



The GAZETTE

The official newsletter produced by the Town of Starksboro

MAY 2015

SPECIAL TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING

Saturday, May 2, 2015 at the **Mt. Abe auditorium in Bristol.** Meeting starts at 9:00 a.m. This meeting is to reconsider the action of the voters on February 28, 2015, appropriating \$3,005,169 necessary for the support of the Robinson Elementary School for the year beginning July 1, 2015. You must be present to vote on this. The last day to register to vote in time for this vote will be on Wednesday, April 29, 2015, by 5:00 p.m.

TOWN GARAGE BOND VOTE

Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at the Robinson Elementary School. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. to vote on the following Article:

Shall general obligation bonds, notes or other evidences of debt of the Town of Starksboro in an amount not to exceed One Million Six Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$1,650,000), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid be issued for the purpose of financing the construction of a town garage, at an estimated cost of One Million Six Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$1,650,000)?

An informational meeting on this will be held on Mon, May 18, 2015 at the Starksboro Public Library at seven o'clock (7:00) in the evening, for the purpose of explaining the proposed improvements and the financing thereof.

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The last day to apply for addition to the voter checklist in time for this vote will be Wed, May 20, 2015 by 5:00 p.m. Absentee ballots will be available May 6, 2015.

WORSHIP SERVICES

The FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF STARKSBORO:

The First Baptist Church of Starksboro, 2806 VT Route 116. Church phone 453.5577. Pastor Larry Detweiler, 802.434.6715 (home), revdets@gmail.com. In emergency situations, phone 802-989-2679.

<http://www.starksborobaptistchurch.org/>

Sunday's Schedule:

10:00 a.m. Chat, Chew & Renew, bible study and adult fellowship

11:00 – 1:00 Sunday's Cool youth bible study and fellowship (grades K-7)

11:00 a.m. Worship service with communion every 1st Sunday

Roberta McKinney, Associate for Youth Ministries Kidsrme7316@gmail.com. Phone: 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

DOG LICENSES: Dog licenses were due April 1st. Unregistered dogs are now subject to an additional penalty. Dogs that are not neutered or spayed will cost \$16 each, spayed or neutered dogs are now \$10. All dogs have to be registered with the town every year. A valid rabies certificate is required. Please bring this paperwork in with you. We also anticipate that this will be the year that we do a Dog Census.

“SUNDAY’S COOL”: If you are looking for an opportunity for your children to learn great stories from the Bible, then come join us at “Sunday’s Cool”. Our program starts at 11:00 a.m. with up-beat music, crafts and lively conversation. As we learn healthy and helpful principles that can be applied to our lives today, we do so by engaging in dramatic play, music, memorization, reading and interactive instruction. Lunch is served around noon, then it’s activity time, which may include cooperative games, outdoor recreation and relevant videos. Occasionally we venture out to enjoy a seasonal fieldtrip. Kids of all ages are invited and encouraged to be part of something “Cool” happening on Sunday’s at First Baptist Church of Starksboro.

Contact Roberta: Kidsrme7316@gmail.com.

FRIENDS OF JERUSALEM SCHOOLHOUSE: It's that time of year again...our ANNUAL FLEA MARKET at the Jerusalem Schoolhouse in South Starksboro is coming! The sale will be held on Friday, June 5th from noon - 5:00pm and Saturday, June 6th from 8:00am - 3:00pm. We are, once again, counting on all of you to supply us with some great items to sell! So, clean out your closets, your attic, your cellar and your garage and bring us the stuff that you don't use anymore. We will accept clean clothes in good condition, housewares, holiday items, small appliances, furniture (only that which is in really good condition please), children's toys, books, etc... Every year you guys come through with alot of great stuff and we know it will be the same this year. DROP OFF DATES AND TIMES: Thursday, June 4th from 4:00-7:00pm and Friday, June 5th from 9:00-noon. Questions? Call Susan at 453-5537. Thank you all in advance for supporting this annual event. All proceeds will go into the ever growing Jerusalem Schoolhouse Renovation Fund.

This month we are featuring a schoolhouse memory from Rodney Orvis. Here it is for you to enjoy:

"I have many great memories of my eight years as a student at Jerusalem Schoolhouse. My fondest memories were during the noon hours spent outside playing all sorts of games. We played baseball, kickball, tag, hide and seek, and dodge ball in the fall and spring. In the winter we played cops and robbers, fox and geese and built snow forts for war games. We also brought sleds to school and slid on the hill in back of the schoolhouse.

