

SIASCONSET CIVIC ASSOCIATION
POLICY STATEMENT: DARK SKY INITIATIVE

Adopted by the Board of Directors April 7, 2021

Artificial light at night has revolutionized the way we live and work outdoors, but it has come at a price. When used indiscriminately, artificial outdoor lighting can negatively affect our environment and impact our quality of life. Not only does it interfere with our ability to enjoy the stars at night, it can disrupt wildlife, be harmful to human health, waste money and energy, and contribute to climate change.

The Board of the Siasconset Civic Association strongly supports the efforts of the Maria Mitchell Foundation, the International Dark-Sky Association, and other organizations that promote solutions to protect our dark, star-filled sky through responsible outdoor lighting. Simply put, reducing light pollution leads to a better quality of life for all.

Because the Board deems combating light pollution to be consistent with protecting the welfare of its members and thus consistent with the purposes and mission of the Civic Association, the Board, pursuant to its authority under Article I, Sections 1 and 3, and Article V, Section 1, of the Civic Association's Bylaws, hereby:

- Endorses the *Five Principles of Responsible Outdoor Lighting* agreed upon by the International Dark-Sky Association and the Illuminating Engineering Society in 2020, namely that all light should have a clear purpose; light should be directed only to where needed; light should be no brighter than necessary; light should be used only when it is useful; and warmer color lights should be used where possible (see <https://www.darksky.org/our-work/lighting/lighting-principles>);
- Commits to educating the 'Sconset community about the *Five Principles*, advocating for adherence to them, and advocating for endorsement of them by the Nantucket Select Board;
- Commits to educating the 'Sconset community about the requirements of Nantucket's outdoor lighting ordinance and advocating for adherence to them as a way to reduce light pollution by individual homeowners and businesses; and
- Commits to advocating for the conversion of the streetlights in 'Sconset and on the rest of the island to LED lights that are consistent with the *Five Principles* as well as preserve the historical character of the island;
- Commits to advocating in favor of legislation, regulations, ordinances and/or other courses of action that would reduce light pollution in Siasconset as well as opposing any that would unreasonably increase light pollution there.