



The Town of Fenwick Island

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Ad Hoc DarkSky Committee Meeting

June 3, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Town Hall

Minutes

Members Present via Zoom: Rose Mary Hoy, George Stone, Megan Staczek, Franklin Conklin

Members Absent: Steve Ross

Others Present: Erin Ellinger

Call to Order/Flag Salute.

1. Approval of Minutes of May 6, 2026

Motion: To approve the minutes of the May 6, 2026, meeting.

Moved by: Megan Staczek

Seconded by: George Stone

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

2. Lighting Ordinance Update

Rose Mary reported that the committee has been working on the draft ordinance for several months. She stated that the draft would be distributed to committee members for review prior to being shared with Mayor Magdeburger. Members were asked to review the draft from both the C&O Committee and resident perspectives and to identify any typographical errors or suggested revisions.

3. DarkSky Activity Plan for 2026

a. Bee-loved Pollinator Festival Rehoboth May 9, 2026

Rose Mary reported that the committee was invited by Sue Ellen Blackburn, an active DarkSky advocate in the Lewes and Cape Henlopen area, to participate in recent outreach efforts. She noted there was significant interest in the DarkSky information table, and a pollinator-themed display was also created. Rose Mary discussed the potential for collaboration with Sue Ellen's group and advised that committee members were invited to participate in future activities.

Rose Mary further reported that the committee was invited to provide a presentation at the Barefoot Gardeners meeting on September 12 and to attend a Sussex County meeting scheduled for the same date. She noted that the growing interest in DarkSky initiatives reflects increased public awareness and presents additional opportunities for regional collaboration.

b. Review & Update Plan

Town Bonfire: Rose Mary reported that the Town Bonfire is the committee's next event. Donation basket items are prepared, and a table will be provided. Due to expected wind conditions, paper materials and display boards will not be brought onto the beach. Instead, a laptop will be used to share information and display a slideshow of the exhibit panels. George volunteered to manage the laptop, and committee members will have the Night Sky app available on their phones to assist with public outreach. Members were encouraged to wear their star-themed shirts, and Rose Mary will arrange shirts for George and Steve, who are new committee members this year.

The committee discussed using QR codes from last year's event if still applicable. Megan will create a presentation slide and a laminated display highlighting DarkSky partners to demonstrate the broader network of organizations supporting DarkSky initiatives. The Town Bonfire is scheduled for July 18 on Bayard Street. Committee members should arrive between 6:00 and 6:30 p.m., with the event beginning at 7:00 p.m. Rose Mary will coordinate the light display examples, which were well received at last year's event. Members were reminded to be mindful of limited parking.

Marine Science Camp: Megan reported that she will provide an update once she has connected with the organizers.

4. Update on Resources in Development

a. Resources for Public Works

Rose Mary shared a luminaire infographic designed to provide lighting guidance to contractors and residents during the building permit process. She reported that Building Official Mike Locke agreed to utilize the resource when issuing building permits. The committee discussed adding a disclaimer noting that the information reflects minimum guidelines and is subject to change based on future ordinance amendments. Members suggested including an effective date and directing users to the Town's website for the most current ordinance requirements. Following consultation with the Mayor and Building Official, George agreed to draft appropriate disclaimer language and circulate it to the committee for review.

b. DarkSky Committee Page on Town Website

George provided an update on the DarkSky webpage. He reported that the website programmers are still working on the requested modifications and that implementation of a left-side navigation menu appears to be feasible. Kathy Grab will follow up with the programmers regarding the status of the request. Once the page structure is finalized, Kathy will be able to make content updates and additions as needed. George noted that the updated webpage may be available for promotion and demonstration at the Town Bonfire.

5. Old Business

George discussed a concept for a future regional DarkSky symposium and shared that he recently spoke with Ruskin Hartley, who expressed interest in returning to the area to support local DarkSky

initiatives. George suggested that a future event could be expanded beyond Fenwick Island through collaboration with neighboring communities and organizations that share similar DarkSky goals.

Committee members discussed the potential benefits of involving a broader range of stakeholders, including community leaders, utility providers, environmental organizations, builders, design professionals, engineers, planners, and DarkSky advocates. Rose Mary noted that a regional approach could help advance DarkSky efforts through education, collaboration, and the sharing of best practices. Members agreed that identifying the target audience and potential partners would be important considerations as the concept develops.

George stated that he would continue exploring the idea and discuss potential opportunities with Ruskin Hartley and other contacts. No formal action was taken.

6. New Business

None

7. Public Participation

None

8. Future Meeting Date

The committee agreed that no meeting will be held in July unless a need arises later in the month. The next regular meeting is scheduled for **August 5, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.**

9. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

Moved by: George Stone

Seconded by: Franklin Conklin

Result: Motion passed unanimously.