

Starksboro Selectboard
Minutes of 4/6/21
Approved

Board members: Koran Cousino, Nancy Boss, Eric Cota, Carin McCarthy, John Painter
Others present: Amy McCormick, Rebecca Elder, Margi Gregory, Richard Warren, Jan McCleery

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Koran Cousino.

Changes or Additions: none

Visitor's Business: none

Road Foreman's Report

- Tony will be out on personal leave and hopes to be back at work by 4/15.
- Roads conditions are good and fairly dry. The crew has been using the grader throughout town.
- Otter Creek Engineering completed a site visit for the Brown Hill E. bridge project.
- MRGP (permit) regarding the Road Inventory is complete. It was approved and the fee paid.

Warrants

Motion: Nancy Boss made a motion to approve the warrants for bills, orders, and payroll as presented by the Treasurer. Eric Cota second.

Motion approved unanimously.

Minutes review postponed to 4/20

Action Items

Mowing bids: The board received two quotes for mowing and lawn services for town properties and Cota field.

Motion: Eric Cota made a motion to approve the Scenic Valley mowing contract for the 2021 season. John Painter second.

Motion approved unanimously.

Motion: Nancy Boss made a motion to approve the contract with Dan Gebo for the Cota sports fields area. Carin McCarthy second.

Motion approved unanimously.

MAUSD School board vacancy and appointment update

Koran provided an update about the process so far. Only one candidate came forward for the vacancy created by Caleb Elder's resignation. Starksboro resident Brad Johnson applied for consideration. The MAUSD board was planning to conduct interviews at a special meeting with Starksboro Selectboard representatives present. However, since there was only one candidate and he was not available for the meeting, Board Chair Dawn Griswold asked the Starksboro Selectboard for support to proceed without the special meeting given that there were no other candidates to interview.

Board members discussed and agreed that the MAUSD should proceed with appointment and supported Johnson's application. Carin noted that it was important to ensure the Selectboard would be involved if this appointment were to fall through for any reason. The group agreed to authorize Koran to communicate with the MAUSD regarding this discussion.

Administrative Updates

Rebecca provided a brief update on the IT migration and website work. The migration is complete. The remaining onboarding work is focused on SharePoint and troubleshooting issues for various town employees and board members. The website design work continues with site construction starting 3rd week of April.

Community Green space discussion

Carin gave a summary of the meetings this week. The first was an outdoor meeting with several town residents and Michele Gilbert of RiseVT to look at the land behind the town clerk's office and next to the community gardens and take photos of area. The photos will be used for a short presentation that will receive review and feedback from a community planner and the team working throughout Vermont in small communities. Carin and Michele also met with ACRPC's Adam Lougee and intern Maddi Shropshire, who will be helping guide Starksboro in seeking some grant opportunities to support future projects. They offered several suggestions including potential AOT funding related to stormwater management, VDHP community block grants, and other recreation focused funding for possible trails/paths.

Rebecca and Carin will participate in a training session in late April and continue working with RiseVT and other partners to explore ways to pursue future uses of the town-owned land in the village. The Planning Commission will assess the possibilities of seeking Village Center designation given some new parameters that may benefit the Library and Meetinghouse as well.

Town Appointments:

ACRPC reps – Rich Warren attended and will continue in the role. He would like to see another delegate and an alternate be appointed so he can help mentor someone to learn about the RPC. Two residents expressed interest, Jeff Dunham and Keegan Tierney, but have not committed to taking on the seat(s) at this time.

Conservation Commission – Margi Gregory has been helping with CC activities, particularly the medicinal herbs along the path and sees that area as an ecological gem. She wants to help continue cultivating it and bring more children and residents into the projects with the medicinal garden, pollinator projects, and possibly a plant survey. Robin LaRue has also been volunteering with the CC and may be interested in appointment at a later date. Jan McCleery will follow up with Robin.

Motion: Eric Cota moved and Carin McCarthy seconded the motion to re-appoint Richard Warren as the Addison County Regional Planning Commission delegate for a one-year term.

Motion approved unanimously.

Motion: Nancy Boss moved and Carin McCarthy seconded the motion to appoint Margi Gregory to the Conservation Commission for a three-year term.

Motion approved unanimously.

Motion: Eric Cota moved and Carin McCarthy seconded the motion to appoint Pete Antos-Ketcham to the Energy Committee for a one-year term.

Motion approved unanimously.

Motion: Nancy Boss moved and Carin McCarthy seconded the motion to appoint Robyn King to the Energy Committee for a one-year term.

Motion approved unanimously.

Motion: Nancy Boss moved and Carin McCarthy seconded the motion to appoint Susan Jefferies as the representative to the ACSWD.

Motion approved unanimously.

Mail review:

Grant opportunity related to dry fire hydrants – forward to Tom Estey.

SB concerns

Pottery studio – Rebecca received a message from Peter Marsh regarding Judith Bryant’s plan to vacate the building and have removed all pottery studio equipment by 5/31/21. Nancy will follow up with tenant regarding a walk-through inspection on 6/1 TBD.

Nancy requested an Executive Session be scheduled at the next regular meeting on 4/20 regarding a personnel matter.

Motion to adjourn:

Nancy Boss moved and Carin McCarthy seconded the motion at 7:15 p.m.

Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Elder
SB Assistant