

Starksboro Selectboard Meeting
Minutes of September 20, 2022
Unapproved

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair Koran Cousino at 6:01 p.m. at the town clerk's office and via Zoom.

Road Foreman Report

1. John Deere grader financing lease terms – X from John Deere attended to explain the lease terms and answer questions.
Motion: Nancy Boss made a motion to approve the lease terms for X. Eric Cota shall be authorized to sign the final lease. Carin McCarthy seconded.
Vote: Motion approved unanimously.
2. Ben Roberts project timeline – ECI contract approved and to be signed this week.
3. FEMA Update – Rebecca met with the FEMA team. All PRJ reports are saved in the grants e-files. Extension is in place for both Ben Roberts and Brown Hill projects.
4. Other road & maintenance updates: One truck at Mack for repairs, another is at Viking; there are a lot of repairs right now to various equipment. The crew is staying busy with projects despite the equipment issues. Dan Sargent project was completed and invoice submitted.

Fellowship of the Wheel cycling event

Adam Morse, Executive Director, came to request permission for a gravel road ride event on 10/2/22. They will start from vTerra farm on Cemetery Road and continue to State's Prison Hollow and then into Monkton. They did not realize they needed to request permission from the town and want to adhere to the town's rules. They have EMT service in place, water stations, a signage plan, and are communicating the rules of the event to participants. The Selectboard described the town's experience with other recent road cycling events. Eric Cota said he was not inclined to support the event because the group did not request permission in advance. He said the board rejected the proposal for a VAST trail connector last year for similar reasons. Nancy Boss agreed. John Painter stated that though he agreed that all groups should come to the board for permission and review, he also sees this event as a different situation (one time event, low impact activity). John supported the event moving forward with some additional safety concerns addressed. Carin McCarthy concurred with John.

Motion: John Painter made a motion to approve the Fellowship of the Wheel cycling event's use of portions of town roads (Cemetery Road, State's Prison Hollow Road) on October 2 with XXX caveats. Carin McCarthy seconded.

Vote: Motion approved (3 yes KC, JP, CM; 2 no EC, NB)

Energy Committee Update

Richard Faesy, Jeff Dunham, Pete Antos-Ketcham, and Megan Nedzinski attended to update the Selectboard on current energy-related projects in town and goals. Megan walked the group through a presentation on energy bench-marking for the town buildings.

Richard asked what projects or initiatives the Selectboard wanted the committee to focus its efforts on. Board members were supportive of

Current Business

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

Vote: Motion approved unanimously.

Animal Control Update

Chuck Webber reported on a potentially aggressive dog complaint regarding dogs living at the Trombley property. The owners received notices of violation regarding these dogs in the past. The board instructed the ACO to proceed with issuing notices of violation. Koran will coordinate delivery of the notices with the AC Sheriff.

MAUSD Board member vacancy

No applications from Starksboro residents have been received to date. The opening has been posted on FPF twice. Carin will contact MAUSD Board Chair Dawn Griswold about the process for appointment if no one steps forward. John will contact Nancy Cornell and Herb Olson about finding a Starksboro community member to serve in the position.

Town Clerk and Administrative Updates

Flag box project – The local Boy Scouts troupe requested permission to install a retired flag box to collect flag for proper disposal. The box would be located on the town office porch and would be managed by the Boy Scouts.

Motion: Eric Cota moved to approve the Boy Scouts flag box project as described. Nancy Boss seconded. **Vote:** Motion approved unanimously.

Cemetery Fence Repair

Motion: Nancy Boss made a motion to approve the cemetery fence repair in the amount of \$X. Carin McCarthy seconded. **Vote:** Motion approved unanimously.

Zoning Fee Schedule

Rebecca presented a revised zoning fee schedule. The current fees have been in place since 2016. Given the changes in the economy, cost of living, and staff time increases, the new proposed fees allow the town to continue keeping permitting fees to a minimum while covering basic expenses. One noted addition is an after-the-fact zoning permit for permits applied for after construction has begun or already occurred. The board agreed that this penalty needed to be added as a consequence for those who do not follow basic zoning permit requirements. The fee will be 3 times the original permit fee.

Motion: John Painter made a motion to approve the proposed zoning fee schedule as presented. Eric Cota seconded. **Vote:** Motion approved unanimously.

Additional town email addresses

Rebecca proposed the town consider adding email addresses for the two new DRB alternate members. They have been participating in meetings and should have access to the same system as the other board members.

Motion: Carin McCarthy made a motion to approve the addition of 3 town email addresses for two DRB alternate members and the Health Officer. **Vote:** Motion approved unanimously.

Septic System Service for town buildings

Amy noted that the septic system for the Town Clerk's office is due for pumping and cleaning. The board agreed the old town office (food shelf) should be serviced at the same time. This regular service does not require board approval in the future and should be scheduled on a 3-year cycle as recommended by the septic service provider.

Motion: Carin McCarthy made a motion to approve septic cleaning service for the town clerk's building and the old town office building this year and on a 3-year cycle for the future. Nancy Boss seconded. **Vote:** Motion approved unanimously.

Cannabis and local zoning regulations

The ZA was informed that there are 3 registered Tier 1 growers approved in Starksboro. No local permits have been issued or applied for to date. An interested applicant for a Tier 1 operation in the Forestry and Conservation district

Motion to adjourn: Eric Cota moved at 8:35 p.m.; Carin McCarthy second.

Vote: Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Elder
Selectboard Assistant