



The Town of Fenwick Island

800 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, DE 19944-4409
302-539-3011 ~ 302-539-1305 fax
www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

December 12, 2024, at 9:00 am.

Town Hall

Agenda

Call In #: 1-301-715-8592

*Meeting ID: **885 9103 1088** or*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88591031088>

Call to Order and Flag Salute

1. Discuss/approve minutes from meeting held October 10??
2. Discuss matrix task/s for new Dark Sky's Ad Hoc.
Promote and inform residents and visitors of the value, benefits, and opportunities for:

- Dark skies initiative

(Chapter 3 page 16) Nature is Integral to Our Community Character: Protecting natural habitat is important to many in Fenwick Island. This natural habitat includes the bays, beaches, natural landscaping, and even the night skies. The tree canopy and native landscaping are an integral part of the natural habitat, and the character of Fenwick Island. As redevelopment occurs in Fenwick Island, the tree canopy and native landscaping are increasingly removed. The loss of trees and naturalistic landscape should be addressed through a variety of tools, including resident education programs and volunteer opportunities, an ordinance review that assesses protection standards, the planting of trees on existing public lands, and seeking grants to assist in all of these efforts.

In regard to the night skies, the Planning Commission recommends the town consider a campaign to educate our residents and business owners about "Dark Skies." The Dark Skies movement simply means reconsidering the use of artificial light and reduction of light at night. Curtailing over illumination has many benefits for humans, animals, and the environment.

This Agenda is subject to change to include additional items, including Executive Sessions or the deletion of items, as in accordance with provisions within Title 29, Chapter 100, Freedom of Information Act. Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations, please contact Town Hall 72 hours in advance.

Posted: December 4, 2024



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Dark skies help regulate our circadian clock, which affects our sleep patterns and other physical reactions. Seasonal changes such as length of nighttime darkness help plants prepare for spring and fall. Natural dark nights provide important signals to various animals that trigger events like amphibian breeding and bird migration. Dark Skies practices prevent the wasted energy of light shining where it is not needed or wanted. Light can be invasive. Things as simple as using exterior motion sensors rather than steady all-night lighting, curtailing the use of landscape and porch lights and operating dock lights at night, can make a difference to the fish, birds, crabs and animals that share our town.

3. Update on tentative event Saturday, May 31, 2025, with FIPC, FIPD and Business Committee for a 2025 Summer Season Kickoff, bike and pedestrian safety awareness opportunity. A way for the businesses to promote themselves, for road safety awareness and support our town's bikeability and walkability and new water cooler by the Town Hall playground.
4. Old business:
Committee Report Updates
5. New business:
6. Public participation:

Next meeting February 6th 9:00am

Adjourn

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