

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE OF THE TOWN OF MT DESERT

The committee convened its first meeting in the Town Hall Meeting Room at 5pm October 31, 2013

Attending: Sydney R Rockefeller, Phil Lichtenstein, Warren Smith, John Macauley, Gordon Beck, Dennis Shubert and by telephone Rod Crafts

John and Dennis reviewed the history behind the formation of the committee and the charge to the committee by the Board of Selectmen.

Dennis updated the group on the progress of the Maine Public Utilities Commission in fulfilling its mandate to establish tariffs for the new options outlined in 35-A M.R.S. **§2523.**

There was a general discussion about the reference documents provided via dropbox for the group.

The group agreed that the primary task was to provide a plan to the Annual Town Meeting 2014 as directed.

Warren Smith is an electrician who educated the committee about technical aspects of outdoor lighting and the recently available lower cost LED lights and fixtures.

The committee concluded that its ultimate plan would address both the reduction of energy use by implementation of LED lights as well as providing adequate safety and security with a minimal spillage of light and degradation of the Town's night sky. Also the group favored a demonstration project or trial conversion to provide residents an opportunity to evaluate a possible town wide conversion to LED.

The committee learned that the Town did own and operate outdoor lighting presently both on marine structures and other public buildings that likely were on an electric meter rather than the per unit charge typical of Bangor Hydro supplied street lights. The group wanted to further investigate these lights as possible first candidates for conversion.

The group also became aware that the Town has outside fixtures that are illuminated during the daytime.

Warren described a conversion to outside LED lights that was installed in Manset due to the inability of the previous fixtures to withstand the marine environment. Committee members were encouraged to view the installation.

The committee concluded with specific requests:

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- Obtain data from the Town concerning present outdoor lights and streetlights with their census and cost
- Ask Dennis to continue to monitor the proceedings of the PUC and report back to the committee.
- Consider an early trial of LED lamps by identifying those outside lamps over which the Town presently has control and that are likely metered
- Ask the Harbormaster for a description of the lighting situation and cost in the NEH marina
- Ask the Town for a count of outside lights that are lit 24 hours/day.
- Reconvene when actionable information is available

Mr. Phil Lichtenstein was elected chair by acclamation.