



# The Town of Fenwick Island

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## AD HOC DARKSKY COMMITTEE MEETING

February 18, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

Town Hall

### MINUTES

**Members Present:** Rose Mary Hoy, Janice Bortner (Zoom), George Stone (Zoom), Megan Staczek (Zoom), Kate Norman (Zoom)

**Others Present:** Mike Hoy (Zoom), Natalie Magdeburger (Zoom)

**Staff Present:** Kathy Grab

Flag salute and call to order at 3:03 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes from January 27, 2025.

**Motion to approve January 27, 2025 meeting minutes on a Megan Staczek/Janice Bortner motion.**

***Motion passed unanimously.***

2. For Discussion and Possible Action.
  - a. DarkSky Resolution: Discussion of Town Council Feedback; Potential Edits for Resubmission.
    - Rose Mary Hoy informed the committee about a January 31<sup>st</sup> Coastal Point article: [Fenwick officials taking a look at light pollution](#).
    - Rose Mary Hoy discussed the feedback from the Town Council. Advised that Susan Brennan had provided support and highlighted that the Comprehensive Plan endorses education on DarkSky and the tasks that are on the radar include promoting and informing residents and visitors about the value, benefits, opportunities for DarkSky, and then also reviewing the town ordinances.

- Rose Mary presented educational activities from 2022 to the present, sharing her slides: [DarkSky Committee 2/18/25](#).
- She thanked Susan Brennan, Anne Riley, and the Mayor for their ongoing guidance and support.
- The resolution presented by Janice Bortner was not approved, with a 4-1 vote against it. Main concerns included the committee's authority being too broad and a call for more local education within Fenwick Island before expanding communication efforts.
- The Council felt general awareness was low and emphasized the need for education first, creating a baseline understanding to encourage voluntary changes.
- Suggestions for promoting education included integrating DarkSky initiatives into existing community events like Fenwick Flicks and beach cleanups, such as stargazing or moon watching.
- Kate Norman inquired about the survey's status and its potential to identify interested individuals for collaboration. Rose Mary agreed, noting it would be a valuable tool for guiding resident education.
- Kate also asked if the Council was concerned about this group representing the town in public outreach or if Town Council members would handle that instead. Rose Mary acknowledged the Town's need to ensure messages align with Council positions and appreciated both perspectives.
- Mayor Natalie Magdeburger provided answers to Kate Norman's questions stating the Town has a rule that anyone speaking on behalf of the town must do so through the mayor or their designee, ensuring consistency with the Council's positions. This applies to all committees to ensure we speak with one voice. The Council prioritizes education, ensuring the community understands DarkSky, its impact, and practical steps, like choosing the right light bulbs. The focus is on responsible lighting, not no lighting.
- Rose Mary stated that if someone is concerned about safety, lighting is needed for security. DarkSky does not mean no lights, just responsible lighting.
- George Stone read the draft resolution update from 2/17/25 that will be presented for consideration at the Town Council. He noted it heavily focuses on DarkSky education in various ways.

- Natalie Magdeburger requested a copy for review, stating she has two roles: to assist the committees and eventually vote. While she cannot predispose her vote, she can share her individual perspective. She made suggestions for revisions and advised including the notations.
- Rose Mary Hoy thought the revisions would be beneficial and made them before rereading the paragraph to the committee for discussion.

**Motion to approve the revised resolution and forward it to Town Council on a Megan Staczek/ Kate Norman motion.**

***Motion passed unanimously.***

- b. Channel Pointe: Request for Town Council to Establish a Neighborly Connection with Develop/Builder and Communicated Regarding Lighting Concerns.
  - Rose Mary Hoy provided an update on Channel Pointe. The development will consist of 70 homes with a gray, white, and black theme, and an amenity area featuring a community center, pool, and racquet court. She confirmed that all lighting, including streetlights and amenities, will be DarkSky compliant, with no non-DarkSky lighting allowed. This is a positive outcome for the local environment, wildlife, and nearby homes.
  - Megan Staczek expressed excitement about the development but suggested the Town reach out officially. Rose Mary agreed, noting this could be an opportunity to learn from each other.
  - Megan Staczek left at 4:07 p.m.
  - George Stone mentioned that DarkSky International recognizes communities using DarkSky-compliant fixtures and will follow up to explore recognition opportunities for Fenwick Island.
  - Mayor Natalie Magdeburger supported the idea and suggested that a resident's positive impression of Channel Pointe's DarkSky efforts could serve as a foundation for further collaboration.
  - Rose Mary Hoy asked if permission is needed to contact DarkSky International. Natalie Magdeburger clarified that committee members can reach out, but if the Town Council is to be involved, the information should be presented to the Council for potential action. If the resolution passes, she can draft a letter with the committee.

- Kate Norman proposed asking Channel Pointe if they would be willing to serve as a resource for educating Fenwick Island.
3. Old Business
    - a. None
  4. New Business
    - a. Feedback on DarkSky received at Residential Concerns Committee 2/3/25.
      - Covered under Discussion and Possible Action.
    - b. Fenwick Island DarkSky Educational Campaign: Review Draft Plan (Discussions, Edits, Next Steps).
      - Covered under Discussion and Possible Action.
  5. Public Participation
    - a. None
  6. Future Meeting
    - a. To be determined.
  7. Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn at 4:15 p.m. on George Stone/Kate Norman Motion.**

***Motion passed unanimously.***