

Mission statement

Honoring its history as a rural, farming community and its legacy of leadership in land conservation, Lincoln seeks to further protect the natural environment by limiting excessive artificial light at night.

Summary of Lincoln’s lighting regulations

- Bylaws adopted in 2014 require fully shielded fixtures. All lights fixtures or bulbs installed after 2014 must comply.
- Guidance limits intensity to 900 lumens/fixture and does not allow landscaping lights or driveway lights. Guidance from the Planning Board has been in effect for new constructions.

Aims

1. Conduct Education and outreach
2. Improve Compliance
3. Identify solutions for town-owned properties and streetlights in collaboration with Town Administration
4. Engage institutions and businesses
5. Propose updates to Lincoln’s lighting Bylaws or guidance

1. Conduct Education and outreach

- a) Inform the public about the negative effects of artificial light on ecosystems and convey what we gain by turning off both exterior and interior lights.
- b) Demonstrate appropriate lighting to improve safety and security.
- c) Provide information on shielded fixtures, and new technologies, such as dimming, warmer color, and motion activation and timers. Respond to inquiries from the public about what type of lighting we recommend for their property.

Outreach activities

Activity	Status
Newcomer’s meeting information Table	2025, January 26
Notices on BOS newsletter	2025, February
Dark skies article published in AgCom newsletter	Distributed in April 2025 to all households.
Presentation from expert: Jane Slade, Bemis Hall	2025, March 8
Town meeting information table	2025, March 29
Websites (Official Town site and Common Ground)	2025 March, Launched. Continuous updates
Presentation from expert: Jane Slade, Bemis Hall	2025 March 8
Dark Skies article in the AgCom newsletter delivered to all residents	2025, April
School projects	Ongoing. Students documented issues with the light on school campus and proposed solutions. They generated a poster in Spring 2025 about excessive lights on the school campus.

Flyer to new residents in package provide by ConCom	In progress. Needs attention
250 anniversary party, June 14, information table	Ginny, Anna and Louise set up an information table.
Reaching out to all Town organizations	-Fully engaged: LLCT, Conservation Commission, Agricultural Commission, Common Ground, Tree Committee, Planning Board, CCBC. -Continue to follow up with CCBC, the Green Committee? Board of Health? School Committee?
Library program on star gazing	Requires attention. Alison Amstrong from the library has reached out to Dark Skies to help set up a star gazing program. Louise in discussion with members of Dark Skies to define how to help.
Astronomy night	Requires attention. 2025 Fall, 2026 Winter
State of the Town 2025	Dark Skies had a breakout room of 45 minutes repeated twice. We started with a 10 min general presentation, followed by discussion at 6 tables. 1. Wildlife, 2. Technology and effects on human, 3. Hard technology demonstration with equipment on hand, 4. Interactive map of Street light to obtain residents opinion on street light to add or remove. 5. Bylaws , guidance and compliance. The meeting was well attend with residents being engaged and positive about Dark Skies' mission.

2. Improve Compliance

a) Develop a process to address compliance on private properties

Dark Skies is defining a process to alert homeowners and businesses if they do not comply with bylaws or guidance and provide solutions. The process consists in sending a letter about the issue and how to solve it and invitation to discuss with the sub-committee. Following with a “thank you” note if they improve the situation. The process is currently being evaluated. Dark Skies philosophy is to obtain voluntary compliance and rely on the building inspector unless only when required.

b) Discuss ways to improve compliances with the building inspector

A new Building inspector was appointed to start in December 2025. Dark Skies to set up a meeting with him when he gets settled. Likely Jan 2026. Dark Skies to contact the zoning/building department to make sure that they review lighting on all permitted construction. Attached bylaws to the permit or add description in the permitting process.

3. Identify solutions for Town-owned properties and streetlights in collaboration with Town Administration

Activity	Status
Public Safety building renovation	Brendon Kelly discussed new lighting with Craig and Louise. Need guidance from Jane Slade who visited the site on Nov 8 2025. Following up to make recommendations.
Department of Public Work (DPW)	The town could replace the current flood lights with dimmable, motion activated lights that are aimed down. This would be highly feasible if the current fixtures have a “7-pin system.” Dark Skies needs to engage with the

	DPW directly to obtain information about the current fixtures and define solutions.
Water Department	Onshore facility and filtration buildings on Sandy Pond. Dark Skies to contact the Water Department to initiate discussion on how to decrease the light.
Streetlights.	Evaluate streetlights with the goal of eliminating or dimming unnecessary lights. Dark Skies obtained feedback from the public at the SOTT 2025 concerning streetlights.
Identified a model site to demonstrate state-of-the-art lighting	Successful meeting with Andrew Consigli from Civico and landscape architect Tom Ryan to discuss the development of 20 hours at the Farrington property. Potential to generate a model site. Positive response from Tom Ryan. Civico will present to the Planning Board in December 2026; the Dark Skies Committee will follow up with lighting plans to make recommendations.
Stakeholders Meeting	Meeting organized by Tim Higgins that occurred in June 2025. The meeting was cordial, and informative but meaningful actions did not result and follow up did not occur.

