

Monthly Report to LaFayette Town Board

LaFayette Advisory Conservation Commission (LACC)

January 5, 2023

Submitted by: Mark Distler, LACC Chair

These are the LACC activities between December 6, 2022 and January 5, 2023:

1. **Membership** – no changes
2. **Meetings** – No meeting was held. The next one is scheduled for February 21.
3. **Projects & Programs** - See attached status summary of projects requested by the Town Supervisor and programs selected to build a community conservation culture. Of note:
 - a. The community solar campaign plan was approved by NYSERDA, and the campaign has launched with social media and newsletter announcements. Letters to all residents are planned to be sent on January 12.
 - b. At the January 10 meeting, the LACC will be asking for your approval of the attached recommendation to submit an application and commit to using the Town's CEC designation grant of \$5k toward the conversion of the Town's street lights.

Attachments: LACC Project Status Summary
Street Light LED Conversion Recommendation

LACC Project & Program Status Summary

Objective		Project Team	Current Actions	Previous Actions
Projects				
Senior Center	Develop landscaping design that will connect visitors to the nature of Stafford Park	Kelly, Larkin, Mark	ON HOLD -Design ravine landscape & new park plantings in Spring '23	-Met ESF to discuss their involvement -Received Supervisor's and Optimist's approval to proceed w/ ESF -Got construction ROM cost estimates for ravine & nature trail plantings
Parks	Propose concepts to increase visitor's awareness of nature and/or environment	Amy, Keith, Mark, Markus	-Decide on option for Bailey Park	-Developed list of concepts -Finalized list of plantings for ESF by September; involve Optimists & Prince -Drafted tree/bench memorial program -Received Supervisor approval to obtain cost estimates -Worked out transaction details w/ Chartrand & Marzo -Designed tree and bench locations -Obtained latest cost estimates & finalized details -Got program approved by TB -Launched program on website via social media channels
Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	Develop scope & cost for stations on Town property	Mark, Kelly	-Request other cost estimates -Develop ROI with input from other pay-4-use -Submit recommendation for TB approval -If approved, apply for NYSDEC ZEV grant	-Contacted CNYRPDB to learn about funding options -Got Supervisor approval to contact contractors -Met with MakeReady contractor at Town office to start cost estimate process -Discussed concepts with Supervisor -Received cost estimate from MakeReady contractor
Invasives	Propose approaches to manage the risk of invasives in our community	Kelly, Craig	-Remind Optimists to repost wild parsnip posters in parks each Spring -Add links to invasive educational material and remediation projects on town website	-Discussed with Supervisor prior to identification -Prepared warning signs for installation at parks -Developed fact sheet -Wrote newsletter article highlighting 3 invasives
Community Solar	Promote NYS Community Solar program with residents	Mark, Amy, Kelly, Payton, Larkin, Keith	-Track new subscriptions & close campaign	-Wrote newsletter article -Obtained cost savings estimate for Town to subscribe to solar project -Recommended 3 opportunities to TB, all approved -Managed Town's subscription to solar project (started monthly savings) -Developed community campaign plan for TB & NYSEDA approval -Launched campaign
Clean Energy Community	Earn CEC designation under NYSEDA program and recommend energy reduction projects	Mark	-Apply for CEC grant to cover LED conversion cost -Implement LED conversion project & track savings -Manage Town's benchmarking setup	-Submitted TB's benchmarking resolution to NYSEDA -Received NYSEDA CEC designation & \$5k grant -Identified cost & energy saving for Town's street lighting conversion to LED -Recommended street lighting LED conversion for TB approval
Land Use Independent Study (AI 2-1)	Conduct an independent study of regulatory techniques and land use controls to manage future development in order to preserve the Town's public vistas and critical environmental and agricultural areas	Mark, Kelly	-Obtain funding via 2024 budget -Establish review committee -Conduct study -Draft recommendations to TB	-Developed SOW for expert consultant & requested proposals -Received proposal from land use expert
SEQR Enhancement (AI 2-6)	Enhance understanding of the SEQR process by all review boards to protect our natural resources from the potential negative impacts of development	Mark, Kelly, Doug	-Deliver enhancement program to PB	-Evaluated needs by interviewing those conducting SEQR reviews -Developed focused enhancement purpose -Researched enhancement options to meet needs -Recommended enhancement program to Supervisor -Prepared recommendation for program with SMEs -Delivered enhancement program to Town Board & ZBA

UNA & CEA (AI 2-10)	Inventory and identify sensitive environmental areas in the Town and designate Unique Natural Areas (UNAs) or Critical Environmental Areas (CEAs) as defined by the NYSDEC	Mark, Amy, Larkin	-Survey experts & town residents for potential CEAs -Write description & rationale of potential CEAs -Review draft recommendations with review boards -Submit recommendations to TB	-Decided UNAs are the same as CEAs -Drafted initial list -Spoke with NYSDEC -Spoke with some experts about potential CEAs
Tree Planting Program (AI 2-12)	Establish a tree planting program for Town-owned properties and public ROWs	Mark, Rachel, Keith, Markus, Doug	-Inventory trees on Town properties -Develop cost estimate for new tree plantings -Research funding availability -Develop tree care program -Submit program recommendation to TB -Implement new tree planting and care program	-Decided to exclude ROWs from program since they are private properties -Identified properties and prepared maps of each

