

Dear Homeowner,

In February 1999 the town adopted an outdoor lighting by-law in order to preserve the rural character of the town, promote the habitat of nocturnal wildlife, prevent light pollution, preserve and enhance the character of nighttime views and to be considerate neighbors.

If you are notified that you have outdoor lighting that is not in compliance with the bylaw you have 60 days to remedy the situation.

All outdoor lighting must be shielded and pointed downward so that no lamp or direct glare is visible from the property line or, from any public or private way except the portion of a driveway used for loading/unloading and parking. All outdoor light fixtures should be placed so that the lamp is no higher than eave line of the structure for a one-story building or, the first story on multiple story buildings.

Outdoor lighting is only allowed for the safe use of outdoor spaces at night, not for illuminating homes and landscapes. Outdoor lighting must, therefore, be shielded and focused to maximize the illumination of such space (e.g. a stairway, walkway, path, deck, grill or parking area) is, and minimize the illumination of adjacent structures and vegetation. Exterior lamps should be of the lowest wattage necessary to insure safe use of the exterior space, and yellow colored bulbs should be used wherever possible since they generate significantly less glare than white bulbs.

The attached documents should help you understand how to comply with the bylaw. If you have any questions on this matter please contact Peter Temple at 508-645-3256.

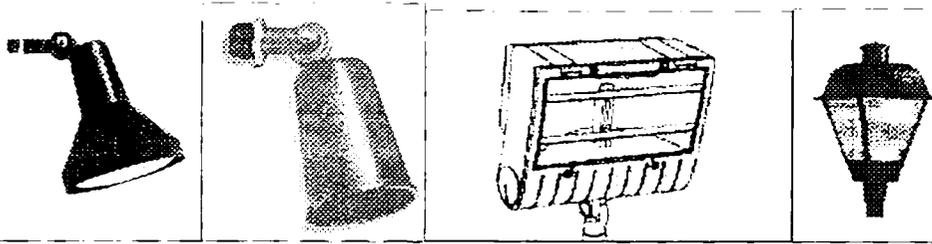
Interior lighting is not controlled by this by-law, but homes with large windows and bright lights can spoil the nighttime view for others. We hope that everyone will observe the spirit of this by-law and examine the visibility of their internal lighting as well.

Thank you,

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen

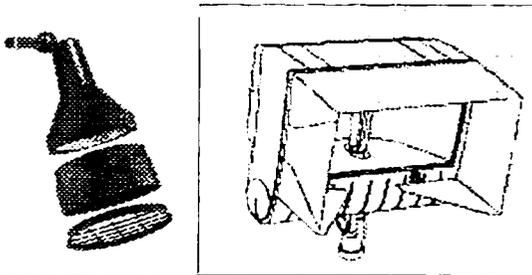
Some fixtures shield upward and to the side but still don't shield/focus enough to keep light off roadways, neighboring property, or more landscape than is necessary.

BAD FIXTURES:



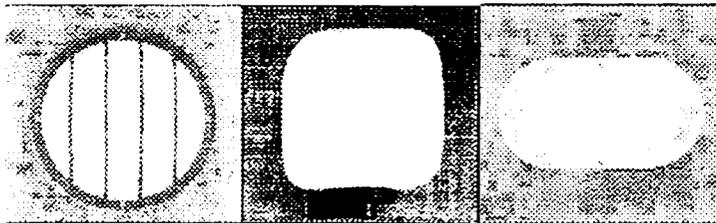
These fixtures provide little or no shielding, but can be greatly improved with readily available shields (below). Light emitting "Bug Zappers" must comply with the by-law too.

SHIELDS:



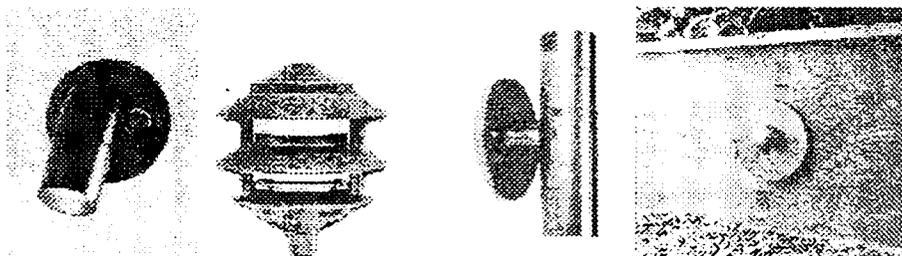
Existing carriage lamps can be shielded on 2 or 3 sides by painting the glass, or replacing it with mirrored glass or some other light impenetrable material.

