

Village Green Committee
Friday, January 18, 2019, 10:00 AM at the Town Hall Annex
Special Meeting

Minutes

Attending: Connie Kieley, Felicia Sartell, Gail Cromwell, Honey Hastings, Carol Mamczak, Robin Downes, Peggy Cournoyer, Guest: Rob Wills Absent: Denise Collette, Kathy Fedorka

Felicia called the meeting to order at 10:03.

1. Connie introduced Rob Wills, electrical engineer and Temple resident, who is representing the Holiday Lighting Committee (HLC). He is here to answer questions about the permanent electrical installation plans for the Common.

An explanation of ground fault as worded in the proposal was requested. Rob explained that the current setup is not code-compliant and there could be liability. He explained two ways to make the proposed layout compliant. The first is to have the protection on the outlet as you would in a bathroom, and the second is to have the protection on the breakers in the panel. By having ground fault protection in the panel, wiring only needs to be installed one foot in the ground instead of eighteen inches. The VGC committee agreed that panel ground fault protection is the way to go.

There was discussion about the existing proposal and where it goes from here. Our role is to see if we are in agreement and can support the HLC proposal. It will go to the Budget Committee and Select Board from here.

The next question was about the 220 wiring request that is in addition to the HLC proposal. Rob explained that a vendor can do that with an extension cord and it is not necessary to install, although it could be updated easily in the future. According to minutes of SB meeting, that request has been dropped.

We had questions regarding the sketch that was provided with the proposal. Rob explained that it is a conceptual drawing and that runs are installed in conjunction with a tree professional. The runs are radial to protect the trees on the perimeter. Perimeter wiring of 20 amps would not be adequate for load whereas the radial runs are each 20 amps.

A question was asked about the number of runs and whether the proposal is the minimum number or could we do with less. Rob responded that this proposal satisfies the HLC lighting needs and those of Harvest Festival vendors. It gives good coverage of the Common. He further explained the positioning and appearance of outlet boxes. They will be gray on pressure treated 1x3 or 2x4 painted gray, with gray plastic covers and will be positioned against but not attached to granite posts, protruding approximately one foot from the ground. Rob explained that they

cannot be too low because ice and standing water could corrode the outlets and shorten their lifetime.

Connie expressed concern that while the concept is a good idea and that we want something code-compliant, the current proposal might be too many runs. What are we encouraging? It was stated that any event requires a permit from the Select Board. The outlets will be locked and everything is controlled on one pole. Rob stated that the current number of runs supports the HLC lighting. This proposal would also allow for lighting the elm below the common.

A question was asked regarding the current height of the trees that are lit and what happens when they grow larger. Rob felt that five feet of growth in five years would be doable, and after that a lift would be required to install the lights. The HLC would plan for that.

Rob showed a video of the Ditch Witch tool used to dig the paths for wires. It can be rented in Milford and he has experience using this tool. It vibrates the ground and leaves a neat furrow just wide enough for the wiring compared with using digging equipment that creates a larger trench. It can crack through rocks and remove them, although it will not go through large boulders. He explained that he as a professional engineer and another resident who is a licensed electrician can accomplish the task and will donate their labor. He explained how after the cut is made, black polyethylene pipe is laid down. Everything is covered up after installation.

MOTION: That the VGC supports this HLC code-compliant permanent wiring plan presented by Rob Wills with the recommendation that the maximum number of runs not exceed what is in the proposal and if during installation, any run risks hurting a tree, that run is rerouted or eliminated.

Moved by Connie. Seconded by Robin

Discussion: a sample of the outlet mount was requested and Rob replied that he will have it before town meeting. Clarification of proposed costs was requested as all numbers were rounded. Were they rounded up? Rob replied that the current quotes may change for the better since he thinks he can get better pricing on some items. The Select Board will decide the amount.

Honey called to end discussion and proceed with the vote. All in favor

Vote: Six in favor with Peggy abstaining

At this time Gail needed to leave for another meeting.

2. Connie presented the HLC warrant article proposal for a line item of \$1400. for setting up and taking down the holiday lights. Rob stressed the importance year-to-year continuity for setup and takedown with consideration for liability. The lights will be lit through the end of January (this year it is the 26th) and taken down when appropriate for the trees. Do we support this?

MOTION: That the VGC supports the HLC warrant article for up to \$1400. to be used for HLC lights and labor.

Moved by Robin. Seconded by Carol

Discussion: If approved, this will be a line item in the budget. The installation and takedown of lights will be done by someone who is insured with assistance from volunteers. This will include tree lighting event expenses, but not the holiday party.

Vote: All in favor

3. Rob suggested that the VGC might be the group to look into the structural integrity of the tall white monument. We might consider hiring someone to inspect, lift the top and check to see how the mounts are constructed. This is an old monument installed with the technology of the day. Discussion followed to determine where records might be found – historical society, old town meeting records, company purchased from could still be in business. It was agreed that we would hate to lose this important icon and this has been placed on the agenda for next meeting.

4. There was discussion of the old maples on the common and their current status. Carol previously sent everyone a photo of one particular maple that may need to be evaluated. Its health is in question and its appearance is poor. Is this the time to consider replacing it? It was suggested that we invite Tim or an arborist to assess it. This has been moved to the agenda for our next meeting.

The next meeting date could not be set, but two were suggested. First choice is Friday, March 22nd at 1 PM. Second choice is Monday, March 18th at 10 AM. Carol will email the committee members to determine date.

Robin moved to adjourn. Seconded by Carol.

The meeting concluded at 11:16 AM