

Town of Starksboro
Jerusalem Community Center Committee
Minutes
October 30, 2023
(Unapproved)

Present: Luke McCarthy, Susan Klaiber, Tom Estey, Alan Quittner, Jeff Dunham
Unable to Attend: Megan Nedzinski, Greg Orvis,

Meeting called to order by Chair Luke McCarthy at 6:04pm

Visitors Business: None.

Update on ARPA Funding: L. McCarthy and S. Klaiber attended a Selectboard meeting on September 12th and presented several proposals if the Schoolhouse and Fire Station projects were to be awarded ARPA funds. At its October 3rd meeting the Selectboard awarded the Jerusalem Schoolhouse and Fire Station project \$177,200 in ARPA funds. This is in addition to the funds awarded for lead remediation and architecture fees.

Update on Wastewater Permit: The committee understands that a bid was submitted and accepted by the Selectboard for replacement of the Wastewater system at the Schoolhouse. It is not known how much the bid was for, but the payments will come out of the ARPA award. It is understood that the work will be substantially complete by December 31, negating the need for an extension. It was discussed that the Little Free Library and Little Free Pantry will need to be removed in order to allow for the work. It is unclear who will be reaching out to the parties responsible for moving the units. A question came up as to whether the side door outcropping on the Schoolhouse needed to be removed prior to the wastewater work. The committee had a general feeling that the removal could take place after the WW work but that is still an open question.

Update on Grant Opportunities & Funding: L. McCarthy reached out to a specialist with the local USDA Rural Development office to inquire about the USDA Community Facilities Grant. Unfortunately, the average income of Starksboro does not allow for a grant, but we would still qualify for a low interest long-term loan. According to the specialist it is currently a 3% interest rate, and that rate cannot go up. It can, however, be adjusted down if USDA offers the loans at a lower rate in the future. The committee discussed how it would be difficult to pull together a patchwork of grants to cover the cost of the project, especially as some grants have deadlines to spend the award. The architect still owes us revised cost estimates; however, it was discussed that perhaps that should be held off on until we get a clearer picture of whether the project is going to a vote on Town Meeting.

JCCC Community Event: The community event on October 1 went well. There was a decent turnout, and a good time was had by all!

Future of the Committee: Although this committee will continue to meet regularly, it was discussed that there isn't anything to vote on anymore, and that the meetings are more of an opportunity to share information.

The committee reviewed and discussed minutes from the 8/28 meeting

Motion: S. Klaiber moves to approve the minutes. A. Quittner seconds.

Vote: All in favor

The committee reviewed and discussed minutes from the 9/25 meeting

Motion: T. Estey moves to approve the minutes. A. Quittner seconds.

Vote: All in favor.

Motion: T. Estey moves to adjourn the meeting. A. Quittner Seconds

Vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned at 7:16

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the JCCC will be on November 27 at 6pm on ZOOM.

Link to follow.