

I - Call to Order

PC Members attending- Dennis Casey, Chair, Hugh Johnson, Jeff Keeney, Kelly Norris and Dan Nugent.

Others present- Dave Wetmore

7:00 PM –Dennis called the PC meeting to order. Dave took minutes.

II- Adjustments/Minutes

8/17/2017 minute’s review- Quorum not present. Minutes postponed to next meeting.

III- Visitors Business and Adjustments to agenda

No Visitor business

IV- PC Business

Update on Class 4 road reclassification changes-

Selectboard held meeting on August 22, 2017 regarding reclassification of portions of Brown Hill Road, Perry Sweet Road and Mason Hill. Dennis, Jeff and Dan N. attended.

Dan N.- expressed that he felt attendees were supportive of snow travelers and keeping the trails open to them. Selectboard also expressed support for the snowmobile trails remaining open to winter travel.

Dennis- noted that first impressions of the proposed reclassification would be limited to foot traffic only. Dennis agreed with Dan that SB seemed to support keeping the snowmobile trail open. Dennis also shared that one SB member had expressed concern that the PC and SB did not agree on these changes.

Jeff- noted that the SB had received a copy of the Planning Commission meeting minutes indicating that the PC did not support these changes. Jeff also noted that it is his experience that PC and SB often conflict over issues. The important thing is that the PC have the chance to weigh in on issues that impact the community as they relate to planning. Jeff expressed that he feels these roads should remain class 4.

Dave- shared that the SB briefly discussed the road reclassification at 9/5 meeting. The SB has scheduled a walkthrough of the roads on 9/12. Dave responded to Jeff’s comment that these roads should remain class 4. Specifically, that these roads do receive minimal maintenance and that they should be treated equally, which they are not. Maintenance priority seems to be focused on class 4 roads where residential uses are established. Dave noted that he understood from the SB discussion that a public hearing would be held before the reclassification is adopted.

Dan N.- suggested that Fish and Wildlife (in re: Fish and Game Land) should be consulted before change is adopted. Dennis commented that this change should not affect their access.

Bylaw Enforcement- Dave shared that he and Jim Carroll met in executive session with the Selectboard regarding legal costs associated with proposed enforcement.

Energy working group-

Jeff indicated that the Group is still waiting for information from ACRPC and Brandy. Without this information it is difficult to do their work. Jeff forwarded to the Board information put together by John Miller. Dave noted this information is included with the Board’s agenda information. John’s notes suggest that achieving energy independence (heating, electricity and transportation) would require 400-600 (88 Mw) acres of solar. Wind power sites are very limited and VT may not be able to afford hydro power from Quebec. Reaching the 90% by 2050 goal will require a huge cultural shift away from fossil fuels. Jeff noted that we don’t have the infrastructure to support this level of energy generation and likely won’t have.

Summary- The energy plan to be developed and included in Town Plan may not seek “substantial deference” but will work to outline a plan to work toward some level of energy independence as required by Act 174. Dave expressed that Chris Bray has a bill to make Vermont’s 90% by 2050 goal Law which could change planning efforts significantly. Overall conservation must be part of the energy plan. As John Miller’s notes conclude, doable or not, “people lived in Vermont for generations with zero electricity and fuel consumption”.

Continued review of Community Plan section of Town Plan from 8/3/2017

Natural Resources- continued starting with policy #74

Policies #74 and #75- keep

P #76- remove

P #77- keep

P #78- remove and include in “community profile” section.

P #79- Edit- “Support efforts to better map and understand Starksboro’s groundwater supplies. Opportunities for grants should be explored that would help to enable the completion of groundwater mapping for Starksboro to help in planning efforts concerning this invaluable resource, including the identification of potential future public water supplies”.

P #80 and 81- remove

P #82- Edit- “Encourage FEMA to update Flood Insurance Rate Maps upon which to base regulations intended to limit property damage and loss of life from natural hazards”

P #83 and #84- remove

P #85- Edit- “Support removal of invasive species when and where possible”.

P #86 and 87- keep

P #88- Edit- “Review water quality reports prepared by the Lewis Creek Association and the Addison County Riverwatch Collaborative, and consider recommendations for methods to improve water quality in our town for swimmers, anglers and wildlife”.

P #89- Edit- “Starksboro’s Land Use Regulations should establish no-build setbacks and discourage removal of native vegetation along riverbanks, which can lead to bank destabilization and accelerated erosion. Naturally vegetated buffers are important to filter sediment and nutrients from stormwater runoff and attenuate flood flows”.

P #90- Edit- “Starksboro’s Land Use Regulations should support a variety of stormwater management practices such as vegetative and landscaping controls and other low impact development (LID) techniques. Development on steep slopes should be discouraged to minimize risks to surface and ground waters and protect neighboring properties from damage”.

PC to begin next meeting on Land Use and Development

V- Other

Mail/Correspondence-

Notice regarding Verizon cell tower modification at Zeno's- notice dated 8/28/2017. All modifications are internal and do not require Town approval.

VI- Adjournment

Jeff moved to adjourn at 9:00 PM, Hugh 2nds. Motion to adjourn approved, 5- yes, 0-no.