

Town of Starksboro
Planning Commission meeting
Minutes of March 4, 2021
Unapproved

Board members present: Dennis Casey, Denny Barnard, Dan Nugent, Brad Boss
Unable to attend: Dan Harris, Rodney Orvis
Others present: Kris Perlee (ZA)

The meeting was called to order to 7:08 p.m. by Chair Dennis Casey. The meeting was conducted via ZOOM video/teleconference.

The introductory statement regarding open meeting law and how public meetings are being conducted in the Town of Starksboro due to the State of Emergency declared by Governor Scott as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and pursuant to Addendum 6 to Executive Order 01-20 and Act 92, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

In accordance with Act 92, there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously, however the meeting was conducted with public access via internet or telephone with the ability to listen/interact contemporaneously.

Visitor's Business – none

Current Business

RiseVT Discussion:

Dennis Casey reviewed e-mail sent to PC. E-mail asked what type of business that might be successful in Starksboro. Adam from ACRPC added Fred Kenney from Addison County Economic Development to email chain. Adam suggested dividing the town into Village and Rural planning areas. Preservation Trust has a list of business that might thrive in Village. States Bristol has a large list business and definitions. Kris will e-mail out list. Adam suggested compiling a list of Starksboro's resources. Jeff stated that info is already available on the Natural Resource Atlas. Discussion of creating handbook for prospective developers Shortage of open space is a challenge. Kris discussed current uses along 116 and the need to look at expanding north and south. Dennis discussed finding actual businesses that might survive. Kris discussed focusing in on commercial/industrial first and that growth would help support small retail. Discussion about previous attempts open businesses and the opposition that was present at the time. The PC feels that the attitudes are changing. Discussion about what types of agriculture business might survive on the Rublee properties. Brad and Dan discussed some of the success and hurdles of ag related business. Kris discussed the state of Vermont's focus on on-farm business. Dan discussed the C grant program. Dennis will reach out to ACRPC and see what the next steps might be. Brad feels that the PC needs to work to help the community understand that the town needs to grow or die.

Motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.: Dan Nugent moved, Brad Boss second.

Motion was approved unanimously.

Next meeting: 3/18/2020 at 7 p.m. TENTATIVE; TBC