
GAZETTE

TOWN OF STARKSBORO

JANUARY 2020

TOWN MEETING, Feb 29, 2020

IMPORTANT DATES

Jan 7 – Selectboard Mtg

Jan 7 – Board of Abatement Mtg

Jan 16 – Last day to accept petitions for the Warning

Jan 20-21 – NO SCHOOL

Jan 27 – Last day for filing nominating petitions for town officers

Feb 29 – Town Meeting, 9:00

Feb 26 – Board of Civil Authority Meeting

Mar 3 – Australian Ballot Voting

The Town Office will be closed:

Martin Luther King Jr. Day 1/20

President's Day 2/17

This year's **TOWN MEETING** will be held on Sat, Feb 29th at 9:00 am at the Robinson Elementary School. You must be present to vote on the Town Budget items on the Warning.

AUSTRALIAN BALLOT VOTING on the Town Officers, the Hannaford Regional Technical School budget and the Mount Abraham Unified School District budget will be held on Tues, March 3, 2020 at the Robinson Elementary School. Polls are open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Ballots should be ready for early voting by Feb 12th. You may stop by the office to vote or pick up ballots. You can also have them mailed to you.

The deadline for Articles to be included on the Warning is January 16, 2020 by 4:30 pm. (70 voter signatures are required).

Anyone wishing to run for a town office needs to have their petition in no later than January 27, 2020 by 4:30 pm. (15 signatures required).

SELECTBOARD UPDATES:

The Selectboard has tackled several large projects and a steady flow of regular town business over the last few months. Some quick highlights include:

Revised Animal Control Ordinance: The board worked hard on this for a couple of months to create a policy that better addresses the variety of dog related issues that come up in town. and the final draft was adopted on 12/10/19 and is currently available for public comment. Voters can present a petition within 44 days of the adoption via the Town Clerk. Please see the public warning for more information (posted in town, at the clerk's office, and on the website).

Bylaw Revisions: On 12/17/19, the board hosted the 2nd public hearing on the proposed amendments to the Town's Land Use and Development Regulations ("Bylaws") as presented by the Planning Commission. The PC held the first hearing on Oct. 17, 2019.

Board member changes: The board said goodbye to Tony Porter, who resigned his seat to focus on the Road Foreman responsibilities. Greg Hahr volunteered and was appointed to serve in the seat until the next election in March 2020. The seat will then be up for election for the remainder of the term. Thank you to Greg for coming on board during the busy budgeting season.

Budget FY20-21: The board is currently focused on preparing the proposed budget for the voters' consideration in the town report and at Town Meeting.

For a complete report on the board's activities, please read the minutes from the board meetings, which are available on the town website or at the town offices.

STARSBORO FOOD SHELF

Thank you to all who donated food or provided money gifts to the Food Shelf to help with Thanksgiving meals for community members. 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 to the Starksboro Food Shelf can be mailed to the town office.

READ!!

READ!! Would like to thank the community for such generous donations to the Robinson Used Book Sale that took place in December. Every child was able to choose at least a few books to take home. Many children left with a bag of books. The left-overs were shared with groups in town, such as the Cooperative Pre-School, Starksboro Public Library, the Food Shelf, and HOPE a poverty agency for Addison county.

Our next project will be to bring an author to Robinson School. The author, Rajnii Eddins will meet with students on January 9. We are excited to have Rajnii, a spoken-word poet, share his enthusiasm with our students. This event is funded by the Pat Young Memorial Fund. Pat was a beloved Kindergarten teacher at Robinson from 1989 to 2013.

READ!!, an all-volunteer organization will kick off its fund-raising at our Town Meeting. We will again raffle off one of Jim Geier's Vermont Folk Rockers. We appreciate Jim's consistent support of our literacy efforts in our town. This could be the year that you win the chair! But, even if you don't win this year, remember that all \$ collected will fund our projects that include the Used Book Sale, Pat Young Visiting Author, the Summer Book Wagon, and the Baby Book Brunch.

FRIENDS OF JERUSALEM SCHOOLHOUSE:

The annual HUNTERS BREAKFASTS in November were a huge success. Many people came to eat a wide variety of delicious breakfast food while visiting with friends and neighbors.

We received many donations from local folks...THANK YOU to Bear Cobble Sugarworks, Mike Shepard and Greg Orvis for donating their delicious, locally made maple syrup, the Jerusalem Store for their donation of sausage and Larry Shepard for his homegrown potatoes. We are thankful for the following volunteers that came to the Schoolhouse and helped pull this all off: Marge Porter, Terry Rublee, Erin Bent, Cecilia Elwert, Suzanne Orvis, Megan Porter, Susan Klaiber, Eleanor Ragsdale, Blair Hall, Isabella Gaffney, Abbie, Blair Hall, Jordan Hall, Greg Orvis, Asher Bent, Pat Atkins, Eliza Bent, Victoria, and Nancy Orvis.

Lots of home baked goods came in each Saturday thanks to Vera Ryersbach and her granddaughter, Allie; Barbara Weightman, Eleanor Ragsdale, Megan Porter, Erin Bent, Cyndi Labelle, Diane Orvis, Blair Hall, Marge Porter, Pat Atkins, Suzanne Orvis, Susan Klaiber and Nancy Orvis.

We cleared well over \$1,000 that has been deposited into our restoration fund. Thank you to all that helped by donating food and/or money, volunteered at the Breakfasts, and/or came to eat! We appreciate the support of the Schoolhouse and hope to be able to report restoration progress in the new year! Stay tuned...

ELECTRIC VEHICLE TEST DRIVE EVENT AND CHARGE STATION CELEBRATION

The Starksboro Energy Committee organized and sponsored a successful electric vehicle event on the clear and crisp afternoon of Saturday November 2 to celebrate the Town's new electric charging station and provide an opportunity for interested residents to test drive a variety of electric vehicles and bicycles. About 30 people showed up at the Starksboro Park and Ride behind the Town Clerk's Office to see the new Charge Point charging station and drive the Teslas, Nissan Leafs, Toyota Prius, Chevy Bolt and two electric bikes. If you want to use the charging station, remember to download the Charge Point app on your phone before showing up.



Contact Us

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