



The GAZETTE

The official newsletter produced by the Town of Starksboro

SEPTEMBER 2016

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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ZONING VOTE & INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Tues, September 27, 2016

Australian Ballot voting on the recent Zoning By-laws approved by the Selectboard on June 25, 2016 will take place at the Robinson Elementary School on Tuesday, September 27, 2016. The vote will be on whether or not to adopt the zoning and subdivision bylaws approved by the Selectboard. Polls will be open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. Ballots will be available by September 7th for those who would like to vote early.

If you are not yet on the voter checklist, you may apply no later than September 21, 2016 in time for the Zoning vote on September 27th.

Informational meeting in reference to these Zoning By-Laws will be held on September 20, 2016 at Robinson School from 7pm-9pm.

Official Ballot
Town of Starksboro Special Town Meeting
Town of Starksboro, Vermont
September 27, 2016
Polls open 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

INSTRUCTION TO VOTERS
A. TO VOTE, completely fill in the SQUARE directly below your choice:
B. If you wrongly mark, tear or deface this ballot, return it to the ballot clerk and obtain another.

Article I:

"Shall the voters adopt the zoning and subdivision bylaws approved by the Town of Starksboro Selectboard on June 25, 2016?"

SAMPLE ONLY

YES

NO

Vote YES if you support this article

Vote No if you do not support Article

**Warning
Town of Starksboro Special Town Meeting
Tuesday September 27, 2016**

The legal voters of the Town of Starksboro are hereby warned and notified to meet at Robinson Elementary School, multiple purpose room in Starksboro at 7:00 AM on September 27, 2016 to transact the following business by Australian ballot. The following article has been received by petition:

Article I:

"Shall the voters adopt the zoning and subdivision bylaws approved by the Town of Starksboro Selectboard on June 25, 2016"?

Polls open 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Legal voters are further warned and notified that voter qualification, registration and absentee voting relative to said Town meeting is provided pursuant to 17 V.S.A. §2642(b).

Legal voter information:

Voter qualifications- A legal voter is one who has registered to vote in Starksboro on or before September 21, 2016 at 5:00 PM and may vote (cast a ballot) in this warned special meeting.

Voter registration- Residents of the Town of Starksboro whom wish to vote in this warned special meeting must have registered to vote on or before September 21, 2016 at 5:00 PM

Absentee voting- Absentee ballots for this warned special meeting shall be available to all legal voters of the Town of Starksboro beginning on Thursday September 8, 2016. Ballots may be obtained by calling or visiting the Starksboro Town Office. Ballots will be provided upon request by an individual legal voter.

Posted: August 25, 2016
Starksboro Selectboard
Susan Jefferies, Chair
Peter Marsh
Anthony Porter

PROPERTY TAX INFORMATION: Apparently we have a few things that need to be cleared up. The installment payments that are listed on your tax bills are optional for August and September. Taxes are due in full on November 1st. Because of some appeals of value to the Board of Abatement, the Town was not able to get the education tax rate in mid-July, the usual time. We understand that the bills were mailed after the first due date, but that date is for an optional payment, so there is no need for alarm.

Some people are alarmed by the rate that their property taxes went up. A combination of things happened. We built a new Town Garage that added to the amount of tax the Town needs to raise. The State funded the Town's education spending, leaving more for homeowners to raise. Another change happened is the Town wide reappraisal. Although the home values generally did not have a large increase, the land values showed increases. The final component, which does not affect everyone, is Land Use. The State funded Land Use for farms and owners of larger parcels of land is at a lower rate this year. The Town is unable to accept credit cards at this time. If you do want to use a credit card, keep the cash advance checks that the credit card company sends you, and pay with that.

Tax Bills have been mailed out. If you have not received yours please let us know. The payments listed on the Tax Bill are optional for August & September, but due in full by November 1, 2016. There are no extended work hours on this day, the office hours are from 8:30 to 4:30. There will be no exceptions to this date or time. November 2, 2016 the tax bills that are not paid in full are delinquent and will be charged a 2% penalty and 1% interest on the balance for the first 10 days. After that, it is 8% penalty and 1% interest on the unpaid balance.

