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## Notes from 3-22-11 Meeting of Montpelier Streetlighting Committee

**Attendees:** Jeff Prescott, Kate Nicolet, Anne Watson, Soren Pfeffer, Andy Boutin, Eric Nordenson (Police Dept), John Snell, Tom McArdle (Public Works Depart.), Paul Markowitz

**Status Update and Overview of Process:** Tom M. and Paul M. gave an update on the status of streetlighting in the City. The City leases app. 600 fixtures from GMP and owns another 200 or so. Green Mountain Power (GMP) has an inventory of all the lights that Montpelier leases from them, as well as a digital map.

Efficiency Vermont is organizing a program to encourage towns to eliminate unnecessary lighting and replace existing lighting with LEDs. LED technology has improved significantly and costs are coming down. Efficiency Vermont is offering incentives for replacing fixtures with LEDs and GMP is supposedly planning on offering favorable tariffs that are lower than existing tariffs. In addition, Montpelier has the option to purchase the fixtures (instead of leasing under a tariff) and potentially save money. The Towns of Hartford and Colchester have both gone through this process of purchasing fixtures from the utility. Paul M. walked the committee through the Guide to "Improving Efficiency in Municipal Street and Public Space Lighting" prepared by Efficiency Vermont - which will serve as the basic step-by-step approach that Montpelier will follow. This can be found at: [http://www.encyvermont.com/docs/for\\_my\\_business/lighting\\_programs/EVT\\_MunicipalStreetLighting\\_Guide\\_Final.pdf](http://www.encyvermont.com/docs/for_my_business/lighting_programs/EVT_MunicipalStreetLighting_Guide_Final.pdf). The City has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Efficiency Vermont for up to 12 hours of free technical assistance.

**Proposed Committee Actions:** As outlined in the Guide, the committee will be asked to do the following, among others:

- Develop criteria for evaluating where lights are needed or not
- Conduct an analysis of lighting levels throughout the city and determine where lighting can be reduced or needs to be increased
- Make recommendations to City Council for eliminating specific lighting
- Conduct outreach to residents about plans to eliminate lighting
- Analyze pros and cons of leasing versus purchasing
- Develop proposal to City Council for replacing lighting with LEDs either purchase or lease)

### Streetlighting Levels:

One of the first steps that the committee will undertake is to analyze lighting levels. Efficiency Vermont has lighting meters to loan for free that we can use. We agreed to ask the contractor who is providing free technical assistance to come do a training one evening on how to use the meters.

### Some questions that arose:

- If the City decides to purchase the fixtures, do they have to contract with the utility for maintenance and repairs? Can a licensed electrician do the work?
- Are there any streetlights with meters? If we own them, how do we measure how much energy they use?
- Are there other funds available to help pay for the costs of replacing the lights?

**Next Steps:**

- Paul will contact Deb Gallo at Kirick Engineering about her availability to conduct a mini-training on using a light meter
- Paul will contact the Town Manager with the Town of Hartford about being available for a conference call to share their experiences
- Secure map of streetlights from GMP

**Potential agenda items for next meeting:**

- Review map and inventory of existing lights
- Talk with Hartford Town manager (depending upon his availability)
- Discuss potential criteria for evaluating where lights are needed