

**I - Call to Order**

PC Members attending- Dennis Casey, Chair, Norm Cota, Dan Harris, Jeff Keeney, Kelly Norris, and Dan Nugent.

Others present- Brandy Saxton and Dave Wetmore

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

**II- Adjustments/Minutes**

6/15/2017 minutes review- moved to end of meeting. Kelly moved minutes as presented, 2nd by Dan N. PC asked about Hazard Plan and River Corridor and FH overlay. Approved 4-yes and 0-no, Dan H. and Norm abstained, Dennis signed.

**III- Visitors Business and Adjustments to agenda**

No Visitor business

**IV- PC Business**

**1. Brandy Saxton- Starksboro Planning Consultant**

Draft Plan discussion and review. Brandy lead the discussion.

Brandy presented the existing Town Plan in a new format/organization and outline. She has edited some of the sections. It is a work in progress. Brandy is suggesting the following changes.

1. The “Introduction will include the Town overview, vision statement and general goals. The general goals are presently located in front of Plan as opposed to (2011) Community Plan, goals, objectives and policies.
2. Brandy suggested that section 2 “About the Plan” can be summarized and shortened. “Compatibility and Consistency” was pulled forward and new language will be added. Brandy expressed that there is interest in making Plans more condensed and shorter to read. More specifically, the Plans identified objectives and strategies should apply across the Plans elements.
3. “About Starksboro”- Brandy suggested that the “history” section should be shortened and that more information about climate, air quality, and references about Town owned land goals and other resources available should be added, such Town forest plans. Dan H. and Dennis expressed that concern about significant changes to the Plans organization. This was supposed to be a minor update. Brandy expressed that the Town Plan used to be the depository of many aspects of the communities resources. The attempt should be to make the Plan readable and functional. Dave asked if she had included the work that the PC had gathered to date, related to community assessment, farm/forest business assessments and the Town wide survey. Brandy indicated that she has had some computer issues lately and may have lost some information. Once back up and running she will double check and get back w/Dave if she is missing anything. Typically, the Plan is the basis for the bylaws, however, it is used by Act 250, Section 248 reviews and in support of grants. The Plan should be document that is used to support a variety of needs.
4. Community profile needs updating and Brandy will work on this piece. This is where the “energy” section will be housed. Energy will include current usage, available renewable

resources, and existing developed energy resources. Jeff pointed out that the “energy working group” is working on the data piece. They are comparing and analyzing the information/data presented by ACRPC. Jeff asked Brandy to provide him with a to-do list for the energy group.

5. “Working Lands” section needs to be beefed up. Brandy w/ look at the agricultural economic development piece. Dave suggested the ag/forestry assessment and ACT 174 report might be useful. This is also a piece that Robert had an interest in the CC contributing to. Rural Character and renewable resources are linked.
6. Section 3.5- Stormwater section must be significantly beefed up. Should include work the Town is taking to comply with Act 64. Brandy also suggested that the energy working group may want to weigh in on siting of telecommunications towers and infrastructure.
7. 3.6- Need to include a better description of all Town boards and commissions that work for the Towns benefit.
8. 3.7- “Land Use and development”- This section will include maps or references to them. Brandy will work with ACRPC on this.
9. Section 4.0- “Community Plan” –

The 2011 Plan included 57 objectives and 131 policies. Brandy stressed that the PC needs to start going over these and;

- A. Review what has been successfully completed, and
- B. What is still important and prioritize them. Brandy stated that objectives/policies and strategies need to be consistently worded. Some appear to be “mandatory”, while some only seek to “encourage”. These need to be consistent. Brandy asked that the Board consider this when reviewing the G-O-P. The 2011 Plan sought to speak to all competing interests in Town. That’s great, but the Plan should be clear and speak beyond the competing interests to the Towns overall unified goals. Policies should strive to meet several goals, in an attempt to prevent conflict.
- C. The Plan will need more specific “Implementation Strategies”. This is an outcome of the Legislatures efforts to make 8 year Plans. These important strategies are next steps and will be clearly identified in the Plan.

Brandy- reiterated that the PC needs to focus on section 4. What purpose do the goals, objectives and policies serve? Are they more implementation strategies?

PC agreed to meet w/ Brandy next on August 17<sup>th</sup> and September 21. Possible forum/open house on October 5. Brandy will continue to work on the Community Assessment pieces and PC will work on Community Plan. Brandy will send energy questions to Dave for Jeff and the energy working group.

Brandy left at 8:45 PM.

PC discussed the work needed to review the Community Plan. August 3<sup>rd</sup> the PC will review and seek to eliminate what goal, objectives and policies doesn’t need to be included. PC will read this section prior to meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Class 4 Road Discussion-** changes to trail status- Mason Hill Road and Brown Hill East.

After discussion last meeting on the proposed changes to road status the PC offered the following motion. **Dan H. moved to not support the proposed change to “trail status” on portions Mason Hill and Brown Hill East for the following reasons; Jeff 2nds. Motion carries 6-yes and 0-no.**

1. The change does not benefit all recreational users equally.
2. The trail status would allow right-of-ways to be gated, limiting access to residents.
3. The benefits to individual owners should not outweigh the greater good.

Discussion- PC understands that the right-of-way would still exist but they are concerned that loss of the recreational snowmobile connection between Starksboro and Huntington which could lead to more problems. Also discussed was the inconsistency of Town maintenance between class 4 roads. On this point the PC felt that there is a difference between level of maintenance that may be required on a road where established homes exist, i.e. Rounds Road. PC discussed that the Selectboard should use the PC more to examine Town issues.

**Brookside discussions 6/20 and again 7/25.** Dave shared that Peter Marsh and Dave attended the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting for Brookside Mobile Home Park hosted and facilitated by CVOEO. Dennis Casey and Jan McCleary attend later. Dave though about 20 people had attended and expressed that there are serious issues between ACCT and Brookside residents. Next meeting will be 7/25.

**Hazard Mitigation Plan-** PC asked Dave to investigate the Plans progress.

**Energy working group-** Meeting next on 7/26/2017

**Land sale to Kerry Kurt-** Jeff and Dennis have been attending Selectboard meetings, most recently today. Selectboard seemed to agree that the Pits reclamation plan is not complete. SB discussed hiring Steve Revell.

**V- Other**

**Mail/Correspondence-**

- Draft Monkton Unified Bylaw
- Sam Carlson e-mail
- Brookside Newsletter

**VI- Adjournment**

Dan H. moved to adjourn at 9:35 PM, Norm 2nds. Motion to adjourn approved, 6- yes, 0-no.