

Candia Recycling & Energy Committee
Public Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2022

Attendance:

Committee members: Clay Caddy, Gail Thomas, Janet Lewis, Russ Dann, Dick Snow, Al Couch, and Town Administrator Andria Hansen.

Invited attendees: Cassidy Brennan and Steve Lieber from Affinity LED.

Dick Snow set up the meeting to be available on Zoom.

Affinity LED attended this meeting to review and discuss the proposal for conversion of the town office building and the outdoor lights in the surrounding areas to LED.

Al reviewed the streetlight conversion that Affinity completed in September. When that project was completed, Affinity offered to do a complete assessment of other town lights. They submitted a proposal for the conversion of the other town lights in November. That proposal was passed along to the Board of Selectmen, but because there has since been a major change to the proposal it is now being reviewed again. The new proposal brings the cost down as Eversource was able to come up with a much larger incentive payback to help fund the conversion. The incentive payback has gone up from \$2,445 to \$5,039.

Al said he has done some research on the savings seen so far on the streetlight conversion, and those savings are even higher than the original Affinity estimate- savings of over \$5,600 per year on streetlight billing. This is about a 65% savings.

With the savings we have already seen from the streetlight conversion, and the much larger payback from Eversource, this gave the committee the motivation to meet with Affinity and then discuss whether the revised proposal should go to the Board for consideration.

Affinity reviewed the new proposal, and then answered questions on the LED conversion. They showed some of the actual light fixtures which they had brought along. Steve said all of their fixtures are produced in Dover. He gave an impressive demonstration of how the smart light technology works. He showed how the lights can be individually programmed to turn on at specified times, and how they can radiate at the best and most efficient brightness automatically. Their proposal includes a total of 111 lights, and 84 of those are programmable smart lights. Cassidy and Steve then answered additional questions on their company, their products, and how the town could get the conversion started.

The fact that funding might not be available to start a conversion in the near future was brought up. Affinity said there were a couple of good funding options that would not require any up-front costs. They said that Eversource has a program that could fund the conversion. The program, called Smart Start, is a loan that is paid back using the energy savings of the conversion to LED. , Affinity said they also work with another lender called Municipal Leasing Consultants. This company also uses the energy savings as payments for the loan.

After Affinity wrapped up their presentation, committee members were asked if they feel that the lighting retrofit information should be passed along to the Board at Monday's meeting. All agreed that the information should be given to them at this time.

There was discussion on the formation of a Community Power Committee. Standard Power, the town's power broker, met with us several months ago to suggest the formation of a separate committee which would pool the community together to form a group that could buy energy at lower rates than residents can do individually. Standard Power would help the committee with this effort when a committee is formed. It was noted that so far there has been no response to the online note asking for interested people to form this committee. Al asked for ideas on how we could make this happen. This will be discussed again at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be Thursday, March 24th at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Al Couch, Recycling & Energy Committee member