We all played very hard and sometimes very rough, but what I remember most was at the end of the noon hour our teacher, Lucy Wyman, or one of the students would come out on the front steps and ring a bell for everyone to come inside, go to our seats and then Mrs. Wyman would read a short story to all eight grades. I look back now and realize she did this to get her students in the right frame of mind for the afternoon classes."

Rodney grew up in South Starksboro and continues to live in this wonderful community. Thank you, Rodney, for your memories.

Stay tuned for more JSH memories next month from another student of the schoolhouse.

SUCCESSION PLANNING FOR WOODLAND OWNERS:

Forest landowners are an aging population and planning for the future of our forested landscape is increasingly more important. In an effort to address this need, Vermont Woodlands Association and UVM Extension have partnered to offer Succession Planning for woodland owners during three separate workshops this spring: April 25 in Montpelier, May 9 in Rutland, and June 2 in Fairlee. The program is funded in part by a grant from Vermont Housing and Conservation Board as part of their Forest Viability Program supported through the Working Lands Enterprise Fund. With a landscape that's 75% forested, every town in Vermont has a stake in the future of our forests. You can take steps to guide the future of your land by going to this link: <http://www.vermontwoodlands.org/workshops.asp>.

TWEEN SCENE:

* Spring is the theme at our 4th Anniversary Tween Scene! And what could be more fun than putting a little "spring" in our step inside Starksboro's biggest bouncy house? By the end of our evening's celebration with arcade games, competitions, bouncy house and all you can eat pizza buffet, our Tweenagers & Teens will be ready to bounce themselves right to bed!. So parents plan an evening out for yourselves, drop the kiddos off at SFBC between 6-9pm and do some of your own celebrating. May 8th. Life is good!

* Ladies and Little Girls (of all ages) are cordially invited to a *Garden Party* at The Parsonage on Parsonage Rd. Afternoon activities include a gourmet buffet of sweets and fancy treats, crafts, local musicians and a special guest speaker. Dress up or come comfy. Pleasantries began at 1pm (until 3pm) on May 16th 2015 and will last a life time. RSVP by May /13, 2015.

Contact Roberta: kidsrme7316@gmail.com.

* Mark your calendar for **Vacation Bible School & Adventure Camp**. A week of (free) activities are available for kids ages K-6th. Tweens & Teens are invited to spend a week (or any portion of) their summer having fun and gaining valuable experience as volunteers. Snacks and lunch included for all participants. This VBS/Camp is one of Starksboro's biggest kid & community volunteer events. It's pure fun, it's free and inspiring. Registrations forms will be available soon. Please consider being a part of our annual summer program where folks gather together to "make a difference" here in Starksboro. Crafters, Entertainers and caring folks are invited to sign up for a 1-2hr block between 1pm-3pm, to share their skills and talents any afternoon. VBS runs 9-noon, Adventure Camp from noon-5pm August 10th-14th, 2015.

* **Girls only Camp-out** is just around the corner. June 12th from 4pm. on Friday until 11am. On Saturday girls in 3rd grade and up are invited to meet at the Russell Pond for our camp out that makes them beg for S'more! Swimming, crafts, campfire sing-a-long and star gazing are all part of this annual *Girls Only* event. Don't worry boys, your turn is next...July 10th. Save the date!

contact Roberta: kidsrme7316@gmail.com

Message from the Library Trustees:

The Starksboro Public Library is looking for a new librarian!

We are sorry to announce that Lisa Daudon will be leaving us. She has been a wonderful asset to our library and she will be greatly missed. We wish her well in her next endeavors!

We are looking for a welcoming, enthusiastic and community-oriented Library Director to oversee all aspects of library function, among these supervision of staff and volunteers, programming, circulation, collection development, finances, and reporting to the trustees. Part-time: Mondays, Thursdays and alternate Saturdays; 17-19hrs/week.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree, State Certification or willingness to work toward certification, and library experience. BLS/MLS preferred. Submit a cover letter, resume, and 3 professional references by May 1st to Starksboro Public Library Trustees, Starksboro Public Library, PO Box 124, Starksboro, VT, 05487, or email starksboropl@comcast.net.

