

Proclamation of International Dark Sky Week

WHEREAS, the aesthetic beauty and wonder of a natural night sky is a shared heritage of all humankind. The experience of standing under a starry night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, encourages an interest in science and nature, particularly among children, and

WHEREAS, light pollution has scientifically established economic and environmental consequences, which result in significant impacts on the ecology and human health of all communities, and

WHEREAS, 80 percent of the world's population, including many people in Vermont live under a dome of light pollution—excessive artificial lighting at night that disrupts natural darkness—and may never experience the visual wonder or ecological and health benefits of living under a dark sky, and

WHEREAS, light pollution represents a waste of natural resources amounting to roughly \$3 billion dollars per year of wasted energy in the United States and contributes to diminished security, and

WHEREAS, West Windsor is home to dozens of nocturnal wildlife species - including the endangered little brown bat, wood frogs, peepers, yellow spotted salamanders, frogs, fireflies and pollinating moths - and these species rely on undisturbed night environments to hunt, mate and thrive, and

WHEREAS, DarkSky International, the globally recognized authority on light pollution, recognizes International Dark-Sky Week to raise awareness of the effects of light pollution, provide free education, resources, and solutions to the public, and encourage the protection of and enjoyment of dark skies and responsible outdoor lighting.

Now, therefore, We, the Selectboard of West Windsor Vermont, do hereby declare April 21 through April 28, 2025 as **INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK**.

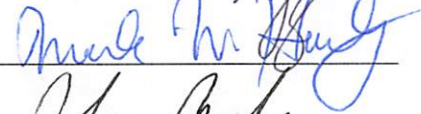
We ask each resident to join us not only in observing and pondering upon this important week but also in raising awareness and support for protecting our precious dark sky as a resource.

Adopted by the Selectboard of the Town of West Windsor, the State of Vermont, this 24th day of March, 2025.

Mark Higgins



Mark Harley



John Brodie

