

Starksboro Selectboard minutes

February 26, 2019

Unapproved

Present: Koran Cousino, Keegan Tierney, Eric Cota, Tony Porter, Peter Marsh

Others present: Rebecca Elder, Tom Estey

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Koran Cousino.

Adjustments to the agenda:

- Koran needs to leave by 6:15 p.m.
- Move discussion of town meeting prep to follow the Road Foreman's report

Road Foreman's Report – Tom Estey

- Road/Accessibility permit – Augustine Huante wants to put in a driveway at the end of Mason Hill Rd North, to go in by the old logging road and old chimney area. The permit was signed at the last meeting but needs revisions. Tom specified that a culvert is needed. Tom will speak with the Huantes and follow up with instructions.
- Hinesburg Hollow Road – The town will do some paving this summer due to rough pavement and potholes. The repairs will likely cost \$40-45K. Eric said that the town of Bristol has been doing a lot of patching and he has seen roads breaking up, water is collecting. On this stretch of Hinesburg Hollow (between Thrasher Road and the Lazy Brook MHP), there are safety issues in the outside 4 feet of road. A driveway in that section dumps water onto the road which increases the problems and potential damage to the asphalt. Many years ago, a water line was buried under the road which has also affected the structure.
- The current budget for paving was planned for State's Prison Hollow Road. If any funds remained, the road crew hoped to put a new coat of pavement on the town clerk's office lot and the post office lot.
- Tom noted that during this winter, the crew has already done 112 cycles of plowing. The record is 119.

Preparation for Town Meeting

- Gazette: The Board is prepared to discuss the Gazette production, hours required to create the publication and complete the bulk mailing as required by the Post Office.
 - 42,000 sheets of paper are used each year to print the Gazette.
 - The budget has included \$1600 for this line item. It has gone over budget -- \$3529 was spent last year – and that doesn't include labor or health insurance for employees.
 - Peter will collect some quote on a different format (11x17) and being printed and folded out of house (not in the town clerk's office).
 - The bulk permit is only used for the Gazette and is an annual cost.
 - The board would like to consider sending out a survey to all town residents to better understand what people would like to see, what sort of information is valuable, and whether an opt-in process for mailing paper copies could help curb costs.

The Green Lantern Solar lease agreement is ready to be signed. The board previously authorized Koran Cousino to sign the agreement once the 30-day warning period had passed.

Koran Cousino departed at 6:18 p.m.

Mowing bids

The board has received bids from two mowing companies. One more bid is expected and then the board will review and make a decision for the 2019 season.

Painting plan

Keegan spoke with Lanny Smith, who has done the painting for all the town buildings for the last several years. The Town clerk's office and library are done (completed in 2018). The next buildings that need attention are the Jerusalem Schoolhouse and the old town clerk's office (now food shelf and pottery studio).

Hazardous Waste Collection Date

ACSWD will hold a hazardous waste collection on June 1, 2019 at the Town Garage. It will be on a regular recycling day. The board approved informally.

Grand Fondo Bike Race

The Grand Fondo VTGF contacted the board regarding their race date of **June 29, 2019**. Starksboro is one of 10 towns to be traveled through in an 8-hour period. The Dept. of Public Safety requires permission from the towns. The route is from the Lincoln side, traveling Downingsville Rd to Jerusalem Rd to Rte17. They will provide proof of insurance.

Motion: Peter Marsh made a motion to approve the Grand Fondo race on Starksboro roads on June 29, 2019. Keegan Tierney seconded.

Discussion: Given the feedback received in the past, the selectboard received a letter from the Grand Fondo VTGF and is entertaining approval of the race as usual. It will be considered at the next scheduled meeting on 3/12/19.

Keegan Tierney moved to table the decision to 3/12. Eric Cota seconded.

Vote: Tony Porter, Keegan Tierney, and Eric Cota – YES. Peter Marsh abstained. **Motion carried.**

Mail Review

- SB Institute will be held by VLCT – Share information with new board member.
- Murray and Masterson will be coming to inspect the former landfill for the solar project. Tony to complete the form and will bring to the office.

- Add to next agenda = f/u on insurance req for mowing

Town Appointments

Per the board's discussion last spring, they planned to send a letter to all currently appointed position and inquire about interest in continuing to serve. Rebecca will draft a letter and the board will review before sending.

Zoning and Administrative Updates

Rebecca Elder gave a summary of some current issues in the zoning office. She also reviewed some administrative priorities in the office, including the need to focus on website upgrades soon due to the changes in the WordPress platform (used for the town website).

Building and maintenance:

The board gave Peter Marsh permission to continue to do the snow removal for the town clerk's office and library for the rest of the current season. He also asked if the board wanted him to continue

addressing various building and maintenance items for the short term. The board agreed they want him to continue until a replacement is found.

Landfill post-closure certification follow up – Rebecca will review the application and seek assistance from Peter and Tony as needed.

There is an issue with edge of walkway by the parking lot at the town clerk's office. It needs some repairs: it should be built up so that the water will flow properly and take water away from the walking path. Drainage is a problem. Water damns there and causes ice that is a safety issue.

Signage on Class 4 roads

Motion: Peter Marsh made a motion to authorize the road crew to install signs at the end of Mason Hill and Brown Hill to ensure travelers know there are dangers and should not continue on these unmaintained Class 4 roads. Eric Cota second.

Motion carries

Selectboard Concerns

Keegan coordinated a meeting about the Sugar on Snow community information day on Saturday, March 23, 2019 from 12:30 – 3. This event will coincide with the annual event at the Meetinghouse. He will send out a FPF post with more information and seek more participants.

Recognition for Public Service

This is Peter Marsh's last official meeting as a Selectboard member. Tony Porter thanked him for his years of dedication and 23 years of service on the selectboard. Tony said noted that it is hard to come by that level of commitment today and the community is grateful for his service.

Bills/Orders

Motion: Peter Marsh made a motion to approve the bills/orders as presented by the Treasurer. Keegan Tierney seconded. **Motion carries**

Minutes approvals

Motion: Peter Marsh made a motion to approve the minutes of 1/12, 1/23 and 2/18. Eric Cota seconded.

Discussion: none

Motion carried. (Eric Cota abstained for the minutes of 1/23/19)

Motion to adjourn: Keegan Tierney made the motion. Eric Cota seconded.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Elder
Selectboard Assistant