

INFORMATIONAL MEETING
Lighting District for Lake Breeze Estates
October 17, 2007

The Town Board for the Town of Hamlin held an Informational Meeting for the proposed lighting district for Lakes Breeze Estates. Supervisor Roach opened the meeting at 7:30 pm and explained the location of the fire exits and defibrillator for those present.

Present: Supervisor Dennis Roach, Councilperson Michael Marchetti and Councilperson David Rose.

Also present: Highway Sup. Tom Ingraham, Laurie Mastin from National Grid, Residents Daniel Hicks, Tim Crawford, Art Buss, Jennifer Baker, Amy Kelly, John Hohman, Rick Burch, Katie Flynn, Ron Fey, Brenda Milliman, Tim Flynn, Planning Board Member Tom Jensen, Conservation Bd. Member Tom Breslawski and Recreation Commissioner Stan Lyons.

Supervisor Roach offered as a background that when the town had their community meeting after a sex offender took up residence in our town, some of the residents of the Lake Breeze Estates either talked to me after the meeting, or came into my office as well as sending correspondence or e-mails asking if there could be street lighting in Lake Breeze. A lighting district is a Special District that is created at the request of the people who are being benefited by it. It would be established when the people in the district are in favor of doing that. The town acts as the facilitator by helping do the legal paper work and establishing the special district. We are the vehicle assessing the property to obtain the money to pay for it by putting it on your taxes. Procedures to establish the special district are first to establish that a minimum of over 51% of the property owners live in the proposed area are in favor of the district. If this is the case, we will have prepared a legal petition to be carried door to door. Some residents have volunteered to do that. They would carry information for the residents to be aware of information such as the boundaries of the area and the maximum cost. The cost is spread evenly amongst all property owners in the district. The cost is shared evenly among all the 192 residents, everyone pays even if you did not sign the petition. If over 50% of the residents approve it, keep that in mind. Once the petition is passed (carried door to door) with the required number of signatures, it is then presented to the Town Board. The Town Board will then adopt an order, which recites that a petition has been presented, what the boundaries are and what the costs are. Our Town Attorney would do this.

Next would be the scheduling of a public hearing, a lawful meeting at which the residents will be invited to attend and be given the opportunity to express their opinion or comments. Based on that hearing and the input given, the Town Board would vote to approve or not approve this Special District. In the case of a lighting district, it is a little different, as we are not assuming a debt. What we do have is an annual payment that includes the installation and the usage of the lighting. Those are the procedures.

At this time, Supervisor Roach turned the meeting over to Highway Sup. Tom Ingraham and Laurie Mastin, the representative from National Grid.

Highway Sup. Tom Ingraham stated that after the Supervisor contacted him, he talked with Laurie Mastin of National Grid who came out and they went through the subdivision. Highway Sup. Ingraham made available a map and the two proposals. Proposal 1: National Grid would install 19 coach lamp 100 watt high pressure sodium fixtures on 12 foot poles at the locations noted in blue on the map. Annual costs are estimated to be \$5,420 divided by 192 residents at a cost of \$28.23 per year. These would be 650 feet apart. Proposal 2: National Grid would install 29 coach lamp 100 watt high pressure sodium fixtures on 12 foot poles at the located noted in red on the map previously provided. Annual costs are estimated to be \$8,090 divided by 192 residents at a cost of \$42.14 per year. It was explained the difference in the cost of other lighting districts such as Hillcrest and Traciann which were in place at the time of construction. Their cost is approximately \$34.50 a year.

Laurie Mastin thanked the town for being invited to come in and appreciated being included in the discussion. She explained that she is not here to sell you on this project but to provide a service. The established subdivision does present some problems. There is landscaping around our transformers I am sure that may be problematic. That having been said, I went to our outdoor lighting experts. We are not obligated to put in lighting in an established subdivision but if the town is willing to work with us and Tom has stated he could do the site restoration, we can offer this option. To keep the costs down Laurie stated these would be embedded posts. When asked by a resident the location of the posts, the map was explained further with the posts being 10 to 15 feet from electric boxes. Tom stated the position of the lights would be in most areas three to five feet off the edge of the road. They don't have to be far off the road as they are coach lights. Another resident asked about the illumination. Laurie explained the light, the housing and reflection. She suggested they look at the lighting in Hillcrest and Traciann. A brief discussion took place on the illumination.

An unidentified gentleman asked why or what concern did those people who brought this to you have. Supervisor Roach read from a letter in which the writer asked if I had ever traveled through the subdivision at dark. It was then mentioned a safety factor and the fact you can't see the road when you step out onto the front porch. You can't see someone walking down the street. It was mentioned by another resident there is a safety factor for our kids. Illumination was again mentioned. The neighbors are keeping their outside lights on was also mentioned. Another gentleman had two issues. I would like to carry a petition against it as I have not spoken to one person in favor of it. Secondly, I have raised children since the age of four and five in that neighborhood and I have never had a close call with them. If we are worried about one situation over there then light up that area. We came here to be rural, if you want streetlights go to Greece. Supervisor Roach stated the town is helping facilitate a need but the decision is entirely up to the people of the proposed district. The residents will make the decision on the petition. The question was asked about both the husband and wife signing. Supervisor Roach stated that the Attorney states the signatures of the owners not renters are required.

The petitions are validated by the list of owners by the assessor. Is it one signature per residence? If it is joint ownership then both can sign it.

Laurie explained the spillage and the design of the light fixture. She also mentioned the cost of the electric. It was asked about a timetable for them to be installed. Laurie mentioned after the Town Board has made the resolution, it could be approximately six weeks and in the summer it might be a little longer.

Supervisor Roach asked if there were any other questions? If not we will have a petition drawn up by the Attorney and those who have volunteered will be contacted to pass the petition and we will see where we go from there. It is up entirely to the residents. When asked what would be the legal petition if a petition was brought in against a district. A percentage of at least 50% of the residents is required on the legal petition. Supervisor Roach said that the Town Board, however, look at what comes in. Councilperson Rose mentioned that by signing the petition, they would know what they are signing and the commitment. When asked by a resident if you are not home will they come back. Supervisor Roach stated I would think those carrying the petition would want to get as many signatures as they could get.

Informational meeting was closed at 8:10 pm.

At this time a question was asked what is happening on the other issue. Supervisor Roach explained that the Town Board held a public hearing on the Child Safety Zone and that would be voted on at the next Town Board Meeting. It was explained what the Child Safety Zone and buffer zone area entailed. We have also received our comments back from the County. It was asked what about our track. We aren't making it retroactive. Those who live in that area briefly discussed their situation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi A. Rickman, RMC/CMC
Hamlin Town Clerk