

Town of Starksboro
Planning Commission meeting
July 12, 2018
Approved

Board members present: Dennis Casey (chair), Jeff Keeney, Denny Barnard, Dan Nugent, Hugh Johnson

Unable to attend: Norm Cota, Dan Harris

Others present: Rebecca Elder (ZA)

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Chair Dennis Casey.

- The next meeting date was changed from 7/19 to 7/18 in order to ensure a quorum.

No additions to the agenda.

Minutes of 6/7/18

Motion: Jeff Keeney made a motion to approve the minutes of 6/7/18. Dan Nugent seconded.

Vote: All in favor

Minutes of Public Meeting of 6/12/18

Motion: Jeff Keeney made a motion to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing of 6/12/18. Dan Nugent seconded.

Vote: All in favor

Denny Casey thanked everyone for their participation and preparation for the Public Hearing. He thought the meeting went well. He noted we should make use of the PA system for future hearings to ensure everyone present can hear the questions and answers.

The board then reviewed the public hearing minutes point by point.

- Substantial deference – Denny B. asked for clarification about substantial deference. If granted, substantial deference would give the Town better standing with the Public Utility Board on renewable energy projects decisions. If the PUB accepts your plan, then they look at your Town Plan and make a decision based on that. Jeff noted that this designation hasn't happened yet. For example, New Haven went through the process and PUB declined them. One of the southern towns may have had success.
- Growth stimulation comment – There is an economic development section in the plan but actual stimulation of growth and reduction of unemployment isn't something the Plan dictates or can have a direct impact on. That work is more suited to a Chamber of Commerce. The Plan is visionary but not regulatory.
- Recreation and trails comment – There are some trails in town but not a network of trails that needs maintenance. The Conservation Commission doesn't have a role in maintaining trails. The trail loop by Cota field is a good asset for the town and a model for future trails ideas.
- The grid in South Starksboro has 3-phase power (Callery's sugarhouse – power line comes from Lincoln).
- Question about wind potential: The potential still exists even if we are not going to act on wind.
- p. 50 – to address concern about road status and changing of roads – insert "downgraded" in sentence in Policy 45.

Review of Energy Plan suggested edits from the Energy Committee:

The board reviewed the suggested edits and comments from the Energy Committee on the Energy plan and maps. Some changes will be made and errors and omissions will be corrected.

1. Accept changes to committee description and mission
2. p. 5 accept changes re: sugaring in first paragraph
3. Table 1 and Table 8 – solar information needs to be sorted out. Which is correct?
4. Stretch energy code discussion – the town can encourage but not adopt as this would require a town building inspector.
5. Jeff to speak with Jeff Dunham about gathering the final map changes and VEC data.
6. Dan N. to speak with ACRPC about potential energy generation data. (Table 9)

Next steps:

Rebecca will prepare the draft for final review and approval.

1. Only present the PC with the pages containing changes from the main Town Plan text.
2. Whole energy plan with edits and including data from VEC and updated maps from ACRPC

➤ Rebecca will invite Al K. to the 8/16 meeting.

Motion to adjourn: Hugh Johnson made a motion to adjourn. Dan Nugent seconded.

Vote: All in favor

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Elder
Zoning Administrator