

Hillsboro Energy Commission Approved Minutes
October 25th, 2022; **Bolded items are things to-do**

Work session opened at 6PM. Attendance: Brett Cherrington, Chairman; Adam Charrette, Vice-Chairman; Jon Daley, Secretary

LED Street Lighting Project

Adam, Brett and Jon drove around town and examined basically every street light. There was much discussion about a base-level “policy” about whether street lights should exist in the middle of a block without a crosswalk, whether street lights should be every X feet, every other light pole. Rural intersections vs downtown intersections.

There are many lights in town that appear to be haphazardly placed – some right next to each other, other places have long stretches of darkness. The general consensus was that we should at least be consistent, and safety studies have shown that alternating light and dark is worse than consistency.

We talked to some residents as we went along, and while some residents said they liked the light (that lights up their yard, rather than the street or crosswalk), in most cases (but not all) residents said it probably made sense to remove it, and they would get used to it. One resident was thrilled to have it removed so he would be able to see stars more clearly.

We examined one complainant’s report where he reported light going into his bedroom window (and that glare had increased from the old style lights).

The LED lights have more of a “point-source” and so can be much brighter from certain directions.

We also saw numerous cases of commercial light violations, some of which had been installed prior to the planning board’s regulations, but others have been changed or installed after planning board approval.

We talked about two flood lights that light up a private apartment complex parking lot and a parking lot at the school, both of which aren’t really street lights and should at least be transferred to the owner of the property, but hopefully can be reduced in brightness / glare, as they are not dark sky compliant currently.

Respectfully submitted,
Jon Daley