

Planning Commission

November 17, 2022

Approved

Board members present: Dennis Casey, Dan Nugent, David Schmidt, Jeff Keeney, Brad Boss, Lexy Thompson

Unable to attend: Denny Barnard

Others present: Rebecca Elder

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dennis Casey at 6:35 p.m. in person and on Zoom.

No changes to the agenda.

Bylaws Discussion

Rebecca prepared a revised draft of the noise regulation section based on the meeting discussion from 10/17 meeting. After further discussion, the group decided to remove the exception language considered previously and to simplify the entire section to reduce ambiguity.

The group discussed returning to the Use Table (Chap. 210) and reviewing all the uses per district. Consideration is needed for a variety of low-impact uses that are currently not allowed in the FC district. The board agreed that most uses should at least be allowed via a conditional use review. Continue discussion at the next meeting.

Recreational uses were then discussed in detail. While housing and development are important, so are a variety of recreational possibilities that make Starksboro an attractive place for outdoor recreation in all seasons and of a wide variety. The group had a wide ranging conversation about ideas that could be explored for low-impact uses of town forest land (similar to Hinesburg and other towns with an actively used town forest). There are land owners in various parts of Starksboro with land in the FC district who had business ideas related to recreation, but those types of uses are not currently allowed. The board will continue exploring ways to open up possibilities that are consistent with the town plan and goals while also stimulating the local community and attracting new people to move to Starksboro.

David Schmidt has a contact with a trails group near Rutland. He will reach out for some information and to invite someone to a future meeting to discuss ideas.

Next meeting:

Review Use Table

Continue review of use standards related to noise, smoke, etc.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Elder