WORSHIP SERVICES

The FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF STARKSBORO:

www.Starksborobaptistchurch.org

The First Baptist Church of Starksboro, 2806 VT Route 116. Church phone 453.5577. Pastor Larry Detweiler, 802.434.6715 (home), 802.989.2679 (cell) or revdets@gmail.com.

Pastor Larry will be starting a 10 week study leave to complete the fourth & final semester in the VT hospital chaplaincy program. Beginning Sun, May 29 and continuing for 10 Sunday's Pastor Larry will lead the worship service but will not be responsible for delivering a sermon. Other ministers and layperson's have volunteered to present the message during Larry's ten weeks of study and professional development.

Sunday Schedule:

10:00 a.m. Chat, Chew and Renew, adult bible study and fellowship group meets
11:00 a.m. Worship service with communion on 1st Sunday of every month
2:30 p.m. Share-on, community food distribution

STARKSBORO SENIOR MEAL, served at 11:30 monthly on the 4th Thursday, January-October. Meal held in the Community Room of the Church, 2806 VT 116. Donations to defray costs are gladly accepted. Senior meal information and contact Brenda Boutin, 453-6354 or mtgazette@earthlink.net

Youth ministries information and contact Roberta McKinney, Kidsrme7316@gmail.com, 802.922.1766.

JERUSALEM GATHERING: a congregation in the Episcopal tradition that has services on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 9:30 am. We meet in the Jerusalem Schoolhouse, 397 Jerusalem Rd, in South Starksboro. Everyone is welcome. Contact: Vickie Backus – 434-6488.

SOUTH STARKSBORO FRIENDS MEETING: Singing every Sunday at 9 am, meeting for worship at 9:30 am at the Meeting House located at 430 Dan Sargent Rd. Call 453-4927 for details.

BONEBUILDERS EXERCISE CLASSES: Every Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30 am at the Jerusalem Schoolhouse in South Starksboro. This class is to help prevent osteoporosis. Questions? Call Susan at 453-5537.

TAI CHI CLASS: Every Thursday at 9:30 am at the Jerusalem Schoolhouse. This class is for those that already know Tai Chi for Arthritis 1 & 2. Questions? Call Vera at 453-3597.

"Share On..."

Greetings Starksboro friends and neighbors,

There is an opportunity for you to enjoy the benefits of our local food distribution. Every Sunday @ 2:30pm the doors open at Starksboro First Baptist Church for folks to come "shopping" for free fresh, organic produce, dairy and meat. Trader Joes and Panera Bread are our main contributors. The amount and variety of food items change weekly which always keeps us curious. Please join the many local families that benefit from this blessing. Contact Roberta: kidsrme7316@gmail.com.

As always ALL events, meals & materials are free! Come be a part of Starksboro's largest community volunteer event! (over 97 participants daily last year!) An organizational meeting will be held June 20th @ 7 pm at 11 Parsonage Rd. Contact Roberta: kidsrme7316@gmail.com.

Starksboro Public Library

Monthly News for September 2016

Hours: Mon. 10-6, Thurs. 10-5, Sat. 9-1

Catherine Goldsmith, Librarian, 453-3732 - starksboropl@comcast.net

Free Passes to area attractions can be checked out at the library. While the weather is still warm and beautiful, borrow a pass to go on an adventure. The passes check out for a short period only – so that we may lend them as many times a week as possible.

Shelburne Museum – free admission for two adults and four children

Shelburne Farms - free admission for two adults and their children, two passes available

Vermont State Parks pass – free admission for up to 8 people in one vehicle.

State Historic Sites – free admission for up to 8 people in one vehicle. Did you love the “Brotherband Chronicles”? Try a real atlatl (historic precursor to bow and arrow) at Chimney Point Historic Site.