If anyone would like to serve on the search committee, please contact Chris Runcie, at 453-4603.

Life's Helpers Inc. is having a **rummage sale and food drive** on Saturday May 16 from 9a.m til 3 p.m. at the Starksboro Fire Dept. that will benefit the Starksboro Food Shelf and Fire Dept. We are asking people to bring a non-perishable food item the day of the sale. Donations for the rummage sale are still being accepted. To donate or for more information please call:

Penny 802-434-6053 or Phyllis 802-434-2559

Starksboro Public Library

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

Lisa Daudon, Librarian -- 453-3732 -- starksboropl@comcast.net – starksborolibrary.wordpress.com

New Library Cards—remember to stop by the Library to sign up for your new library card. If you do, you'll be able to access our catalog on-line. Call or email us if you have questions.

New Books - Thanks to the Orton Family Foundation's generous donation, we are able to improve our collection. Check out our collection on-line and let us know if you have any suggestions for new books.

Preschool Story Time: Monday, May 4th & 18th and Thursday, May 14th & 28st @ 11:00

We've been enjoying having Diane Fenner as a frequent guest reader!

Monday, May 4th we'll have a guest reader from the Merchant's Bank who will read One Cent, Two Cents, Old Cent, New Cent by Dr. Seuss followed by some fun activities geared towards preschoolers. This is part of the FDIC Money Smart programs the bank offers to Vermont communities.

Story Time for Infants & Toddlers: Thursday, May 7th & 21st @ 10:30

This story time, geared to the pre-preschool crowd, has grown into a nice sized group. It is a great chance to get kids and parents/caregivers together. Join us!

Knit/Fiber Arts: We will meet on **Saturdays, May 9th and 23rd, @ 10:00 a.m.** Enjoy visiting with others as you work on your portable projects.

Book Group: Join us at the **town offices** (*there is a public meeting scheduled for the library space*) **Monday, May 18th at 7:00 p.m.** We will be reading The Midwife of Hope River by Patricia Harman. Harmon transports us to poverty stricken Appalachia during the Great Depression years of the 1930s and introduces us to a truly unforgettable heroine.

Mother-Daughter Book Group: **Tuesday, May 5th at 7:00 pm.** The group will talk about The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnet. A classic to share with your daughter.

Art Display: *Jill Paul has generously shared her collection of PYSANKY, her beautiful handmade Ukranian Easter Eggs. We are also showcasing watercolors by Judith Bryant. Fall in love with one and it could be yours, they are for sale.*

Bone Builders: **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-6:30.** Enjoy the company of others while you keep your bones strong and healthy at any age. We have all the equipment you need at the library and trained leaders. You will be glad you did!

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.

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

(office hours - Mon & Wed 9-4; Thu 1:00 – 4:30)

Del. Tax Collector: Amy McCormick-Tues & Wed @ 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

Mathew Norris – 453-3273

SCHOOL BOARD

3rd Wednesday at 5:30 pm at Robinson Library.

Louis DuPont – 453-5538

Nancy Cornell – 453-2681

Dennis Hysko – 453-5960

Mt. Abe: Meetings 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 at Mt. Abe Library.

Bonita Bedard – 453-4305

Jodi Bachand – 434-5336

LIBRARY: 453-3732

Open Mon 10-6; Thurs 10-5, Sat 9-1

Library Board meetings 2nd Monday @ 7 pm at Library

STARSBORO VILLAGE WATER COOPERATIVE: 453-5200

Meetings 3rd Wed. of March, June, Sept, and Dec at 7:30 pm

at the Starksboro Public Library

REPRESENTATIVES

Fred Baser – 453-4391

David Sharpe – 453-2754 / dsharpe@leg.state.vt.us

NEW POST OFFICE HOURS:

Mon – Fri 7:30 – 4:30

Closed each day 11:30 – 2:30

Saturday – 7:30 – 11:00

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:

Wayne Marcelle – 233-9534

CONSTABLES:

2nd Constable – George Wyckoff – 989-4538

FIRE WARDENS: Please call ahead for burn permits

Tom Estey – 453-4511 or Tony Porter – 989-5096

PLANNING COMMISSION: 453-4054

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: \$5.00/bag. Recycling fees by quantity.

