



The Town of Fenwick Island

800 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, DE 19944-4409

302-539-3011 ~ 302-539-1305 fax

www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov

Ad Hoc DarkSky Committee Meeting

August 5, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Town Hall

Minutes

Members Present:

Members Present Via Zoom: Rose Mary Hoy, Steve Ross, George Stone, Frank Conklin

Members Absent: Megan Staczek

Other Participants: Kathy Grab, Jim Simpson

Call to Order/Flag Salute.

1. Approval of Minutes of June 3, 2026.

Motion: Approve Minutes from June 3, 2026.

Moved by: George Stone

Seconded by: Frank Conklin

Abstained: None.

Motion Carried.

2. Lighting Ordinance Update.

a. Rose Mary Hoy shared the DarkSky Committee's Summary of the Draft Changes to Lighting Ordinance Chapter 102.

- The Committee reviewed changes to Chapter 102, DarkSky principles, updated definitions, compliance requirements, shielding, pole height, Kelvin and lumen limits, holiday and flag lighting, sign illumination, streetlights, public lighting, and lighting hours.
- The Committee discussed requirements for new and existing fixtures, including a proposed 90-day period for existing non-conforming fixtures. Language will be revised to clearly distinguish current ordinance requirements from requirements under the proposed ordinance.
- The Committee discussed lumen standards and agreed that a per-acre limit is not practical for Fenwick Island's small lots. Alternatives based on dwelling size, property size, or fixed limits will be considered. Additional review is needed regarding light trespass and complaint procedures.

- Another working session to resolve outstanding items before submitting to Charter & Ordinance Committee.

3. DarkSky Activity Plan for 2026.

a. July 4 Parade.

- The event was successful; the Committee provided a basket for a contest prize.

b. July Bonfire.

- DarkSky materials, photographs, children's activities, and Stargazing app/QR codes were provided.
- DarkSky's basket raised \$160.00.
- Bonfire t-shirts are available at Town Hall.

c. Yacht Club Partnership (July 25 Raft-up Sunset and Moonrise).

- First event date was cancelled due to weather.
- The July 25 raft-up was held successfully with sunset and moonrise viewing, although attendance was limited.

d. Additional Comments and Ideas for 2026/2027.

- The Committee discussed potential collaboration with Marine Science Camp.
- A Barefoot Gardeners presentation will be rescheduled. There is a possibility of an early spring 2027 program focused on gardening, plants and pollinators.
- Additional 2026/2027 activity ideas were tabled.

4. Update on Resources in Development.

a. Resources for Public Works (Approved on June 26; Plans for Use).

- The lighting resource was approved by Town Council in June, copies are available at Town Hall for residents and applicants.
- The Committee will consider sharing with DarkSky International as a best practice.
DarkSky Committee Page on Town Website.
- The proposed DarkSky Committee webpage will provide educational topics, images, and information and will be expanded as materials are developed.
- Kathy Grab will send website screenshots to Committee members, and content development will continue.

5. Old Business.

a. None.

6. New Business.

- a. Rehoboth Beach and Bethany Beach are exploring municipal lighting ordinances, and information is being shared among the communities.
 - b. The Committee also discussed potential review of Fenwick Island's ordinance by DarkSky International for recognition or certification.
 - c. The Committee discussed a future regional DarkSky symposium involving Delaware coastal communities and surrounding areas, with potential interest from Delmarva Power.
7. Public Participation.
- a. Jim Simpson discussed emphasizing the importance of public education regarding DarkSky principles, including the benefits of properly shielded lighting and preventing light trespass. Visual examples may help explain lighting concepts such as foot-candles
 - The Committee will continue to consider effective public messaging about DarkSky.
8. Future Meeting Date.
- a. September 2, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.
 - The meeting may be rescheduled or cancelled if not needed.
9. Adjournment.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

Moved by: Steve Ross

Seconded by: George Stone

Abstained: None

Motion Carried.