeting that would draw people in such as the Citizen's petition, plastic bag ban or the Toxic Dirt issue. Andrew did indicate that we would have approximately ten minutes to present the Outdoor Lighting Bylaw given how few articles are on Town warrant.

Harvey Serreze asked what do we have to lose if we go forward? Sherrill Rosoff responded that because the Outdoor Lighting Bylaw is a general bylaw, we can resubmit should the first vote fail. Ron Karr noted that if the Outdoor Lighting Bylaw were a zoning bylaw and the Planning Board made a negative recommendation, that the Bylaw couldn't be re-introduced for two years.

Tim Brothers noted that Pepperell is seeing an increase in new housing projects and it would be useful to have a lighting bylaw in place. Sherrill Rosoff noted that the Planning Board has approved the Master Plan and that there is a Dark Skies recommendation in the Plan (recommendation 2.18); further, there will be a lot of activity over the next year as the Master Plan is rolled out - and other committees, such as the Affordable Housing Committee, release their reports.

The committee concluded that we should move the Outdoor Lighting Bylaw forward to Fall Town Meeting. Tim Brothers moved to move the Bylaw to Fall town meeting; Ron Karr seconded the motion, Motion unanimously passed.

Discussion then turned to the public view of street lighting options.

Michael Veit asked if there was going to be any kind of public meeting in which these options can be discussed? Tim Brothers responded that there is supposed to be a public comment period as well as some sort of survey that might include such topics as shielding, lighting on rural roads in town in an effort to try to do what the town wants. The public display period is to allow residents to view the fixtures before we buy them. Tim considers that a huge win. Renee D'Argento raised the question if a two week window is sufficient for public comment? Tim

Brothers thought that it would be okay; the new fixtures would be side by side with the current 2000k lights so the 2700K will look a bit bluer. It's not easy to get lighting below the 2700K (although the Lighting Bylaw does suggest bidders try to do so) and fortunately 2700K is the same cost as higher K lighting. Tim also thought that Pepperell would be one of - if not the only town - in the state that has retrofitted 2700K lighting. He also thought that we were able to get a commitment for house side shielding before bidding.

RTE will send the town a Google Earth survey of town lighting - this was note existing lighting, and where new ones may go. The Conservation Commission should take a close look; the Ag Board as well. Renee D'Argento asked if it was possible, from a satellite view, to look at Pepperell's skies and see where lighting shouldn't go? Tim Brothers responded that the Town Administrator has committed to smart controls so that specific lights can be dimmed on a dimming schedule - or you could dim all the time. He assumed there would be a lot of options although it's not clear who in town would be reviewing light levels and making those decisions. Possibly the DPW.

Discussion turned to the third leg of the LAN committee's charge: Air.

Sherrill Rosoff noted that she has some documents related to measurement of greenhouse gases done in other towns that she can place in a Google docs folder to share through DropBox. But the initial question is whether LAN is equipped to investigate, vet, and write an Air Quality Bylaw - we don't have, as a committee, any bench strength at the moment. Michael Veit noted that air quality covers particulates as well as greenhouse gas emissions - there are a number of parts to this. Renee D'Argento noted that ground level ozone levels have been increasing in Massachusetts. Tim Brother thought that an Air Quality Bylaw would be much more politically charged (if that's possible!) to which Renee D'Argento stated she thought that particulates may not be so hard - people with respiratory ailments, asthma, for example, but anyone generally who wants clean air to breathe - would be on board with regulating particulate matter in the air.

Regarding Google documents, Vince Premus asked if there would be any harm making these documents publicly available? To which Harvey Serreze responded that the committee wants to be transparent; Ron Karr thought there might be some upsides to doing so. Sherrill Rosoff responded that she will check in with Martin Cadek about placing this information on the LAN page. Renee D'Argento said she had an article about the health consequences of particulates in the air - she will send to Sherrill Rosoff.

Harvey Serreze motioned to adjourn the meeting; Tim Brothers seconded. The motion unanimously passed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:52 PM.

Submitted by Sherrill Rosoff