HUB TEEN CENTER & SKATEPARK:

www.bristolskatepark.com

Ryan Krushenick – 453-3678 / thehub@gmavt.net

SENATORS

Claire Ayer – 545-2142 / cayer@leg.state.vt.us

Chris Bray – 453-3444 / cbray@leg.state.vt.us

Food Shelf Hours: 10:30 am – 6:00 pm every Wednesday
(except the first Wed of each month).



Green Up's mission is to promote the stewardship of our state's natural landscape and waterways and the livability of our communities by involving people in Green Up Day and raising public awareness about the benefits of a litter-free environment.

GREEN UP DAY 2015– SATURDAY, MAY 2nd

Dear Starksboro Residents,

This year marks our 45th year for Vermont's Green Up Day, a tradition begun in 1970, and an annual event representing the largest citizen's effort ever organized in Vermont. **Please help to continue this tradition May 2rd in Starksboro.**

This year **Green Up Bags and Gloves** will again be available at the following sites by Mid April:

- Starksboro Town Offices.
- Starksboro Town Garage.
- Jerusalem Corners Store.

The **Green Up drop off site** is the **Town Garage**. All trash collected along **town roads** must be dropped off at this location **between 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM on Saturday, May 2rd**.

Important: Do not leave your green up bags on town roads. They must be dropped off at the town garage. If you cannot drop your green up bags at the town garage please contact Marcia Perry to arrange a pick up.

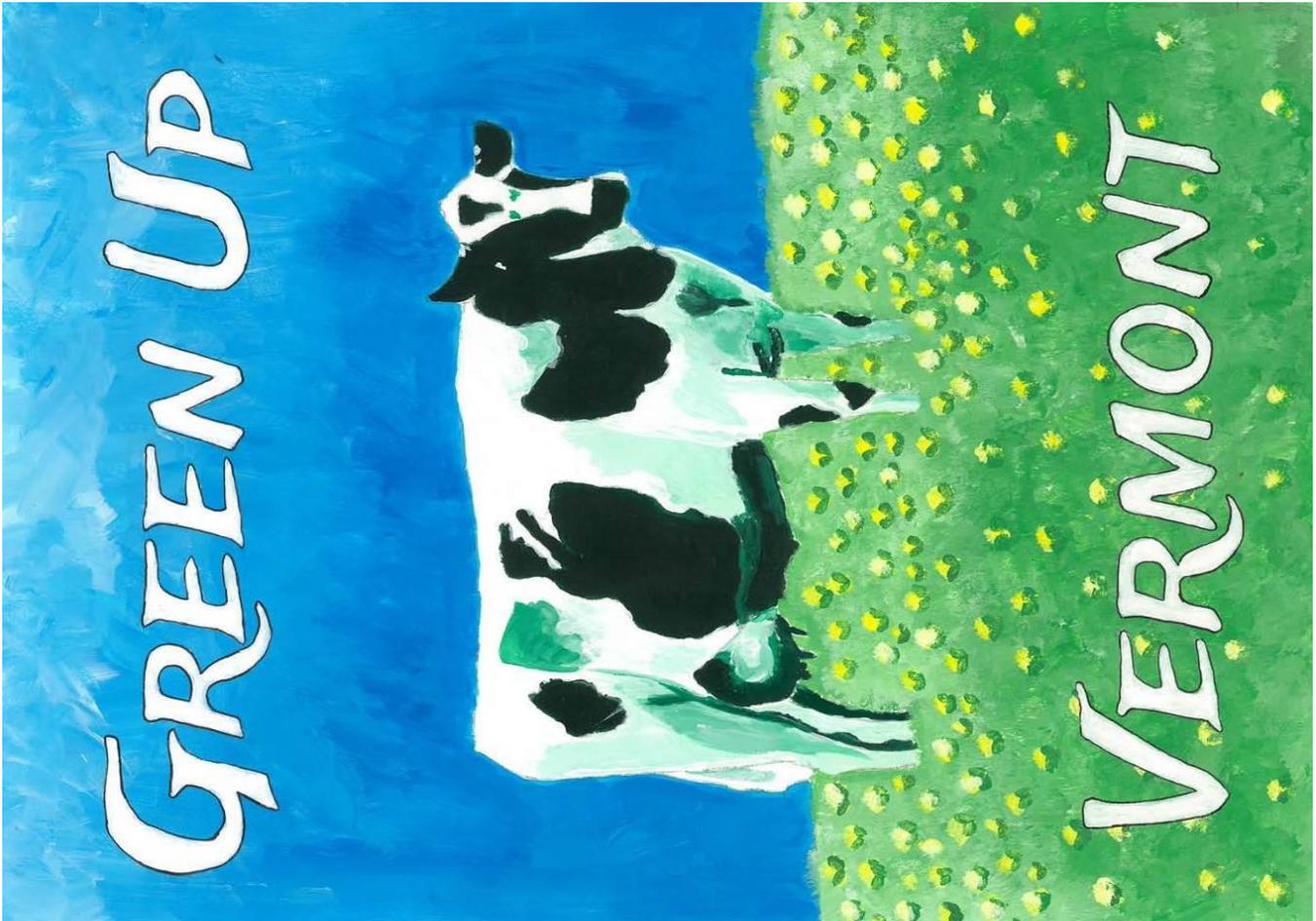
Trash collected along state roads will be collected by state trucks.

