

Approved May 19, 2020

## **CORNWALL SELECT BOARD**

Regular Meeting  
Via Zoom Teleconference  
May 5, 2020

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** John Roberts, Ben Wood, Magna Dodge, Ben Marks, Brian Kemp  
**ALSO PRESENT:** Sue Johnson, Don Burns, Conor Stinson, Mike Sheridan, Mary Dodge, Michael Sunderland

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.  
Quorum - established

**AGENDA** - Magna D. MOVED / John R. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as amended, with addition of two items: Opening of Lawn Mowing Bids and Dog Attack, and with Presentation by the Conservation Commission at the top of the agenda. 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 and sign.

**Report on Reconciled Bank Statement** - has been circulated electronically by Sue J. for Board members to review.

### **MINUTES**

- **April 21, 2020** - Ben W. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as posted. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

**CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW** - none

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** - none

### **PRESENTATION BY CONSERVATION COMMISSION** - Mike Sheridan and Mary Dodge

- Mary D. and Mike Sheridan gave an overview of the ongoing work of the CCC and discussed current projects. Cornwall is one of the 100 towns in Vermont whose citizens have formed conservation groups. State statutes provide guidelines for the work of municipal conservation groups. The CCC looks to the State statutes as well as the Town Plan, for the scope of its work.
- Members of the Cornwall Conservation Commission (CCC) are: Katherine Branch, Mary Dodge, Brian Howlett, Mike Sheridan, Rene Langis and Bethany Barry.
- The CCC Fall 2019 - Summer 2020 Work Plan includes community events, Initiatives, outreach activities and recruitment of new members. Recent community events were an Orchard B&B Guided Walk in the fall, and Amphibians Road Rescue in the early spring. Current initiatives include environmental review of applications to the Development Review Board (DRB), Wildlife Corridor Project, River Watch Monitoring, and collaboration with the Planning Commission to update the Zoning By-Laws (Significant Features Overlay). Outreach includes a quarterly newsletter, Town Hall displays, outreach to the elementary

school, ongoing work with the Planning Commission, and providing resources for citizens with questions about conservation matters.

- Focus of CCC community events this year is wildlife. Some planned events were canceled due to Covid-19. Ben M. asked if maybe zoom could be used to hold some of the canceled events.
- In addition to initiatives listed on the CCC Work Plan, the CCC has been at the table for discussions about the possible sale to Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) of swamp lots. Because there is no identified owner of these lots and taxes have not been paid for many years, the process would be a tax sale.
- Mary D. advocated for a group discussion on forest fragmentation involving the CCC, the DRB, the Select Board, and the Planning Commission.
- Ben M., on behalf of the Board, expressed appreciation for the ongoing work of the Conservation Commission in Cornwall.

#### **TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT - Sue Johnson**

- **Taxes** - Sue J. said she is still in the process of entering tax payments. The large school district payment was paid in full and on time. Overdue tax amounts are in the range of normal.

#### **ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Brian Kemp and Mike Sunderland**

- Crew has been able to haul gravel again, after pit re-opened.
- Crew has taken the safety course mandated by the Governor and has been working in compliance with Covid-19 rules for social distancing and using hand sanitizer often. Ben M. said that if the road crew needs more hand sanitizer, to let him know, as the Fire Department has a good supply that could be shared.
- Recycled asphalt shingle (RAS) will be applied on Wooster Road.
- All roads have been graded at least once, and grading will continue, along with other normal maintenance on roads.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Consideration of proposed Town Plan Flood Resiliency language.** Don Burns and Conor Stinson of the Planning Commission (CPC) discussed the latest draft with the Board. Discussion focused on the Recommended Actions section and agreement was reached on some modifications to the language. The Board expressed appreciation for the clarified language around small streams. John R. remarked that increasing flood resiliency is good. While the swamp normally increases flood resiliency in Cornwall, if the Town had received 2 more inches of rain during tropical storm Irene, the damage would have significant and that more intense rain events are to be expected with climate change. Don B. thanked the Board for their time and efforts in reading multiple drafts over the past few months. The CPC will incorporate changes based on discussion tonight. The next step is to hold a public hearing. The CPC will discuss options for the hearing, whether to schedule a hearing by teleconference sooner, or wait until an in person hearing can be held.
- **CPC Town Plan required sections, next steps-** The Planning Commission is now turning focus to Forest Fragmentation. On May 20 at the next CPC meeting, a presentation on this topic will be given by Andrew L'Roe, from Addison County Regional Planning Commission, and the Planning Commission invited the Select Board to attend.
- **Update on Dog Issue** - John R. spoke again with the owner of the dog on South Bingham and with the victim of the attack by this dog. There have been no further incidents but the promised fence has not yet been built. John R. will draft a letter to the dog owner (with a copy going to the dog attack victim), stating that the dogs must be licensed by a certain date, and that the Board expects the fence to be built by a certain date. The letter will also

include a copy of the dog ordinance, and form for the dog owner to sign, indicating agreement. If the he does not agree, he can apply for a hearing on the matter.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Lawn Mower Bids** - Two bids were received- from S & J Stearns and from Lawn Cuts for Less. After discussion, Brian K. MOVED / John R. SECONDED a motion to select Lawn Cuts for Less. Motion passed - 4 in favor, 1 opposed.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board