



The Town of Fenwick Island

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AD HOC DARKSKY COMMITTEE MEETING MAY 7, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. Town Hall MINUTES

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

Others Present: Natalie Magdeburger

Staff Present: Kathy Grab

Flag salute and call to order at 9:04 a.m.

1. Approval of Minutes from April 2, 2025.

Motion to approve April 2, 2025, meeting minutes on a Janice Bortner/George Stone motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

2. For Discussion and Possible Action.

- a. DarkSky Resolution.

- Status of Distribution.
 - ~ Final resolution approved by Town Council on Feb 18, signed by Secretary Jacque Napolitano on Mar 21.
 - ~ Posted on town website, shared internally, and sent to Governor, state reps, and dignitaries.
 - ~ DarkSky CEO Ruskin Hartley acknowledged the resolution in a letter to Natalie Magdeburger, who shared it on the town's Facebook page.
 - ~ George Stone highlighted the resolution as a team effort; Natalie Magdeburger praised it as a strong start to the summer and emphasized building momentum.

- ~ Proposal to launch a "Did You Know?" Facebook series—Natalie Magdeburger and Rose Mary Hoy to coordinate.
- ~ Rose Mary Hoy established a connection with the Nantucket Lights Initiative, which is further along in DarkSky efforts.
- ~ Nantucket has recently updated its Outdoor Lighting Bylaws in 2023.
- ~ Nantucket has been extremely helpful sharing PDF's and educational materials, some that are originally from DarkSky International with permission to adapt them.
- ~ Natalie Magdeburger endorsed the public education initiative.
- ~ Rose Mary Hoy proposed developing a structured monthly or biweekly campaign, with a planned list of topics and content to share throughout the year.
- ~ George Stone and Rose Mary Hoy are developing info panels to support the campaign and share with Natalie Magdeburger.

b. T-shirts (Budget, Design, Production).

- Update on Budget Approval.
 - ~ Rose Mary Hoy reported Town Council did not approve the T-shirt budget, citing cost, precedent, timing, and lack of formal DarkSky designation. She suggested continuing creative efforts, possibly for the July bonfire.
 - ~ George Stone noted design work is ongoing; DarkSky International's strict logo standards led to its removal from recent drafts. He recommended moving forward with or without the logo.
 - ~ Janice Bortner supported a generic committee T-shirt to gauge interest, raise funds, and link attendees to DarkSky resources. She suggested looking at Nantucket's approach.
 - ~ Rose Mary Hoy said Nantucket's flexible branding model is effective, even without incorporating the official DarkSky International logo.
 - ~ Megan Staczek supported T-shirts as a tool for public education.
 - ~ Natalie Magdeburger noted DarkSky sells its own merchandise, which may explain logo restrictions. She suggested purchasing directly from their store.
 - ~ Megan Staczek proposed pricing shirts with a purchasable patch.

- ~ Janice Bortner agreed buying from DarkSky International would be mutually beneficial.
 - ~ George Stone emphasized shirts can raise awareness and proposed using a slogan like “Dark Skies for a Brighter Future” with or without official branding.
 - ~ Rose Mary Hoy mentioned a staff recommendation to use Red Sun, a town-contracted graphic firm. She and George Stone confirmed outreach. Suggested dual path: buy shirts individually from DarkSky and work with Red Sun for custom designs in time for May 31 event.
 - ~ Committee agreed to begin with purchases from DarkSky International while keeping custom shirts as a future option.
 - Use in Branding/Advertising for 2025 DS Educational Campaign.
 - ~ Rose Mary Hoy provided a brief update on the educational campaign and noted that decisions are needed for the bonfire and the August 5th National Night Out event.
- c. 2025 DS Educational Campaign (Review and Update).
- Rose Mary Hoy shared the slide of the 2025 Accomplishment/Plans.
 - ~ Accomplishments include the passed resolution, submitted survey draft, and Earth Day educational outreach.
 - ~ George Stone reported a positive first experience representing the committee at a public event.
 - ~ Janice Bortner emphasized the value of collecting contact info at events to build long-term engagement.
 - April Earth Day Display.
 - ~ This event was a success and worth repeating in future years.
 - May Cruisin’ Together.
 - ~ A community biking event where the committee will again set up an information table at Town Hall. Members discussed incorporating a bike-lighting safety message or giveaway to align with the biking theme.
 - ~ Megan Staczek, Janice Bortner, Rose Mary Hoy will be working the event.

- July Bonfire/Stargazing.
 - ~ Event aims to engage the public with stargazing, education, and dark sky awareness; scheduled during a quarter moon for better visibility.
 - ~ Janice Bortner shared tips from last year, including securing materials and using a clipboard for signups.
 - ~ Plan to use the SkyView Light app via printed QR codes; possible zodiac-themed constellation.
 - ~ George Stone will bring a battery-powered laptop to display sky photos and a time-lapse video, pending ad-free setup.
 - ~ Rose Mary Hoy proposed a DarkSky-themed raffle basket for the Lifeguards fundraiser, with no budget needed.
 - ~ Donations: "Night Magic" book (Rose Mary Hoy), nightlight orbs (George Stone), and possible Wallops Island experience (Janice Bortner).
- August NNO/Fenwick Nurtures Nature
 - ~ National Night Out is set for Tuesday, August 5, 2025, in partnership with the Fenwick Island Police Department; Chief Morrissey supports officer involvement.
 - ~ Event runs 5:00–7:00 p.m. in the police station lot with games, displays, and possible refreshments.
 - ~ Town Hall will host a "Fenwick Nurtures Nature" webinar and lighting demo earlier that day, featuring a DarkSky speaker and Kelvin bulb comparison. Raffles may include dark-sky bulbs and bike lights.
 - ~ George Stone stressed promoting the full day of events; Rose Mary Hoy agreed, proposing reuse of the theme, a two-sided brochure, and Town-led promotion.

MEGAN STACZEK LEFT AT 10:34 A.M.

d. DarkSky Resource for Fenwick Island.

- Guidance on Lighting (Ordinance, DS Principals)/Contractors, Developers, Residents, Business Owners.
 - ~ Janice Bortner expressed concern over unshielded lighting in new construction (e.g., Bagel Shop) and stressed immediate enforcement of existing ordinances.

- ~ Rose Mary Hoy said Mike Locke supports distributing a lighting brochure to developers and creating a guidance piece later this year. Janice emphasized enforcement must begin during the approval process.

JANICE BORTNER LEFT AT 10:39 A.M.

- ~ George Stone proposed a postcard with a DarkSky infographic and QR code linking to compliant lighting options and volunteered to draft it.
- ~ Rose Mary Hoy supported the idea, citing inconsistent lighting compliance and stressing its inclusion in the permitting process.
- ~ George Stone offered to lead development of a lighting resource and will contact Natalie Magdeburger, then Mike Locke, to clarify procedures.
- ~ Rose Mary agreed and recommended he start by contacting Natalie Magdeburger to clarify intentions, then follow up with Mike Locke.
- ~ They discussed the Surf Bagel case as an example of lighting ordinance non-compliance and agreed on the need for proactive education and clear approval processes.

3. Old Business.

- a. None

4. New Business.

- a. None.

5. Public Participation.

- a. None.

6. Future Meeting.

- a. June 4, 2025 9:00 a.m.

7. Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 10:54 a.m. on a George Stone/Rose Mary Hoy motion.

Motion passed unanimously.