

Approved May 5, 2020

CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting
Cornwall Town Hall
April 21, 2020

NOTE: Today's meeting Select Board meeting was held by teleconference and all Cornwall meetings will be via teleconference until further notice.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Sue Johnson, Don Burns, Barbara Greenwood

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm.
Quorum - established

AGENDA - Magna D. MOVED / John R. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as posted. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

General Fund and Highway Orders - have been circulated electronically by Sue J. to the Board members to review, sign and return.

MINUTES

- **April 7, 2020** - Ben W. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as thus amended - fix typo in ACH, clarify information about ACH and credit cards as options for paying taxes, correct pronouns and spelling of Ollie Cultrara, correct name of person who said dog not yet licensed (Sue J., not John R.). Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE

- from T Tall regarding tax collection this year. Ben M. said he has spoken with Mr. Tall regarding his concerns.
- from Andrew LaRoe about a FEMA grant available - see Town Clerk's report for more information on this.
- from Molly Gray, candidate for Lt Governor, with information about a virtual Town Hall meeting on Covid-19, April 23 at 4pm
- from Adam Lougee, Director of Addison County Regional Planning Commission, regarding and initiative by the Agency of Natural Resources to purchase lots from the Town, located in the Cornwall swamp, that are not presently owned by anyone. Mary Dodge from the Conservation Commission is involved in this initiative.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Barbara Greenwood, Chair of the Development Review Board, said that she was present to see how Zoom performed, compared with other platforms for teleconferencing.

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT - Sue Johnson

- **FEMA Grant Available** - Sue investigated the types of items the grant could be used for, such as medical supplies and equipment, and concluded that this grant is not relevant for the Town at this time. The Fire Department is aware of this grant opportunity.
- **Town Office** - Sue said she is inclined to keep the office closed to the public, at least until May 15. Governor Scott, in a recent addendum to the state of emergency orders, is allowing title searchers and lawyers to resume normal work in the community, as long as health and safety procedures are followed. Many Town offices in Vermont are staying closed to the public at this time, and not letting lawyers and title searcher in yet. The Board agreed, that Sue J. should be making this decision, as she is the one at risk. Sue J. also said that she was able to provided the information needed for a title search recently, and continues to provide basic services by telephone, email, and mail.
- **Taxes** - the deadline will remain the same. Taxpayers having difficulty paying by the May 1 deadline can request a Board of Abatement hearing to have late fees waived. The Board discussed the Town's financial status, including financial obligations that must be met and strategies to meet those obligations, should the Town have a shortfall in expected property tax revenues.
- **Lawn Mowing Contract for 2020** - invitation to bid has gone out. The bids will be opened at the May 5 meeting.
- **Newsletter** was mailed today. Included was an ACH form for taxpayers wishing to pay by this method.
- **Green Up Day** - has been postponed to May 30.
- The New England Municipal Clerk's Institute's **(NEMCI) 3 year course** that Sue J. has been taking, has canceled this year's session due to the pandemic. NEMCI plans to resume the course in 2021.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Brian Kemp

- The type of gravel that the highway department wants is now in short supply, but we have enough stockpiled to last for a while.
- Minor warrantee work has been completed on both trucks and they are back in service.
- The Road crew was considered "non-essential" and have only been allowed to do emergency work to maintain the roads, per order of the Governor. With the recent addendum to the Governor's emergency orders, allowing certain non-essential workers to resume work, it is expected that municipal road crews will soon be able to resume normal maintenance on town roads, as long as social distancing and related health and safety procedures are followed. Brian K. will follow up with a letter to the Road Foreman and crew, to make clear the expectations about following these

working procedures as conditions for resuming normal maintenance of Cornwall's roads.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Proposed Town Plan Flood Resiliency language.** Don Burns from the Planning Commission discussed the latest draft with the Board. Ben M. shared his screen so that all could simultaneously view the map recently enhanced by the Planning Commission to clearly show the proposed area to be protected around the defined small streams in Cornwall. Of the 185 acres proposed to be protected, 84 acres are already conserved, leaving 100 acres under consideration. Don B. pointed out that 100 acres represents a very small portion of the Town. John R. commented that they are located in areas, such as adjacent to wetlands, that would make them unlikely to be developed anyway. Magna D. expressed her appreciation for the new map and clarity about which lands would be affected, should the Town follow the recommendation of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources that certain defined small streams be protected with 50 foot setbacks. Don B asked that each Select Board member carefully review the document in the next two weeks, and confirm by email either to Don or to Conor Stinson that they have reviewed it, along with any comments or edits. While the next step of holding a public hearing on the proposed draft may not be possible in the near future, the Planning Commission wants to conclude its work on Flood Resiliency for the time being, and to move on to work on the Forest Fragmentation section of the Town Plan. Both sections (Flood Resiliency and Forest Fragmentation) and now required by the State of Vermont, to be included in Town Plans.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Meetings with Cornwall Boards and Commissions -** The Select Board plans to meet with the Conservation Commission first.

Magna D MOVED / Ben W. SECONDED a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board