

Town of Starksboro
Planning Commission meeting
Minutes of April 7, 2022
Draft

Board members present: Dennis Casey, Brad Boss, Dan Nugent, Jeff Keeney, Denny Barnard, David Schmidt, Dan Harris

Unable to attend:

Others present: Kris Perlee (ZA)

The meeting was called to order to 7:15 p.m. by Chair Dennis Casey. The meeting was in person at the Town Office and via Zoom

Visitor's Business –

Current Business

Approve March 3, 2022 Minutes

Motion to approve with corrections by J. Keeney, 2nd D. Barnard. So voted (7-0)

PC Roundtable

Discussion around Zoom. PC decided that they will be meeting in person and would use Zoom as needed or requested.

D. Barnard asked about the status of the VAST request to run on Ireland Rd. B. Boss stated that a further review was being done by a state agency and he thinks its Fish & Wildlife. D. Schmidt said that the Selectboard should be setting a date for a meeting to make a decision.

Discussion of MAUSD Merger Plans

D. Casey discussed the Save Our Schools Committee (SOS). SOS met with the Selectboard to discuss the petition to leave the District. They have over 200 signatures and was turned in on to the Town Office on March 31st. SOS asked the Selectboard to set a date ASAP due to very tight deadlines. Discussion about the state house passing a bill that would make it almost impossible for a school to leave a district. Starksboro, even though they have begun the process, will not be exempt from the law because their process to leave would have to be ratified before the law is signed by the governor. B. Boss asked if Starksboro knew what the population changes have been over past few years. General discussion occurred. D. Casey provided the board with the documents that SOS sent to the Selectboard. He then discussed the Merger Study Committee (MSC) meeting. MSC does not want towns to be able to vote on school discussions. Only 4 members voted to allow town a voice. The merger vote will probably occur in November. The PC feels the state senate needs to amend or stop the current bill or the Governor needs to veto for Starksboro to be able to easily leave the district.

Zoning Updates

A discussion occurred around mobile home parks in Starksboro. ACCT needs to install a new septic system in Brookside. They would like the town to apply for a grant to help with this project. D. Casey discussed having the park redesigned during the upgrade. The engineer from Otter Creek Engineering told him state law prohibits them from doing this. K. Perlee mentioned that now might be the time for the Town to work with ACCT on improvements. The Town could place improvement requirements on the project in exchange for the grant. D. Harris discussed a better layout and how some parks stagger homes for a better feel. K. Perlee will try to get information from his brother who managed water systems for multiple parks around the state. He will try to get contact info on some parks that have upgraded.

Next meeting: **April 20, 2022**

Motion to adjourn at 8:50 p.m.: B. Boss moved, J. Keeney second. (So voted 7-0)