

## Starksboro Selectboard meeting

September 26, 2023

Unapproved

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Present: Koran Cousino, Eric Cota, Carin McCarthy, John Painter  
Others: Rebecca Elder, Kate Kelly

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Koran Cousino called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Review of agenda:** no changes

### Road Foreman's Report

Josh provided quotes for a replacement transport trailer for the excavator. The board will consider quotes at the next meeting.

### Current Business

#### Town property:

1. Update on wastewater system replacement proposals: An RFP has been published for the Jerusalem Schoolhouse replacement wastewater system. Bids are due 10/15.
2. Post Office windows have been replaced.
3. Town clerk's office – Front porch is showing wear and should be monitored for preventative repairs in the spring. During the refinishing of the back entry porch, rotten wood was found on the stringer for the steps and the side support beam. These should be repaired this year; add to spring maintenance list.
4. Building painting – no update

#### Town Administration Update

1. Office and town clerk updates - none
2. FEMA update – Brown Hill East bridge project continues. Josh and Rebecca have done site visits and continue meeting with the project engineer regularly.
3. Zoning/PC/DRB update – ZA is focused on various compliance issues and support for the PC updates to the Bylaws.
4. MERP grant Level II energy assessments - 2 of 5 buildings were selected: Jerusalem Schoolhouse and the Food Shelf. Rebecca is gathering the historical data and structural info for both buildings prior to the assessments.

**Motion:** Eric Cota made a motion to approve the warrants for A/P and payroll as presented. Carin McCarthy seconded. **Vote:** Approved unanimously

**Motion:** Carin McCarthy moved to approve the minutes of 9/12/23 with edits as noted. John Painter seconded. **Vote:** Approved unanimously

Cota Rec Area and Lewis Creek Assoc

Kate Kelly from LCA attended to summarize the assessment by the State wetlands scientist and the wetland delineation. There was not much identified as jurisdictional wetlands, which was good news for some of the work to improve drainage by the fields. Kate is checking in with all agencies to ensure proposed work will be permitted.

The State river scientist did not approve of armoring the stream banks. Such work would not be eligible for the Clean Water funds from the State. The Lake Champlain Basin program may fund additional work that could include several parts of the project under one grant. Additional review and approval is needed from Jaron Borg before deciding to proceed with a design.

The Selectboard supports pursuing grant funds for parking lot drainage improvements, field drainage, and swale cleanout without the stream bank work. Field work would be scheduled for spring 2024. If plans were approved, construction would require another round of grants for work in 2025.

## Current Business

### **Library site survey**

The library board hopes to have a site survey done to clarify the boundary with neighboring property. Discussion included cost for survey work. Defining the boundary is not a high priority currently. The board wants to know what the survey information would provide that would advance current projects. The survey is unlikely to be straightforward and a compelling reason for the work is needed before authorizing.

### **Snow removal for town office**

There was a brief discussion about options for snow removal service for the town clerk's office and the pathway to the library. Eric contacted Scenic Valley to inquire if they could provide snow removal if combined with plowing of the town office and commuter parking lot. He will contact a few other contractors for quotes and options.

### **Town Pavilion roof**

Three bids have been received. One option is screw down aluminum and two are for standing seam. One quote includes v-groove underlayment. The group prefers standing seam due to the longevity and low maintenance. It would also make solar installation straightforward if that option were considered in the future.

## Selectboard roundtable

- Carin attended the VLCT Town Fair and reported on ideas for income generation that would not impact local residents. One proposal is a "local option tax" (1-2% tax on online purchases; provides a way to think about how to support projects and without increasing the tax base.)
- Sunday event at the Jerusalem School for community fun and connection. Information on FPF and the town website.
- Comm member asked about interest in a little free library at the Jerusalem Schoolhouse. Board supports this effort.
- Evaluation of the Town Administrator has been completed. John coordinated the process, gathered input and feedback, and met with the TA. A follow up conversation about hours and job description will be conducted at a future meeting in executive session.

**Motion to adjourn** at 7:30 p.m.: Eric Cota, John Painter second. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Elder  
Town Administrator