

March 9, 2021 – 3:30 pm

Stockbridge Green Communities Streetlighting Committee

Present: Mike Canales, Laura Dubester, Pat Flinn, Miles Moffatt, Buck Smith, Darrell Fennelly

Guests: Kate Fletcher, Terry Wise

- Mike and Laura shared guidelines related to Open Meeting Law. Laura suggested that, as this is the first meeting with public attendance and because the committee is cohesive, we set aside time for questions and comments as well as use “chat”. This can be modified in the future. There will be opportunity for public input. We realized this would be “short meeting” because of member time constraints and quorum rules. Public input on lighting concerns or perspectives will be on the agenda for the next meeting.
- Laura let the Committee know that Pam had resigned due to her schedule – and thanked Pam for her significant contributions over the years to Stockbridge Green Communities.

- Reference check reports
 - Laura noted that a little late in the game, she learned about RealTerm Energy and invited them to submit a proposal (distributed to Committee), She will ask for references and check (and see if a committee member wants to help). Also Mike and Laura will have an introductory call with RealTerm to create a parallel process with Tanko and LightSmart. From now on, except checking references and other specific tasks, it will be preferable to have presentations and conversations with the committee.
 - Laura will work on a schedule for Vendor presentations/follow-up conversations. We hope to have a briefing and recommendation to Selectmen to consider by the end of April.
 - Laura also presented the potential-ideal time line so that Stockbridge can apply for grants to purchase and install the streetlights. (Select Vendor, procure lights, and conduct audit and then apply to DOER for funding for purchase of LED’s and installation)
 - Laura reported on various conversations (longer report may be submitted)
 - Dalton – spoke with Becky Slick from Planning Board who hired Tanko. Overall pleased. She said she spent more time on this than any other project – often 5 – 10 hours a week. Kate mentioned in chat that she has a contact in Dalton and the Committee invited her to share with the Committee.

- Watertown – very pleased with Tanko (went through MAPC process). Was concerned about HQ in CA and also the project manager changed but both worked out fine.
- Pittsfield – spoke to Engineer Ricardo Morales) very pleased with RealTerm. He came into process “late” and RealTerm brought him up to speed. Metrics on savings were accurate; helped with selection of products, bid documents, answer community questions (pollution and light into homes), used 2700 K in some areas. Good from beginning to end, had an inspector visit and also Q.C. Positive.
- MAPC (former employee Patrick Roche) – Stockbridge would be happy with either. Laura asked “how do we choose”? He suggested asking about their design process. Look at price. Make sure we will have access to Jason Tanko for design.
- Buck spoke with two towns – one that worked with Tanko and also in process with LightSmart.
 - A representative of Warren who worked with Tanko. Her experience begins after Warren had bought lights and were in operation. Doing maintenance through Tanko, Chris and Matt are excellent. Positive
 - Montague (4 villages in western MA) is working with LightSmart and spoke with Ilene Tella (accountant). She noted that 4 towns is a more complicated process and they are early in this. Haven’t purchased lights yet. Happy with LightSmart, George in particular. He is an expert with all of this and has a lot of information and has been very helpful. Takes a lot of her time. If we have ability, drive down to Warwick, R.I. where he put up 6 different lights; K temperatures and Wattages.
- Pat reported on her reference checks.
 - Reached out to James Ryan (Salisbury) that worked with George – scheduled for the following day.
 - Pat is waiting to hear from the Town Engineer/Facilities Director of Hopkington MA Norman (town manager); forwarded request to Dave Daltorio (Town Engineer/Facilities Director) who worked with Tanko

Note: Pat called Laura the following day to report that James Ryan was pleased. He noted that there were wrinkles because many of the lights had wiring that needed to be replaced.

Laura Note re note: In a subsequent conversation Laura had with MAPC Cara Goodman, she said that they can’t know about wiring until installation unless someone inspects in advance. Maybe we can talk with NGRID to see if they can provide helpful information. Talk to Vendor.

- Mike reported on his reference checks.
 - Mike spoke with Jason, Town Manager in Williamstown: Tanko leading through the process which is a bit complicated because the Town is taking over from the Fire District. They estimate a 3 year payback.

The Committee 'brainstormed' some follow-up questions for all potential vendors:

- Design Process
- How much work will it take on our part
- How does the process actually function – e.g. roles of Town and Vendor
- Clarify whether proposals include controls or other differences

Buck noted that each potential vendor makes slightly different assumptions and it is hard to make apples to apples comparison. Also appreciates analysis and precision of Tanko and Real Term proposal.

The meeting ended shortly after 4:00 pm due to lack of quorum.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Dubester, Chair