Culture Building Programs

Town Newsletter Articles	Provide communications that increase resident's awareness to nature and environmental conservation	Rotating authors	-Write 23Q2 article on invasives, due March -Future topics: honey bees, glass recycling	23Q1 - Community solar campaign 22Q4 - Invasive species 22Q3 - Community solar 22Q2 - Solar farm law 22Q1 - People & plastics 21Q4 - LACC update, plastic recycling 21Q3 - LACC update, tick safety
Town Website	Post conservation topics on a LACC web page	Mark	-Continually update content	-Obtained Supervisor & IO approvals -Added existing content to the site page -Monthly updates
NYSACC Newsletter	Write article about LACC for NYSACC's quarterly newsletter	TBD	-Write article about LACC -Take photos of LACC, Bailey Park, Wild Parsnip, Stafford Park tree planting	

Completed Projects (since April 2021)

Agritourism	Recommend approaches to create a Town initiative	Isabella, Larkin, Markus	COMPLETED	-Discussed possible scopes with Supervisor -Discussed possible projects with Palmer & McConnell
Solar Farms	Propose recommendations to revise and update the solar farms law (§290-32 (H))	Carole, Kelly, Doug	COMPLETED	-Researched other towns' guidance -Drafted recommendation edits to current law -Completed internal review -Submitted recommendations memo to Supervisor -Submitted recommended edits to Town Attorney -Present proposed recommendations to Town Board
Comprehensive Plan Goal #2	Lead the execution of the 12 action items listed under Goal #2 of the 2021 Comprehensive Plan	Mark	COMPLETED	-Prepared plan to complete Goal #2 action items -Identified volunteers and subject matter experts needed to conduct 5 action items for 2022 -Held kickoff meetings
Comprehensive Plan Update	Participate on Tiger Team to update 2012 Comprehensive Plan	Carole, Kelly, Mark	COMPLETED	-Submitted input on vision, goals, objectives, action items -Provided input on land use approaches -Wrote FAQs for public communication -Prepared for public open house & hearing (10/28) -Provided input on revisions to CP based on public input -Define and organize the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee (CPIC)
Bailey Park Tree Planting	Coordinate planting of trees at Bailey Park to replace those removed	Amy, Mark	COMPLETED	-Obtained cost quote to plant 5 trees -Received Supervisor's approval -Coordinated planting & residents' donation
Apple Valley Park Noise	Provide technical support of noise & noise ordinance	Mark	COMPLETED	-Conducted noise evaluation during concert, submitted report -Recommended revisions to noise ordinance

Recommendation for Street Light LED Conversion

LaFayette Advisory Conservation Commission

To: William McConnell, Town Supervisor
Carole Dywer, Town Councilor
Jerry Marzo, Town Councilor
Melanie Palmer, Town Councilor
Steve Zajac, Town Councilor

From: Mark Distler, LACC Chair

Date: January 5, 2023

Working with CNYRPDB and National Grid, the LACC received the attached letter from National Grid to the Town offering to convert the Town's street lighting to LED lamps. National Grid estimated the costs (*i.e.*, net book value of the lamps, referred to as luminaire), incentives (cost savings) and resulting net cost to the Town to convert the Town's street lights (143 roadway luminaire and 1 decorative luminaire) to LED lamps:

Net book value of luminaire: \$13,828.32

Total estimated incentive: \$8,915.00

Net cost to Town: \$4,913.32

The savings to the Town for using lower energy LED versus HPS lamps was estimated by CNYRPDB to be \$7,660 per year or a 30% savings compared to what the Town is currently paying. National Grid will do all the work. There's one thing to note, that is, the LED lights are whiter in color than the yellow hue of HPS. The LED light will appear brighter but their lumen is actually slightly less than HPS.

In order to accept National Grid's offer, the Town needs to submit a formal conversion request letter to National Grid. However, prior to that, the Town can apply to use its recent Clean Energy Community (CEC) designation grant of \$5,000 to cover the net cost to the Town. If approved, the Town would be reimbursed under the grant, resulting in no cost to the Town for the street light conversion. The CEC grant requires a commitment letter be signed stating that the grant funds will be used for this purpose.

Recommendation

The LACC recommends the Town approve the application for the CEC grant by approving the attached commitment letter required for the grant application. When the grant is approved, the LACC will request the Town to approve a conversion request letter to National Grid, which will accept its offer and authorize the work to proceed.

