

## Timeline for ABSR Environment Committee Dark Skies Project

2009 – In support of the Association of Beverly Shores Residents (ABSR) Environment Committee streetlight conversion project, Joan Bliss provided her lighting project files of work done between 2006-2008 to Rosemary and Alan Bell. The original lighting committee included Mort Arnsdorf, Joan Bliss, Rick Rikoski, and Rich Manalis. The committee was unable to accomplish their goal of complete streetlight amnesty for town, at which point their work ended.

2009 - Rosemary and Alan Bell joined the International Dark Sky Association. They contacted Tom Miltenberger at NIPSCO regarding possible refitting of 61 existing High Pressure Sodium Vapor COBRA fixtures with downward illuminating fixtures. At that time Alan Bell determined that there were 7 streetlights that the town was paying for at \$120/year that either did not exist, or were not functioning. He contacted the Town Council to advise them of this situation. Subsequently Grant Ireland took the initiative to shut down four of these that were on leaseback land.

Spring 2010 – Tom Miltenberger offered to install a new sample fixture at a location of our choice for no charge. The location chosen was the pole at Rebora Plaza, and was installed by NIPSCO. At the same time we were given a price of \$125 per unit for equipment and installation.

Summer 2010 – Continuing education. Initial articles were written for the town SandTracks newspaper on the many advantages of improved town lighting. Additional articles were printed in subsequent SandTracks. At the Environment Committee Summerfest booth, information handouts and other educational materials were made available to town residents. These educational activities continue to the present.

Fall 2010 – Rosemary and Alan Bell provided a lighting demonstration at a meeting of the Town Council. At which time Councilman Rikoski moved to approve and fund replacement of all town streetlights with new fixtures. Council approved the project but it was decided that the town would be unable to fund the project. Another demonstration was provided for a meeting of the ABSR Sometimers group. The Sometimers unanimously voiced their approval of the project and offered their financial support.

February 2011 – Rosemary Bell contacted Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore director Garry Traynham investigating the sources of funding for improved fixtures that were installed in the national park. Traynham advised that they were paid for with federal stimulus money and that those funds were already exhausted.

July 2011 to present – Rosemary Bell has contacted the Indiana Department of Corrections, Michigan City State Prison, to discuss light pollution from the many floodlight fixtures at the prison. To date, officials at the prison have advised they do not have funds available for shielding of prison lighting.

October 2011 – NIPSCO provided a final cost per fixture from Miltenberger of \$195/unit. Between Spring 2010 and Fall 2011, the cost increased three times due to delays in the process of determining the number of street light fixtures that would be retained and refitted. During the summer of 2011 councilman Rikoski and Marshall Landis attempted to eliminate all but 8 of the streetlights in town. Over the ensuing months, it became clear that many residents were concerned that eliminating street lighting would effect their safety. Residents appeared at town council meetings or wrote to the council protesting the elimination of particular light locations. The town council subsequently voted to retain 48 streetlight locations and approved refitting them with full cutoff fixtures, if the funds were made available from other sources. There was a further delay when the Environment Committee researched the possibility of installation of LED full cutoff fixtures. It was determined that this would be too costly and not environmentally friendly to plants, animals and humans by the International Dark Sky Association.

Spring 2012 – The ABSR Environment Committee approached the ABSR board requesting a maximum of \$10,000 to complete the streetlight installation project. ABSR agreed to provide the total upfront funds with half to be repaid by resident donations solicited by the Environment Committee.

April 24, 2012 – Project completed with the installation of 48 downward illuminated fixtures. The reduction from the original 61 billed location has saved the town \$1,560/year on the town electric bill.

May 1, 2012 – The ABSR board closed donations for the project. Sixty town residents donated a total of \$7922.50 of the total cost of \$9360, far exceeding ABSR expectations.

June 2012 – Environment Committee member Bill Carstedt wrote to the Michigan City Water Department, requesting existing fixtures on the town pumping station be replaced with downward shielded fixtures. A letter from Town attorney Jeff Katz assisted in the communications with the water department.

October 2012 – Environment Committee members Marcia Metzcus and Toots Foy completed a “drive around” survey of unshielded residential lighting.

February 2013 – Environment Committee member Toots Foy wrote an article for the Sandtracks, showing residents how to effectively shield a garage spotlight using inexpensive materials purchased at Lowes home improvement center.

November 7, 2013 – Northern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) presentation by Rosemary and Alan Bell utilizing IDA “Protecting The Night Environment.” Power Point presentation and full cutoff fixture demonstration.

December 9, 2013 – Beverly Shores Planning Commission Board Meeting. In support of a new commercial district lighting code prepared by town attorney Jeffrey Katz, Rosemary and Alan Bell, and ABSR board member Marcia Metzcus presented IDA’s “Protecting The Night Environment.” Power Point presentation and full cutoff fixture demonstration. Code was unanimously approved, with 50,000 lumen/acre revision.

December 16, 2013 – Beverly Shores Town Council approved revised commercial district lighting code.

December 19, 2013 – John Barentine confirms approval of local lighting code language for both the commercial and residential town districts.

March 2014 – Rosemary and Alan Bell submitted formal application to the International Dark Sky Association for Beverly Shores, Indiana Dark Sky Community Designation.

June 24, 2014 – Beverly Shores awarded International Dark Sky Designation by unanimous vote of the IDA Board of Directors.