

I - Call to Order

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

Others attending- Claire Tebbs, Dave Wetmore.

7:10 PM –Dennis called the PC meeting to order.

II- Minutes

Review of 4/21/2016 minutes- Jeff moved to approve as corrected, Dan 2nds- approved 5-yes, 0-no, Norm abstained

III- PC Business

Visitor Business and adjustments to agenda- No adjustments

Dennis welcomed Claire to the meeting, Board members were introduced. Claire Tebbs is a Staff Planner at Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC)-

Claire- explained that the purpose of her visit was to check in with PC and share what resources and assistance the ACRPC can offer. Specifically she observed that the Town Plan will expire in October and needs to be updated. Claire asked about the update process the PC is planning. Does the Plan include a section on flood resiliency and solar siting guidelines?

PC- expressed that the 2011 Plan was a comprehensive rewrite and the PC hopes that minimal work will be needed to update. They had discussed renewable energy siting and screening and statistics update. Brandy Saxton had assisted the PC with the 2011 update and recent Bylaw amendments and they hope she will continue to guide their work.

Claire- stated that Starksboro is in good hands with Brandy. Claire spent some time discussing S230 and S260 related to renewable energy. She also noted that flood resiliency is an important piece that needs to be included. PC asked Claire to share some examples of renewable energy and flood resiliency from other towns.

Norm- asked if language could be the same for all towns. Claire suggested that each town is different, i.e. land features and topography and other resources that would make blanket guidelines difficult.

Flood Resiliency Plan (FRP) incorporates the river corridor map. PC expressed that we have these maps but have not used them. The purpose of the FRP is to think about where rivers run and building a plan that seeks to limit the damage from floods and other high water events. Claire will send FR information for PC education. The FRP would be specific to Starksboro. Tim Bouton is the emergency management planner. Claire will check with him.

PC- discussed issues that are important to Starksboro residents. They include, agricultural land conservation, roads and infrastructure, quality of life. Claire asked if the Town Plan reflects the Towns priorities. PC suggested that it does but Board has discussed that the work outlined in the Plan is quite extensive and it is unreasonable in the short term to accomplish many of the objectives.

Claire- What can ACRPC do to assist the Town?

PC- identified meaningful outreach and public participation. Discussed success of past surveys and public forums. Resident participation is relatively low. Claire suggested that open ended open houses where folks don't have to commit 2 or 3 hours seem to work well. These are very interactive and don't require sit down presentations, people are free to come and go. They often include self-guided discussion points. Getting good participation from the community can be a lot of work. Survey results of 5% is acceptable, 30-50% is very high.

Dave-expressed that there is a need for website support. ACRPC does not provide any website support. She will look into this a little.

ACCT- Mobile Home Parks- PC shared that they have worked hard in the past to reach out to ACCT. Cooperation was sparse. There is over 150 residential units in Starksboro and PC has recognized that park resident student population often have needs that should be addressed. Quality of life, including housing and security are important. Claire shared that PC should reach out to the new director, Elsie Chadbecker(?). Claire expressed that Elsie has been very cooperative and that ACCT seems to have a better focus.

Walkable community- Dave expressed that pedestrian and bike safety in the Village area is a concern. PC discussed the history of a past grant to improve pedestrian safety. Claire mentioned the regional walk/bike councils and their mission. She also expressed the amount of class 4 roads in town are a recreational opportunity that may want to be explored.

Dennis thanked Claire for her attendance and looks forward to reviewing further information that was discussed. She should forward the information to Dave and he will distribute. Claire left at 8:20 PM

June 25th hearing- This is the Selectboard's final hearing on the proposed Bylaws. Dan, Norm and Hugh will not be able to attend.

PC- observed that there has not been much discussion on FPF. Most of the discussion at the May 10th hearing and post hearing focused on lighting, PUD bonus for elderly and affordable housing and change to the ASRR district up south. Written comment has been received from Jim Runcie, Jan McCleery and John Clarke. PC observed that Marjorie Dickstein's comments on lighting seemed to put the lighting discussion into perspective.

IV- Other

Agenda for 721/2016 meeting-

- Review Claire's information she sends out related to renewable energy and flood resiliency
- Draft ACCT discussion points
- VLCT bill summary
- PC members should have read the Town Plan.

VII- Adjournment

Dan moved to adjourn at 9:00 PM, Kelly 2nds. Motion to adjourn 6- yes, 0-no.