

Approved August 1, 2017

CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Cornwall Town Hall

Regular Meeting, July 11, 2017

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

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Johnson, Mike Sunderland, Conor Stinson, Holly Noordsy, Kelly Higgins, Kate Higgins, Nigel Cheetham, Ashar Nelson, Randy Quesnel

The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm

Quorum – established.

General Fund and Highway Orders – signed.

Report on Reconciled Bank Statement – not yet available to review.

AGENDA

John R. MOVED, Magna D. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as distributed. Motion carried – 3 in favor, 0 opposed. (Brian Kemp not yet present)

MINUTES – June 6, 2017 – Tabled for lack of quorum of attendees of the meeting of June 6.

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- June 10 letter from citizen about dog on Ridge Road
- Vermont Department of Taxes, Notice of Education Tax Rates for Fiscal Year 2018
- Invitation to participate in a survey being conducted by Castleton University, University of Vermont and St Michael's College on climate change impact on water systems.
- Liquor control permit request from Suncutter Spirits for event on July 15 at Sunrise Orchards

- 60 day notice from Cornwall Fire Department regarding their plan to submit application for new radio antenna at the North Bingham station,
- Bruce Cram summary report of hours served as animal control officer.
- Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ADRPC) application for grant funding for road work – passed on to Michael Sunderland.

•
PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER’S REPORT – Sue Johnson

- ACRPC appointment sheet – for Board to sign
- Annual financial management questionnaire that Sue J. completed for SB review. Ben M. signed as having received.
- Sue J. will be out on vacation starting July 13, and she’ll be back on July 25.

ROAD COMMISSIONER’S REPORT – Mike Sunderland, Road Foreman

- Crew will be replacing 30 culverts in the coming weeks.
- While 7 culverts are being replaced on West Street next week, parts of the road will be closed during a 7-day period. Mike will send more details to Sue J. who will send out an email to notify the townspeople.
- Roads had no damage from recent heavy rains.
- Mike S. asked the Board to set the deadline for paving bids. John R. MOVED/ Magna D. SECONDED a motion that the deadline for submission of sealed bids for paving be set at 7 PM August 1. Motion passed – 4 in favor, 0 opposed. The sealed bids will be opened on August 1, during the Select Board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Robbins Road Request**

The Board considered additional evidence regarding request to throw up portion of Robbins Road. This evidence came out of a meeting between Ben Marks, Town Attorney Jim Carroll and Ashar Nelson.

New evidence: the section of Robbins Road in question was at one time a private road that was later deeded to the Town. If that section of road is “thrown up” the Town will lose about \$108 dollars annually in road funds from the State. Because for development planned on the property, the gain in property taxes would be many times the amount lost in road funds.

No objections to the request to throw up the road have been heard. Decision would be specific to this road and would not set a general precedent. The current proposal maintains 300-foot road frontage for the neighbors, resolving their concerns about frontage. Mike S. said he has no concerns, will not need a turn around and will have a place to put snow on the south side of the road.

John R. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to close the fact-finding session and to approve the request to throw up the requested portion of the road as being in the best interest of the town. Motion passed – 4 in favor, 0 opposed. Ben M. will consult with the Town attorney and draft an opinion for the Board to review.

- **Response to draft school transfer deed**

The Board and other meeting attendees engaged in a lengthy discussion about the kinds of uses the Town wants to conserve or expand at the school. Uses discussed included

1. Any event inviting town-wide participation
2. Recycling,
3. Town meeting,
4. Voting
5. To preserve the right to have a place to gather for events for more than 80 people.
6. Playground access for children outside of school hours
7. Pre-K and lifelong learning
8. Maintain historical uses and future potential uses of the building and grounds.

9. Adding to the deed an easement to allow these uses and not to use the property in such a way that prohibits these uses.

Holly Noordsy added that the School has a special water protection plan and the Town should ask for assurance from the School District that they will abide by this plan. Holly N. said that in terms of having a village that is friendly to people on foot, access for a trail on school property may be something desirable in the future. Holly spoke about The School as the central place in the town, the heart of the town, a town without a post office or a store. Holly said that this is the moment, because once the property is transferred, the Town has lost its leverage. Ben M. will follow up in responding to the draft school transfer deed.

- **Discussion of next steps regarding Swamp Road Bridge**

After a short discussion it was agreed that Ben M. will contact the Salisbury Select Board Chair and that Brian K. will contact the Salisbury Select Board member he knows, and both will report back at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Peluso Dog Complaint/1017 Ridge Road** – The board discussed complaints about dogs on Ridge Road with concerned citizens present, who stated that the dogs have attacked and injured other dogs and threatened humans. Brian K. MOVED/ Ben M. SECONDED a motion to hold a formal hearing on the matter on August 1. Motion passed – 5 in favor, 0 opposed.
- **Development Review Board (DRB) - Replacement for Bruce Byers**
Ben M. said he does not know what the DRB wants to do about this, (replace or reorganize) - will wait to hear from them.
- **Consideration of Conor Stinson to fill vacant Planning Commission seat**
Conor Stinson introduced himself and described his

background. The Planning Commission (CPC) recommended Conor S. to the Board for appointment to a vacant position on the CPC. John R. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to appoint Conor Stinson on an interim basis to fill a vacancy on the Planning Commission until Town Meeting. Motion passed - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Department of Liquor Control application from Brad Koehler and Amy Truebeck of Suncutter Spirits for an event on July 15 at Sunrise Orchards. John R. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to approve the application. Motion passed – 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

John R. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed – 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board