

To: Planning Board

From: Beth Aaronson, 7 Durham Drive

Re: Light Pollution and Enforcement of Lynnfield's Light Zoning ByLaws

Date: March 1, 2023

I have become aware of the increased outdoor night lighting in town. In my neighborhood, many new homes are brightly lighting up their exteriors all night. This accords with the statistics that show MA light pollution has increased 4 – 6% a year since 2017 (more than the national average of 2.2%).

While MA has yet to enact a dark sky bill (both the House and Senate referred such bills to Committee – S. 1937 and H.2858), Lynnfield has the benefit of light ordinances regulating street lighting and outdoor lighting for residential, commercial and other districts. (See Articles 6.5 and 10.6).

My questions are:

1. Does the Planning Board have an enforcement mechanism for lighting compliance with our zoning bylaws?
2. Can we educate the homeowners and developers about our zoning bylaws to achieve greater compliance?
3. Can we consider updating our current zoning bylaw to provide even greater protection for our health, nighttime pollinators and the environment by following the recommendations of the International Dark Sky Association such as:
  1. Use only warm-colored (not blue) LEDs and compact fluorescents (CFLs).
  2. Use dimmers, motion sensors and timers to reduce average illumination levels and save even more energy.
  3. Shield the light source on outdoor lighting fixtures to minimize glare and light trespass.
  4. Turn off unnecessary indoor lighting – particularly in empty office buildings at night.