Book Group: Wednesday, September 21 at 7pm “The Little Paris Bookshop” by Nina George

This one is another story about a bookseller but this one is a literary pharmacist who prescribes books for his customers, depending on the help they need in their lives. We’ll be starting off a new year of good reading this month and would love to have new members. In addition to our discussion of this charming novel, we will figure out the booklist for the coming year. Call the library to reserve a copy of this month’s book

NEW AUDIO BOOKS THIS MONTH: (I’ve got a great new supplier)

Blood on Snow, a thriller by Norwegian author Jo Nesbø; Crash & Burn by Lisa Gardner; God Help the Child – the new book by Toni Morrison; On the Move: a Life, an autobiography by Oliver Sacks; Sweetland – Evocative novel of place set on a remote island in Canada by Michael Crummey; Uganda Be Kidding Me – Comedy by Chelsea Handler; Your Next Breath a thriller by Iris Johansen.

And one for the kids! Big Nate: in the Zone by Lincoln Peirce.

NEW BOOKS

The entire Elena Ferrante series, this in-depth literary story in four novels of a complicated friendship plays out in Italy from the ‘50s to the turn of this century. Worldwide sensation written under a pseudonym by an author who has somehow managed to stay anonymous.

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child. The script of the Harry Potter play now on the London stage.

Preschool Story Time starts again in September : alternates between Monday and Thursday at 11AM, depending on the week and follows the school schedule. Any children and their adults are very welcome to join in our singing, dancing and reading fun time with the kids from the Starksboro Cooperative Preschool. We read picture books together and sing songs, all important pre-reading skills. Call for schedule as it was not set at press-time.

Bone Builders – every Tuesday and Thursday 5:30PM-6:30PM.

Meet for support and inspiration while building bone and muscle strength. Join in at any time!

New Parents group happening in the library. Meet with other parents of young children for mutual support and sociability. Check our Facebook page for September schedule.

FRIENDS OF JERUSALEM SCHOOLHOUSE: Well, Summer is winding down...school has started, afternoons at favorite swimming holes has ended, the dog days of August proved to be hazy, hot and humid...but what else would we want in Vermont? And now we look forward to cooler days (and nights), the beginning stages of fall foliage, and pulling out our blue jeans and sweaters once again!

The Jerusalem Schoolhouse is going to get an new inside "look" with fresh paint and refinished floors. We are set to do the interior painting on Sept. 2nd & 3rd. We would LOVE to have some volunteers from the community come and help us with the project...painting will begin at 9:00AM on Friday, 9/2. We will provide the paint and some brushes (or you can bring your own brush)...and lunch! If you plan to come to paint, please call Nancy or Greg at 453-4573 and let us know. We want to have enough lunch fixins' for all the workers! We will paint until 4:00PM and start up again at 9:00AM on Saturday, 9/3. We hope to be done by noon on Saturday but it may stretch into the afternoon a bit. Of course, the more workers, the quicker the painting will get done! So, come on out and join us for some painting fun at the Jerusalem Schoolhouse!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW: *The Annual Hunter/Early Bird Breakfasts will be on November 12,19 and 26...once again, it will be "all you care to eat" with good stuff like eggs, pancakes with real Vt. Maple Syrup, bacon, sausage, homefries, sausage gravy & biscuits, etc...More details in next month's gazette.*

This month we are pleased to have memories of the Jerusalem Schoolhouse from Erin James Bent. *Erin grew up in South Starksboro and was involved in many things at the schoolhouse during her younger years. Erin left South Starksboro for Maine for a few years and then returned and, along with her husband, built a house on Route 17. They live happily in our community with their three children, John, Eliza and Asher.*

"As with many people who have shared memories involving the Jerusalem Schoolhouse, the building was an important piece of my childhood, I attended 2 years of preschool and a year of kindergarten there, taught by Pebble Brooks, and then the years of 4-H that followed.

Most of my memories are similar to those shared in the past, and maybe that is why I enjoy them. As a kid, I had heard stories from people who had attended grade school at the schoolhouse, and it was fun to imagine what that was like. I liked being able to be in a place that held the history of generations, many of them neighborhood adults who I looked up to. Though my friends and I were separated from those other generations by the years in between, I know we share many memories with our elders:

~~Standing to give a 4-H presentation or pledge the flag, knowing many of our parents had stood the same way in school.

