



## **TOWN OF DEERFIELD**

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Board of Selectmen and Board of Health  
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Board of Selectmen Policy 2014-02

### **STREET LIGHT POLICY**

In order to provide adequate lighting for Deerfield's traffic safety while minimizing energy use and environmental impact, the Board of Selectmen adopts the following streetlight policy.

Streetlights are for traffic safety. Traffic safety can be defined as methods and measures for reducing the risk of lethal or serious accidents to drivers, their passengers, and pedestrians while using our road system.<sup>1</sup> This includes but is not limited to illuminating intersections, significant turns/curves, crosswalks, dead-ends/cul-de-sacs.

Traffic safety shall be determined by the Deerfield Police Chief according to the standards outlined in this policy.

#### **A. Installation of Streetlights**

1. Any streetlight installed must be on public property and have the prior approval of the Board of Selectmen.
2. Any new streetlight should serve to improve traffic safety.
3. Priority concerns for traffic safety include illuminating intersections, significant curves, crosswalks, and dead-ends/cul-de-sacs.
4. Any new streetlight will be equipped with an energy efficient lamp no greater than 4,000 lumens unless the Selectboard finds that there are unusual circumstances or compelling safety concerns requiring greater brightness.

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<sup>1</sup> Key Messages for the UN General Assembly Debate on Road Safety, OECD, 7 March 2008

5. The Police Chief or Highway Superintendent with the approval of the Police Chief may request the installation of a light to enhance traffic safety as defined by this policy.
6. Other measures for traffic safety should be considered which might preclude the need for additional lighting including: Use of reflector signs to warn motorists of upcoming curves or other dangers especially where roads do not have painted lines, road imbedded reflectors, or similar alternatives.
7. Security lighting of private property including residences and businesses is not Town's responsibility.

#### B. Removal or Replacement of Streetlights

1. The Selectboard may consider the removal of any streetlight or designation of midnight shutoff for any streetlight upon petition of four or more citizens or upon the recommendation of the Energy Committee, Police Chief or Highway Superintendent with the approval of the Police Chief if said lights do not conform with standards for installation as noted in Section A of this policy.
2. All lights designated for shutoff or midnight shutoff will be published 30 days prior to permanent action giving the public time to comment. Recognizing that a light that has been shutoff past the comment period has been completely removed by the utility and that reinstalling it will incur installation costs if a request is made to reinstall a streetlight after said comment period and it is determined by the police to be necessary for traffic safety and reinstallation is approved by the Selectboard, then the person or business requesting the reinstallation shall pay the Town in advance all applicable fees.
3. Recognizing that many of the town's streetlights are superfluous and serve no benefit to traffic safety and, in accordance with the Town's effort to save both money and energy, when a new streetlight is installed or an old light is reinstalled, the Deerfield police will recommend another streetlight, which does not conform to installation standards, for shut off. This would not pertain to streetlights in a new development.
4. Streetlights on utility poles along roads not considered thickly settled<sup>2</sup> will be listed for removal to the extent allowed, taking traffic safety into consideration.

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<sup>2</sup> Thickly settled is defined as: "The territory contiguous to any way which is built up with structures devoted to business, or the territory contiguous to any way where the dwelling houses are situated at

### C. Operation of Streetlights

1. Except at intersections, curves, crosswalks or designated municipal properties, streetlights may be shut off from midnight to the following dusk.
2. The Selectboard will, with assistance of the Energy Resources Committee, conduct an annual evaluation of efficiency in operation of the streetlights and consult with the utility supplying the streetlights to evaluate further efficiencies in operation.

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such distances as will average less than two hundred feet between them for a distance of a quarter of a mile or over."