

Dark Skies Meeting Minutes January 7, 2026

Present: Frank Clark, Buzz Constable, Sherry Haydock, Ken Hurd, Susan KatzSliski, Ginny Lemire, Kathleen Lomatoski, Craig Nicholson, Diana Smith.
Non-Members Louise Bergeron, Jan Herlacher, Anna Tomalski.

The minutes of the January 17 meeting were approved.

The Committee reviewed and endorsed the letter to the Lincoln Building Inspector in regards to noncompliant lighting at the Commons. The letter was approved and the Committee agreed to send it to the Building Inspector with documentation of noncompliant lighting. A single page punch list of noncompliant lighting will be added to the summary package.

There will be a Dark Skies public information forum on January 15 that will take place at 7:30 in the Donaldson room at Town Offices, which will be both in person and Zoom accessible. The forum will focus on Dark Skies recommendations for external lighting. Current bylaws and proposed bylaws will also be discussed. Louise will contact members of the Tree Committee, Margaret Olson, the Bike and Road Committee, Wild Lincoln and C Free to encourage attendance at the public forum. Craig will contact the school newspaper, Buzz will contact LLCT and Bob Wolf, Sherry will contact the Zero Waste Committee, Ginny will contact the Commons and Ryan estate, and Anna will post publicity at Oriole Landing. Louise will also develop some posters to be placed at the Lincoln library, Donelan's, and other town offices. Sherry will print and post the posters. Kathleen will create a second draft of the forum announcement, to be I sent Lincoln Talk as a second notice about the forum.

Susan Mygatt, Buzz Constable, Louise Bergeron, Sherry Haydock, and Ken Hurd met on January 6 for a working group meeting to revise the bylaws draft that was presented to the Planning Board. The opening paragraph of the bylaws was rewritten to more clearly define the goals of its implementation. Ken Hurd discussed adding low-lumen diffuser lights to the list of permissible luminaires. There were discussions about color and lumens of the diffuser lights, which Ken will research. Holiday lights and flagpole lights will be listed as permissible exceptions. Definitions of terms have been reorganized to be less cumbersome. Louise will continue to update edits and will circulate copies to the Committee.

The Dark Skies Committee will meet with the Select Board on January 12 and present the rationale for Dark Skies compliance and review the proposed bylaws. Louise and Sherry will meet beforehand to organize the presentation.

Members of the Lighting Complaint Process Committee have circulated a draft of how lighting complaints could be handled when sent to the DarkSkies Committee. This process could be implemented prior to the passage of the new bylaws. Many details have yet to be worked out. Committee members are encouraged to send feedback to Ginny about the process. There will be a subsequent meeting to review the process in detail, as well as the letters that the Dark Skies Committee plan to send to property owners of with noncompliant lights in response to complaints from neighbors.

Sherry will contact Barbara Peskin to determine the status of the town survey to gather public opinion of Dark Skies recommendations and modifications of street lights.

Sherry reported making contact with a new DPW head, Steve Olson, who was receptive to discussions about street lighting and DPW exterior lights. Steve has started researching the specifications of Lincoln Street lights. He reported that there was no central control and lights would have to be turned off individually. Some lights might be dimmable. Sherry sent a follow up letter with information about Dark Skies and will plan to meet with him again in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Haydock