

Dark Skies Meeting Minutes 2/11/2026

Present: Frank Clark, Buzz Constable, Sherry Haydock, Ken Hurd, Susan KatzSliski, Ginny Lemire, Kathleen Lomatoski, Craig Nicholson, Diana Smith.
Nonmembers: Louise Bergeron, Roy Harvey, Jane Herlacker.

Craig summarized the meeting with Tim Higgins, Brandon Kelley, John Metivier, Steven Olson, Paula Vaughn, Jennifer Curtin and Buzz Constable. The group discussed the transition from a general bylaw to amending the existing zoning bylaws. After receiving feedback from Paula, Craig drafted a zoning bylaw version incorporating Tim's comments, aiming for a compromise between regulation and simplified approaches. This draft was reviewed at the recent Planning Board meeting. Planning Board members provided feedback and committed to providing further comments within a short timeframe. The Dark Skies Committee will review the comments and make further revisions to be submitted to the Planning Board before the next Planning Board meeting on February 24.

Tim Higgins committed to take up the street light issue and engage a consultant to assess and potentially modify existing fixtures. A consultant from the Lexington Public Works department has been identified and will work with members of the DarkSkies Committee. Jane Slade has offered to provide free consulting services and fixture recommendations for the Safety Building. Craig will follow up with Brandon about funding for the Safety Building project and to potentially arrange a meeting between Brandon Jane and other stakeholders.

Some of the controversial topics of the most recent version of the zoning bylaws were discussed. The Committee decided to remove diffused luminaires from the current proposal. This issue could be readdressed at a future town meeting.

The 9000 lumen maximum for a residential property was discussed. It was proposed that this be modified such that lumens would be tied to the number of outside doors, including garage doors, per building. Using the calculation of 900 lumens per door multiplied by 1.5 would determine the maximum amount of lumens per property. This would allow some flexibility for pathway and driveway lighting.

The section on glare was removed from the document. It was felt that the definition of light trespass could automatically address glare issues.

The committee agreed that a list of definitions should be developed for both Town Meeting and the Planning Board. Craig will pull definitions from the original

general bylaws document. The committee discussed Holiday lights and agreed to leave them as an exception while waiting for more comments from the Planning Board.

Ginny reported on the meeting with the Town Building Inspector Jon Metivier who had reviewed the complaint filed by Buzz and Sherry regarding noncompliant lighting. Jon had reviewed the complaint and had made two visits to the Commons. He showed strong support for addressing noncompliant lighting through a variety of means, including fines where appropriate and withholding of occupancy permits if requirements were not met.

Kathleen Lomatoski is continuing to work on the lighting questionnaire to be distributed to residents in town. She also reported that she had spoken to the owners of the Clark Gallery who have agreed to decrease the intensity of the gallery's interior lights.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Haydock