

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE TOWN OF MT DESERT

Meeting of December 6, 2013

In attendance: Phil Lichtenstein, Gordon Beck, Warren Smith, Rod Crafts and Dennis Shubert

The committee reviewed and accepted the minutes of October 31 with the correction of the attendance of Gordon Beck.

Data Review:

The committee reviewed data from multiple sources forwarded to members prior to the meeting and agreed that:

The new marina outside lights are 50 W sodium lamps that likely could be replaced with LED bulbs by bypassing the transformer in each fixture

Committee members individually viewed the new Manset dock LED lights and found them to be dark skies compliant and adequate to illuminate the dock and surrounding anchorage. All committee members except one felt that the cold light bulbs (blue) were appropriate for the installation

The committee reviewed a spread sheet prepared by the Town Treasurer and learned that the town pays approximately \$2900 monthly for 276 streetlights of various wattage. The Town also pays approximately \$30-35 monthly for lights at Bartlett Landing

The Town also pays approximately \$35-38 monthly for lights on the Seal Harbor dock illuminating the floats to the north and the west

LED lamps are available in different temperatures or “warmth” for colder blue light to warmer red light. The warmer light with red tones approximates incandescent temperature bulbs

The committee learned that LED bulbs are dimmable and by dimming may lose rated hours. We also learned that LED bulbs may be kept a low level of light and then come to full illumination with a motion detector or other type of switch.

Dennis Shubert updated the committee on the activity at the Maine Public Utilities Commission. The committee members had copies of the filings from the Maine Municipal Association and a consultant for southern Maine towns. DLS opined that the PUC might not establish rates and a process for towns to gain control of their street lights in the next several months.

The committee reviewed the situation at the new town garage where the decision about the type of outside lights has not been finalized

After discussion the committee recommends:

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1. The Town place an RFP for cost and details on converting the marina and town hall fixtures to LEDs
2. The Town use LEDs to provide the desired illumination at the Town garage once the goal of the illumination is determined
3. The Town turns off the spots illuminating the Seal Harbor floats when the floats are out of the water. It is noted that there is also a street light on the SH dock.
4. DLS explore with Efficiency Maine what financial support is available for the proposed Town LED conversions
5. The Town consider replacing the SH dock fixtures illuminating the floats with LED fixtures.