

Approved May 17, 2016

CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting
Cornwall Town Hall
May 3, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ben Marks, Ben Wood, Brian Kemp, Magna Dodge, John Roberts

ALSO PRESENT: Sue Johnson, Stu Johnson, Bob Burton, Al Thalen, Maurice Laframboise, Pete Laframboise, Christine Brinkman, Jim Wright, Helen Wright, Luann Bourdon-Laframboise.

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm.
Quorum – established.
General Fund and Highway Orders - signed

AGENDA - John R. MOVED / Ben W. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as distributed.

MINUTES – April 19, 2016 - John R. MOVED/ Brian K. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as amended with correct spelling of “warranty”. Motion passed - 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Magna).

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Request from Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ADRPC) that the Town appoint a representative to the ACRPC Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). Ben M. asked Holly Noordsy, who will discuss the request with the rest of the Planning Commission.
- Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) upcoming workshops
- Northeast Resource Recovery Association certificate – Sue J. said that Cornwall has been a member of this association for many years.
- Agency of Natural Resources notice of acquisition of lands in Cornwall (from the Gortons).
- Notice of application to the Public Service Board (PSB) from owner of property at 183 Lemon Fair Road, to move a wind turbine 75 feet to the north on her property. Ben M. said that the Town is automatically an interested party and can comment on this application.
- Notice that the New Haven Fire Department is offering a class for firefighters on the implications of solar installations to local firefighting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER’S REPORT – Sue Johnson

- **Workshops/Events** - Sue J. will attend VLCT human resources workshop and the Vermont Municipal Highway Association field days and equipment show (with Stu J.).
- **Taxes** - 45 taxpayers have not paid to date.
- **Dog Licenses** - at least 50 dogs are still unlicensed. Second notice will go out, followed by letter from the Select Board, to owners who do not renew their dog's licenses, by State law.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT – Stu Johnson

- Overspent on gravel a bit, but budget can accommodate.
- No culvert problems with recent rain.

OLD BUSINESS

- **School Wind Turbine Update** – Principal Jen Kravitz conducted a balloon test, to preview from different locations how the wind turbine will appear against the sky. Ben M. said that the main concern of the Planning Commission is the terms of easement. Ben M. warned that proposed legislation S. 230 will create a moratorium for wind turbines for the next year, so time is of the essence in submitting an application to the PSB. Magna D. and Ben M. agreed to follow up on this matter.
- **Wooster Road Update** – Brian K. and John R. attended the public hearing in Shoreham on April 28. John R. spoke. John R. reported that evidence included the traffic study showing a 100% increase in traffic in Wooster Road since the business in question began operations, and evidence from the Vermont Land Trust regarding violation of the property's conservation easement. No decision was made at the hearing.
- **New Development Review Board (DRB) Members' Terms** – Ben W. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to approve the DRB members terms as specified in the minutes of the special meeting of the DRB on April 26, 2016. Motion passed – 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Side Harrow/Road Management Strategy** – Several Cornwall residents discussed their concerns about the results of the current road management strategy that involves harrowing (discing) the edges of Town roads.
 - Peter Laframboise (Morse Road) – presented a petition signed by 60 Cornwall citizens. Peter L. said that the discing drags in sod and clay into the middle of the road, and that turns to washboard hardpan.
 - Maurice Laframboise (Morse Road) - said he has never seen Morse Road as bad as this year. Maurice L. spoke with an engineer who said no engineer alive would advise that you put clay and sod into a gravel road.
 - Al Thalen (Ledgemont Road) – said that 3 weeks ago his road

was perfect. Then the discing was done, and now it is nearly impassible.

- Jim Wright (Ledgemont Road) – said he does ever remember their road being this bad. It is just rutted mud.

- Sue Bordon – Laframboise (Morse Road) – said Stu J. does an excellent job overall in maintaining the roads. It is only the discing that is the problem.

- Bob Burton (DeLong Road) – said his road is in good shape, but it more slick.

John R. said that he called the State to ask about the strategy of side harrowing in municipal road maintenance. John R. said and Stu J. concurred that the Highway Department in Cornwall has employed side harrowing for the past 8-10 years, as a best practice recommended to municipal road departments by the Agency of Transportation Better Roads Program for the purpose of keeping the edges of roads ready for drainage of water. Stu J. said that the side harrowing is a springtime practice, that timing is everything to get the best result, but that weather is unpredictable.

The Board, Road Commissioner, and residents then discussed possible alternatives or modifications to the side harrowing. Suggestions included just grading, crowning and chloride with no discing; increasing the budget for gravel so that more gravel could be put down after discing; removing the sod and clay after discing with a pay loader; and disc some sections but not others.

Ben M. said that the Board takes the criticisms heard tonight in a constructive light, will discuss further and will make a plan to avoid this situation in the future. John R. mentioned that the Board will have some time to consider, as the discing is done once a year in the spring.

- **Status of Ball Field Insurance** – Sue J. reported that there is insurance on the ball field, and she emailed the Senetts to let them know. Addison County League plans on using the field this year.

Magna D. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed – 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Tierra, Clerk of the Select Board