

Approved October 15, 2013

TOWN OF CORNWALL
SELECT BOARD MEETING
Cornwall Town Office
Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Present: Bruce Hiland, Judy Watts, Dave Sears, Sue Johnson

Guests: Ben Marks, Mary Dodge, Mike Sheridan

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

General Fund and Highway Orders – *signed*

MINUTES

September 3 Meeting: quorum of board at September 3 meeting not present.

Vote to approve tabled until next meeting

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Bruce read a letter he has written on behalf of the board thanking Tom Baskett, who is stepping down after serving 6 years on the LFICD board, for his service to the Town of Cornwall.
- Mike Schoenfeld called Bruce to invite him to a Middlebury College meeting on Oct 17, to envision eventual uses for the Jackson property. Bruce will attend.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT – Sue Johnson

- **Software** - Sue continues to become familiar with it and appreciates its efficiencies.
- **Tax bills** have gone out. Second payment of State payments just arrived, so Sue is sending out revised bills showing credit of the State payment. Taxes are due November 1.
- **The capital budget and planning committee** have started discussions for next year and are working on the presentation to the board at one of the October meetings.
- **Reminder: no election** this November.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT – Sue Johnson for Stu Johnson

- **Truck** - Stu hopes to make decision about truck by October 1.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Pipeline Update** – Ben Marks went to the PSB hearing in Middlebury on September 10. Public comments at the hearing were 9 against to 1 for the proposed phase one of the project. Ben said that no new arguments were made. Technical hearings have started in Montpelier. ANR has reached

a settlement with VT Gas. Ben Marks relayed to Eileen Simollardes that Cornwall wanted to see a proposed route for phase two, not just a corridor. She said they could do that soon.

Ben passed out a hypothetical schedule for PSB proceedings for phase one and two to the board.

- **West Street Dog Complaint Resolution** - Consultation with Town attorney confirmed that there is no evidence that the dog is “vicious” as defined by law, and the Town ordinance is “soft” regarding appropriate SB action when dogs run at large and cause problems.

Dave MOVED/Judy SECONDED a motion to send a letter to the dog’s owner instructing him that

- the dog must be confined to the owners’ property
- if there is a verified complaint, the dog will be impounded and the board will then decide what to do.
- the fine is \$400 payable immediately one half of which will be refunded at one year from the date of letter absent of any verified complaint of the dog running at large,

And furthermore, that the board will appoint a committee to review and recommend changes to the Town dog ordinance and to ask complainants to be on that committee.

Motion passed. Bruce will have the Town Attorney review the letter before sending.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Discuss Staffing Options for Animal Control Officer** – Bruce Payne is resigning at the end of the year. The board will consider options at a later meeting,

Cornwall Conservation Committee Report – The Town has requested a municipal planning grant for the CCC to develop an inventory of natural resources in the Town. The voters approved funds for the resource inventory at the 2013 Town meeting. Mary Dodge and Mike Sheridan report that the inventory is underway, as the CCC starts on part one of the proposal. Brett Engstrom, ecological and botanical consultant, started in June as consultant to the project. Brett is reviewing all existing data. Middlebury College is supporting the work of a GIS intern to work with Brett. The inventory will look at runoff and flooding issues, and will identify important natural features that need connecting, protection, and conservation.

Brett will do a presentation to the Town on October 16 at the CPC regular meeting and desires public feedback. The plan is to conduct the inventory during the coming year, through the fall/winter 2014, involving elementary school

students when it is safe for them to be on field trips. The goal for the final report is during the winter of 2014.

Marc Lapin has continued to work with CPC in assessing subdivisions. The CCC held workshops on tree identification with VT Cupboards, sponsored a guided exploration of Cornwall swamp, and a plant swap on the Green.

The board asked Mary and Mike to ask Brett to prioritize inventory in the area of the proposed pipeline corridor, after first contacting Ben Marks. It will be useful to have the information about any rare and endangered species that may be present, now, rather than later.

The CCC would like to become members of a statewide association of conservation commissions, and the board approves. Mary and Mike and the board discussed the idea of Douglas Pond being a worthy project for the CCC to tackle next. It used to be a wonderful resource for the Town but cannot be used for swimming or fishing in the shape it is in now.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Tierra, Clerk of the Selectboard