~~Exploring the stairway to the attic, thinking we were doing something no one else had done before, only to find names and initials of children past on the walls.

~~Walking the dirt road to school, shoveling the front stairs, running around the yard and down to the brook.

~~Mixing with neighbors of all ages as we turned out in numbers for parties, caroling, bike-a-thons, and awards presentations with traffic blocked off and chairs in the road, using the front stairs as a stage.

I remember:

~~ Pebble taking us to the banks of the brook to choose trees to observe through the year, and how possessive we each were of "our" trees.

~~How grossed out we were by all the flies behind the furnace (where we weren't supposed to go!).

~~How the big windows made the space so bright and cheery, and the great ice patterns that would form on them in the winter.

~~Talent shows and plays that involved kids and adults alike.

~~Learning skills that are useful in life.

And, as it turns out, making connections with people that have lasted a lifetime. I may feel that the building is special to me, in a sentimental way, but it is the time and friendships forged there that are the true treasures."

THANK YOU Erin for sharing these great memories~~you are a treasured part of our community!

STARSBORO COMMUNITY CELEBRATION.....A SMASHING SUCCESS!

The Community Celebration on Sunday, August 14th was a great time for our community to gather. Approx. 150 people spent time at various locations around town (the library, the village meeting house and the town garage) before heading to Cota field for music, games and a wonderful picnic.

A HUGE thank you to the following businesses, organizations and musicians for making this fun event possible: Addison Northeast Food Service Program, Vergennes Aubuchon Hardware, Ben & Jerry's, Bristol Police Dept, Bristol Rescue Squad, Bristol Recreation Dept, First Baptist Church of Starksboro, Friends of Jerusalem Schoolhouse, Historical Society of Starksboro, John Gearwar, Lantman's Market, Matthew Witten & John, McKenzie Country Classics, Sentinel Farms, Starksboro Conservation Commission, Starksboro Fire Auxiliary, Starksboro First Response, Starksboro Public Library, Starksboro Village Meeting House, Starksboro Volunteer Fire Dept and The Bristol Town Band. This wouldn't have happened without you! Thank you!

**Life's Helpers Inc. is having a craft fair/ flea market
on Saturday September 17th, 9a.m.-3p.m. at the
Hinesburg Fire Dept. This event will benefit the fire Dept.**

Also having a bake sale and raffle

**We still have spots available, contact Penny at 802-434-6053 if
you are interested in renting a space.**

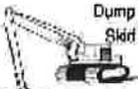
Thank You Penny Grady

ADVERTISEMENTS

More cards and prints available at Art on Main of Starksboro by artist Cynthia Guild Kling. These are New post cards!

Stawrk • Sewers
Roads • Waterlines
Screened Topsoil
Snowplowing • Sanding
Firewood

Backhoe • Excavator
Bulldozer • Grader
Dump Trucks
Skid Steers



Dennis W. Casey
EXCAVATING

P.O. Box 31
Starksboro, VT 05487

Tel: 453-4054
or 373-4403



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Jason Koicuba
earthbornlandscapes@gmail.com

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802-233-3960 (cell)

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or 373-4403



The **GAZETTE** is published monthly and mailed to all Starksboro residents. Articles and advertisements must be submitted by the **15th of each month** to the Town Clerk. If the 15th falls on Fri, Sat, or Sun, than it is due the following Monday by **NOON**. **Anything not received by the 15th will not be included in the Gazette.**

COMMUNITY EMAIL GROUP: WWW.FRONTPORCHFORUM.COM
TOWN WEBSITE: www.starksborovt.org

TOWN OFFICE: 453-2639
Open Mon – Thu, 8:30 – 4:30
Town Clerk: Cheryl Estey starksboro@madriver.com
Treasurer: Celine Coon starksborotowntreasurer@gmavt.net
Zoning Administrator: Dave Wetmore starksborozoning@gmavt.net
(Hours - Mon & Wed 9-4; Thu 1:30 – 4:30)
Del. Tax Collector: Amy McCormick-Tues & Thurs @ 453-2639
starksborotaxes@gmail.com

