

12/01/2010

LIGHTING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee members: Ricki Carroll, Anne Yurian, Nancy Hoff

Our recommendation for Ashfield lighting is to make a transition from utility lighting to a neighborhood lighting program. This transition would take place in 3 phases. The committee has reviewed information on cost, crime, light pollution, health issues and safety for both drivers and pedestrians. The complete transition is dependent upon having enough people in the village keeping their outdoor porch lights on a timer from dusk to 10 or 11pm. We recognize that a modest electrical cost will fall on homeowners and would recommend keeping \$500.00 in the Street Light account to purchase timers (app\$10.00 each) and compact florescent bulbs (app. \$7.00 each) for village structures. Ashfield Hardware is willing to be one of the distribution centers for these devices.

Cost- Savings: to the Town of Ashfield from turning off the street lights. Expense: Timers and bulbs for those who can not afford their own.

Crime – Police have indicated that turning off street lights does not affect crime rate. In Hatfield 98% of the street lights were turned off and it did not affect the crime rate. (Some citizens had concerns at first but they now love it.)

Safety - Light is not the only factor in safety, diligent enforcement of the speed limit in the village is critical. Lighting is mainly for pedestrians and pets, driver's ability to see the road has already been addressed by the state in its use of signage and marked roadways.

Health Issues - Studies have shown artificial light at night elevates cancer risk, reduces melatonin production in the brain and raises the risk of both breast and prostate cancers.

Light Pollution (light trespassing) – Light falling where it is not needed, creates sky glow, makes it more difficult for many drivers to see since it causes eye constriction and it is harder to sleep because the brain will automatically detect the light.

PHASE 1 – Turn off all lights except the following:

- 1-Intersection of Meadow Lane and Main Street
- 2-Intersection of Baptist Corner and Main St
- 3-Spruce Corner
- 4-The first light coming from 112 to 116 on Buckland d Road
- 5-Phil Nolan's Boat Ramp
- 6-Neighbors

Test timing devices and encourage people to turn on their outdoor lighting with timers and compact florescent bulbs. Encourage people to carry flashlights when they walk.

PHASE 2 – If the timers work in the trial phase we would like to purchase timers and bulbs for the village and try to find better ways to light the remainder of the intersections were lights have been left on so that they can also be turned off.

PHASE 3 – Re-evaluate and look for any issues that come up and need to be addressed.