

SOUTH WINDS DR & BIRCH MILL TRAIL STREETLIGHTS

OVERVIEW – For exploratory discussion at the Dec.15, 2004 Meeting of SWHOA

Benefits of streetlights - Improved neighborhood security, greater safety at night for walkers & drivers, and increased property value.

Preliminary overview assumptions:

1. Up to 14 streetlights would be strategically located with particular attention given to the curve portions of the road, the intersection and the cul-de-sac.
2. Only the 48 South Winds Dr and Birch Mill Trail homeowners would pay any costs not covered by the Town of Essex.
3. Installation might be done in two phases to minimize costs in any one year.
(South Winds Dr. could be done one year and Birch Mill Trail the next year.)

BASIC OPTION:

A high-pressure sodium (yellow light) or metal halide (white light) in an open fixture mounted on top of an 18' fiberglass pole buried 4' deep in the ground.
(The Timberline development on Rt 153 just south of the Clinic is a good example.)

Initial installation cost for 14 lights is \$3,994. - \$83. per homeowner or \$42 per year if done over a two year period. (Assumes poles are located adjacent to existing transformer boxes.)

Annual electricity and maintenance cost for metal halide lights is \$1,656.
(Assumes the Town of Essex will pay this cost)

Advantages: Low initial and annual operating costs.

Disadvantages: Ordinary looking pole & lantern.

PREMIUM OPTION:

Metal Halide white light mounted on a 12' or 14' metal pole with a classic decorative lantern. (A good example can be seen at Saybrook Point) Many available lantern choices direct light downward that limit outward dispersion.

The pole is mounted on (1,100 lb) buried concrete pad supplied by CL&P. The pad can be located any distance from a transformer box. Costs depend on the location and the selection of the pole & lantern. The pole & lantern (Category A) selected most often (60% of the time) is what is used in this cost analysis.

Initial cost for 14 lights is \$6,300. (Assuming \$450 per pole installation cost) - \$131. per homeowner if done all in one year or \$66. per homeowner per year if done over a two-year period.

The portion of electricity and maintenance cost per homeowner is \$71. per year after all 14 lights are installed. (Assumes the Town of Essex's portion of the cost is the same dollar amount, as it would be using the Basic Option.)

Advantages: High quality attractive street lighting which adds value to the neighborhood.
Greater flexibility in locating the poles.

Disadvantages: Higher initial and operating costs when compared to the Basic Option.