If you would like more information or if you would like to volunteer for a **particular** section of roadway, you can contact Marcia Perry, Green Up Coordinator, 802-434-2462 or mjimperry@gmavt.net.

TOWN OF STARKSBORO
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The Winning Poster

TOWN GARAGE PROJECT VOTE

On May 26, 2015, Starksboro voters will consider a plan to replace the town garage and construct a salt and sand shed. The following information is being provided to explain the project. More information is available on Starksboro's website – StarksboroVT.org.

Why does Starksboro need a new garage?

Our current garage has multiple deficiencies, including:

- Bay size is inadequate for our equipment and vehicles
- Garage lacks drains. Vehicle melt water accumulates causing the road crew to work in standing water and rot in the building.
- The building is not well insulated, making it difficult and expensive to heat
- The water source isn't drinkable, and the spring fills with silt regularly
- Access to the garage is up a steep grade, which is dangerous during storms
- Salted sand is stored outside, so salt washes out and the top layer of sand freezes

All of these issues cost the crew time when they should be out plowing!

Why now? Can we put it off a few years?

In addition to not being large enough to house the road equipment or allow for repairs to be performed out of inclement weather, the garage does not meet energy standards requirements and does not provide a safe working environment for Starksboro's road crew. It lacks a water supply, adequate septic and adequate ventilation, among other items. Putting off this decision for another year, or even a few months, will result in higher costs due to changes in Vermont's building code scheduled for January 1, 2016, and inflation. Given the inadequacies in our current building, we could be faced with significant cost in the event of an inspection.

The current town garage is a liability!

Why not repair the current garage?

There are several reasons a new garage is needed. Some of the key factors are:

- The town does not own enough land to expand the garage on its current site.
- The garage is a pole barn construction. Once we start making changes, it would have to be brought up to current building code requirements. This would include a sprinkler system, fire walls, and rewiring. We would also have to install a well and septic system.
- The access to the garage is up a steep drive which hides passing cars from view of the town trucks. It is difficult to get the equipment up and down the drive safely – without sliding into Route 116 or the ditch beside the road. It also appears that the road to the garage is not entirely on town-owned property.

Keeping the existing town garage is not necessarily the least-cost option.

