

## **STREET LIGHT POLICY FOR PUBLIC WAYS**

The Town of Longmeadow purchased the street lights along the public ways from Eversource in the fall of 2019. This purchase was made possible by using funding approved at the May 2019 Annual Town meeting, with additional support from state, regional and utility grants. From June through August of 2020 all 1424 streetlights in town were replaced with LED fixtures or internal electronics and emitters powering LED bulbs.

A street light is intended to provide illumination on the public streets or roads within the Town of Longmeadow public road network in order to aid in the safe and orderly movement of multimodal traffic within the traveled way.

Town of Longmeadow street lights are installed exclusively to illuminate public streets and roads as well as pedestrian infrastructure. Any secondary benefit such as perceived personal security; or the lighting of yards, driveways or private property is considered coincidental.

This policy was developed and adopted by the Town of Longmeadow for the purposes of:

- Differentiating lighting on private streets and property from public street lights
- Specifying how town residents can petition for modifications to street lights (either adding new lights or removal of existing lights)
- Documenting responsibility for street lights in neighborhoods with homeowners' associations that predate the town's purchase of street lights.
- Documenting the Town's responsibility for lighting installed by private individuals

This policy shall be administered by the Department of Public Works.

### **PRIVATE vs. PUBLIC STREET LIGHTS**

Residents and businesses on private streets shall be responsible for installation, maintenance and bill payment for their street lights.

### **NEW STREET LIGHT REQUESTS**

Additional street lights may be considered for placement along streets and roads where increased lighting is necessary for the safety of multimodal transportation or pedestrian safety. In general, locations considered for placing street lights should include:

- Intersection of streets
- Along curves in the road
- At locations where there are inclines or declines in roads which would cause safety problems
- Where improved safety for pedestrians (walkways or crossways) can be achieved

Issues that will be considered when reviewing the need for additional street lighting will include but not be limited to:

- Whether the street light is needed to improve the safety of the transporting public
- Budgetary constraints

Streetlights will not be considered for installation where the only purpose to installing a light would be to light a particular house or location.

Submitting requests for modifications, additions or removal of streetlights: The Department of Public Works will make available (at their offices or on-line) a Street Light Request Form. This form shall include the requester's name and address, as well as the location of and reason for the requested modification. The request will be reviewed by the DPW, Police Department and Town Manager. The request form requires signoff from all abutters (on both sides of the street) within the greater of 300 feet or two houses of the location the request is made for. At the conclusion of the review the request may be authorized for modification, additional or removal of a streetlight(s) on existing public streets, provided the request conforms to one of the above conditions. The request will be reviewed within 60 days of submission and the requester will be informed of the decision of the reviewers.

Any new streetlight, whether standard or specialty, shall be the most energy efficient fixture available at the time of installation.

### **EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS**

At the time of the adoption of this policy, there are public roadways in Town that have specialty lighting systems installed when those subdivisions were developed. The poles and fixtures of these street lighting systems are not consistent with the poles and fixtures installed in the rest of the town, and historically the homeowners' groups of these areas have maintained the lighting poles and fixtures. **Specifically, the streetlights within the Glen Arden Realty Trust (16 lights on Woodsley Road, Overbrook Road and Overbrook Lane) and Colony Hills (31 lights on Greenwich and East Greenwich Rds (22), Brittany Rd (3), Normandy Rd (2), Park Drive (2), Eaton Rd (1) and Rugby Rd (1)) neighborhoods are included in this designation of existing homeowners' associations.**

For these streets, the town's responsibility shall be limited to the replacement of burned out LED bulbs and the operating costs of illuminating the lamps. The cost of pole and fixture replacement as well as maintenance of the poles and fixtures (painting, etc...) remains the responsibility of the homeowners' association. **Maintenance of the wiring, photocells and bulb sockets shall be the responsibility of the Town of Longmeadow.** Should pole or fixture replacement be necessary, the town will pay to replace the pole or fixtures with a standard pole or fixture used in other areas of the town. Should the homeowners' groups wish to have an alternative pole or fixture installed, the cost of that pole or fixture and its installation will be the responsibility of the homeowners' groups rather than the town. Should underground wiring to the pole become defective to the point of needing replacement, this rewiring shall be the responsibility of either Eversource or the town (as it is in other locations where street lights are on stand-alone poles).

### **PRIVATELY INSTALLED LIGHTING SYSTEMS**

Approval for Installation: Any proposed street or ground lighting system (including lighting for streets, grounds, parking lots or abutting properties) that illuminate public areas (streets,

grounds, parking lots or abutting properties) by first intent (not lighting that washes over to these areas) must be approved for installation by the Director of Public Works prior to installation.

Lighting Specification: The equipment used for such lighting shall meet the requirements for energy efficiency and light scatter in use by the town at the time of system design and be approved by the Director of Public Works. All lighting systems shall be inspected and certified by an engineer to ensure compliance with the American National Standards Institute and the Illuminating Engineering Society in meeting all requirements for a residential roadway lighting system. Street lights and poles installed on roads that are under development (not yet public ways) must be consistent with town-owned lighting poles and fixtures to be considered for acceptance as town property if and when the road is considered for acceptance as a public way. All lighting, whether standard or specialty, shall be the most energy efficient fixture available at the time of installation.

Responsibility for and cost of installation: The installer (developer or business or property owner) of lighting on private streets or property that illuminates public areas is responsible for the capital purchase and installation of the lighting system.

Responsibility for operating costs and maintenance of poles, fixtures, and bulbs: The Town shall not be responsible for the operating costs or maintenance of poles, fixtures or bulbs for lighting systems that have not been accepted as town owned lighting system. Responsibility for maintenance and operations shall remain with the landowner on whose land the light is situated. Alternatively, all such costs for the lighting system shall be borne by the developer until the street is accepted by the Town. After the street is accepted by the town as a public way the Town will pay for normal electrical costs for operation of the lighting system. If the lighting equipment is consistent with town-owned lighting poles and fixtures, the Director of Public Works may recommend that the Select Board accept by majority vote, future responsibility for the maintenance of the poles, fixtures and bulbs. Prior to such a recommendation, such lighting systems shall be inspected and certified by an engineer to ensure compliance with the American National Standards Institute and the Illuminating Engineering Society in meeting all requirements for a residential roadway lighting system.

*Amended by the Select Board May 15, 2006*

*Amended by the Select Board November 21, 2016*

*Revised by the Select Board \_\_\_\_\_ 2022*