

Starksboro Planning Commission

Minutes of January 13, 2021

Approved

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

Others present: Kris Perlee

Dennis Casey called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

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.

Current Business

Letter to School Board and Superintendent Reen:

Kris generated a letter to address the possible closure or repurposing of Robinson Elementary. Denny C sent a draft to the members for comments.

Denny B offered a few grammatical errors or changes to the document.

Kris discussed his focus on planning and the impacts on future growth.

Jeff discussed minor typos.

Dan felt that we should include links to studies referenced in letter.

Brad asked if we should include information about new families moving to rural towns. Kris said he would try to find this info. Brad also discussed that the children would be greatly impacted when it comes to extracurricular activities. When parents have to work, the extra drive time may prevent children from participating.

Dan N. discussed that the new presidential administration would change current school funding.

Kris suggested the SB should wait at least 1 year before making any changes. The board feels 24 months would be better. Kris was also concerned that Starksboro should be the first to change its school. Let other towns in the state test this. The board agrees.

Kris will create a new letter and send out to the PC. The PC will send comments/changes to Kris by the weekend. Kris will then send letter to SB by Tuesday.

Dan H asked about how other towns in the area are reacting. Kris explained that the other towns have many concerns as well.

Minutes

Motion to adjourn: Brad Boss made the motion to adjourn at 8:41 p.m. Jeff Keeney second.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Perlee