Opaque covers and frosted diffusers aren't adequate shields:



Even though the bulb is not visible to the naked eye, these fixtures send light in all directions. Glare is still visible. Basically, the eye should not be able to see the hot spot of the bulb, even if it is behind an opaque cover. Fixtures like these must be replaced.

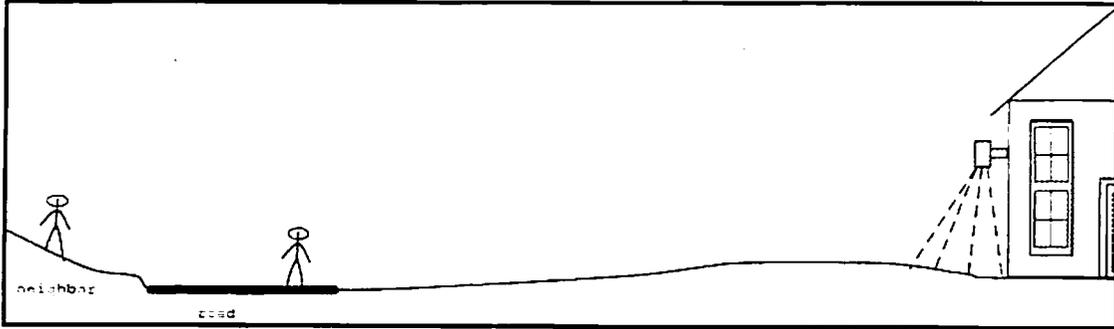
GOOD FIXTURES:



There are a wide variety of low wattage shielded fixtures for walkways, stairways, decks and driveways.

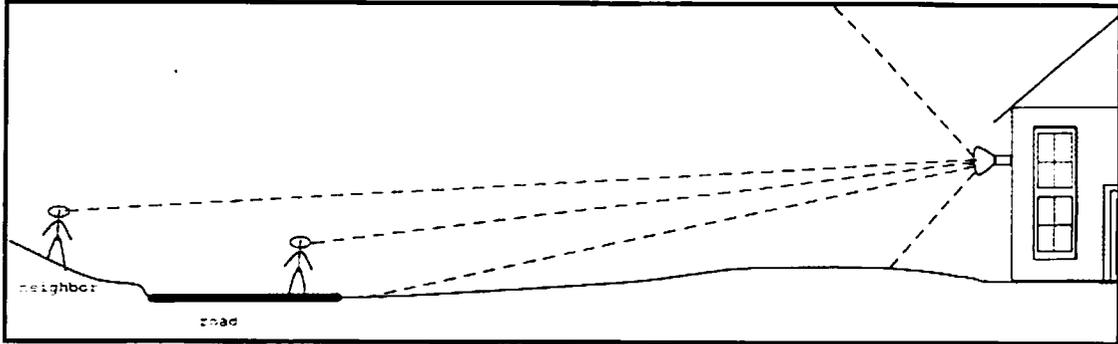
The Aquinnah Lighting By-Law Requires:

THIS:



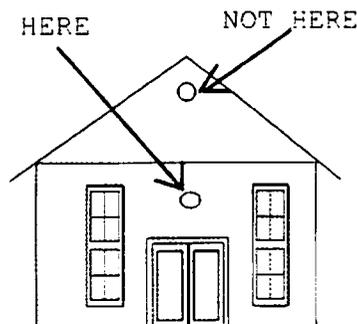
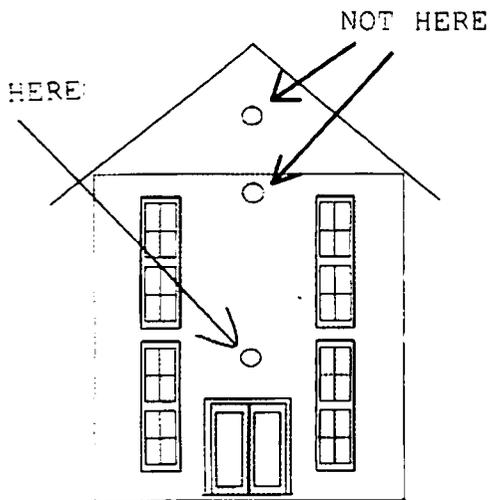
A low wattage (preferably yellow) bulb is shielded by a non-translucent hood/shade which only allows the light to project downward. The fixture is focused directly on the area to be lit, minimizing illumination of the wall of the house and the surrounding landscape. The bulb is not visible beyond the property line or from a roadway.

