

Starksboro Selectboard Meeting  
Minutes of 9/21/21  
Unapproved

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**Board members present:** Eric Cota, Koran Cousino, John Painter, remote participation: Carin McCarthy  
**Unable to attend:** Nancy Boss  
**Others present:** Rebecca Elder, Chris Runcie, Louis DuPont, Kate Kelly (LCA), Jess Messer, Amy McCormick

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The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Koran Cousino.

Changes or Additions: none

Visitor's Business:

State's Prison Hollow pull-off: Jess Messer asked the board to again consider taking action to ensure safety and prevent dumping. Guardrails are needed. Landowners around the pull-off are continually dealing with illegal dumping. Tony was not present so the Board did not commit to any actions but will discuss with Tony.

Watershed United Grant

The Lewis Creek Association has applied for a grant on behalf of the town. Kate Kelley (LCA), Louis DuPont, and Chris Runcie joined to address questions from board members regarding the requested wetland delineation. The board had concerns about proceeding. They asked Matt Montgomery for additional information. LCA said the State changed the rules in 2020 and the grant application will not be considered without the delineation. Eric thinks the delineation would potentially tie the town's hands in terms of future uses and maintenance. Louis understood the concerns about restrictions and reassured that current uses would not be altered or taken away. The point of the grant is to help make the rec fields more durable. After much discussion, the board asked Kate to contact the State specialist, Zapata Courage, for a written guarantee of the continued current uses. The board can hold a special meeting next week for a final vote before the grant submission deadline.

MAUSD school district update

John reported he spoke with Paul Forlenza of the Lincoln Selectboard. There are two votes that are needed. The remaining 4 towns must all vote on the same day to vote yes/no on releasing Lincoln from the district. Lincoln is concerned about losing 6 months of time to work on their proposal and plans by waiting for a vote in March on town meeting day. However, voter turnout will be better in March. There has been confusion about the 90-day limit with regard to a vote—supervisory union vs. district.

Community proposal review team: Erin Buckwalter and Carin McCarthy were selected to serve on the group that is reviewing the community proposals for alternate plans for MAUSD.

Warrants – AP and Payroll

**Motion:** Eric Cota made a motion to approve the warrants for accounts payable and payroll as presented. John Painter second. **Motion approved unanimously.**

Minutes review postponed.

Town Green Pavilion Update

Volunteers are planning work on a stone retaining wall. Donna Norton made a diagram for review. The group is discussing potential use of wood from the Town Forest. Local harvesting is appealing and there's

an opportunity for student engagement (i.e. field trips to the Town Forest). The Selectboard supports exploring this option. Mike Shepard and Robert Turner will discuss feasibility.

### Town Census

Carin asked if there are any plans for a town census. Amy shared that there was an informal census done by staff from the Robinson School but the town clerk's office was not involved in collecting or processing the information beyond town records. The SOS group could follow up with Lincoln as they perform a regular census re: younger child population.

### Mail review:

- Request from Nancy Cornell re: ARPA funding support for Maple Broadband Initiative.
- Several letters and emails were received in response to the board's letter to the MAUSD board. All have been circulated to the Selectboard.
- Rebecca received an inquiry from Margi Gregory re: installation of a commemorative bench in honor of Jennifer Turner on the Cota rec field property. The board supports the proposal and expressed gratitude to those coordinating the effort.

### Selectboard Concerns

FEMA project – there has been slow communication from Otter Creek Engineering on the remaining FEMA projects. Town is waiting on a response regarding the culvert proposal for Ben Roberts, which FEMA said was undersized. Nancy Boss to follow up with a call to Brent at OCE.

### Motion to adjourn:

Carin McCarthy moved and Eric Cota seconded the motion to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca Elder, SB Assistant