

*Approved July 3, 2012*

**TOWN OF CORNWALL  
SELECT BOARD MEETING  
Cornwall Town Office  
Tuesday, June 5, 2012  
Joint Meeting with Cornwall Conservation Commission**

**Present:** Bruce Hiland, Judy Watts, Ben Wood, Dave Sears, Abi Sessions, , Stu Johnson, Sue Johnson

**Guests:** Ryan Kim; Mike Mullin, Pike Industries; Dave Berno, Assistant Chief CFD; Denny Rheume, Chief CFD; Conservation Commissioners: Lawrence Pyne, Mary Dodge, Brian Howlett

Meeting called to order - 6:57 pm

General fund and highway orders – *signed*

May reconciled bank statement - *reviewed*

**MINUTES**

**May 15 Meeting** – Judy MOVED /Ben SECONDED a motion to approve with the following highlighted changes:

- *Sheriff's Department dispatcher service* - Dave reported....that the 15-year contract they had to house federal criminals **has expired** and will not be renewed.
- *Accessibility update* - Ben W. reported ..... Funding an accessibility project will involve the capital plan and budget. (corrected with extraneous word “will” after the word “budget” at the end of this sentence).

*Motion passed.*

**CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW - none**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – none**

**TOWN CLERK/TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT – Sue Johnson**

- **Building damage** – Cornice piece on front of the Town Hall rotted and fell off. Board coming up the step has fallen off. Ben will follow up and review the damage.

- **Coffee at the Town Hall** - Sue spoke with a representative from VT Coffee Company, who offered to donate coffee, suggested a regular coffee pot for brewing and two air pots to keep the java hot. Sue is looking at one other coffee source option.
- **Delinquent dog owners** – Sue will send the list of names of 7 owners of unregistered dogs to the dog control officer. The owners will receive a bill for the \$100 fine.
- **School budget surplus** - FY 2012 will be \$60,000

### **ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT – Stu Johnson**

**Damage after heavy rains** – During the May 29 rain event, 40 crossroad culverts failed (25% of all culverts in town) after 3 ¼ - 5 inches of rain in 3 hours. Another storm on June 3 caused flooding on West Street for the second time in less than a week. Clark Road is still closed due to a large hole. Stu recommends using 5-foot ADS black plastic pipe to get the road open. Estimates repair of Clark Road at \$5,000. There is property damage involved on West Street. Stu's plan for addressing the culvert issue involves replacing some and moving others, using all funds budgeted for culverts for the coming year. New excavator is proving invaluable.

**Paving** - North end of West Street and Snake Mountain Road can be done first, rest of West Street paved after culverts are done. Roller behind the grader (custom built by Stu) is working very well. Disc harrows paid for themselves in this storm, no shoulder wash outs!

**Mud clods a hazard** – Stu will be sending a letter to a farmer regarding huge mud clods left by his farm vehicles on roads, which present a traffic hazard.

### **CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT/DISCUSSION– Mary Dodge, Lawrence yne, Brian Howlett**

The CCC would very much like to carry out the Town Plan mandate to take inventory of the Town's natural resources. Grants have been sought, are highly competitive, and scarce. The project would cost at least \$10,000, requires expertise, time in the field, and GIS work using State data from diverse sources. Bruce suggested the CCC draft an Article for Town Meeting requesting funding to get matching grant funds. Some towns, such as Bristol, Middlebury, and Weybridge, have a conservation fund. Charlotte funded its' inventory of natural resources with designated funding within the town budget. Recent Cornwall town survey shows some support for the Town getting involved in funding the work of the CCC.

Chair Marc Lapin has been called in as a resource for information and advice for the CPC in regard to proposed subdivisions. This experience has made clear that zoning regulations in Cornwall need to be updated for more clarity on issues of conservation.

The CCC conducted an invasive plant workshop at Cornwall's 250th birthday celebration. Also, in cooperation with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, 20 people (CCC members and other volunteers) planted dogwood, alder and willow trees/shrubs in the field adjacent to the Cornwall Swamp, on State land. The CCC would like to write articles about conservation issues in the newsletter, including an article about the need for an inventory of natural resources.

## OLD BUSINESS

- **CVFD property transfer** – The Fire Department is declining the letter written by the Town attorney. Bruce asked Sue to contact the appropriate person at the Secretary of State's office to advise if there is something inconsistent between the contract and what the voters approved at Town Meeting. Fire Chief Denny Rheume stated that the Fire Department plans to move forward with planned construction, regardless of whether the Town or Fire Department owns the building.
- **#5 School House** – Sue and Dave presented information from their research on the history of the property and building (originally made of brick). Sue has the most recent deed from Benjamin Haskell to the 5<sup>th</sup> School District. In 1959, the voters decided that five schools could be sold. Then in 1960, the voters reversed the decision about #5 School House and "turned" the land and building over to the Fire Department. The 1960 Town Warning Article regarding #5 School House does not correspond with the motion from the floor to "turn it over" to the Fire Department. Therefore, it is probable that the current school district in fact still owns #5 School House.

The Fire Department was never able to use the property, and it has stood vacant. It appears that the main building is on the property, but a shed may not be. The historic bell tower and bell are gone. A Cornwall citizen is interested in purchasing and moving the building to private property in Cornwall. Bruce will draft a letter to the school board for SB review informing them of the probability that the School District owns #5 School House and that someone wants to purchase it. Sue will write an article for the newsletter about the history of the building and land.

- **Town Buildings** – Next step: Bruce suggested that once Capital Plan committee takes on buildings, then town officials will have a meeting/field trip to check them out. Meanwhile the Town will advertise the Lavalley House in Craig's List.

## NEW BUSINESS

- **Paving Contract** – The Town received two bids for paving. Pike Industries is the lowest bidder at \$69.59/ton (contract limit is 1,580 tons). Bruce H. MOVED / Ben W. SECONDED a motion to award the paving contract to the lowest bidder Pike Industries. *Motion passed.*

- **Tax Appeals**

- **Groves** - Judy MOVED/ Ben W. SECONDED a motion to authorize no more than \$1,250 re-authorizing expenditures for Clodfelter's analysis of the Groves BCA objections.  
*Motion passed.*
- **Burton** - It has been 3 years since the court decision on Burton's tax appeal. Burton is appealing again, as allowed by law.

Next meeting: July 3, 2012

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Tierra, Clerk of the Selectboard