

Starksboro Planning Commission
Minutes of October 1, 2020
Approved

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

Unable to attend: Dan Harris

Others present: Rebecca Elder

Dennis Casey called the meeting to order at 7:05 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

Zoning Administrator vacancy:

Rebecca Elder submitted her resignation as ZA effective 9/30/20. The PC discussed the position, how to manage zoning office coverage until a new ZA is hired, and what the hours/expectations would be in the interim and long term. Rebecca recommended the board consider a split position with a ZA for 12-15 hours/week and an administrative assistant/Assistant ZA for 10-12 hours/week. The group talked about the benefits/downsides to this model and decided to recommend the SB hire a ZA for 24 hours per week, including support for the PC and DRB.

The group reviewed statutory requirements about appointments. The PC makes a recommendation and the Selectboard hires and appoints the position. The recommendation will be given to the selectboard at its meeting on Tuesday, 10/6. Jeff Keeney stated he is willing to serve as Acting ZA until a replacement is hired permanently. The SB can make an appointment to this effect as needed.

The board expressed appreciation for Rebecca's service as the ZA since January 2018.

Minutes

Motion: Dan Nugent moved to approve the minutes of 7/16/20. Denny Barnard second.

Motion approved unanimously.

Motion: Jeff Keeney moved to approve the minutes of 8/6/20. Dan Nugent second.

Discussion: Correction of date from 8/9 to 8/6

Motion approved unanimously.

Election of officers

Motions:

Dan Nugent moved to nominate Dennis Casey to the position of chair of the PC. Denny Barnard second.

Dennis Casey moved to nominate Jeff Keeney to the position of vice chair. Rodney Orvis second.

Jeff Keeney moved to nominate Denny Barnard as clerk/secretary. Rodney Orvis second.

Motions approved unanimously.

Discussion about alternate sports field location: The PC discussed next steps in evaluating how the town-owned land behind Robinson School might be improved for an alternate sports area with fields. The group will meet at the site for the next regularly scheduled meeting to look at the land and topography.

Jeff has provided the group with a topo map

Energy Committee: The EC members continue evaluating town power usage and will be making a recommendation to the SB about future energy production needs. They also plan to explore the process for seeking “substantial deference” for the energy plan that is incorporated into the current Town Plan. The EC is reviewing the bylaws for consistency with the energy goals in the Town Plan.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Elder