

**I - Call to Order**

PC Members attending- Dennis Casey, Chair, Norm Cota, Hugh Johnson, Jeff Keeney, and Dan Nugent

Others present- Jan McCleery for CC, Dave Wetmore.

7:00 PM –Dennis called the PC meeting to order.

**Visitor Business and adjustments to agenda- no adjustments**

**II- Minutes**

Norm moved the 11/7/2016 draft minutes as presented, Jeff 2nds. Approved 4-yes, 0-no, Hugh abstained

**III- PC Business**

**Town Plan update planning-**

Jan McCleery- PC invited Jan as Conservation Commission Chairperson to discuss the CC’s involvement in the Town Plan update process. Jan noted that the CC is a 9 member board that currently has 3 vacancies. The CC is an advisory board whose mission statement focuses on natural resources and outdoor recreation. However, the CC is very committed to agricultural resources/economy and would like to offer assistance there as well. They provide educational outreach and land stewardship guidance. As an advisory group they have been struggling lately. If the CC was to relinquish the “outdoor recreation” piece they feel that the recreational committee should take on that piece. Most recently the CC has been involved w/ 4-Winds Nature Institute and evasive undesirable plant control.

Dennis- acknowledged that the CC contributed a great deal to the 2011 Town Plan (natural resources and outdoor recreation) and the PC would like their continued participation. Specifically the PC asks the CC to review the “community assessment” part of the plan and make recommendations.

Jan- suggested that the Plan could benefit from some layout changes, i.e. natural resources section should be together. Natural system resources would include earth, air, water, energy and biologic (plants, animals). She suggested some minor reorganization, i.e . water resources should be expanded. Jan also referred to Act 60 and the loss and fragmentation of forest resources, citing the importance of conductivity between forest blocks regardless of Town boundaries. PC affirmed that Starksboro has set aside large blocks of the lands, i.e. FC and ASRR districts. These areas are developmentally restricted and that the new Zoning further discourages development by standards that limit development on class 4 roads, steep slopes, etc.

PC- asked CC to look at the current plan and make suggestions where updates should be considered. The PC believes that a major rewrite of the Town Plan is not needed or justified. This conclusion was voiced many times during Zoning Bylaws discussions. They would like to limit formatting changes but agreed that Jan’s minor changes would be OK. Jan agreed to have the CC look at the “community assessment” section and offer suggestions. PC asked that initial comment/suggestions be brought to the PC in early January. The PC has asked numerous community groups/individuals to review and comment on their specific section of the Plan. The PC will then work with Brandy to assemble a survey that seeks to provide a good foundation for the PC’s efforts to update the Plan.

Jan- asked if the PC would consider survey question suggestions form CC. Yes, especially if the questions were specific. Jan expressed a desire to identify “vernal pools” as well as questions related to residents use of town trails and or lands. Jan left at 7:50.

Agricultural Business questionnaire-

PC reviewed the questionnaire Dave drafted. It was agreed to remove the Bylaw section and “local business” section. This was done to streamline the work being asked of the respondents and to not overwhelm them. The goal is to get enough responses to accurately determine the presence and importance of agricultural businesses within Starksboro. PC agreed to drop the question about livable wage. Dave will make the changes requested and get the questionnaire in the mail early next week.

PC asked Dave to resend the 2009 survey results to Board for their review and future survey preparation.

Jeff- noted that he had made suggestions to the “noise” section and sent to Dave. He also asked the Librarian to review the Library piece.

Norm- is continuing to assemble the data for the “population” section. Norm indicated that there have been some changes from 2011 Plan. State land is 2363 acres, there is 918 taxable properties and 37 non-taxable properties. 63.4% are properties owned by residents of Starksboro, 4.2% are corporations and the balance are owned by folks who are not residents of Starksboro (in and out of State)

Hugh- will review the “village water” section.

Dave- has requested assistance from;  
Historical Society, Town Clerk, Town Road Forman, Energy Coordinator and Conservation Commission.

Dave has yet to contact: Robinson School and Superintendents Office, ACCT

Dave shared that an announcement about the PC’s work to update the Town Plan was published in the December Gazette and Dave posted a notice on FPF as well.

**IV- Other**

Fee schedule- was approved by Selectboard effective 1/1/2017

Next meeting December 15, 2016

**VII- Adjournment**

Norm moved to adjourn at 9:00 PM, Hugh 2nds. Motion to adjourn 5- yes, 0-no.