

2008 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE JAFFREY ENERGY COMMITTEE

At its November 20, 2008 meeting, the Jaffrey Energy Committee adopted comprehensive By-Laws to govern its operations. The purposes to be served by the Committee are set forth in Article II of the By-Laws as follows:

“The Jaffrey Energy Committee, acting as advisor to town officials, the schools, businesses and residents on energy matters, will seek to encourage energy conservation and sustainability (and to save money wherever possible) through the wise use of energy, giving special attention to minimizing carbon dioxide emissions, fossil fuel dependency, and wasteful energy consumption while maximizing clean renewable energy use.

“Among numerous critical energy challenges and opportunities, the Committee shall advocate:

- Reduction of energy and environmental waste through smart recycling.
- Reduction of carbon and other harmful fuel emissions through technological innovations and through shifts to alternative energy sources that minimize fossil fuel dependency.
- Reduction of costs of residential, commercial and town lighting through elimination of unnecessary lighting, use of low energy lighting sources, and good lighting management practices.
- Reduction of heating and air conditioning costs in buildings by maximizing energy conservation and efficiency and other performance factors.
- Increase of energy efficiency through reformed building and property development codes.
- Collaboration with other local, state and national organizations, including other town energy committees, to advance the above-stated purposes.”

Members of the Committee now include Richard Ames (Chair), Doug Clayton, Margaret Dillon, Ed Surprenant, Andy Jones, Bonnie Mitchell, Rob Stevenson, Douglas Starr and Harry Young (Vice-Chair). The Committee encourages all those interested in participating in the work of the Committee to contact its Chair for further information.

Waste and inefficiencies in the Town’s street lighting system have been a principal focus of the Committee in 2008. The Town’s ad hoc Street Lighting Committee, established by the Selectmen in late 2007 with a mandate to “study the town’s lighting to save money and reduce global warming” and chaired by Energy Committee Vice-Chair Harry Young, has adopted the following *draft* statement of the principles and criteria that it believes should guide the Town’s consideration of its street lighting needs:

“Draft Guiding Principles

Provide Needed Lighting: Impelled by critical public safety and community concerns, the Committee is seeking to ensure that the Town of Jaffrey has an aesthetically appropriate street lighting system sufficient to meet the needs of its residents.

Conserve Energy: Impelled by critical global warming and energy security concerns, the Committee is seeking to reduce, to the maximum extent feasible consistent with the Town’s street lighting needs, the energy consumed by particular streetlights and by the Town’s entire street lighting system.

Save Money: Impelled by critical Town budget and tax burden concerns, the Committee is seeking to reduce, to the maximum extent possible, the recurring and long-term costs of the Town's street lighting system.

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"Draft Guiding Criteria

Intersections: In general, there should be streetlights sufficient to signal the location of each intersection of major public roads where there is significant vehicular traffic.

Sidewalks: In general, there should be streetlights sufficient to illuminate sidewalks in densely populated areas where there is significant pedestrian movement.

No Wasted Light: The light provided by each street light should be no more than what is necessary to accomplish its purpose, should not illuminate the night sky, and should not shine into neighboring windows or yards.

Energy Efficient Lighting: The Town's new street lights should be state-of-the-art in terms of the light (lumens) provided per watt of energy consumed and in terms of their long-term durability and maintenance needs.

Consistent Lighting: In general, there should be one consistent type of street light, providing light of the same color (whether yellow-looking as in high pressure sodium lights or white-looking as in metal halide lights), used throughout Town."

The ad hoc Street Lighting Committee has completed a comprehensive survey of all of the Town's streetlights. Preliminary recommendations for change have been formulated, providing for (1) removal of 88 of the Town's 228 streetlights, (2) replacement of all remaining lamps outside of the Historic District with energy efficient metal halide lamps (each rated at 50 watts and 4000 lumens), and (3) keeping for now the existing 13 specialized lights in the Historic District (pending further review). Significant monetary and energy savings are expected if this preliminary plan, after further review with Town officials and citizens, is accepted and implemented by the Town. The ad hoc Committee fully expects that some changes in its recommendations, both for keeping and for removing particular streetlights, will prove necessary as the review process proceeds.

Respectfully submitted for the Jaffrey Energy
Committee by,

Richard Ames, Chair

Harry Young, Vice-Chair