

## **Starksboro Selectboard Meeting**

**April 18, 2017**

Selectboard members Present: Tony Porter, Susan Jefferies (Chair), Koran Cousino, Keegan Tierney

Others present: Tom Estey, Sam Carlson, Celina Aiguier

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

**Bills/Orders:** T. Porter made a motion to approve bills and orders. K. Tierney seconded. Voted and approved.

**Minutes:** T. Porter moved to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2017 Selectboard meeting and the April 11, 2017 Selectboard retreat meeting. K. Cousino seconded. Voted and approved.

### **Road Foreman's report:**

- T. Estey reported that the roads are drying out and they will be scraped soon. He also mentioned that a discussion is needed to reclassify the class 4, Mason Hill North and Mason Hill South Roads. T. Porter mentioned that the homeowners on these roads have discussed having them declassified. T. Estey also reported that Brown Hill road should no longer be maintained by the town as the road has an 11-12% grade and is expensive to maintain. The Board agreed that this can be discussed at a future meeting with the homeowners. T. Estey reported that at a Fire Warden meeting he learned that the State has a new policy where it will only reimburse the town if a fire is on State land or if an individual has a fire that is threatening State land. The reimbursement will be \$500.00/hour per fire truck.

### **Mail:**

- **Letter of interest** in Selectboard assistant job from a townsperson. S. Jefferies will follow up.
- **Regional County Planning commission's letter regarding reappointment for** Richard Warren and Marjorie Dickstein. S. Jefferies also mentioned Jan McCleery is up for Transportation Advisory Committee reappointment. She will give them all a call to see if they are interested in being reappointed.

**Visitors Business: Sam Carlson from Green Lantern Solar Proposal:** Sam Carlson proposed putting solar arrays on one acre parcels of land in Starksboro. The current proposed sites are the conserved land at the gravel pit, the old Starksboro landfill and the land next to Robinson Elementary School. S. Carlson discussed putting the array on 1 or all of the proposed sites. He gave a general overview of the regulatory steps it would take to set up the panels. He mentioned that they are fixed-tilt solar systems with no moving parts. The Selectboard and S. Carlson discussed the pros and cons of each site including but not limited to road access, environmental regulations around a capped landfill, the town needing to distinguish a "preferred" site in a green field and getting permission from The Vermont Land Trust for conserved land. The board did mention that there is a purchase agreement on the land at the gravel pit set to expire June 30th. Also it is still unclear what is happening with the land next to Robinson School. S. Carlson let the Selectboard know there is a 20 year minimum lease with 3, 5 year extensions, with discussions at each juncture. He did say that an acre site would have a payment of \$3000.00 for the first 10 years and \$3,500.00 for the next ten as well as tax credits. S. Carlson gave documentation for the Selectboard to review. The Selectboard agreed the next step is to follow up with the Planning Commission to discuss the proposal and sites. S. Jefferies will follow up with S. Carlson after she speaks with the Planning Commission. S. Carlson said he could meet with the Planning Commission to answer any questions they may have after S. Jefferies updates them.

### **New Business:**

- **Website:** A recent Front Porch Forum (FPF) post from a community member indicated that community members could use their expertise to volunteer and update the town website. The board agreed it would be helpful to get community involvement in this matter. K. Cousino will send an FPF post seeking volunteers to join a group of 4-5 people with website expertise to research what will be needed to redesign the Starksboro website. K. Cousino will also contact Rebecca Elder and Erin Buckwalter informing them of this group as they have shown interest in helping with the website.

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- **Selectboard Assistant Position:** One community member has sent an application and another member has sent a letter of interest. The Board discussed the importance of the candidate being comfortable working with five Selectboard members, comfortable with technology as they will need to set up sound systems etc. for meetings, able listen to discussions and accurately write minutes and correspondence as well as posses good communication skills as they may be asked by the Selectboard to speak on the their behalf. The Board agreed that the Selectboard Chair will be the assistant's first point of contact when questions arise.
- **Town Mowing bids:** S. Jefferies asked the Board to ratify the decision made at the April 11th meeting to have Scenic Valley Landscaping mow around the town buildings including the new town garage and the Jerusalem schoolhouse. K. Tierney made a motion to ratify, K. Cousino seconded. Board approved. T. Porter will speak with the person who has mowed at the Jerusalem schoolhouse in the past letting them know that another bid was accepted.
- **Land Next to Robinson School:** Per the January 18 Selectboard meeting, "The Selectboard received a memo from ACRPC regarding transfer of land owned by town school districts to newly consolidated school districts. Starksboro has a lease with Robinson Elementary School to uses the land next to school land for six solar trackers owned by the town. The Selectboard will ask to review this with the School Board." S. Jefferies had contacted the School Board regarding this transfer in January. The School Board indicated they could discuss this later in the year. S. Jefferies will send a reminder letter to the School Board and the Superintendent regarding this matter.
- **Liability Insurance Requirements for Contractors:** The Board discussed their understanding of these requirements. S. Jefferies will invite Celine Coon to the next Selectboard meeting to discuss these requirements.
- **Selectboard Project List:** The Board will review and prioritize the list that was created at the April 11 retreat meeting. They will discuss the list at the next Selectboard meeting.
- **Budget Raises:** The Selectboard discussed employee raises for the next fiscal year.

#### **Old Business:**

- **Judith Bryant Pottery Studio Lease:** The Board discussed the modification of the lease in regards to Judith Bryant being held liable for the whole building as opposed to just the studio space. Two sections (section 6 and 13) of the lease speak to liability. The Board agreed they should contact James Carroll (attorney) to review the lease to see the best approach of modification so that J. Bryant is only liable for her studio space. T. Porter will follow up with J. Carroll.

#### **Agenda Items for May 2, 2017:**

- Green Lantern Solar Proposal
- Priority List
- Website
- Liability Insurance Requirements for Contractors
- Declassifying Mason Hill North/South, Brown Hill
- Judith Bryant Studio Lease
- Budget raises

The next meeting will be on May 2, 2017

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM

Minutes submitted by Celina Aiguier

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