



The Town of Fenwick Island

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AD HOC DARKSKY COMMITTEE MEETING

November 20, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Town Hall

MINUTES

Members' Present: Franklin Conklin, Rose Mary Hoy (Zoom), George Stone (Zoom), Megan Staczek (Zoom), Steve Ross (Zoom)

Others Present: Natalie Magdeburger (Zoom), Janice Bortner (Zoom), Jen Pawloski (Zoom)

Staff Present: Kathy Grab

Flag salute and call to order at 10:03 a.m.

1. Approval of Minutes from September 3, 2025.

Motion to approve September 3, 2025, meeting minutes with the change of page 1, section 2a, remove "There were many people who came to the table with questions." on a Megan Staczek/George Stone motion

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Introduction to New/Returning Committee Members.
 - a. Committee Members gave brief introductions. New members Franklin Conklin, Steve Ross, and Cindy Kerns welcomed.
3. Review of Committee Mission Statement.
 - a. "Educates Residents on DarkSky International Principles, Surveys Interest, Reviews Lighting Ordinances, and Recommends Improvements."
 - Rose Mary Hoy read the Mission Statement for the new members.
4. Review of 2025 Educational Plan and Educational Resources.
 - a. Display Panels, Mini-Articles.
 - Rose Mary Hoy and George Stone have shared materials with committee.
 - b. Resource for Fenwick Island Public Works.
 - George Stone and Rose Mary Hoy are preparing a pamphlet for use during the building-permit process.
 - George Stone provided the details of the pamphlet, summarizing the lighting ordinance and DarkSky guidance, to be given to residents and contractors during the building-permit process. This supports ongoing education as lighting technology has changed over the years.

- George Stone shared the draft of the pamphlet to the Committee for their review.
- Pamphlet summarizes the lighting ordinance, introduces updated lighting terminology, outlines DarkSky's five principles, and includes a QR code linking to DarkSky-certified fixtures.
- Franklin Conklin asked if this would be directed to the commercial properties as well and George Stone advised it would apply to both.
- The DarkSky website tool lets users filter for suitable residential or commercial fixtures, including parking lot lighting.
- DarkSky's five principles guide users in selecting appropriate fixtures and color temperatures to reduce light pollution and protect wildlife.
- George Stone noted the motion will show how measurement standards have shifted from candlepower and foot-candles to lumens and color temperature, helping educate people on light color impacts.
- Franklin Conklin asked if this coordinates with the actual ordinance or would someone be confused. George Stone stated yes it will.
- Rose Mary Hoy clarified the goal is to have the ordinance updated so that it does, in fact, include all of these other important components that are not included because the ordinance is very old.
- Steve Ross offered to show this to his graphic design coworker/friend to review and assist in the design.
- Committee discussed potential additions, including benefits of DarkSky participation and whether separate versions are needed for contractors and residents.

c. Additional Educational Resource: Home Outdoor Lighting Assessment.

- George Stone presented the DarkSky Home Lighting Assessment as a potential educational resource.
- Tool highlights safety benefits of reducing glare and encourages "smarter, not brighter" lighting.
- Franklin Conklin suggested dropping into Fenwick Hardware with this information as well, working together on this.
- Committee discussed alternative outreach methods such as QR codes and digital resources.
- Steve Ross shared a website <https://darksky.org/get-involved/home-lighting-assessment/>

- Rose Mary Hoy came across an article on a study in cancer research in 2021 regarding light at night and the risk of pancreatic cancer. She advised that it pretty much concluded that higher lighting at night is a risk factor for pancreatic cancer.
- Another article was about a study with patients wearing devices at night to measure how much light they were being exposed to while sleeping. They found that those that were exposed to more light at night between 12:30 and 6:00 am were 1.5 times more likely to develop diabetes.

5. Update Channel Pointe Ceremony 10/25/25 Celebrating DarkSky Lighting. Discuss On-going Engagement with Channel Pointe Old Business.

- a. Rose Mary Hoy attended the ribbon-cutting event held on 10/25/25 celebrating DarkSky-friendly lighting.
 - Rose Mary Hoy said a few words about DarkSky at the event.
 - George Stone reported that a Freeman Company participant reached out about incorporating DarkSky principles into their HOA regulations, and DarkSky International is now considering using the company as a case study.

6. Discussion and Possible Action.

- a. Motion for Town Council Approval – Thank You Communication from Mayor to DSI (Ruskin Hartley) for August 5th Symposium.

Motion to request approval from Town Council for a Thank You Communication from the Mayor to DarkSky (Ruskin Hartley) for the August 5th Symposium on a Rose Mary Hoy/Steve Ross motion.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

- b. Motion for Town Council Approval – Review and Update Fenwick Island Lighting Ordinance.
 - Rose Mary Hoy read the proposed and the committee discussed proposed language for ordinance updates.
 - Natalie Magdeburger suggested including in keeping with DarkSky International principles to the wording.
 - George Stone recommends adding who DarkSky International is and why they are significant in this.
 - Rose Mary Hoy will send the Council Members the link to the symposium before the next Council Meeting requesting them to review before voting on the DarkSky motion.

Motion to request Town Council to activate the Charter and Ordinance Committee to review the current lighting ordinance (Chapter 102), for modernization and improvements that are aligned with current lighting principles and science. on a George Stone/Franklin Conklin motion.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

7. Old Business.
 - a. None
8. New Business.
 - a. Rose Mary Hoy shared updates from the Under One Sky meeting, including concerns about car headlights and interior light pollution.
 - b. Franklin Conklin raised interest in coastal wildlife research, he asked if it is on anyone's radar here, George Stone said yes, that Rose Mary Hoy has a contact in Lewes.
 - c. Rose Mary Hoy agreed and advised that Sue Ellen Blackburn is her contact. She is a scientist, and she offered to invite her to the next committee meeting to get an update on their study.
9. Public Participation.
 - a. None
10. Future Meeting Date.
 - a. December 3, 2025, 9:00 a.m.
 - December meeting canceled; January meeting date to be rescheduled.
11. Adjourn.

Motion to adjourn at 11:56 a.m. on a Rose Mary Hoy/Steve Ross motion.

Motion passed unanimously.