



The Town of Fenwick Island

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AD HOC DARKSKY COMMITTEE MEETING

March 4, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Town Hall

MINUTES

Members' Present: Rose Mary Hoy (Zoom), Frank Conklin (Zoom), Steve Ross (Zoom)

Others Present: E Weber, Coast TV (Zoom),

Staff Present: Kathy Grab

Flag salute and call to order at 10:05 a.m.

1. Approval of Minutes from February 4, 2026.

Due to the absence of a quorum, approval of the minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

2. DarkSky Activity Plan for 2026.

a. Steve Ross provided the Updates to 2026 DarkSky Programs.

- Steve Ross shared the calendar of events with the Committee.
- Earth Day on April 25 at 8:30 a.m., a table and display will need to be set up at Town Hall. Rose Mary Hoy will connect with Colleen Wilson to participate at Earth Day celebration and Mike Locke for tables.
- International DarkSky Week April 13-20. This is a week of webinars and speakers worldwide. Rose Mary Hoy attends as many as she can every year. She will look to see if she has received the invitation and will share it with the committee members. The committee should write a blurb to be added to the website and Facebook. This will be more of a committee event than to the whole town. Steve Ross shared [DarkSky Pledge](#)
- Bonfire July 18 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. This is the most powerful event the committee attends besides the symposiums. Table with a display will be set up, a gift basket will be designed for the raffle, giveaways. The committee will need to clarify what they would like to do this year if different. Committee members highly encouraged to volunteer for this event.
- Marine Science Camp weeks of 7/13, 7/27, and 8/10. Megan Staczek has reached out to the camp to see if there was interest in the committee to share with the participants about proper lighting and its role in nature.
- FI Yacht Club Midnight Kayak. June 21 and August 25. Steve Ross advised that most of the club members take their sunfish sailboats out and sail under the dark sky. Steve Ross will reach out to the property owner on allowing the committee to either park there or to gather for a bit before the launch.
- DarkSky Symposium in August. Rose Mary Hoy would like to have ideas for the next meeting to discuss further.

- Steve Ross will share with the committee the updated list of programs.
3. Update on Resources in Development.
 - a. Rose Mary Hoy shared the work that Goerge Stone has done for the proposed website. [Website Content 2/22/2026](#)
 - George Stone has compiled information so that it could be posted to the Town's website.
 - Any thoughts or ideas can be sent to George Stone.
 4. Lighting Ordinance Update: Status Report.
 - a. Rose Mary Hoy provided update from Town Council.
 - Rose Mary Hoy advised that the next step is to meet with Charter and Ordinance.
 - Materials have been sent to Natalie Magdeburger to distribute to the committee.
 - Frank Conklin and George Stone are reviewing the current ordinance to provide areas to enhance the current ordinance to bring up to date.
 - It is important to meet with them to help them understand why the committee is doing this, retaining the goodness of the ordinance, and filling in where there are gaps, update obsolete items, and add where something is missing.
 - The next Charter & Ordinance meeting is March 13, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.
 - A document was sent that explained that the ordinance was reviewed, summarizing what it states, and discussing what the committee feels should remain, what is missing and what should be modified. Rose Mary Hoy will send it to the committee.
 5. Old Business.
 - a. None.
 6. New Business.
 - a. DarkSky International Petitions.
 - Deferred to April's meeting.
 - b. Delaware Astronomical Society Book Club.
 - Rose Mary Hoy and Frank Conklin had signed in; it was very informative. Good connection made.
 - c. Rehoboth Lighting Ordinance.
 - Rose Mary Hoy met with the person leading the effort. The lead's goal is to put into practice what the town had decided 15 years ago. Rose Mary Hoy asked for their template from an organization they use on the west coast.
 - d. Outcome of 2/13/26 Hearing to Reduce Lighting Fines.
 - Rose Mary Hoy shared the outcome of the hearing, stating that while the fines were significantly reduced there were fines, and an important lesson for residents and business owners.
 7. Public Participation.
 - a. None.
 8. Future Meeting Date.
 - a. April 1, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
 9. Adjourn

Adjourn at 11:03 a.m.