

Mississippi Mills municipal considerations for low-impact outdoor artificial lighting

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Subject: Mississippi Mills municipal considerations for low-impact outdoor artificial lighting

Dear Mississippi Mills Council:

On February 24, 2021, Mr. Robert Dick, P.Eng., FRASC, who is an expert astronomer, an expert on light pollution, and an expert on best practices for low-impact outdoor lighting, gave a short presentation to Lanark County Council on the problems of light pollution and how municipalities can help address - and hopefully not exacerbate - them. Robert (cc) and I are now following up to provide his presentation (see the attached PDF file) to all municipal council members in the eight municipalities represented in the County. We hope you may take a few minutes to read Robert's remarks, perhaps take further time by digging a little deeper into this issue, and make applicable municipal staff aware of this information.

As [the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada notes](#), "[t]he effects of lighting up the outdoors at night (light pollution) are felt both locally and globally and affect us physically, mentally and culturally. Irresponsible outdoor lighting disrupts the natural environment, wastes energy, degrades urban living and deprives us of our natural right to enjoy the night sky."

Further, [recent research](#) has revealed that "[h]uman illumination of the planet is growing in range and intensity by about 2% a year, creating a problem that can be compared to climate change....Hormone levels, breeding cycles, activity patterns and vulnerability to predators are being affected across a broad range of species." Click [here](#) for the original research paper, and see also [the information](#) from the International Dark-Sky Association on light pollution.

We are fortunate to live in rural and small town settings where dark skies are still readily available. Many residents here highly value such skies, and may have even chosen to live where they do in part to be able to enjoy "seeing the stars." Beyond such aesthetic interests, there are important ecological, human health, energy use, and municipal cost concerns associated with the choice of municipal outdoor lighting. Fortunately, there are a range of technological solutions to addressing excessive or otherwise improper outdoor lighting.

Robert Dick is truly the subject matter expert, and I wish to further refer him to you in case you have particular questions or would like more in-depth information. Contact information for Robert is provided at the end of his presentation remarks attached.

Thank you for your consideration of this information.

Sincerely,

Rob

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