



The Town of Fenwick Island

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

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

Others Present: Jim Simpson, Natalie Magdeburger (Zoom)

Staff Present: Kathy Grab

Flag salute and call to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. Approval of Minutes from June 4, 2025.

Motion to approve June 4, 2025, meeting minutes on a Rose Mary Hoy/George Stone motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

2. For Discussion and Possible Action.

- a. July 5 Bonfire/Stargazing.

- Event starts at 7:00 p.m. Rose Mary Hoy will set up the table.
- Committee T-shirts are available, Rose Mary Hoy will give them out.
- George Stone asked where to meet, what happens if there is bad weather, and how the auction is conducted. He was advised that meeting at the Bayard Street Beach, and Sunday will be the rain date, and it is a silent auction.
- Donation Basket.
 - ~ Committee's basket has been delivered to the Beach Committee.
- DarkSky Table.
 - ~ Rose Mary Hoy has the laminated cards for the apps and the different shades of Kelvin explanations.
 - ~ Two-sided laminated cards for the QR codes for star gazing apps to download.
 - ~ Rose Mary Hoy indicated there will not be electricity at the beach so the light display will not be used during this event, will use it for the August event.

- ~ There will be a sign-up sheet on the table for those who are interested in learning more about DarkSky.
- ~ Jim Simpson will loan the committee rechargeable buffet lights for the bonfire table.
- Stargazing Activities.
 - ~ The QR codes will be available for those who would like to download the app to their phones. There are also two laminated sheets with the Kelvin scale.
 - ~ Rose Mary Hoy thought of putting a simple announcement of their August webinar event and have it available at the table to advertise the event.
 - ~ Two laptops will be available, one laptop will have a loop video of the DarkSky location in Namibia, Africa and the other laptop will have a slide deck of photos from the DarkSky International's annual summer photo contest.
 - ~ Natalie Magdeburger asked if they could send the photos so she could put them up on the Facebook page and run them on a loop and put some in the Message from the Mayor.
- b. August 5 Webinar: Fenwick Nurtures Nature.
 - Date and Audience.
 - ~ July 17th at 1:00 p.m. Janice Bortner advised the Fenwick Nurtures Nature event is scheduled, it is a follow up from last July's and focus is Green Infrastructure.
 - ~ DarkSky's event is scheduled for August 5th.
 - Webinar – Speaker.
 - ~ George Stone has secured our guest speaker Ruskin Hartly, CEO of DarkSky International.
 - Invited Experts.
 - ~ Committee will be inviting some other local experts such as Fenwick Hardware and Schell Brothers because of their decision to have the Channel Point community be a dark sky community.

- ~ Jim Simpson advised that Hocker's store has an extensive hardware store within their grocery store, and they could be a possible contact for speaking in August.
 - ~ Rose Mary Hoy suggested Montego Bay, she feels they have a wealth of knowledge as well.
 - DS Display (Lighting).
 - ~ Rose Mary Hoy's spouse has built a display showing different color bulbs, helping people to see and understand different shades of light.
 - Hospitality (Food, Coffee).
 - ~ The committee has not yet secured donations of food and drink, but the committee should start reaching out to ask for donations.
 - Advertising.
 - ~ The committee will need to put together a flyer that can be distributed to businesses.
 - ~ Need to reach out to Coastal Point, put the flyer on the Town's website and their Facebook page, possible putting flyers up long Bunting Ave.
- c. National Night Out.
- Rose May Hoy had originally suggested celebrating National Night Out as a way to honor volunteers and first responders, noting how other towns, like Ocean City, go all out with events. After discussing it with Chief Morrissey and committee members, everyone agreed it is a great idea—but too large and complex for the small committee to take on this year, so the August 5th evening event will not be pursued.
3. DarkSky Resources for Fenwick Island (in Development).
- a. Blurbs for Town Newsletter.
 - Rose Mary Hoy would like to develop what the committee has discussed and researched and provide short blurbs that Natalie Magdeburger can use in her Message from the Mayor, in Facebook Posts, and on the Town Website.
 - b. Facebook Page, Town Webpage.
 - c. Resource for Contractors, Developers, Residents, and Business Owners.

- George Stone is developing a DarkSky resource with input from DarkSky International, Mike Locke, and Natalie Magdeburger.
- The resource will begin as a handout or card with links to compliant lighting tools and may expand into an educational trifold on topics like shielding, Kelvin, timers, and energy savings.
- Early education is critical; Janice Bortner noted it's more cost-effective to address compliance before construction begins.
- Jim Simpson suggested offering a free bulb or raffle as an incentive; he also shared adjustable bulb samples for local hardware store education.
- Contractors handle most permits, so a simple printed list of approved fixtures would be helpful, as many won't use QR codes.
- While most architects know the code, Natalie emphasized that homeowners should also be a primary outreach focus.
- Once finalized, the resource will be reviewed by Mike Locke, recommended by the committee, and sent to Council for approval.
- Increasing awareness among architects, contractors, and homeowners early in the planning process is key.

4. Old Business.

- a. None

5. New Business.

- a. None

6. Public Participation.

- a. None

7. Future Meeting Date.

- a. August 6th, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

8. Adjourn.

Motion to adjourn at 10:10 a.m. on a Rose Mary Hoy/ Janice Bortner motion.

Motion passed unanimously.