Starks Planning Board Meeting April 6, 2022

Present: Gwen Hilton, Ken Lust, Eric Hoar, Joe Hartigan, Tiffany Bellefleur

Guests: Debbie and Joe Mazzoli, Joe Hayden, Dave Taylor, Derek Zemel, Kerren Raia, Derreck, William and Sheila Plant

Adequate public notice was given of the meeting, a quorum was present, and no conflicts of interest or bias were reported.

Old Business:

The minutes of the March 2, 2022, meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

New Business:

Elections: Motion made and carried to elect Gwen as chair, Ken as vice chair, and Claire as secretary.

Solar Moratorium: The Board decided to move forward with making amendments to the Site Plan Review Ordinance in response to the moratorium. This could consist of a separate section on solar installations. Issues that were discussed included: site suitability based on agricultural lands, important natural resources, aesthetics, and size. Consideration of the Comprehensive Plan, including the maps and recommendations, should be recognized.

Building Ordinance Amendments: Discussion focused on the reasons this did not pass. The overall conclusion was that voters did not understand what they were voting on. The Board decided to have another vote with better publicity, an easier format, table and/or Q&A to explain the differences between the existing and the proposed ordinance and voting for the amendments from the floor of a town meeting.

NECEC (CMP Corridor) Request for Permit Extension: Ken indicated that their permit will expire in July, and he expects to hear how the company would like to proceed soon.

Enforcement Issues: Gwen updated the Board on the Town's progress on enforcement.

Next Meeting: May 4th meeting – begin work on solar amendments, address any permit applications.

Motion to adjourn; 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Gwen Hilton, Acting Secretary