



The Town of Fenwick Island

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AD HOC DARKSKY COMMITTEE MEETING APRIL 2, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. Town Hall MINUTES

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

Others Present: Natalie Magdeburger (Zoom),

Staff Present: Kathy Grab

Flag salute and call to order at 9:01 a.m.

1. Approval of Minutes from March 17, 2025.

Motion to approve March 17, 2025, meeting minutes on a George Stone/Kate Norman motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve March 17, 2025, meeting minutes with a revision in Section 2, item b Channel Pointe, adding Notable Highlights which includes 3 bullets on a George Stone/Kate Norman motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Kate Norman Left at 9:10 a.m.

2. For Discussion and Possible Action.
 - a. Community Survey – Discussion Leader: George Stone.
 - As part of the mission statement there is a need to solicit input from the community regarding their knowledge, interest, and concern for light pollution and DarkSky principles.

- The committee developed survey questions to gauge community knowledge and interest in DarkSky principles, aligning with the mission to solicit public input.
- George Stone reviewed the survey questions with the committee and confirmed with Natalie Magdeburger that they were consistent with past efforts. She praised the questions and thanked the team.
- Janice Bortner suggested using the survey at summer events. George Stone agreed, noting that more exposure increases education opportunities.

Motion to review the questions and revise where needed and bring to the Mayor and Town Council for consideration to be added to the larger Community Survey on a Rose Mary Hoy/George Stone motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

b. DarkSky International Update – Discussion Leader: George Stone.

- Proclamation Communication.
 - ~ Natalie Magdeburger confirmed the resolution has been signed, filed, and posted. Once the cover letter is ready, she will forward the materials to the Governor, Senator Hocker, Representative Gray, and the Sussex County Council President.
 - ~ George Stone suggested submitting it to DarkSky International, and Natalie Magdeburger agreed.
- Recognition Opportunity for Channel Pointe.
 - ~ Channel Pointe's lighting practices were praised. George mentioned the potential "Developments of Distinction" program and will share more once available.
 - ~ Rose Mary Hoy proposed sending the resolution and cover letter to Schell Brothers and the Freeman Foundation as a gesture of appreciation. Natalie Magdeburger would like to think about whether it comes from the Mayor or from the Committee. She would like something written up and sent to her.
 - ~ Janice Bortner suggested informing residents of Channel Pointe's recognition.

c. 2025 Educational Campaign Focus.

- Rose Mary outlined Town communication channels based on prior input from Kathy Grab. Natalie Magdeburger noted Facebook reposts help increase reach. Janice Bortner recommended connecting with the Sussex Preservation Coalition.

- Janice Bortner also contacted Indian River HS about student involvement, emphasizing youth engagement fosters broader participation. George Stone agreed to contact the AP Environmental Science teacher.

Janice Bortner left the meeting at 9:57 a.m.

- Rose Mary Hoy shared her draft Educational Plan outline with George Stone.
 - ~ **Cruising Together Event – May 31**
 Discussion Leader: Rose Mary Hoy
 – Table display on bike safety and the use of lights during low-light hours. Include information on the impact of artificial lighting on insects and pollinators. Use DarkSky posters and brochures.
 - ~ **Bonfire/Stargazing Event – July 5**
 Discussion Leaders: Rose Mary Hoy / Megan Staczek
 – Rose Mary Hoy to gather more event details. Display on minimizing artificial light at night and examples of different lighting choices. Interactive stargazing activity for adults and children; QR code for SkyView Lite app. Consider creating a stargazing raffle basket and offering small giveaways like stickers or books.
 - ~ **National Night Out – August 12**
 Discussion Leaders: Megan Staczek / Rose Mary Hoy
 – Invite the Fenwick Island Police Department to participate. Promote the importance of thoughtful lighting for nighttime safety. Activities to include games, a corn hole competition, hot dogs, and beverages. Invite Fenwick Hardware to share lighting expertise. Rose Mary will reach out to Chief Morrissey to get his input.
 - ~ **Beach Clean-Up – Earth Day, April 26**
 – Group Discussion: Rose Mary Hoy suggested removing this from the committee's list due to limited participation. A possible alternative is to have a display at Town Hall.

d. DarkSky T-Shirts

- Use of DarkSky International Logo - George Stone
- ~ George Stone designed shirts and got preliminary approval from DarkSky International, who requested involvement in design.
- ~ Rose Mary Hoy noted that Natalie Magdeburger has added this to the 4/4/25 Town Council meeting agenda. She suggested starting with a limited order of ~30 shirts for the council, committee, and staff.

Motion to request Town Council to approve \$400 budget to print 30 DarkSky t-shirts for the use of summer events on a Rose Mary Hoy/George Stone motion.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

3. Old Business.

- a. None

4. New Business.

a. Committee Resignation

- Kate is stepping down due to personal/work commitments. Although she cannot serve on committee, she is committed to our work and asked to be invited to future events where she may be able to volunteer.
- Rose Mary Hoy stressed the need for more volunteers and will raise this at the Residential Concerns Committee. Natalie Magdeburger offered to help publicize the committee's need for volunteers.

b. DarkSky Week

- George Stone proposed a proclamation for DarkSky Week.
- Rose Mary Hoy supported the idea and recommended the committee draft the proclamation and suggest the Town share it on the website and Facebook along with the new resolution.

5. Public Participation.

- a. None.

6. Future Meeting.

- a. May 7, 2025 9:00 a.m.

7. Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 10:59 a.m. on a Rose Mary Hoy/George Stone motion.

Motion passed unanimously.