

Starksboro ARPA Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

Present: Carrie Austgen, Katie Kuzio, Mike Shepard, Rob Liotard, Anne Sasso, Pete Antos-Ketcham, Connor Timmons

Absent: Jeff Keeney, Laura Nugent

Call to order. Carrie, second by Rob.

November Minutes approval

Katie, suggested edit, 3rd paragraph, “project A does not include elevator access to the stage”

Mike, Suggested edit , Burnham Hall is in Lincoln not Bristol

Mike, correct “HCAC” to HVAC

Katie, suggested edit, the “O” in John Graham should be lower case

Rob’s name is spelled wrong. Should read Liotard.

Motion to approve November 2022 minutes

Minutes approved, motion by Katie, second by Rob

December Minutes approval

Mike, 2nd paragraph, replace “local” with “town” buildings

Katie, 3rd paragraph should include “6” instead of “5” representing the number of households in Hidden Acres

Katie, 3rd paragraph “co-op” instead of coop

Anne, 2nd paragraph, replace “stone wall, water etc” with “pavilion structure”

Missing all the notes on the solar proposal

Katie motions to table approval of the December minutes until the secretary can amend the meetings to include the solar project. Seconded by Rob.

Presentation from Tom Estey, Starksboro Fire Department

Upgraded air packs

- Higher buffer zone for melting points
- Integrated pass device (automatic activation as a safety feature)
- Service life is typically 15 years, current stock is mostly 20 years or older
- Universal buddy system function

- Positive pressure, better air access for the fire fighter

Q&A

- i) Question from Katie: Does your team have a preference? (Scott vs MSA)
Tom: The Team prefers the MSA model. Mostly based on the ergonomics of that model. There are slight differences in the masks, but that's a personal preference.
- ii) Question from Anne: The fitted masks, does that mean that the units are not interchangeable?
Tom: The masks go with the firefighter but the air units would stay with the department
- iii) Question from Katie: When they pass their 15 year mark, are they no longer usable?
Tom: Often times they will get refurbished and sent overseas to a developing country. The department is not in the habit of changing them out until we notice a malfunction.
- iv) Question from Katie: If ARPA funds can't cover this, will this equipment be rolled into the bond in the future?
Tom: Unknown at this time.
- v) Question from Carrie: Are we currently sending firefighters out with unsafe gear?
Tom: In a word, yes but we're cautious about the equipment so the risk is limited.
- vi) Question from Carrie: Would any of this equipment impact people's fire insurance?
Tom: Not really. These wouldn't make an impact on those rates.

Presentation by Jody Lamarche and Andrea Pearce from Friends of Robinson (FOR)

History about the playground. The front wooden playground was a donation from a job site and installed by volunteer carpenters. MAUSD has agreed to install a new play structure in the front of the school only.

This proposal is for the play structure behind the school.

Fall of 2019 was the start date for this project, 501©3 status was achieved and there have been a few steps taken including a donation from a staff member at RES. There have been several community engagement efforts to gauge interest (surveys, info sessions etc). It was clear that the student community was interested in a new structure. Our school's play structure lags behind some of the neighboring schools.

The school is very excited to support this as best as they can. MAUSD has approved the plan and FOR will be working with the same company to install. The idea would be to remove the sandbox and replace it with this new structure. This is a local company, based in Williston.

Q&A

- i) Question: Would it become the property of the district?
Andrea: Not sure really. FOR will be giving the money to MAUSD and they are purchasing this playground.

- ii) Question: It doesn't look like this structure is all that accessible for children with disabilities
Jody: I think that's a great observation, we think that this likely represents the fact these features were considered by the kids, none of whom have physical disabilities.
- iii) Question: has anyone seen these elements IRL?
Andrea: Essex seems to have something similar, Mary Hogan does have similar feature.
- iv) Question: Do we know what MAUSD is planning on putting in front of the school?
Jody: The sketches appear to be a more traditional play ground
- v) Question: how does this handle the direct sun?
Jody: The current structure is full metal and this is most made of hard plastic which shouldn't be an issue in terms of heat.
Question: Do you have a timeline?
Jody: The goal is to get this all installed over the summer, June or July.
This is a potential issue since we're not sure if the funds will be available at this time.
- vi) There is also the bid policy for the town to consider (3 bids for purchases over \$7,000) Jody and Andrea will look into this, Edorah may have gotten some bids.
- vii) What happens if you don't get this from the ARPA committee?
Andrea: we would need to kick in our fundraising appeals, which are already happening but would represent a serious undertaking.
- viii) FOR will look into the ADA requirements by checking in with MAUSD.

Next steps

- Carrie will connect with Rebecca Elder regarding the process, and substance of the ARPA committee's report/recommendation to the selectboard.
- Some ARPA committee members will reserve time at the 2/7 selectboard meeting to report back to them as per their request.