

Approved May 7, 2013

TOWN OF CORNWALL
SELECT BOARD MEETING
Cornwall Town Office
Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Present: Bruce Hiland, Abi Sessions, Ben Wood, Dave Sears, Stu Johnson
Guests: Cornwall Planning Commission: Jim Duclos, Geoff Demong; Kathleen Grzyb, Stan Grzyb, Colin Kriwox, Sarah Murray, Mary Conlon

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

GENERAL FUND and HIGHWAY ORDERS—signed.

MINUTES

- Minutes **March 19** meeting—Abi MOVED, Ben SECONDED, to approve the Minutes of both Selectboard and Town Plan Update Hearing, as presented. *Motion passed.*
- Minutes **April 2** meeting—Judy MOVED, Dave SECONDED, to approve the Minutes as presented. *Motion passed.*

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- “Thank you” received from the Counseling Service of Addison County for approval of funding request at Town Meeting.
- John Madden’s pipeline information received
- License for Waybury Catering for a May 4 event—Judy MOVED, Ben SECONDED, that the application be approved and license granted. *Motion passed.*

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER’S REPORT—Sue Johnson; Clerk/Treasurer is away, no report

ROAD COMMISSIONER’S REPORT—

- Stu discussed new loader acquisition. He is leaning toward purchase of the Volvo, although it will cost \$4,700 more than the alternative machine. The Selectboard affirmed support for his authority to pursue what he feels is the better choice and to negotiate the best deal.
- Discing not happening yet—too wet; no new developments regarding spraying; registrations due April 26 for the VMHA Field Day (May 15)
- Storage—Stu is considering purchase of a storage container (\$1,100) in order to provide secure storage for things that need to be removed from the shop, money to come out of garage maintenance finds. Board gave him the go-ahead.
- Bridge Standards—see under *New Business*

OLD BUSINESS

- **Town Buildings Assessment:** VT Integrated Architects’ Proposal—Asher

Nelson reviewed outline of common series of steps involved with evaluation of project, universal access, various codes to be complied with, and steps for help with plan for project development. Asher also reviewed a history of the project as gleaned through walk-throughs with Sue, Stu, and Ben.

- Issues generally fall into two categories: civil engineering (e.g. septic) or architectural (e.g. Insulation). He looks to developing an integrated team to address the various priorities, once determined.
- In response to query as to how much redesign work involved to-date, Asher explained that some redesign is necessary in developing enough information for estimating. Such will not result in an actual plan, but will allow for provision of some sense of project costs.
- Some issues exceed the technical scope and head into community values (e.g. energy) and such will require input from community.
- Bruce—The Board is looking for a long-term plan, and a plan to get there; initial start point is a reasonable assessment of project scope and cost (received), then move on to developing criteria for prioritizing, based on urgency. Board now has better sense of over-all scope and can narrow their focus and refine questions. Topic to be added to next meeting's agenda; Asher will make himself available as needed during the process
- **Appointments**—Board reviewed list of appointees. Abi MOVED, Judy SECONDED, that the list of appointees be approved, with the addition of Jim Duclos to the ACRPC Alternate position. *Motion passed.*
- **Pipeline Project**—Middlebury, April 15: Abi and Jim Duclos were among those attending Middlebury's "Community" meeting set up by VT Gas. General feeling was that meeting had been usurped, to greater/lesser degree by non-Middlebury attendees; estimate put 2/3rds of attendees not from Middlebury. VGS gave first hour over to Middlebury, then allotted 45 minutes for non-Middlebury questions, turned into one and half hours. Jim noted that the anti-pipeline group, Rising Tide, had invited everyone to the meeting, thus filling the hall and successfully preventing Middlebury residents from having a full meeting on their issues. Nonetheless, there was a review of the Right-of-Way process, and pre-survey landowner discussions; routes 1 and 2, the southern Leicester/Whiting rail bed routes, are off-the table; VGS still aims for a final route selection by May 17; Jim told VGS that their proposed route 3 (down Rte 74) will not work for Cornwall; overall tone of meeting seemed more anti-fossil fuel than pipeline directed;
 - Bruce noted that VGS had indicated they wished to set up a Cornwall community meeting; he organized one for April 23 at the elementary school to be facilitated by the Selectboard and Planning Commission. The purpose is for VGS to respond to Cornwall questions. Discussion about ensuring control of meeting, facilitator needs, VGS agenda.
 - Bruce has been in contact with Liz Miller, Gov. Shumlin's Chief of Staff, and former PSB head. He requested she facilitate a meeting for him with Don Gilbert, (VGS). He also advised her of SB and PC opposition to the project as well as community opposition, defined the benefits of and reason for the two southerly routes which VGS has removed from consideration, and copied Rep. Jewett on the email. The email also contained a proposed

outline for the meeting he seeks with Gilbert. Just prior to this evening's meeting, he had received a phone call from Don Gilbert which he will return in the morning.

- Bruce asked Selectboard and Planning Commission if they were in support of wording used in his correspondence with Liz Miller: "... *The Cornwall Selectboard and the Cornwall Planning Commission are unanimously against ...*" the proposed routing through Cornwall. The SB and PC members present all supported the wording.
- **Comments/Discussion**
 - Discussion ensued between SB and those who had attended the April 15 Middlebury meeting. It was noted that VGS indicated that virtually all gas was destined for IP, that IP would become VGS' largest customer at four times the consumption of IBM, their current largest customer. Question posed: if SB and PC are opposed to the pipeline, why have a meeting on April 23? Response: there are many in town who are not up to speed on the issue and who might well have questions, their concerns need to be addressed and they need the opportunity to educate themselves. Question asked about double taxation if both landowner and VGS are paying property tax on the ROW? Answer: VGS is not paying property tax on the land, they pay the tax on installed equipment just as any other utility (does (e.g. Green Mountain Power). It was noted that both IP's Donna Wadsworth and VGS' Don Gilbert were in attendance.
 - Jim Duclos—Half-hour conversation with VGS' Jim Hamilton regarding purpose of April 23 meeting, VGS does not want another "blood-bath" like Middlebury's April 15 meeting. Jim expressed concern about VGS' use of any strong anti-pipeline feelings as evidential testimony.
 - Bruce—In response to a query, advised that ACRPC, to best of his knowledge, has sent a clarification to the PSB regarding RPC support for the project: ACRPC is in support of Phase 1 only, at this point.
- **Proposed Town Plan**—Wording developed and included to protect Cornwall in the event of such things as the pipeline. Warning for final hearing on April 30. It is felt the Plan will be a strong influence on PSB decision-making process.

NEW BUSINESS

- **ANR/VTRANS Road and Bridge Standards**—Stu: Prefers to hold off on signing/adopting the new ANR standards; there is a fair amount of push-back from the road foremen on many of the new regulations. They are seen as impractical to adopt and too costly for most town budgets.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Conway, Minutetaker