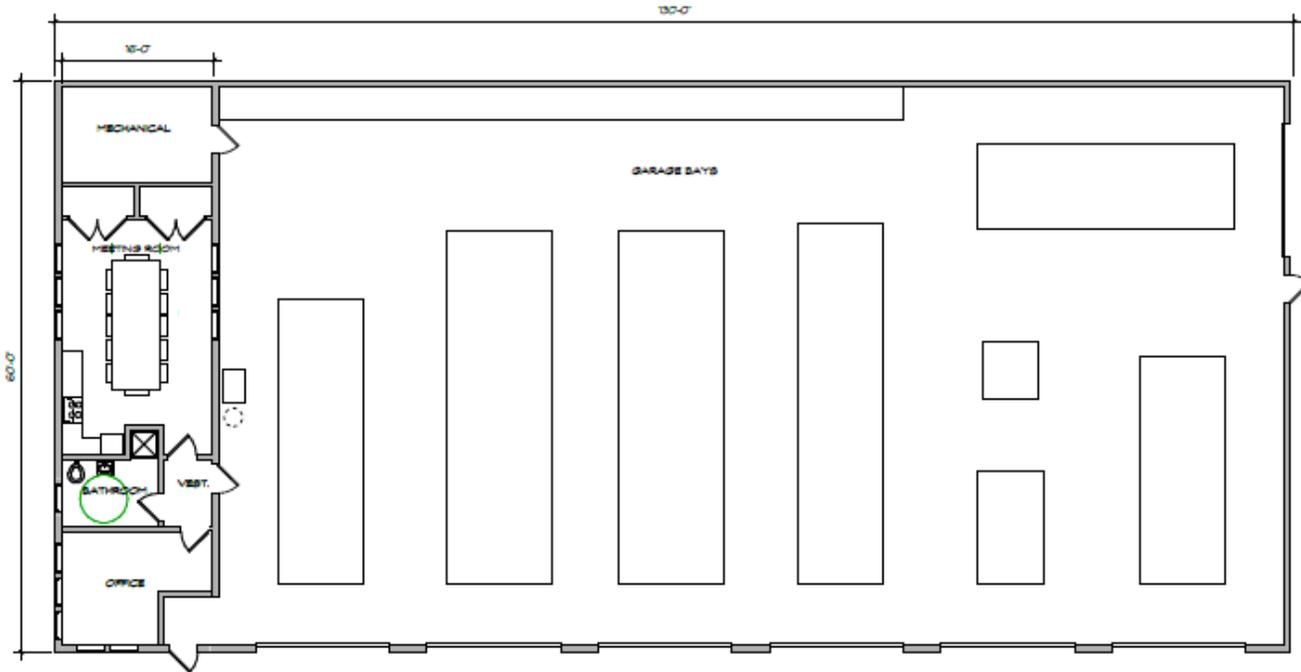
Do we really need a salt and sand shed?

The short answer is an emphatic YES! This proposed shed, a 100' x 160' fabric structure, will allow the town to purchase sand for the entire year—a savings in cost and efficiency. This new shed will also protect the sand-salt mix. In the current, outside storage, rain leaches salt out of the top 2 to 3 feet. This layer then freezes, forcing the road crew to spend several hours during each storm removing frozen sand before they can start working on the roads. Finally—and perhaps most significantly—salt that leaches into the soil can find its way to the water table or streams. A number of Vermont towns have faced expensive lawsuits and remediation from salt contamination.

How was this proposal decided?

An advisory committee was formed last August to assess the requirements for a town garage and present a plan to the voters. That committee has worked hard to balance the critical need for a new town garage with the equally important need to keep costs in check. We believe the committee’s recommendation will provide Starksboro with a town garage that will serve us well for 50 to 70 years at a reasonable cost. We also believe it is in the best interests of the town to act sooner rather than later.

The proposed garage (shown below) is steel construction with room for all the town road equipment and enough height to make repairs inside. It will be well insulated and have adequate ventilation. It will also meet current building code requirements for safety and energy efficiency.



Project Budget Summary

Sitework	80,267
Garage Construction	1,242,429
Salt and Sand Shed	162,250
Clerk of the Works, Design and Construction	
Document Fees	150,861
Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment	50,508
Permits, Fees & Other Costs	<u>16,185</u>
Total required	1,702,500

Estimated Efficiency Vermont Incentives	2,500
Cash Reserve Voted March 2, 2014	50,000
Bond Proceeds	<u>1,650,000</u>
Total proceeds	1,702,500

Impact of \$1,650,000 bond on town tax rate

The bond time period will be decided after the vote. The town may choose to spread payments over 25 or 30 years. Here are the estimates for each scenario:

Town Bond (revenues less expenses)	\$1,650,000	\$1,650,000
Length of Bond (years)	25	30
Interest Rate (estimated)	3.260%	3.382%
Maximum Annual Payment	\$113,286	\$104,505
Tax Rate	\$0.0707	\$0.06518
Total Prin and Int over life of bond	\$2,367,795	\$3,534,378
Tax on property value of \$100,000	\$70.70	\$65.18
Tax on property value of \$200,000	\$141.40	\$130.36
Tax on property value of \$300,000	\$212.10	\$195.54
Tax on property value of \$500,000	\$353.50	\$325.90

Informational Meeting

Monday, May 18 at 7:00 pm at the Starksboro Public Library

Early Voting

Absentee ballots will be available May 6 through May 25

Last Day to Vote

Tuesday, May 26 at Robinson Elementary School from 7 am to 7 pm

