

## THEMATIC TOPICS (reflect elements in the Starksboro Town Plan , 2003)

- ❖ Natural Resources, Ecosystems and Hazards. This group of topics includes all aspects of the natural environment. Discussion prompts... How do we affect the natural systems around us and how do they affect us? What are the hazards facing Starksboro's natural resources and ecosystems we need to prepare for and what actions can be taken to reduce the hazards?
- ❖ Population, Housing and Sense of Community. This group of topics includes demographics, economic development, housing, neighborhoods and civic engagement. Discussion prompts... What are the issues related to growth in Starksboro? Are our young adults leaving home? Do actions need to be taken to get more people to participate in community affairs and to feel like they belong in this town?
- ❖ Working Lands, Open Spaces, Community Character. Topics includes landscape, heritage, culture and all aspects of forestry, fields, farms, agriculture, hedgerows, headwaters, water resources, vistas, hamlets etc. Discussion prompts... What are the issues and challenges facing Starksboro's landscape, historic resources and character? What do you want to see done to resolve or overcome these challenges?
- ❖ Infrastructure, Facilities, Services and Amenities. This is a very diverse group of topics that includes recreation, roads, transportation, healthcare, town government, pipe and power lines and more. Discussion prompts... What will be needed to make the town a safe, healthy, pleasant place to live in the future? What challenges does a rural town like Starksboro face in providing necessary infrastructure and services for the future in a manner that today's taxpayers can afford?
- ❖ Energy, Sustainability & Regional Connections. This set of topics looks at the forces influencing Starksboro from the outside. Discussion prompts... How should the town respond to issues on a regional, national, and even global scale? Do you think actions should be taken to make sure that future generations can live as well as or even better in Starksboro than we do today?