

Town of Starksboro
Planning Commission
Minutes (DRAFT)
March 6, 2025

Members Present: Dennis Casey, Dan Kuzio, Dan Nugent, David Schmidt, Luke McCarthy

Others Present: Robert Turner

Visitors: None

Meeting called to order by Chair Dennis Casey at 6:30pm

Visitors Business:

No Visitors

PC Current Business:

1. Approve outstanding minutes
 - a. Minutes of 2/20 meeting reviewed

Motion: D. Schmidt moves to accept the minutes as written. D. Kuzio seconds.

Vote: All in favor

2. Additional comments by R. Turner on ROD
 - a. R. Turner contacted the Department of Forest Parks and Recreation and spoke with the state Recreational Program Manager about the proposed district. He provided maps, the town plan, the proposed rules, etc. The RPM volunteered to attend an upcoming PC meeting. D. Schmidt to reach out and formally invite them to a PC meeting – tentatively the 4/3 meeting.
 - b. D. Kuzio spoke about the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative and how it related to the Recreational Program Manager position at DFPR.
 - c. R. Turner asked about the Energy Plan and if it expires when the Town Plan does. The Energy Committee may want to apply for a grant to assist with rewriting the plan. This would be a regional grant shared with multiple towns.
 - d. R. Turner expressed concern that the Town Plan does not comply with Act 171. (Forest Blocks and Habitat Connectors.)
 - e. D. Kuzio spoke about the Bristol Trail Network and suggested inviting the coordinator to a PC meeting. D. Kuzio to reach out and coordinate.

3. Continue to review and discuss feedback from the Public Hearing
 - a. Talked about adding extra language at the top of the ROD section to better outline the PC vision for the district. D. Kuzio to work up some additional language.
 - b. D. Nugent passed out a worksheet on noise, its impacts and calculations
 - c. Discussion on the traffic standard and its intent. Hard to document “base levels” of traffic and even harder to enforce. General discussion of the history of the current regulation. Discussion about how traffic is reviewed with the DRB design review criteria. PC to ask DFR representative how they deal with traffic and parking issues with recreation.
 - d. Discussion of use tables and landing areas. It was again discussed that state and federal entities have specific review requirements for applicants looking to build landing areas, and that process is tantamount to a

conditional use. It was noted that perhaps some of the trepidation of automatically allowing landing strips in the use charts is that there is a general unawareness of the process. A suggestion was made to add a note in the use tables directing the reader to a separate section for landing strips which will outline the overall approval process. D. Schmidt to work on language.

e. D. Kuzio has compiled all written public comments received by the PC to date for publishing on the Town Website.

f. R. Turner had a question about the classes of roads in the use tables. Specifically, why does primitive camping need to be on a class 3 road? This was likely an oversight.

3. PC Roundtable

- a. Tabled for next meeting

Motion: D. Nugent moved to adjourn the meeting. D. Kuzio seconded.

Vote: All in Favor

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

Minutes submitted by L. McCarthy.