

April 10, 2012 Energy Committee Meeting at 7:00 at Nancy Mogielnicki's home.  
Present: Nancy Mogielnicki, Ron Eberhardt, Dave Taylor, Allan Ferguson.

1) Street Lights: Allan and Dave will present issues summarized below to the Select board 5/18, asking for a public hearing on the subject.

*Streetlight Summary as of March 2012*

*The Town of Plainfield has two lighting systems - Plainfield Village, supplied by Public Service of New Hampshire, and Meriden Village, supplied by National Grid. Stage Road lights are privately owned.*

*Plainfield Village:*

*The PSNH 29 light system in Plainfield Village was upgraded in September 2008 to 70 watt metal halide and provides pleasing lighting in accordance with "Dark Skies" recommendations. All lights are on from dusk to dawn. The annual cost of lighting at present is approximately \$6000.*

*The Plainfield lights are due for an every-six-years maintenance sometime in 2012. This fact provides an opportunity to consider the PSNH "Midnight Streetlights" option for at least some of the lights in the village. The addition of a timer to any light is available for \$6 at the time of maintenance - as opposed to \$176 at a different time! See the brochure enclosed for details.*

*The savings per light per year would be approximately 13% or \$25 with a payback of less than one year.*

*PSNH does not have any plan to provide LEDs at this time*

2) Resident Power discussion. This is similar to a "fuel club" for electric power customers. Residential customers and commercial customers can purchase electricity from *Resident Power*. They guarantee that rates will be at least 5% less than PSNH rates. According to their website, [www.residentpower.com](http://www.residentpower.com), their sources use 75% less coal than PSNH. Their suppliers rely mainly on clean burning natural gas and renewable sources. Transmission and distribution of electricity would still be from PSNH. Website has *FAQ* section.

Should our committee tell residents info. re: this? (Nancy and Ron will check and report back. Alan is looking into another company who will offer us a price for municipal buildings.)

Nancy will look at companies and see if any offer renewable energy, perhaps at a premium. For example, *Community Energy* sells blocks of renewable energy to individual residential customers.

<http://www.communityenergyinc.com/>

3) Audits we had done are now on NH LAX (<http://nhlocalenergyaudits.com/>)

Allan will call Jill Fitzgerald at National Grid to see if there are incentives (bulbs, etc.?) for improvement of town hall efficiency.

Nancy Norwalk can take the lead re: increasing library efficiency. (insulation, lighting)

4) **Plain Facts** will print a correction next month re: the article on climate change. (Credit/blame to Ron, rather than Dave.)

5) Allan will check *NE Grassroots Environment Fund* re: possible grants for Plainfield project.

6) On May 23 at 7:00 p.m., the Cornish Energy Committee will have a meeting in the Cornish Town Hall re: bus service on Rt. 120. They would like for us to come in hopes of discussing other areas for public transport.

7) Allan will check on getting an energy audit for the Plainfield Fire Dept.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ron Eberhardt

## Minutes of Energy Committee Meeting- March 8, 2012, Meriden Town Hall

4 PM meeting with Margaret Dillon, S.E.E.D.S., auditor for NH-LAX Program.  
Present: Steve Halleran, Ron Eberhardt, Diane Rogers, Dave Taylor, Allan Ferguson, Nancy Mogielnicki. Guest: Nancy Norwalk, Plainfield Library

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the recent Energy Audits of Town Garage and Plainfield Library done by Ms. Dillon. Copies of these audit reports are available on the Town Website and at the Town Office and Plainfield Library. Ms. Dillon answered questions regarding audit results and recommendations and will be available for further discussion as needed.

6PM monthly Energy Committee meeting  
Present: Allan Ferguson, Ron Eberhardt, Dave Taylor, Diane Rogers, Nancy Mogielnicki

### Streetlights

Nancy Mogielnicki presented a new option provided by Public Service of NH (PSNH) for Plainfield Village Streetlights: as these lights are due for maintenance, timers can be installed for \$6 per light during the maintenance work (\$175 per light at another time). Diane Rogers agreed to use the map previously marked by Wendy James to itemize lights and identify those which might be candidates for the "Midnight Streetlights" timer program. The committee agreed that canvassing of townspeople would be difficult and inconclusive. We will approach select board with a recommendation as soon as possible, in order to meet the maintenance schedule deadline. For a complete summary of current streetlight status, see attached notes.

### Plain Facts

The committee discussed a brief article on climate change that Ron Eberhardt has prepared for the Plain Facts. There has been some concern that discussion of climate change has political overtones which might distract some townspeople from the work of the committee. In the balance, however, the committee believes that this is an issue of paramount concern and that the article should be published in the name of the EC.

### Electricity Rates

Allan Ferguson has initiated discussion of seeking better rates for municipal buildings, available since utility deregulation was accomplished in NH. Resident Power is used for PES and KUA: <http://www.residentpower.com/>

The PUC website lists other providers:  
<http://www.puc.nh.gov/Consumer/energysuppliers.htm>

and some are also noted in our town building audit reports.

We will learn more about program specifics and hope to achieve cost savings for both town and residents.

Our next meeting will be in April 2012, date to be determined.

Submitted by Nancy Mogielnicki

Attachment: Streetlight Summary as of March, 2012

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#### Plainfield Village:

The PSNH 29 light system in Plainfield Village was upgraded in September 2008 to 70 watt metal halide and provides pleasing lighting in accordance with "Dark Skies" recommendations. All lights are on from dusk to dawn. The annual cost of lighting at present is approximately \$6000.

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The savings per light per year would be approximately 13% or \$25 with a payback of less than one year.

PSNH does not have any plan to provide LEDs at this time.

#### Meriden Village

There are 29 lights in Meriden that are part of the National Grid "Village Street Lights" system. (This does not include the flashing light on 120 or the covered bridge light.)

These lights are high pressure sodium (HPS) and most are 50 w. The annual cost is approximately \$2500.

National Grid will charge \$150 per light to install timers and they will not install LEDs. In addition, NG is planning to sell its Granite State business to Algonquin Power, a deal which is moving through the regulatory process. It seems prudent to wait for the new owner, which may be more responsive to community needs, and to upgrade our lighting at the same time that we consider installing timers.