

# Street Lighting Assessment

## *Things to Consider:*

The purpose of a light fixture is important to distinguish and falls into 2 categories: technical and value. With a technical function, there are standards and controls that are associated with it. For example, at a 4-way stop, a stop sign provides a technical function where it helps control safety and traffic movement. A value function is more associated with a notion or what is perceived. For example, Chuck and I walk over the Passumpsic bridge – very dark with no street lights in between – Chuck has no problem of insecurity while I do.

### Technical function

- Lights must be present on intersections, crosswalks, dead end roads
- Lights can be removed on road curves, only with accompanying signage installed
- Lights near municipal/civic buildings can substitute for street lights
- Lights that are clearly redundant should be removed without question

### Value function

- Lights should have predictable spacing
- Lights need to afford a sense of safety
- Lights should be present in areas of uneven travel surfaces (road or sidewalk)

An excellent document to read for lighting background information is New Hampshire's Office of Energy and Planning Outdoor Lighting.

[http://www.nh.gov/oep/resourcelibrary/documents/Outdoor\\_Lighting\\_Spring\\_2007.pdf](http://www.nh.gov/oep/resourcelibrary/documents/Outdoor_Lighting_Spring_2007.pdf)

## *What's going to happen?*

Each volunteer walks around the neighborhood with attached map and assessment sheet. Rate each light post that you think we could do without or consider having as a *maybe* (lowering the bulb wattage). Return both documents to me latest by **Thursday September 11, 2008**.

### Inventory requirements

- Volunteers must walk!!
- Volunteers can allow themselves to adjust to the lower light conditions
- Volunteers preferably perform inventory by themselves to gauge actual safety/lighting/comfort levels felt by users at night.

## *Next steps...*

- Once maps and assessment sheets are returned, data will be compiled to show which lights are up for consideration.
- ranking system will be developed to help prioritize which lamp posts will have the greatest potential for shut off or lower wattage