

**Town of Starksboro  
Selectboard Meeting  
March 1, 2018  
Unapproved minutes**

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**Present:** Koran Cousino, Keegan Tierney, Tony Porter, Susan Jefferies

**Unable to attend:** Peter Marsh

**Visitors present:** Dennis Casey, John Jefferies

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Susan Jefferies called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss whether the Town will grant a right of way (ROW) to Thatcher Hurd for a power line to cross the town's land by the new garage.

Susan reported that the Vermont Land Trust is happy with the easement as now written. Susan had distributed the draft prior to the meeting. Green Mountain Power (GMP) has also approved the draft language. A revised map from GMP was also sent via email.

Since this meeting was warned, the Zoning Administrator determined that the current bylaws require a zoning permit and site plan review for the ROW requested by Thatcher Hurd to cross the Town's land with power lines by the garage. Susan will notify Thatcher about this new information.

The Board discussed whether to proceed with a preliminary approval pending DRB review. It was decided not to proceed with a decision at this time.

Visitor Denny Casey asked why the power line would not be placed behind the garage and staying out of the active pit area. Susan Jefferies explained that the placement was part of the original discussion and has been considered by the Selectboard. Thatcher's current ROW easement goes up and around the parcel. He doesn't want to use that path for the power as it would be more expensive, require more poles and additional guide wires, and may require wires on other property not owned by the town.

D. Casey asked if putting the lines over the garage area would be giving away rights that might be wanted/needed in the future. Some rights have already been relinquished (i.e. gravel extraction no longer possible because ledge exists on the acres that were sold). The lower half of the property has restrictions because of the wetland area. D. Casey is concerned that if power lines go over the area then no future uses such as a ballfield or small solar project would be possible.

The buffer is 25 feet. Thatcher's current ROW allows use of the whole road to access his property. If his ROW goes along the road, he could put poles along the road and not go over the land. The current plan uses 7 poles.

K. Cousino stated that the Selectboard needs to make sure the Town isn't doing something that would restrict future uses. S. Jefferies agreed this is a valid concern. The most concerning part is where the power crosses the main road. Nothing can be done in the area with the cattails and that isn't in the

building envelope. There is a gigantic rock near the road below where the line would go. Could there be more gravel to extract? Would that be too close to the power line to restrict any activity?

Other considerations regarding potential restrictions: Cannot store materials or park anything underneath the lines or within ROW.

K. Tierney said there are more questions now after discussion than originally thought when the meeting was called. There is no time pressure to get this done immediately.

The Board agreed it would not make a decision tonight.

**Next steps:**

Who will be responsible for the questions and assembling the answers?

Koran will and wants input from everyone. She suggests getting the line up farther north on Route 116. The Board should be less concerned about the costs and more about what the impact is to the town now and in the long run. Tony Porter stated he would rather see the ROW down below and not around the road. He is concerned that could result in equipment running into the poles and causing damage, etc. Koran will be the point of contact on this issue going forward and will coordinate with the rest of the board.

**Motion:** Keegan Tierney moved to adjourn the meeting. Tony Porter seconded the motion.

**Vote:** All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca T. Elder  
Selectboard Assistant

Approved: