

Article 34

Dark Skies(Reconsideration)

During the consideration of Article 34 on Wednesday, May 1, Mr. Jamieson offered an amendment after objecting to the colored lighting at 864 Massachusetts Avenue.

The amendment he proposed, and the Meeting later adopted, restricted up-lighting to town, school, and public buildings. The amendment prohibits up-lighting at the location Mr. Jamieson found objectionable, but also prohibits up-lighting on building façades where it would be desirable, such as churches and other architecturally significant properties.

The up-lighting provisions of the bill is an essential provision of the bylaw. Many of the flat-panel floodlights in town are placed to provide lighting of the façade of churches, non-profit organizations, and businesses (such as funeral homes). Up-lighting is an inexpensive method for lighting the façade without flooding the neighborhood with unwanted light.

We need to reconsider Article 34 for the purpose of making this change. With the support of Town Meeting, I ask the meeting to amend Paragraph d, as adopted on May 1.

The proposed revision would restore the ability to illuminate of non-public building façades, provided the lighting is shielded and the lamp is not visible from the street.

Note that the proposed revision, calling for light of a “uniform, neutral color” will not restrict the ability of the Select Board to celebrate special events using colored lighting on Town Hall under the provisions of the exemption (iv.) of paragraph e of the revised bylaw.

Paragraph d., as adopted May 1, 2019.

d. Up-lighting, the direct light illumination distributed above a 90 degree horizontal plane through the lowest direct light emitting part of the luminaire, is prohibited, except for illumination of the United States Flag, a **town, school, public** building, or a public monument. For any up-lighting, the luminaire shall be equipped with shields so that the lamp is not visible from a street, or a lot that is in Residential or Conservation use.

Paragraph d., proposed revision.

d. Up-lighting, the direct light illumination distributed above a 90 degree horizontal plane through the lowest direct light emitting part of the luminaire, is prohibited, except for illumination of the United States Flag, a building façade, or a public monument. For any up-lighting, the luminaire shall be equipped with shields so that the lamp is not visible from a street, or a lot that is in Residential or Conservation use; **and if multiple luminaires are used on a single façade, they will all display light of a uniform, neutral color.**

Paul Schlichtman

Town Meeting Member, Precinct 9.