4. Engage institutions, businesses and condo associations

Summary of projects with institutions

Institution	Issue and actions	Update
Nashawtuk country Club	We received complaints from a Lincoln resident. Lights are on all night. High glare occurs across the river, lighting up the river with sky glow. The Concord Planning Board and the Country club proposal is to turn off light at 10 pm, which is largely insufficient. The Club is proposing to build a new pool and add lights by the river, the PB could potentially reject the proposal if lighting is not addressed.	- Contacted the Concord Planning Board Director in March (Craig) -Attended the Concord Natural Resource Commission meeting on May 14 (Louise, Buzz, Ginny, Katherine Bustowicz) -Wrote a letter to the Concord PB (Louise,Buzz) -Follow up with CNRC (Ginny) -Ginny, Buzz, Katherine Bustowicz CNRC meeting on May 14 th and voiced concerns (Ginny, Buzz, Katherine Bustowicz). -Katherine attended the CNRC meeting on June 25 th . The Club agreed to put the lights on timers, but it will take 18 months. Katherine asked why so long. Buzz to write a letter to the PB? -Lights at Nashawtuk will be off at 10 pm. All new lights will be shielded. Follow up is required.
Drumlin	Complaint about the light on Headquarter property. Lights are on Lincoln Rd property all night. Parking lot is bright.	Louise discussed with Scott McCue, Drumlin Farm Director about fixing the light and improving lights in parking lot to generate a model site. Scott left Drumlin in July, additional discussions are required with the new director.
Ste-Anne in the field	Three complaints about parking light. The lights are very bright and on all night. Lighting of Linden tree fields and conservation land. Some changes in the direction of the	Sherry is discussion with Rob Parker at Ste-Anne to find solutions. The church proposes to change the direction of the light but are not offering to turn them off at night. The lights belong to Verizon.

	light were done but are inefficient.	
Decordova	Bright lights in parking and building all night.	Decordova has improved their lights at the museum and café. They will work in the parking lot in 2026.
St-Joseph Church	Is the newly installed 2024 light Dark-Skies compliant?	Ginny to document. They received a permit to install the light in 2024, if not compliant, we need to find out how they were allowed to install it in the first place. Need to follow up.
Library	Glaring lights at the door, book drop and stairs.	-Dark Skies met with the Library's Board, Summer 2024. They are willing to make changes but need to be told exactly what to do. Cost is an issue. -Our advisor, Jane Slade, visited the site with us. Improvements could be made at low cost by changing the flood light into shielded, lower intensity lights. Dimmable motion activated lights would be needed but cost could be prohibitive. The fixtures in the stairs cannot be changed, they would have to be removed and replaced. -Dark Skies will follow up with Jane but needs to identify and present a plan to the library for fixtures and costs. A paid consultant would help a lot here.
School Campus	Compliant with Bylaws but extremely bright with glaring lights	Many of the lights are dimmable but not properly adjusted. Dark Skies to continue to work with Brendon Kelly to improve lighting. The lights should be off at 11:00 pm. Indoors lights shine through windows, those are supposedly on timers and should be off; adjustments are required.
Community Center Building Committee	Dark Skies reviewed lighting plans and made recommendation at the Planning Board meeting.	Required 2700K color, lowering blinds to decrease indoor lighting from spilling outdoors, motion activation in the parking lot, low lights (18 inches) in paths. Dark Skies need to follow closely with CCBC.

c) Communicating with multifamily dwellings

Dark Skies has documented issues, contacted residents and condo associations. We decided to focus on what we think is feasible or non-compliant with Bylaws or Planning Board requests.

Summary of projects with multifamily housings

Institution	Issue and actions	Update
Farrar Pond Village Condominium	It is pretty good, however, there are carports lights that could be motion activated.	This is an easy fix. Some residents discuss solutions with Dark Skies and are eager to make improvement. Dark Skies to follow up with residents and condo association
Lincoln Ridge Condominium	Many bright unshielded lights on the river. Some are unnecessary, others could be improved with shielding, warmer color, lower intensity, motion activation, timers and dimmers.	Residents visited us at the SOTT. They are engaged and would like to see improvement. Residents are anxious to have Dark Skies meet with them and the condo association. Dark Skies members to follow up with both Lincoln Ridge and Ferrar Pond Village.
Ryan Estate	Pole light; with carriage type fixture and bulbs at the bottom.	Ginny Lemire has been in contact with Ryan Estate. They do not have funding to make

	Lighting advisor, Jane Slade, visited the site with Dark Skies members. Unfortunately, solutions are limited in view of the cost of changing the fixtures. A solution might be to use bulbs with lower intensity and warmer colors.	changes, but we could push to have them decrease the intensity of the bulbs.
Oriole Landing	Extremely bright, glaring, daylight color non-compliant fixtures installed after 2014. Compliant streetlights cause lights on surrounding properties due to oriole landing situation at the top of the hill.	Following the visit of the site with Jane Slade, Dark Skies non-compliance to the Planning Board has contacted Oriole Landing’s management about the non-compliant lights. Dark Skies to follow up to ensure that actions are taken.
The Commons	Extremely bright lights, many non-compliant with the bylaws.	A member of Dark Skies, Ginny Lemire, has generated a report on non-compliant lighting. In 2007, the PB has requested 50% of the lights to be dimmed. Additional lights added after 2014 are non-compliant. Dark Skies is following up with the Planning Board.

5. Propose updates to Lincoln’s Bylaws and guidance

Dark Skies drafted general Bylaws for discussion and consideration by the Planning Board. Meeting with the PB scheduled on Nov 18th, 2025.

Dark Skies email: DarkSkies@Lincolntown.org

Challenge:

Technology expertise: Gaining knowledge of commercially available lighting equipment and cost with the goal of providing guidance to residents and institutions.

Budget: We have been fortunate with the support from the Agricultural Commission and the Conservation Commission for printing posters and brochures as well as the generosity of Dark Skies Committee members. We are in need of a paid lighting consultant to help us learn about compliant light fixtures and bulbs.