NOT THIS:

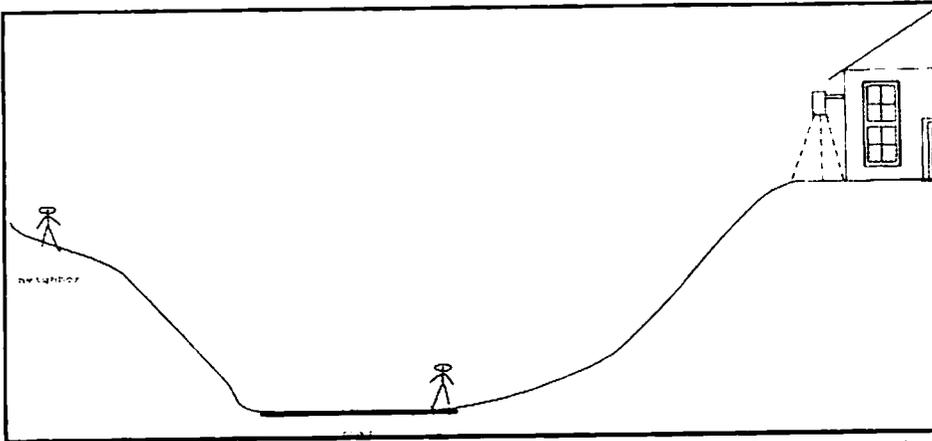


The glare of the bright flood light is visible to neighbors, motorists and people on the road, and illuminates the night sky. "Glare" means the hot spot of the bulb itself, not the area it is illuminating.

Lights should be low on the building. No higher than the eaves on a one story structure and no higher than the first floor on a two story structure..

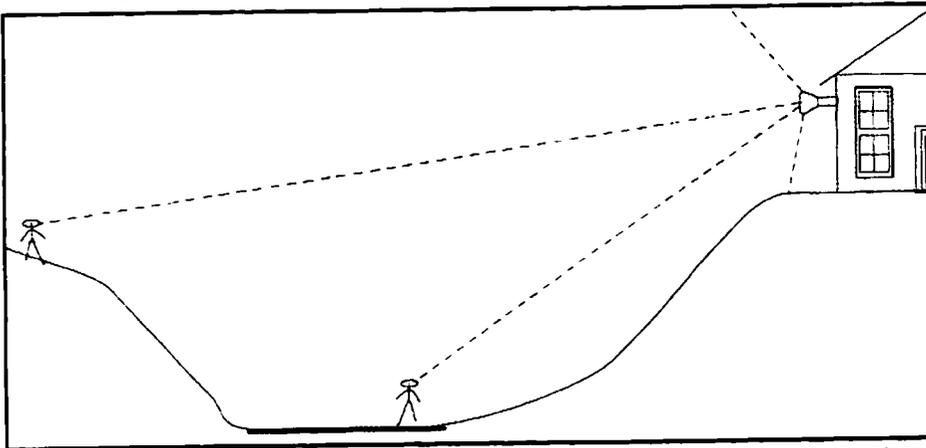


THIS:



With our hilly terrain lights must be shielded and carefully focused so the bright spot of the bulb isn't illuminating the landscape or visible to neighbors and/or people on the roads. This well focused light minimizes illumination of the side of the house and the adjoining landscape. Just the walkway on the side of the house is lit.

NOT THIS:



Traditional unshielded exterior fixtures spray everything with bright light even if the fixture has a translucent plastic cover or frosted diffuser over it.

OR THIS:

