

EAST HADDAM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HOLIDAY LIGHTING SUBCOMMITTEE OFFICIAL REPORT

Committee Members:

Robert Casner

Ralph Parady

Pamela Rubenbauer

The current village lighting subcommittee was formed at a regular meeting in October 2011. At the suggestion of Melissa Ziobron, EDC Coordinator, EDC member, Pam Rubenbauer, contacted John D. Bronson of Bronson Interior Design, a local resident, for his assistance in decorating East Haddam Village for the holiday season. EDC did not have a specific line item budgeted for the project, but agreed to fund it nevertheless. Pam Rubenbauer managed to purchase approximately 3000 mini white lights for a total of \$311.85, for which she was reimbursed.

A few days prior to the November 12th decoration day, Pam Rubenbauer notified the East Haddam Garden Club of the subcommittee's intentions to decorate the Goodspeed Green. It was meant as a matter of respect and recognition of their efforts of many years. The garden club was happy to share the green and promised their usual creativity on the urn.

On Saturday, November 12, 2011, the team of decorators converged on the Nathan Hale Green, including the following volunteers: John D. Bronson - Eric Cabrozza (sic) - Charles Marshall - Bob Thompson - Steve Albrecht - Bob Casner - Ralph Parady and last but not least - Pam Rubenbauer

Since we were unable to obtain the services of a cherry picker with which to decorate the tall conifer on the Hale Green, Pam Rubenbauer donated 2 blue spruce from her property, cut down and transported by Ralph Parady. Pam also donated heavy duty extension cords and electrical adapters to the effort.

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The spruces were secured on the green and then decorated by the volunteers. A spotlight was placed to shine upon the Nathan Hale monument.

The Goodspeed Green was the next target. With gusto, the volunteers began decorating the dogwood with about 1500 lights. Eric Cabrozza climbed into the tree to place the lights as high as possible. Five hours in all to decorate both greens.

The lights are traditionally lit Thanksgiving weekend to January 12th, Three Kings Day. It is the plan of the subcommittee to remove most of the lights on a warm weekend in 2012. Whatever lights can be salvaged will be saved for the 2012 holiday season, at which time the subcommittee plans to add more lights. The lights on the dogwood tree will remain. The subcommittee is hoping that 2012 will be the year we can decorate the tall conifer on the Hale Green. Plans for the 2012 holiday season are already being formulated.

At an EDC meeting on 12/1/11, it was decided by the commission that holiday lighting should be funded by the town budget instead of the EDC budget. Therefore, our next mission is to propose this to the Selectmen. A small budget of about \$500 would suffice to replace broken lights and add according to the 2012 lighting plan.

Respectfully submitted:
Pamela Rubenbauer, EHEDC

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Addendum: On 11/30/11, John Bronson called Pam Rubenbauer to inform her that the lights on the Goodspeed Green were out. On 12/1/11, Pam went down to the green and determined that the tree lights had been unplugged. The light receptacle was secured to the tree and the lights replugged. A quick fix.