

Approved January 21, 2015

CORNWALL PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 17, 2014
Cornwall Town Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tracy Himmel Isham, Sarah Pelkey, Holly Noordsy, Jim Duclos, David Anderson, Jean Terwilliger

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bobbie Carnwath

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm.
Quorum established

Agenda was approved with the following changes

- Add March Elections to New Business
- Add Town Report to New Business
- Add Open Meetings Law to Old Business
- Strike Boundary Line Adjustment Proposal from New Business – party is not pursuing at this time.

MINUTES

November 19, 2014 - Tracy MOVED / Jim SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion passed with one abstention.

OLD BUSINESS

• ***Vermont Gas Systems (VGS) pipeline project update***

Last night the Cornwall Select Board discussed proposed terms of agreement between the Town and VGS that would form the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The meeting was well attended by Cornwall citizens and most of the landowners on the proposed pipeline route through Cornwall were present.

Select Board chair Bruce Hiland reported that the Select Board has been meeting with representatives from VGS for the past two years, but only recently, with a change in leadership at the company, have those discussions resulted in terms that represent any meaningful compensation to the Town, should the project receive a Certificate of Public Good and Cornwall be required to host the pipeline.

Many citizens present expressed strong opposition to an MOU with VGS, which would mean the end to Cornwall's opposition to VGS's application before the Public Service Board. The consensus among the citizens, including many members of the Select Board, was that no MOU should be

signed, without approval from the citizens. The outcome of the meeting was that the motion to approve the proposed terms of agreement was tabled.

- **Review of Town Plan Goals and Assignments**
 - Holly talked briefly with Annie about her Recreation Committee and will follow up after the holidays.
 - Dave has been in touch with Mary Dodge from the Conservation Commission (CCC) and are continuing to exchange information
 - Sarah contacted the CCC about the language of how the CPC and the CCC work together. She will also draft something to inform the citizens of the relationship between the CCC and CPC. It was suggested that the Town Report might include this information.
 - Dave A. noticed an outdated reference in the Town regulations about the role of the health officer in subdivisions. This needs to be changed as the State approves septic designs now.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Town Report** – the CPC and the ZA need to submit annual reports for the Town Report by mid-January. CPC will report on number of applications and other business it conducted in 2014.
- **March Elections**
- CPC positions are up for re-election, those currently held by Jean, David, and Tracy. Candidates will need to pick up a petition and gather signatures, turn in by deadline in January. Tracy announced that after 10 years of service, she will not be running again. She suggested that the board consider going back to having co-chairs, which worked very well in the past. Jim will talk with a Cornwall citizen who has expressed strong interest in serving on the CPC.
- **Open Meeting Law**

The board discussed some key points of the State's new open meeting law. One question to ask Sue J – what is the rule about documents to be considered in a public meeting? Is it just the agenda that needs to be posted on the website? Tracy mentioned the advice from the Town Attorney that CPC hearings be recorded so that all members (even those not present at a certain meeting) can be fully informed and able to vote when it comes time to make a decision.

Holly MOVED/ Tracy SECONDED a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8: 25 pm

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Tierra, Clerk of the CPC