

Starksboro Conservation Committee

2.24.2025 meeting, draft minutes

Prepared by Jan McCleery

Members present: Margi Gregory (chair), Jan McCleery, Robert Turner, Jennifer Lovett

Guest: Louis Dupont

Meeting called to order at 5:30 by Margi

Visitors' comments: no visitors offered comments

Minutes: Upon review of the minutes of 11.25.2024 Jennifer noted that the names of members present was not included. Error corrected. Vote: amended minutes approved.

Updates on Zoning Revisions At the public hearing, people on Zoom reported difficulty in hearing what was being said. Those attending had the same difficulty. The PC plans to post comments they received and their responses. Substantial changes to the proposed bylaw amendments will trigger another hearing by the PC. The selectboard is also obliged to hold a public hearing, the date to be determined, before they vote on the bylaw changes. Margi and Robert submitted written comments at the PC meeting 2/20. The PC indicated it was open to hearing from outdoor recreation experts. The timeline for adoption of the bylaw amendments seemed a little less definite.

Town Plan, act 171, Act 181 Starksboro's town plan will expire in 2026. Municipal Planning Grants are available to communities through ACRPC with a deadline for applications of March 31. Starksboro has applied and paid for the services of a consultant for technical support in the past but the PC has not applied yet this cycle.

The Town Plan must meet the requirements of Act 171 (forest area considerations) and Act 181 (housing and development considerations)—though no one was certain what level of effort that would entail.

Supporting the Planning Commission

Motion by Robert, 2nd Jennifer. We, the SCC, agree to support the PC if they choose to apply for a Municipal Planning Grant. If they do not apply the SCC will consider applying for a Municipal Planning Grant specifically to support the work required for Act 171 and possibly Act 181, and to promote citizen engagement in the planning process through public information meetings,

Vote: unanimous

Planning for 2025 initiatives and discussion of rodenticide usage moved to March 24 meeting

Meeting adjourned at 7:30.