

Town of Starksboro
Jerusalem Community Center Committee
Minutes
August 31, 2020
(Unapproved)

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair Susan Klaiber at 6:03 p.m.

S. Klaiber read the official open meeting law announcement (see below) and took roll call. All committee members present.

Visitors Business: No visitors present

Zoning Issues with Co-Location & Fire Dept. Feedback: Following the last meeting, discussions were had with GVV (the contracted architect) and it was agreed that there is a negotiable path to co-locating the fire department and schoolhouse on the same site. The issues of parking, roof design and other issues can be resolved with some work and GVV is willing to continue those conversations. GVV suggests that to resolve most issues a small piece of land from the neighboring property (approximately .15 acres) could be secured and this would allow the fire station to be turned parallel to Jerusalem Road. This would allow for drive through bays, as well as create room for up to 15 parking spots. A very rough site drawing was provided by GVV and was reviewed later in the meeting.

The results of an anonymous poll of the members of the fire department revealed that by and large the entire department wants the station on a separate piece of land with more space. Their concerns with co-locating the buildings are lack of parking and a general lack of space. Discussions were had about how it would be nice for the department to have a stand-alone facility on a separate property, but it would be irresponsible to taxpayers not to continue to explore the cheaper option of co-location. Ultimately the Town is not ready to fund anything, whether it be a stand-alone property or co-locating so we have time to explore both options.

Discussions then turned to needed maintenance on the schoolhouse. With the likelihood of a town-wide vote at least a year and a half out, the committee discussed the leaking roof and structural issues on the Schoolhouse. The question was raised whether to ask the Select Board for funding to perform some critical maintenance on the town owned building.

Discussion of next steps: The committee decided that there were three areas that needed to be considered: 1) trying to get a grant in conjunction with town funds to perform critical maintenance on the roof; 2) talk with the Zoning Administrator and GVV in order to resolve the zoning issues with the current co-locating plan; and 3) continue to explore the possibility of re-locating the fire department to a new site, and what that would cost.

Motion #1: M. Nedzinski made a motion to approach the Town for a request to fund (with potentially matching grants) measures to protect and maintain critical components of the Schoolhouse. L. McCarthy seconded.

Vote: All in favor

Motion #2: M. Nedzinski made a motion for the committee to meet with the Zoning Administrator to determine the exact issues of non-compliance with the current co-location plan and determine how they might be resolved. T. Estey seconded.

Vote: All in favor

Motion #3: M. Nedzinski made a motion to approach the Select Board and ask if they agree with and support the previous Select Board's decision to ask the owners of the adjacent property to sell or donate a small piece of land. J. Dunham seconded.

Vote: All in favor

Motion #4: A. Quittner made a motion to ask the Select Board if the committee can publicly solicit from the landowners of South Starksboro a parcel that would suit the Fire Department's needs. No committee members seconded.

Vote: No vote – motion failed.

The committee agreed that exploring the possibility of securing a separate parcel of land is needed, however the time is not presently right for making that a public endeavor. J. Dunham and T. Estey volunteered to go to the Zoning administrator with GVV for Motion #2. S. Klaiber will attend the next Select Board meeting regarding Motion #3. General discussion of the order of things and when to execute each motion.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the July 13th meeting were reviewed and discussed.

Motion: T. Estey made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 13th meeting. L. McCarthy seconded.

Vote: All in favor

Motion: M. Nedzinski made a motion to adjourn. T. Estey Seconded.

Vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned at 7:45.

The next meeting of the JCCC will be held on September 28th at 6pm **ON ZOOM**

Open Meeting Law Introduction read by the Chair at beginning of meeting:

“As Chair of the Jerusalem Community Center Committee, I find that, due to the State of Emergency declared by Governor Scott as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and pursuant to Addendum 6 to Executive Order 01-20 and Act 92, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

In accordance with Act 92, there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting. However, in accordance with the temporary amendments to the Open Meeting Law, I confirm that we are: a) Providing public access to the meeting by telephone and video conference call, with additional access offered through telephone. We are using Zoom for this remote meeting. All members of the Committee have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if desired, participate in this meeting by electronically raising a hand or speaking up during the call and being recognized by the Chair; b) Providing public notice of instructions for

accessing the meeting. We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing this meeting, including how to access the meeting using telephone means in our posted meeting agenda. Instructions have also been provided on the town website at: www.starksborovt.org; c) Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access. If anybody has a problem, please contact Susan Klaiber at 453-5537; and d) Continuing the meeting if necessary. In the event the public is unable to access this meeting, it will be continued to a time and place certain.

Please note that all votes taken during this meeting that are not unanimous will be done by roll call vote, in accordance with the law. Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance of all members participating in the meeting.”

DRAFT