



MEMORANDUM
Town of Nags Head
Planning & Development Department

To: Board of Commissioners
From: Michael Zehner, Director of Planning & Development
Date: August 26, 2021
Subject: Consideration of revised Street Lighting Policy (Attachment H-1)

Revised/Amended Street Lighting Policy

At their August 4, 2021 meeting, Staff presented further information to the Board relative to Dominion's planned conversion of streetlights in the Town from High-Pressure Sodium ("HPS") lamps to LED. Based upon the following points and feedback provided by the Board, Staff has prepared the attached draft amended and updated Town *Street Lighting Policy*:

1. The Policy should be flexible enough to account for future changes in technology;
2. It would not be an issue if streetlights provided slightly more illumination on the ground;
3. A Correlated Color Temperature ("CCT") of 3,000K is acceptable; nothing greater;
4. There is no fixture preference, necessarily, except that fixtures closer to the ocean should be "friendly" to turtle nesting and Dark Sky compliant;
5. There should be streetlights at every westside intersection of a residential subdivision street with US 158; traditional colonial style would be acceptable.
6. The decorative shoebox style light is preferred over the cobra style light.
7. The contemporary style light is not appropriate at beach access rights-of-way.

Please note, the current policy refers to Section 38-156 of the Town Code, which was the citation for lighting requirements for subdivisions prior to the UDO. The new section within the UDO is Section 10.71, as follows, which provides the same requirements as the former section. Generally, the Policy included the same requirements, so a reference to a specific code section has been removed.

SECTION 10.71 STREET LIGHTING.

10.71.1. Number; Locations.

The subdivider shall install street lighting having a suggested separation of three hundred (300) feet and maximum separation of five hundred (500) feet, including at least one light at each intersection or street bend of sixty (60) degrees or more. Installation shall be on the street right-of-way; provided, however, that within the SED-80 district, street lighting shall neither be required nor permitted.

10.71.2. Specifications.

Streetlights must have the following minimum specifications: 3,300-lumen mercury vapor lights mounted on noncorrosive poles, which poles are designed

to accommodate underground wiring and of strength and corrosive resistance equivalent to pre-stressed concrete.

10.71.3. Design.

The design of the streetlight units may be selected by the subdivider with the requirement that the design shall be standard throughout the subdivision and be of compatible design with the street lighting of existing adjoining subdivisions, as determined by the Planning Board.

10.71.4. Location of Power Lines.

The location of electric power lines for streetlights shall be underground. The cost of the installation of underground wiring shall be borne by the subdivider.

Staff would suggest that the Board review the draft revised Policy, and adopt the Policy if determined to be acceptable, or provide direction if further revisions are preferred. Once adopted, Staff will relay the updated Policy to Dominion as the Town's standard for streetlights.

Amber Lights

As previously noted, Dominion has offered to provide a demonstration installation of "amber" light fixtures (identified as being more "turtle-friendly"). The Board previously indicated their support for a demonstration, which has been relayed to Dominion. Dominion has indicated that they will convert the eight (8) fixtures at the following locations (identified by the Town as potentially suitable) for evaluation, at no cost to the Town:

- Gallery Row Access
- Abalone Access
- Blackman Access
- Bladen Access
- Curlew Access
- E. Tides Drive (2 lights)
- Gulfstream Access

The amber fixtures to be installed will be shoebox style, from two (2) different manufacturers; Dominion's Standards group is working through engineering requirements and lumen package options with the manufacturers, and once developed, will place orders for the project. Dominion will notify the Town when installation is scheduled.

Attachments

1. Draft Updated Board of Commissioners' Street Lighting Policy, dated September 1, 2021