

From: [Justin Giorlando](#)
To: [Trianovich, Amanda](#)
Subject: Re: FW: Town of Westport, Request for Comments on Draft Text Amendment to Incorporate Dark Sky Principles
Date: Monday, November 6, 2023 7:50:48 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

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Hi Amanda,

I think it's a great idea to incorporate provisions to reduce light pollution, especially near the coast where the effects on migratory birds can be so great. A couple things I noticed:

- it mentions "cut-off" lights but I think you want the term "full cut-off" as that refers to both no light above the horizontal and a reduced glare from 80-90 degrees to the horizontal...
- Add "full cut-off" to your definitions
- Why was 16' chosen? If the light complies with full-cutoff doesn't affect neighbors with glare or otherwise, higher heights can help reduce the number of fixtures needed and provide more clearance.
- 3000K limitation for all lighting is limiting for security lighting, is there any exception to that?
- You should consider allowing the light to be seen at the property line at and within 10 ft (?) of the driveway and along sidewalks. Generally, the driveways and sidewalks must be lit for safety reasons and are always at or just over the property line. The owner should be allowed to light a sidewalk along their property line if the sidewalk is in the Town's ROW.
- Holiday lighting shouldn't be exempt if you can see it from space.

Hope this helps!

Best,
Justin

On Thu, Nov 2, 2023 at 1:17 PM Trianovich, Amanda <atrianovich@westportct.gov> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

I am reaching back out to our local commercial developers regarding a draft text amendment to incorporate [Dark Sky Principles](#) as listed under the [International Dark-Sky Association](#) to our current lighting standards. Please note, this is not a formal text amendment at this time and we would incorporate these standards to only new or alterations to commercial sites. This would not affect our single-family residential developments at this time.

A Zoning Regulation Revision/Sustainability Subcommittee meeting has been scheduled for next Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 12 p.m. An Agenda will be posted on our [Subcommittee Webpage](#) in the next coming days.

Please advise if you have any questions, comments, or concerns as we welcome your feedback!

Sincerely,

Amanda Trianovich

Planner

(203) 341-1077



From: Trianovich, Amanda
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 3:06 PM
Cc: Young, Mary <maryyoung@westportct.gov>; Perillie, Michelle <mperillie@westportct.gov>; Cohn Neil <ncohn@westportct.gov>; Dobin Danielle <ddobin@westportct.gov>
Subject: Town of Westport, Request for Comments on Draft Text Amendment to Incorporate Dark Sky Principles

Good Afternoon,

The Town of Westport's P&Z Zoning Regulation Revision and Sustainability Subcommittee is seeking feedback from our local commercial developers regarding a draft text amendment to incorporate [Dark Sky Principles](#) as listed under the [International Dark-Sky Association](#) to our current lighting standards. Please note, this is not a formal text amendment at this time and we would incorporate these standards to only new or alterations to commercial sites. This would not affect our single-family residential developments at this time.

The dark-sky movement is a campaign to reduce light pollution. The advantages of reducing light pollution include an increased number of stars visible at night, reducing the effects of electric lighting on the environment, improving the well-being, health, and safety of both people and wildlife and cutting down on energy usage.

The movement started with professional and amateur astronomers alarmed that nocturnal skyglow from urban areas was blotting out the sight of stars. Nocturnal animals can be harmed by light pollution because they are biologically evolved to be dependent on an environment with a certain number of hours of uninterrupted daytime and nighttime. The over-illumination of the night sky is affecting these organisms (especially birds). This biological study of darkness is called Scotobiology. Light pollution has also been found to affect human circadian rhythms.

The dark-sky movement encourages the use of full-cutoff fixtures that cast little or no light upward in public areas and generally encourages communities to adopt lighting regulations.

The draft text amendment was discussed during the Zoning Regulation Revision and Sustainability Subcommittee on July 26, 2023, and September 13, 2023. There have been many discussions over the luminosity and color of the lights to be permitted. Please see the attached draft text for reference. Recordings of the meetings can be heard [here](#) and information and minutes can be read [here](#).

There is no scheduled date at this time for the next Subcommittee meeting to which we hope to receive full support from the Subcommittee to file a formal Text Amendment to the P&Z Commission.

We welcome your feedback!

Sincerely,

Amanda Trianovich

Planner

(203) 341-1077

