

TOWN OF STARKSBORO

October 2019

IMPORTANT DATES

Oct. 5 – retirement party in recognition of Tom Estey and his service to the Town

Oct. 17 – Public Hearing on Bylaw amendments – 7pm

Oct. 26 – Ham Dinner

Nov. 1 – Property Taxes Due

Nov. 2 – Fall Harvest Supper

Nov. 16, 23, 30 – Hunter's Breakfasts

Dec. 22 – Memory Tree Service

The Town Office will be closed
COLUMBUS DAY 10/14
THANKSGIVING, 11/27-28
CHRISTMAS, Dec 24, 25, 26



PROPERTY TAXES!!

Taxes are due on the 1st of November 2019 by 4:30pm. Taxes must be received in hand by the due date. Postmarks are not accepted. By town vote, taxes will be considered delinquent and subject to penalty and interest if not received in the town office by 4:30 p.m. on November 1, 2019. The penalty assessed will be 2% of the outstanding balance for the first 10 days and then 8% after on the remaining principal balance. Interest will be charged on the outstanding balance at the rate of 1% per month for the first 3 months and 1.5% for each month thereafter.

Celine Coon, *Town Treasurer*

Amy McCormick, *Delinquent Tax Collector/
Asst Town Clerk*

SELECTBOARD NEWS

- The board spent time rewriting the animal control ordinance to better address a range of issues that can arise with owners and animals. The policy is still under review with a final draft slated for October.
- The road crew is in a period of transition as long-time Road Foreman Tom Estey prepares for retirement and Tony Porter steps into the foreman's role. The town hired a new road crew member, Eric Huestis, to join Tony and Paul Porter in caring for the town's roads. Thank you!
- The board will be interviewing a few residents who are interested in filling the vacant board seat until the elections in March 2020.
- Preparations for the upcoming budget for FY20-21 are underway.
- The board approved some improvements to the Community Garden including a future greenhouse and washing station.
- The first phase of IT improvements is complete at the Town Clerk's office with two new computers and a firewall installed to protect the municipal office communications from cyberattacks.
- Safety reminder: The town has received complaints about ATV traffic on town roads. This is a reminder that ATV use is prohibited on all town roads. Please observe traffic rules for everyone's safety.

The Gazette will be published quarterly, and mailed to all Starksboro residents. Articles to be included must be submitted by the 20th of Dec, Mar, Jun, and Sept to the Town Clerk. If the 20th falls on Fri, Sat, or Sun, then it is due the following Monday by NOON. Anything not received by the 20th will not be included.

STARSBORO ANNUAL HAM DINNER ON OCT. 26



The annual ham dinner of the Starksboro Village Meeting House Society is Saturday, October 26, starting at 5:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 2806 VT Route 116, in Starksboro village. Baked ham, mashed potatoes, winter squash, cole slaw, homemade baked beans, rolls, a variety of homemade pies baked by some of Starksboro's best pie makers, and beverages.

Tickets: \$10/adults, \$5/children under 12. Family \$25 for 2 adults, 2 children (add'l children at \$3 each). Reservations are not necessary but if you'd like to reserve seats, call 453-5227 or 453-2079 for a seating at 5:00 or 5:45. Take-outs can be accommodated. Small silent auction and Starksboro items for sale. We would very much appreciate your support. Visit www.starksboromeetinghouse.org.

HARVEST SUPPER - SATURDAY, NOV. 2 AT ROBINSON SCHOOL

Mark your calendars. The sponsors of Starksboro's Harvest Supper will begin serving at 5:30 on Saturday November 2nd. Family ticket (2 adults 2 children) \$25; adults \$10; \$5 for those 12 years and younger. Take outs can be accommodated.

Menu: Roasted Stonewood Farm turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, Lewis Creek Farm roasted root vegetables, butternut squash soup, homemade apple crisp and pies served with hot and cold beverages.

The Harvest Supper is an annual fundraiser for the Four Winds Nature Institute. You can help the Conservation Commission support the Four Winds program at Robinson School by:

- Attending the supper on Saturday, Nov. 2 and bringing along someone who has never attended. Start thinking about whom you might invite to accompany you.
- Donating your homegrown beets, carrots, onions, potatoes, garlic, green beans, sweet potatoes, turnips, or parsnips to the sponsors of the Harvest Supper (Donation contact is Jody Higgs at mshiggsdances@yahoo.com).
- Sending a check* for:
 - \$25 to purchase a family ticket that will be given to a local family
 - \$30 toward the purchase of 5# of Cabot Creamery Butter
 - \$35 toward the purchase of apple cider
 - \$45 toward the purchase of VT Cranberries
 - \$55 toward the purchase of a Stonewood Farm fresh turkey

*Please make checks payable to: Starksboro Conservation Commission. Put "Harvest Supper" on the memo line and mail to Starksboro Town Office, P.O. Box 91, Starksboro, VT 05487.

