

Starksboro Selectboard
Minutes of 3/21/23
Unapproved

Board members present: Koran Cousino, Nancy Boss, Eric Cota, Carin McCarthy, John Painter
Others present: Rebecca Elder, Jim Carroll, Josh Martell

Koran Cousino called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
The agenda was reviewed – no changes were needed.

Executive Session

Motion: John Painter moved that based on the advice of counsel, the Selectboard hereby finds that premature general public knowledge involving confidential attorney-client communications including professional legal advice concerning a complaint of unpermitted land development, would clearly place the public body at a disadvantage in probable civil litigation to which the Town of Starksboro may be involved. Carin McCarthy second.

Motion: John Painter moved to enter executive session with counsel and Rebecca Elder to consider professional legal advice and confidential attorney-client communications from counsel involving a complaint of unpermitted land development. Carin McCarthy second.

Motions approved unanimously.

Motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. John Painter moved, Carin McCarthy second. No action was taken.

Visitor's Business

Josh Martell requested permission to rent half of the old town shed for a personal use. He wants to restore a vehicle and use the shed for a dry garage space. The board asked that he email a proposal with a description of what he plans to do and what insurance coverage he will provide. Rebecca will check the town's coverage on the building. To be added to the next agenda for discussion.

Current Business

Motion: Nancy Boss moved to approve the warrants for A/P and payroll as presented. Eric Cota seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion: Eric Cota moved to approve the minutes of 3/8/23 as presented. Carin McCarthy seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Town Administrator Update

1. Brown Hill project bid in the schedule (FEMA) for April/May
2. AOT 2024 grant application and info was released – discuss with Road Foreman for priority projects
3. BRIC update – subrecipient grant awarded; follow up needed next week
4. Appointments:
5. Financial Audit RFP – Two responses have been received: RHR Smith & Co (Maine) and Sullivan, Powers & Co (VT).
6. Town Hall/Library septic – Jeff Keeney has submitted permitting app to the State; fee of \$306.25 due for permit application

7. DRB support – Elected clerk needed for minutes and helping draft decisions. Discussed process to support DRB until ZA is hired
8. IT Updates – wiring in town office; security upgrades; email protocols and town accounts
9. Finance topics for discussion with Treasurer in April

Zoning updates were provided re: DRB applications and permits that have been applied for.

Town Pavilion Site Plan application

Motion: Nancy Boss moved to approve the DRB site plan review application from the Town of Starksboro for uses of the Town Pavilion structure. Eric Cota seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Mail Review

Koran received an email from a concerned citizen about speed of drivers in town. The Sheriff has been present in town several times this month. Koran will invite the new sheriff to a future meeting to talk about town concerns including speed. There was a brief discussion about whether the town could have a speed monitoring sign put on 116 (like the signs in Bristol). The challenge is that is a State highway. Speed studies and traffic calming would need to be addressed to VDOT. We can talk with ACRPC as well.

Motion: Nancy Boss move to approve the request from the Gran Fondo for use of roads on June 24, 2023 for a cycling event. Eric Cota seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

May meetings: 2, 16, 23 (retreat)

Zoning Administrator resignation:

Rebecca Elder had previously informed the Selectboard of her intention to resign as the zoning administrator pending the hiring of a new ZA. In order to provide coverage and continuity in the zoning office, Rebecca withdrew her formal resignation and agreed to continue as interim ZA on a limited basis.

Opioid Settlement documentation

Vermont has reached settlement agreements with five opioid manufacturers: Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walmart, and Walgreens. As was the case for the previous settlements with Janssen and the Distributors, each state has been allocated a percentage of the settlement funds based on a formula that considers the number of opioid deaths in the state, the number of people in the state with opioid use disorder, the amount of state opioid sales, and population. Vermont's share of each settlement exceeds our percentage of the population. By signing on, the Town will receive its allocated share of the 15% Subdivision Fund.

Koran and Carin agreed to review the legal documents before the documents are signed. They will follow up with Rebecca.

State Hazard Mitigation Plan Municipal Survey

Responses are due by 4/28/23.

Selectboard Roundtable

Chili Cook-off event was a success. Good attendance and community engagement. All agreed this is a good start to annual events that bring people together. Thanks to Carin, Peg Casey and many others who made the event happen.

Discussion about welcoming new residents to the community. Right now, nothing is sent to people who move into the community. Nancy is interested in creating a welcome packet. Rebecca said that PC member Lexy Thompson wants to do something similar and they should connect. Nancy will follow up.

Richmond Trail Running Club

Request for use of town roads for event on July 8, 2023. The rain date is July 16. Certificate of insurance will be provided.

Motion: Carin McCarthy moved to approve the request by the Richmond Trail Running Club for July 8, 2023 use of town roads. Nancy Boss seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion: Carin McCarthy moved to enter executive session per 1 VSA S313a3 personnel and/or contract negotiations. Eric Cota second. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion to exit executive session at 9:00 p.m.: Nancy Boss, Eric Cota second
Motion approved unanimously.

Motion to adjourn at 9:05 p.m.: Nancy Boss, Carin McCarthy second
Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Elder
Town Administrator