

Dark Skies Meeting Minutes January 21, 2026

Present: Buzz Constable, Sherry Haydock, Ken Hurd, Susan KatzSliski, Ginny Lemire, Kathleen Lomatoski, Craig Nicholson. Nonmembers Louise Bergeron, Jane Herlacher.

The January 14 meeting minutes were approved.

The public forum on January 15 was reviewed. There were approximately 25 to 30 attendees including members of the Dark Skies (DS) Committee. Helpful feedback had been provided by one of the Lincoln residents who had received a letter regarding lighting on his property. This letter has been revised and circulated to members of the DS Committee. There was general agreement that the revised letter was much warmer in its tone and message. Louise will create a clean copy of the letter and provide it to DS Committee members for further review.

There was discussion about how a general mailing to all residents in town about the mission of DS could be facilitated. Information will be disseminated via Lincoln Talk, Lincoln, Squirrel, and on the DS website. Louise will download the Dark Skies International resource as a PDF and send it to Sherry for posting on the town website. Ken will work on scheduling a presentation at the First Parish church about DS initiatives.

The DS committee will meet with the planning board on January 27. Buzz will provide a red lined document noting the differences between the original and edited version of the bylaws. The DS Committee will be asking the Planning Board to sponsor the warrant article proposed by DS and ask the Selects and Conservation Commission to join in the endorsement. Sherry will do an audit of lights in town to provide a list of the number of lights that require modification.

Kathleen is developing a lighting questionnaire which will be provided to Lincoln residents requesting feedback on lighting in town. This will include general questions about regulating lighting and also address the issue of street lights. She will integrate and finalize the questionnaire, incorporate feedback and send a final draft to the group for review before the next meeting.

Sherry reported that she and Ginny had met to review the document regarding the noncompliant lights at the Commons. This document will be circulated to all members of the DS committee and will be submitted to the building inspector by Buzz and Sherry. A draft will be sent to Paula prior to submitting it to the building inspector. The plan is to have this completed by the second week of February.

Louise reported that Jane Slade will provide information on updating lighting at the Safety Building. Consulting costs will be included in the project. Funds have been allocated by the Town for this project.

Susan discussed her concerns about lighting at 12 Pine Ridge Rd. She will draft a letter to the Planning Board with her concerns and ask her neighbor to attend the Planning Board meeting scheduled for January 27. There are no bylaws, regulating interior lighting, but because of the elevation of the Pine Ridge Road building, interior light is shed on wetlands and vernal pools. Dealing with this as “light trespass” may be an option.

Respectfully submitted

Sherry Haydock