

MINUTES OF LIGHTING COMMITTEE MEETING
JULY 23, 2014- 5:00 PM VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Nick Depolis, Cathryn Fadde, Barbara Galazzo, Cali Gorevic, Hilary Hayes, Rob Leiter, James Pergamo, Andrew Pidala, Patty Villanova

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss holiday lighting on Main Street and upgrades to the existing street lights.

The first topic of discussion was the installation of holiday lights on Main Street. Andrew said that 13 poles have plugs that can be used, and 15 more needed to be done. Andrew has been working on this and at the same time has been trying to help clean up the poles by removing some of the “dead” wires. Andrew has a good working relationship with the Village and Central Hudson officials and has been involved since the beginning. He explained that we would only be allowed to have one banner type light running across Main St. because there are only two poles that have guy wires which can support the weight. Those poles are located near the intersection with Route 9D, and we discussed the possibility of using some of the old decorations to see if any could be salvaged to use for this purpose, i.e making a banner light display.

We were also told that for various reasons, the idea of wrapping the trees in lights wasn't feasible, and that Central Hudson does not want cords running out to the poles because of liability and safety issues. Therefore, it looks like the only viable option is to have lights that are attached to the poles by brackets. Cathryn had obtained catalogs that have these fixtures and she told us that she has commitments by several merchants to purchase 12 snowflake fixtures that were in one of the catalogs. The amount committed is roughly \$5000 and it was hoped that perhaps the Village could match some of that money and that other merchants would make a donation.

Rob brought up the idea of old fashioned lighting as opposed to the plastic snowflakes, saying that they were more in keeping with the ambiance of the Village. He made a presentation of various photos and screen shots that showed such old fashioned lighting and he also suggested possibly having two Christmas trees- one at the bandstand and one at the foot of Main. That idea was positively received, as well as the idea that perhaps the bandstand could be decorated more extravagantly to utilize its location and architectural features, such that it might not be necessary to have a Christmas tree there and just one at the foot of Main. However, nobody seemed to have a problem with the idea of two Christmas trees.

One of the concerns that was brought up regarding trying to use old fashioned lighting is the fact that while the items in the catalogs are ready to go, out of the box and can be easily and quickly installed, the same is not true of an alternate lighting scheme that may not be implemented in time for this winter. Cathryn also mentioned that she had shown the merchants who agreed to donate, the snowflake lights, but she is going to go to the Village garage to look at the old lights and see what if any can be salvaged. It is hoped that a decision on the holiday lighting can be reached ASAP because there are discounts available if we buy the lights

now rather than waiting till later in the year. Also discussed was the idea of providing electric or battery operated candles for windows up and down Main. It was felt that the candles that had been found so far were a bit pricey and more research was going to be done.

Next on the agenda was a further discussion regarding the street lights by Cathryn, Patty, Andrew and James. Patty read two emails from Joe Hetsler of Central Hudson regarding the poles and light fixtures to be replaced. Andrew and James had a lot of good information about what was happening with CH and also, Andrew explained a bit about the installation of underground wiring in buildings that were being renovated. It might be a reasonable option to install such lighting piecemeal rather than try to do the whole Village at once which would be cost prohibitive. James spoke on the various fixtures available and said that LEDs were the way to go as they are low maintenance and give better light. We also discussed the inventory that had been done of the poles on Main St. that do not have any fixtures on them.

There is some confusion about which 5 poles will be replaced and Patty is going to write to Joe at CH to find out and also when this will be done. It seems that Nelsonville is already signed up for new lights but we are not certain when the rollout will be. Concern was expressed that if we were to get new fixtures in the near future, they would become obsolete once CH started the project for the rest of the Village. We will try to get clarification of these matters before the next meeting, and in the meantime, send emails out if we get anything from Joe H.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 and the next meeting is scheduled for August 13th, 6:00 pm, at the Village Hall.

respectfully submitted by Patty Villanova