



The Town of Fenwick Island

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AD HOC DARKSKY COMMITTEE MEETING

SEPTEMBER 3, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Town Hall

MINUTES

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

Others Present: Kevin Zipay (Zoom)

Staff Present: Kathy Grab

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

1. Approval of Minutes from July 2, 2025.

Motion to approve July 2, 2025, meeting minutes with the correction of the typo on the fourth page item C change the word Recourse to Resource on a Megan Staczek/George Stone motion

Motion passed unanimously.

2. 2025 DS Educational Campaign.

- a. Review 2025 Progress.

- Rose Mary Hoy reported that the committee has made considerable progress on its objectives, including the Town Council resolution, town survey, community events, and educational activities.
- A few items remain in progress, but overall, it has been a productive year.

- b. July 4th Bonfire.

- Rose Mary Hoy reported that the DarkSky table at the bonfire was well-received, engaging residents and visitors, generating questions about dark sky initiatives, and raising awareness. The event was a successful, family-friendly community engagement and supported the lifeguard fundraiser. All members agreed.

- c. August 5 Symposium.

- Post-event Discussions.
 - ~ Due to the zoom issues, the actual event was not live, the taping has now been posted.
 - ~ Rose Mary Hoy reported that the August 5th symposium was productive, with strong attendance, engaging discussions, and positive feedback.
 - ~ Janice Bortner noted that the event went well.

- ~ Megan Staczek commented that it was an incredibly productive event, highlighting strong partnerships and a growing public interest that is helping build awareness.
- ~ George Stone added that turnout was impressive, especially compared to previous events such as Earth Day.

Janice Bortner left at 9:16 a.m.

- ~ Rose Mary Hoy would like the committee to forward on the recordings to various groups.
 - ~ Rose Mary Hoy felt Natalie Magdeburger did a fabulous job with her welcoming and opening comments. Ruskin Hartley was fantastic as well.
 - ~ Rose Mary Hoy thanked everyone that contributed to the event for its success.
 - Key Learnings and Potential Follow-up Actions.
 - ~ Educational Plan needs to be made.
3. Committee Priorities and Next Steps.
- a. Resource for Contractors, Developers, Residents, and Business Owners.
 - This is in development, was put on the back burner due to the recent events. Rose Mary Hoy has suggested that this project should be brought to the front burner. George Stone agreed.
 - This would provide everyone with a clear understanding of the ordinance and permitting process.
 - Rose Mary Hoy would like a draft to review at the next meeting.
 - b. Blurbs for Town Newsletter and Future Symposia Topics.
 - Natalie Magdeburger sends out Messages from the Mayor and has requested that the committee submit new material that can be provided each time.
 - Rose Mary Hoy would like the committee to bring a few topics to the next meeting.
 - George Stone would like to have their own Facebook page, and this would be a perfect spot to add these topics too.
 - c. Lighting Ordinance.
 - Rose Mary Hoy noted growing support for revisiting the town's 27-year-old lighting ordinance, the third priority in the committee's mission. She suggested waiting for survey results and further research before taking formal action. The committee agreed.
 - d. Community Engagement Beyond Fenwick Island.
 - Rose Mary Hoy noted growing interest in DarkSky efforts and raised the question of how the committee should engage beyond Fenwick Island.

- George Stone suggested revisiting the issue with town leadership to clarify if and when committee members may represent the town in regional discussions.
 - Rose Mary Hoy will discuss with Natalie Magdeburger for clarification.
4. Fenwick Island Town Survey.
- a. Rose Mary Hoy advised that the DarkSky questions were submitted and are included in the Town's recent mailing with the tax bills.
- Once results are received and tabulated, they will help guide future initiatives and provide insight into residents' knowledge and interest in DarkSky concepts.
 - George Stone asked about the process of receiving and tallying. Rose Mary Hoy will reach out to Natalie Magedeburger.
5. Old Business.
- a. Review Committee Mission vs. Progress: "Plan Education Opportunities, Create Survey of Interest or Residents, Analyze Town Lighting Ordinances, and Recommend Enhancements Based on DarkSky International Guidance."
- Rose Mary Hoy reviewed the committee's three-part mission: education opportunities, the resident survey now underway, and potential updates to the town ordinance. She noted the committee is focused and on track to meet its objectives.
6. New Business.
- a. Janice Bortner provided information on the State's Public Workshop for the Route 54 bridge on September 18th from 4-7 at the Roxanna Fire House.
- Rose Mary Hoy has requested that the notice be posted to the website and to Facebook.
7. Public Participation.
- a. None
8. Future Meeting Date.
- a. October 1, 2025 9:00 a.m.
9. Adjourn.

Motion to adjourn at 9:53 a.m. on a Megan Staczek/George Stone motion.

Motion passed unanimously.