SELECT BOARD
Meetings 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 5:30 at Town Office.
Please call at least one week in advance to get on the agenda.
Susan Jefferies – 453-3611
Peter Marsh – 453-3478
Tony Porter – 989-5096

SCHOOL BOARD
3rd Wednesday at 5:30 pm at Robinson Library.
Louis DuPont – 453-5538
Nancy Cornell – 453-2681
Caleb Elder – 434-4805

Mt. Abe: Meetings 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 at Mt. Abe Library.
Bonita Bedard – 453-4305
Jodi Bachand – 434-5336
Supervisory Board – Nancy Cornell, Louis Dupont, Caleb Elder

LIBRARY: 453-3732
Open Mon 10-6; Thurs 10-5, Sat 9-1
Library Board meetings 2nd Monday @ 4:30 pm at Library

REPRESENTATIVES
Fred Baser – 453-4391
David Sharpe – 453-2754 / dsharpe@leg.state.vt.us

NEW POST OFFICE HOURS:
Mon – Fri, 7:30 – 11:30; 12:30 – 2:30
Saturday – 7:30 – 11:00
Closed each day 11:30 – 12:30

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:
Wayne Marcelle – 233-9534

CONSTABLES:
1st Constable – George Wyckoff – 989-4538

FIRE WARDENS: Please call ahead for burn permits.
Tom Estey-453-4511, 453-2319, or Tony Porter-989-5096

PLANNING COMMISSION:
Meetings 1st and 3rd Thursdays at the Town Office
Development Review Board meetings 2nd & 4th Thursdays

CONSERVATION COMMISSION: Matt Witten-434-3236 or mwitten@gmavt.net or Jan McCleery-453-3755 or mccleery@norwich.edu. Meetings: 4th Monday @ 7 pm at the Starksboro Public Library

HEALTH OFFICER: Peter Ryersbach – 453-3597

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR: Charlene Phelps
453-3461

RECYCLING: 1ST & 3RD Saturdays from 8-11 am at Town Garage,
1686 Vt Route 116. Trash fees: \$4.50/bag. Recycling – by donation

HUB TEEN CENTER & SKATEPARK:
www.bristolskatepark.com
Ryan Krushenick – 453-3678 / thehub@gmavt.net

STARKSBORO VILLAGE WATER COOPERATIVE: 453-5200
Meetings: 3rd Wed of March, June, Sept and Dec at 7:30 pm
at the Starksboro Public Library

SENATORS
Claire Ayer – 545-2142 / cayer@leg.state.vt.us
Chris Bray – 453-3444 / cbray@leg.state.vt.us

NOTE CHANGE IN HOURS, EFFECTIVE JUNE 1st
Food Shelf Hours: 10:30 am – 6:00 pm on the 2nd & 3rd Wednesdays



The Scoop

Produced by the School Board to help keep
Starksboro residents informed of news
relating to Robinson Elementary School

Sept 2016

Proposed School District Consolidation (Act 46) Update

In This Issue:

Act 46 pg 1

New Staff pg 2

The ANESU Act 46 Study Committee voted on July 27th to finalize its report and submit it for Vermont Agency of Education (VTAOE) review. This latest draft of the report is available on the ANESU Act 46 webpage:

<https://docs.google.com/a/anesu.org/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=YW5lc3Uub3JmfGFuZXN1fGd4OjczOGVkdG1Y2Q1Yjg4NzM>.

The final report was sent to the VTAOE on Friday August 5th. The report draft was revised following a community forum on July 18th, where community members and local school board members reviewed the report and provided feedback. The committee used this feedback to review the report and the articles of agreement. The proposal now presents a single 13-member school board, proportionally representing the 5 towns as follows:

Bristol—5 board members; Lincoln—2 board members; Monkton— 2 board members; New Haven —2 board members; Starksboro— 2 board members.

