

Starksboro Planning Commission

Minutes of August 9, 2020

Approved

Board members present: Dennis Casey, Jeff Keeney, Brad Boss, Dan Nugent

Others present: Rebecca Elder, ZA

Dennis Casey called the meeting to order at 7:00 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

D. Casey and Rebecca Elder provided an update on the VHCP Community Grant application discussion from the Selectboard. The SB voted to proceed with the application on behalf of Addison Country Community Trust for assessment of infrastructure and wastewater system improvements.

The group discussed a range of issues related to zoning and the MHPs. There continue to be resident issues with ACCT. The ACCT property manager Chris Oulette continues to make weekly visits to the parks to ensure things are running smoothly and that ongoing presence is helping to bring awareness about zoning compliance issues. Rebecca and Chris have regular contact and check in when a permit or proposal is brought to either the town or ACCT so that discussion are consistent about permitting expectations.

Delinquent tax issues: Due to the continuing delinquent taxes on multiple lots in the 3 mobile home parks and the lack of assistance from ACCT in collecting these funds for the Town, the Planning Commission will approach the local legislators for help in finding solutions. The PC plans to invite Rep. Mari Cordes, Rep. Caleb Elder, and Senators Ruth Hardy and Chris Bray to a future discussion on this topic.

Discussion about alternate sports field location: The Cota field location has continued to be a challenge for the sports program due to the ongoing flooding and wet fields. The conservation organizations involved with the property, the Lewis Creek Association and the Vermont Land Trust, are not interested in restoring the bridge at the ballfield. Louis duPont and Robert Turner made a plan for repairs but those were declined. Armouring the bank would be needed and that is not consistent with the LCA goals for the Lewis Creek riparian buffer area.

The PC continues discussing how the town-owned land behind Robinson School might be improved for an alternate sports area with fields. Are there any grants available for designing that piece of property for sports use? Research is needed for possibilities.

Minutes – Postpone review until more board members are present.

Election of officers – Postpone until more board members are present.

Motion to adjourn: Jeff Keeney made the motion to adjourn at 9:06 p.m. Brad Boss 2nd.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Elder, ZA