

Starksboro Selectboard meeting
Annual planning retreat
May 7, 2024
Unapproved

Board members present: Koran Cousino, John Painter, David Schmidt, Eric Cota, Carin McCarthy

Unable to attend:

Others present: Josh Martell, Rebecca Elder, Amy McCormick

Koran Cousino called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m. at the Starksboro Vol. Fire Department building.

Adjustments to the Agenda: none

Visitor's Business none

Road Foreman's Report

Discussion of goals for road work projects in the next 6 months:

- Grants in Aid – Shaker Hill work for ditching for hydraulically connected segments
- Robert Young Road – Narrow up the road in order to get a crown for better road conditions
- Ruby Brace/Big Hollow hill – plan to rip up and replace worst section
- Big Hollow hill to 116 – plan to rip up and replace worst section
- Ireland Rd – no immediate work planned; a lot of maintenance done over the spring/mud seasons; over 900 yds of material was used
- Russell Young Rd – 650 yds of material was required
- Sand is being made and roads are being graded

Discussion of Letter of Intent for Grants in Aid 2025. There is no commitment to do the work but allows for the funding if there is staff capacity.

Motion: John Painter made a motion to approve submission of the letter of intent for Grants in Aid 2025. Carin McCarthy seconded. Motion approved unanimously. (Rebecca will submit the form.)

Minutes Review

Motion: John Painter made a motion to approve the minutes of 4/16/24 with two corrections. Eric Cota second. Motion approved unanimously.

Town Owned Buildings

Food shelf building needs to be painted on the exterior with various repairs to trim and siding needed due to rot and water damage. Most local contractors were already booked for the summer. One quote was received from Rick Davis and was reviewed.

Motion: Carin McCarthy made a motion to approve the proposal submitted for the painting of the exterior of the Food Shelf building. Eric Cota seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Rebecca will follow up with quotes for trim/sill work.

Bus shelter – An email was sent to the town regarding the access to the bus shelter. A regular user called Tri-Valley Transit to discuss the rough surface our shelter. Rebecca responded that resurfacing and redesigning this area is a large project the Town is working on but will not be an immediate fix. The town will plan to add a concrete ramp access similar to the entrance of the post office.

Library/Town Hall – The lift project is still in process. MTAP funds were applied for support accessibility planning for the exterior to support the lift installation and access inside the building. Another discussion between the selectboard and library board is needed before changes are made to the building. This will be scheduled in the next couple of months. The new librarian, Cathy Townsend, is getting to know the building and the community. Her input will be helpful as the projects and building improvements are clarified.

Jerusalem Schoolhouse and Fire Station projects – Awaiting updates on revised cost projections. Luke and Tom will join a meeting soon with information.

Capital Planning

In general, a capital plan is needed for all town buildings so that resources are allocated in the best way possible and last minute expenses are avoided. The ground work done in the last two years on the Jerusalem Schoolhouse building, Food Shelf building, Post Office, and Town Hall/Library have provided a strong base of information with which to create a capital plan.

Financial systems that support larger grants and increased grant administration capacity through the town administrator position have helped move this work forward. Continued attention in these areas will support Starksboro's growth for the future.

Selectboard Roundtable:

- Food Shelf donations are down. They requested the annual appropriation distribution this week.
- Keegan Tierney approached Koran about the recently announced Village Trust Initiative sponsored by the Preservation Trust of Vermont. The Selectboard supports an initial inquiry into the program and how it might benefit Starksboro's town goals.
- New Community Project is holding its annual dinner on 5/25 at the church. The Selectboard members are invited to attend and hear about the year's work and the collaboration on projects with the Town.

Richard's Ride

Motion: John Painter made a motion to approve the request from Richard's Ride for use of town roads on 5/18 as presented. Carin McCarthy seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Rebecca will email Jared Katz with approval.

Richmond Trail Running Club

Motion: Eric Cota made a motion to approve the request from the Richmond Trail Running Club for use of town roads on July 6 as presented. John Painter seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion to adjourn 8:05 p.m.: Eric Cota moved, David Schmidt seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Elder, Town Administrator