This board would replace the school boards that we currently have for each of the 6 schools in the Addison Northeast Supervisory Union. Language was also added to discourage a town from passing a bond in the time between when the unification passes and when it becomes effective. Additional details and data were added to the report and the appendices.

In the governance structure being proposed, there would be one budget that would include the operating expenses for all 5 elementary schools and Mt. Abraham Middle/High School, as well as the superintendent's office. The budget would also include debt payments for all of the schools that have outstanding debt. Decisions about everything from budgets to staffing would be streamlined – handled by the superintendent, the leadership at each of the 6 schools in our district, and the single 13-member unified district board. The school district budget, (which would be a total of about \$24,000,000, including funds for Robinson School), would be voted on by Australian ballot. There would no longer be an option for towns to debate and amend their community school budgets at an annual school town meeting, as voters currently do in Starksboro and in Lincoln.

Three members of the ANESU Act 46 Study Committee – Nancy Cornell, Herb Olson, and Mike Fisher, have written a Minority Report expressing opposition to the proposal being sent to Montpelier for approval. That Minority Report has been attached to the Committee's report (*see website listed above*) and begins on page 54. You can also find that Minority Report here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/oB9RN785qCX-NMkE5YVVMWGHlLbFU/view?usp=sharing>

If the Committee's proposal is approved (by the VTAOE in August, and by the VT State Board of Education in September) the unification proposal will go before voters for approval on November 8th. Remember that a majority of voters in *each* of the 5 towns must approve the proposal in order for the plan to go forward. If a majority of voters in one or more towns votes "no", a committee will need to reconvene to decide what to do next. If that happens, the options would be:

- to write a report for the VT Agency of Education and the VT Board of Education that shows how we can make continued progress toward meeting the goals of Act 46 without changing our current governance structure.
- to propose an alternate governance structure – different from the "preferred structure" described in Act 46;

(Continued on next page)

School Board Members	
Chair	
Louis duPont	453-5538
Vice Chair	
Nancy Cornell	453-2681
Clerk	
Caleb Eider	434-4805
.....	
Robinson Principal	
Edorah Frazer	453-2949
Superintendent	
Patrick Reen	453-3657
Scoop Editor	
Karen Wheeler	453-6943



(Continued)

- to propose a structure (called a MUUSD – a Modified Unified Union School District), in which a majority of towns can vote to unify, while the others retain their current governance structure;

We urge all Starksboro voters to read the Report, and the Minority Report online, (or request a copy from the ANESU office), to study the evidence, and to ask questions of Starksboro's representatives on the Study Committee (Nancy Cornell, Caleb Elder, and Herb Olson). As the November election day draws closer, we'll be holding one or more informational meetings about this proposal – but we hope you won't wait until then to study the issue, talk with your neighbors and get involved.

Robinson Welcomes New Staff Members

We welcome the following new members of the Robinson School community!

Evelyn Bushey (Administrative Assistant) – Evelyn has already begun working in the front office, replacing Martha Cota. Her first day was joining Edorah on the Bookwagon circuit. Evelyn has a broad background in administrative offices. She most recently worked at Northlands Job Corps in Vergennes, a residential program where high school students learn a trade. She loves working with students and families.

Eileen Gombosi (Art) – Eileen has an extensive background in art education and is a practicing artist herself. Most recently, she has been teaching elementary students at Christ the King School in Rutland and afterschool art classes in Ripton and Salisbury for the Middlebury Studio School. Eileen relishes collaboration with teachers to create integrated curricula. She will be with us for the full year while Eliza Joy Weissberger is on extended maternity leave.

Melanie Levitt (Special Education) – Mel will be working with our older students who receive special education services. She has just completed her Master's in Special Education. An avid golfer, Mel has also spent part of her summer taking courses in math and co-teaching with her new Robinson colleagues.

Matt Senecal (Educational Assistant) – Matt joins us from years of supporting students in Bristol. Some Robinson families might also know him in his role as a former classmate at Mt. Abe, as a JV football coach at Mt. Abe, or as a father engaged in community activities.

