

## **Richmond seeks efficiencies in energy use**

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RICHMOND — Selectmen hope to make it easier for the town to be green. The board unanimously supported a resolution Thursday that the town reduce waste, pollution and dependence on fossil fuels.

As a visible example of the effort, Selectmen Seth Goodall and Leighton Carver replaced an exterior light at the town office with a fluorescent one during the meeting Thursday night at the town office. Goodall joked that it only took two selectmen to change a light bulb.

He also noted that replacing incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs will save the town about 33 percent of lighting costs because fluorescent bulbs use less energy than traditional ones.

"It's not only good for the environment, it's good for the wallet," Goodall said.

The resolution mentioned increasing recycling efforts and reducing the amount of time town vehicles idle as other ways to help carry out the green policy.

### **Other business**

Goodall sat in the audience for part of the meeting as selectmen discussed a potential conflict of interest involving him. A property Goodall owns would benefit from a state-funded downtown building facade program.

Town Manager Thomas Fortier said that the discussion was a way for townspeople to know about the potential conflict. Goodall bought 60 Main St. in 2005, before the town applied for the grant in February 2007 and preceding his swearing-in as selectman in June 2007.

Director of Economic and Community Development Darryl Sterling said that the property had been identified as a priority for

facade work in the downtown plan in 2004.

Selectmen voted in favor of a resolution that they did not see a potential conflict given the history of the property. Goodall abstained.

Sterling said that work on the downtown facades has begun. Businesses have received new window and trim and the effort will end in the fall of 2008.

The board also honored Tim and Cathy Acord with a proclamation for their work in helping the community and creating a new clock for the downtown.

The Acords and the town split the cost of a new clock on Main Street. It was installed earlier this year.

"We've just heard praise from everybody in the community," Selectman Burt Batty said.

"And seeing it at night is even cooler," he added.

The clock has an illuminated face to allow it to be seen day and night.