Attachments: National Grid Offer Letter (August 2022)
Draft CEC Grant Commitment Letter



08/09/2022

Mr. John Greeley
DPW Superintendent
Town of LaFayette
2849 Route 11
LaFayette, NY 13084

Re: Outdoor Lighting LED Conversion Program

Dear Mr.Greeley:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding National Grid's Outdoor Lighting LED Conversion Program. As a valued street lighting customer, National Grid is pleased to offer you an opportunity to enhance the lighting quality and achieve energy cost savings through a proactive conversion of your existing outdoor lighting luminaires to energy efficient LED luminaires.

The LED conversion cost to facilitate this program is based on your billing account and corresponding reference number(s) information on record and represents the Company's residual net book value (NBV) for the luminaires to be removed. The owned NBV cost represents the average value for the individual luminaire style within the designated service area. The decorative LED conversion cost provided herein designates the average of the aggregate NBV for all decorative luminaire styles identified within the bill account. All NBV costs are effective for 180 days. Requests to convert less than all luminaires within the bill account will require the Company to provide individual average NBV for each decorative luminaire style. The Company has waived the costs of removing the luminaires to be converted from the listed LED conversion costs.

Customer Name:	Town of Lafayette
Customer Bill Account:	2493882109;9233879207
Roadway Luminaire Count:	143
Decorative Luminaire Count:	1
Avg. Roadway Luminaire NBV per unit/total:	\$96.67 each / \$13,824.80 total
Avg. Decorative Luminaire NBV per unit/total:	\$3.52 each / \$3.52 total
Total Avg. Luminaire NBV:	\$13,828.32
Estimated Roadway EE Incentive:	\$8,865.00
Estimated Decorative EE Incentive:	\$50.00
Total Estimated EE Incentive:	\$8,915.00

The Company has also provided an estimated energy efficiency incentive value based upon the available programs in effect as of the date of this letter. Presently, the Company offers an energy-efficiency incentive for LED Roadway luminaire conversions (whether customer-owned or Company-owned). The incentive ranges between \$50 and \$100 per luminaire and is limited to Roadway luminaire conversions only. To assist you, following receipt of the proposed roadway luminaire conversion information, the Company will provide a revised estimated energy efficiency incentive value. However, the actual incentive value may differ from the estimate and will only be provided to the customer upon completion and verification of the LED Roadway luminaire portion of the conversion project.



This incentive opportunity is available on a first-come, first-served basis which is based upon the time of incentive disbursement and subject to an annual financial limit. More details are available from your National Grid account service representative.

Premise	Town General
Reference:	
SL Reference	24938-82109
Number:	
Roadway and Decorative Luminaires	
<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>
63	LM Roadway 100
6	LM Roadway 150
65	LM Roadway 250
1	LM Traditional 70
Premise	West Shore Lights
Reference:	
SL Reference	92338-79107
Number:	
Roadway and Decorative Luminaires	
<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>
9	LM Roadway 100

To secure the pricing presented in this letter and initiate the LED Conversion Program for your community, please submit a commitment letter from an authorized representative on municipal letterhead or via a municipal email address, (ending in “.gov”).

The commitment communication must state the following:

- Commitment of payment to National Grid for the specified LED conversion cost of the designated quantity and style of luminaires to be converted in the form of:
 - An individual payment within 90 days of commitment and prior to any conversion installations in the form of one or more of the following;
 - Purchase Order
 - Promissory Note
 - Formal Financial Commitment Letter
- Total quantity of each existing HID luminaire style to be converted;
- Total quantity of each LED luminaire style and illumination code offered as referenced in PSC 214 Tariff, Service Classification No. 2.
 - An Addendum to the commitment letter providing reference to the inventory of individual street light locations and the desired LED luminaire style and illumination code to be installed and/or a conversion summary of the LED luminaire style and illumination code per HID luminaire style and lamp type/wattage.



To learn more about the LED Conversion Program or obtain more definitive cost information, please contact your assigned National Grid account service representative.

Sincerely,

Bradley Smith

Bradley Smith
Consumer Representative
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January 2, 2023

To the Clean Energy Communities Review Team:

The Town of LaFayette is fully committed to providing clean energy and a sustainable future for all its citizens and is proud of our designation as a Clean Energy Community. In order to make an immediate impact on greenhouse gas reductions, the town is seeking a \$5,000 grant from NYSERDA to convert 144 streetlights to LED. Through this project, the Town expects to reduce annual energy use, emissions, and costs.

If awarded the requested funds, the Town of LaFayette commits to implementing the projects outlined and using the funds as described in the grant proposal submission. We are grateful to the State of New York for assisting local governments to reduce their environmental impacts, save money, and demonstrate leadership in sustainable practices. We are honored to have been designated a Clean Energy Community, and we look forward to using the requested funding to create a cleaner and more efficient community.

Sincerely,

William McConnell
Supervisor, Town of LaFayette