

Town of Starksboro
Jerusalem Community Center Committee
Minutes
January 13, 2020
(Unapproved)

Present: Susan Klaiber, Jeff Dunham, Greg Orvis, Luke McCarthy (& infant Finn), Megan Nedzinski, Tom Estey, Alan Quittner.
Visitors: Keegan Tierney (SB), Denny Casey (PC), Nancy Boss (SB) and Brad Boss (PC)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Susan Klaiber at 6:07 p.m.

Visitors Business: No initial questions

S. Klaiber reported on Selectboard meetings she had attended to represent the JCCC:

These meetings were Dec 3, 2019 and Jan 7, 2020. Paper copies of those meeting minutes were provided to those who had not brought copies. She also made available copies of the Selectboard's letter to the JCCC and minutes of a recent Planning Commission meeting where the JCC project was discussed but no JCCC members had been invited to attend.

K. Tierney discussed the Selectboard's letter to the JCCC: The Selectboard's biggest concern was that the proposed bond or loan of about \$900,000 for the combined Fire Station #2, repairs and renovation to the Historic Jerusalem Schoolhouse (including new foundation and roof) and new, well insulated, addition to house all plumbing, bathrooms (to serve both Schoolhouse and Fire Station), kitchen and ADA access would be too much for voters in a time of uncertainty over potential upcoming Mt. Abe renovation costs, etc.. K. Tierney said that the Selectboard had decided not to ask the Voters at Town Meeting 2020 to approve the current proposed JCC project. Instead, he thanked the JCCC for their hard work so far and asked that the JCCC step back and look at more options, especially those that might reduce estimated project cost. He suggested that the JCCC present their work to-date at Town Meeting and that the JCCC request from the Selectboard some 2020 budget funds for more architectural work, etc. to help investigate potential options.

General discussion followed with visitors expressing some of their concerns (also outlined in the Selectboard letter to the JCCC) and JCCC members explaining some of the thinking and conclusions reached over the last two years of JCCC meetings as well as architects' input that led to the proposal presented to the Selectboard on Dec 3, 2019. JCCC members mentioned that the parking shown in the proposed site plan was existing; that Fire Station #2 had co-existed as an attached shed to the JSH since the 1970's with no known conflicts or issues; that keeping Fire Station #2 on the same site provided cost savings since the Fire Station would continue to use the JSH bathrooms, well, septic system, electrical service and no new property would need to be purchased; that there were Community and Fire Department benefits to the proximity such as rolling the trucks out for joint events like FD chicken barbeque fundraisers, Halloween parties, and other events similar to those currently held in surrounding Towns.

To do list: S. Klaiber will send the architect (D. Viehman) a copy of the Selectboard's letter and other information. She will also co-ordinate the Town Meeting presentation with the architect and ask L. McCarthy to speak for the JCCC.

Review of Minutes: Due to lateness, the review of minutes was postponed to the next meeting.

Motion: T. Estey made a motion to request from the Selectboard up to \$15,000 for Architectural and other work needed to look at potential cost saving alternatives. J. Dunham seconded.

Vote: All in favor

Motion: M. Nedzinski made a motion to adjourn. T. Estey seconded.

Vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

The next meeting of the JCCC will be held on February 24th at 6pm at the Town Office.