



LIGHT AIR NOISE (LAN) Bylaw Committee

Remote Meeting Minutes

3/31/2020

7:00 - 8:00 PM

Attendance: Sherrill Rosoff, Tim Brothers, Harvey Serreze, Ron Karr, Casey Campetti, Tony Beattie, Vince Premus, Margaret Scarsdale

Absent: Renee D'Argento, Pat Kenneally, Mark Little, Michael Veit

Tim Brothers (vice chair) called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. The meeting was via "go-to-meeting" and the video will be posted on the Pepperell Community Media channel.

Reviewed the latest draft (v4.1) of Light Bylaw. Tim discussed the major differences between v3.4 and v4.1, namely:

- Incorporated Town Counsel's review comments (enhanced language, updated codes)
- Deleted conflict with Planning Board's authority/directives via the Zoning Bylaws
- Cleaned up definitions, i.e., SI units were made clear that it was International System of Units).

Tim had a separate conversation with the Recreation Commission. They want to change the lighting on the fields and possibly add two new softball fields in the future. REC discussed that they were faced with inefficient lights that also cost more money to operate than energy efficient lights. Tim is also working with baseball/software chairs about their concerns and has offered to consult with the chairs on what's the most effective/efficient/cost-saving lights. Tim has talked with two sports lighting companies. Lighting at NMRHS doesn't apply – NMRHS is in Townsend. Pole height maximum for new lighting would conflict with draft Light Bylaw, so those requirements (for recreational purposes) were lifted. Shielding requirements were also lifted, but lights that trespass into anyone's yard are still not allowed via our current zoning bylaws.

Casey asked that Tim please circulate Town Counsel comments for review. Tim will send to Sherrill to disseminate. Harvey and Vince had minor grammatical edits to draft. Margaret asked if PB edits were addressed: Tim said all of the major concerns were addressed.

Motion made by Ron Karr, seconded by Tony Beattie, to re-send final Light Bylaw draft to Planning Board/others as "information only." Vote: Unanimous.

Discussion of bringing Light Bylaw draft before Select Board. The Board has already voted to move the draft Bylaw to the Town Warrant. At a future meeting, the Board will vote whether to support this Bylaw. Committee agreed the Board should be informed about the content of this Bylaw, and we would like to have the Board vote to “endorse”/support it. Margaret will work on the presentation for the Select Board, which will include Board members getting a copy of the final draft + a PPT similar to what was done at Fall Town Meeting (2019) for the Noise Bylaw.

Sherrill and Tim will check with Martin Cadek about how to get the PPT up on screen for BOS, plus they will get all information up on Town website (draft bylaw, supporting materials, and, when finished, the PPT presentation for BOS/Spring Town Meeting). Tim will put the longer presentation (edited from Library presentation) on YouTube. Tim will also ask Martin about getting a town email.

Discussion of key messages for BOS/Spring Town Meeting presentation (these are not the final wording, just the ideas):

- You do not have to change your existing lighting
- Clear guidance on how to comply: local stores have the answers/supplies
- Won't cost you any more \$ to buy Dark Sky compliant vs. the blue spectrum lights
- Municipal lighting is due for a change. This Bylaw gives the Town direction and helps us avoid mistakes of other towns (no blue light spectrum lights), which now they have to spend *more* money to replace. Point out the eye-blinding lights in Groton, Lowell, etc).
 - Also a safety hazard: harder to see pedestrians, deer.
- Public health issues:
 - Blue lights affect Circadian rhythms
 - As we age, our eyes change and it's harder to see blue lights
- No public safety issues: we're not making Pepperell darker; we're making the *skies* darker!
- Other towns are looking to Pepperell as the exemplar

Motion made by Tony Beattie, seconded by Ron Karr, to get on the Select Board agenda for 4/13 and present the Bylaw. Vote: Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.
Submitted by Margaret Scarsdale