The Harvest Supper welcomes volunteers who are available Saturday, November 2nd for 1-2 hours to help in the kitchen with food preparation during the morning or as a food server from 5-7 pm. Please phone Jan at 453-3755 or email Jody at mshiggsdances@yahoo.com if you're available to volunteer.

The mission of the Conservation Commission is to provide leadership in efforts to protect Starksboro's natural and agricultural resources through education, conservation advocacy, land stewardship, and town planning.



FRIENDS OF JERUSALEM SCHOOLHOUSE

Almost time for the annual EARLY BIRD/HUNTERS BREAKFASTS at the Jerusalem Schoolhouse...MARK YOUR CALENDAR for the ALL YOU CARE TO EAT BUFFET BREAKFASTS which will be served on **Nov. 16, 23 & 30**. MENU includes: Eggs, Bacon, Homefries, Sausage, Pancakes, Sausage Gravy, Baked Goods, Fruit, Juice, Coffee and Tea. Cost: age 12 and over \$9, age 5-11 \$4, under 5 free.

Please join us for fun conversation and a hearty, delicious breakfast. If you would like to volunteer to help at any of the breakfasts or donate to defray costs, please call 453-4573.

PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE

Thank you to all who completed the Planning and Zoning Survey that was mailed to Starksboro residents in late August. The survey was closed on 9/20 and the PC is now reviewing responses and will draft a report on the information received. Though this was not a scientific survey, the open responses gave residents the opportunity to express their opinions and share information for the PC to consider. The Town Plan guides the PC in its ongoing evaluation and revisions of the Bylaws. Stay tuned for more opportunities for input!

REMINDER: The PC will hold a **public hearing on Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 7:00 pm** to gather public input on the proposed amendments to the current Bylaws. For more information and to review the complete list of changes, please stop by the Town Clerk's office or visit www.starksborovt.org.

FRIENDS OF JERUSALEM SCHOOLHOUSE

Almost time for the annual EARLY BIRD/HUNTERS BREAKFASTS at the Jerusalem Schoolhouse. **Mark your Calendar** for the ALL-YOU-CARE-TO-EAT BUFFET BREAKFASTS which will be served on **Nov. 16, 23 & 30**. MENU includes: Eggs, Bacon, Homefries, Sausage, Pancakes, Sausage Gravy, Baked Goods, Fruit, Juice, Coffee and Tea. Cost: age 12 and over \$9, age 5-11 \$4, under 5 free.

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STARKSBORO FOOD SHELF

The Starksboro Food Shelf, located across the parking lot from the Starksboro Post Office, is a resource available to all Starksboro residents. **We are open the second Wednesday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.** Emergency food assistance is also available by contacting one of the volunteers whose phone numbers are listed on the Food Shelf door. Although the Food Shelf receives an allocation from the town, we rely heavily on donations from community members. Non-perishable food can be left at the Food Shelf drop box. Checks for the Food Shelf can be mailed to the town office.

STARKSBORO PROJECT READ !!

We had a successful BookWagon this summer and gave out 580 books over 9 weeks. Our fall projects include a Baby Brunch at the Town Library to recognize all the new children in our town with a book and brunch for the families. We will have a used book sale in conjunction with Robinson's Scholastic Book Fair. We would love to have new volunteers, please contact Mary O'Brien 453-4921 to find out the variety of ways you can contribute to promoting reading in our town.

THOMPSON GATHERING

On October 12, there will be a gathering in Memory of Audrey Thompson at the Starksboro Village Meeting House at 2pm. Come and share your memories of Audrey. She grew up here and it was her favorite place in the world.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

The Starksboro Village Meeting House will host its annual Christmas Candlelight Service in the newly repaired sanctuary; the date is to be determined. Watch for the date (likely an evening on the weekend before Christmas) on Front Porch Forum, posters, and local newspapers. It is a joyful event, a tradition for many area families.

MEMORY TREE 2019

The Annual MEMORY TREE Illumination event on Saturday, December 22 will begin in the community room of the church at 6:45p.m., with the names of all being honored and remembered read aloud. The lighting of the trees in front of the church will occur immediately following the indoor portion of this annual celebration and fundraising event to benefit the Starksboro Volunteer Fire Department.



Footprint Farm owner Taylor Mendell at the Sugar-on-Snow event last March at the Starksboro Meeting House

ENERGY COMMITTEE CORNER

Starksboro Receives New Electric Vehicle Charging Station

Starksboro has recently installed a new electric vehicle charging station behind the Town Clerk's Office in the Park and Ride Parking Lot for public use. Grants awarded from the VW Settlement Funds to a handful of towns throughout the state, combined with an Agency of Transport grant, fully funded the project. The Starksboro Energy Committee led the effort to secure the grant funds, managed the installation and is excited to christen the charging station with an "Electric Vehicle Gala and Test Drive" on Saturday, November 2 starting at 3 p.m. Come check out and test drive some of our local electric cars and electric bicycles before the Harvest Supper that begins at 5:30 p.m. at Robinson School, and join us to celebrate our new EV Charging Station!

Contact Us

Town of Starksboro

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Starksborovt.org

TOWN OF STARKSBORO

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