

Approved _____, 2020

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CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting
Via Zoom Teleconference
September 15, 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: Brian Kemp, Ben Wood, Magna Dodge, Ben Marks, and John Roberts (who arrived just prior to New Business)

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Sunderland, Don Burns, Randy Martin, Mary Martin, Conor Stinson

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

Recording of meeting - announced

Quorum - established

AGENDA - Magna D. MOVED / Ben W. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as modified, with the addition of Emergency Appointment to Planning Commission in New Business and in Other Business, citizen question about potential school closure and citizens concerns about speed limit on Route 74 in the West Cornwall Village area. Motion passed - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

General Fund and Highway Orders - signed

MINUTES

- **September 1, 2020** - Magna D. MOVED / Ben W. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as posted. Motion passed - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW - none

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT - Sue Johnson is not present tonight

ROAD COMMISSIONER / ROAD FOREMAN'S REPORT - Brian Kemp and Michael Sunderland

- Report on cost of line striping from various vendors - Board agreed to table the matter until the next meeting, after Michael S. reported that he had received a bid from only one vendor.
- Michael S. reported that work on Morse Road is done and work has begun on Ridge Road. Next in line for road work is Sperry Road.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Discussion of request to throw up / rename a portion of Audet Road**

Mary and Randy Martin are present to express their strong opposition to the proposal to throw up a portion of Audet Road. They spoke about a 165-acre parcel of land they own at the south end of Audet Road, currently being leased to a neighboring farmer for agricultural activities. The portion of Audet Road that Mr. Doyle has requested to be thrown up, provides access to

Martin's parcel, and if thrown up would present a hardship for the ability to work the land and harvest crops. If the Martins decide to sell the land, that would create a land-locked parcel if that part of Audet Road had been thrown up. Ben M. conveyed to the Martins the reasons that Mr. Doyle gave at the last meeting for his request. The Martins replied that they do not see any advantage to anyone else in Cornwall except Mr. Doyle.

Ben M. said he had spoken to the Town Attorney about the matter. The decision to throw up a road is up to the Select Board, and involves a process including fact finding, public hearing, and site visit. The Board must consider how such an action would benefit or cause hardship to the Town, not any individual land owner. As options, the Town has the authority to erect a gate and provide keys to those who need access. The Town could alternately declare it a trail. A trail declaration would maintain Town ownership and access for lots in the future.

As far as the request for renaming the road, Town Attorney stated that the Select Board has the discretion to consider it or not. Ben M. added that the name of a road is documented in many formats and has many uses, such as E-911, GPS, printed maps, electronic maps, deeds, and historical documents, to name a few.

- **Discussion and vote on joining Addison County Communications District**

After discussion, Ben W. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to authorize Ben Marks and Susan Johnson to sign "A RESOLUTION APPROVING CORNWALL JOINING THE ADDISON COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS UNION DISTRICT AND APPOINTING A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE GOVERNING BOARD THEREOF." and to appoint Magna Dodge as the representative. Motion passed - 4 in favor, 0 opposed. The Board agreed to leave the two alternate positions open at this time, and work to recruit alternates with technical / customer service knowledge, if possible.

- **Discussion and possible vote on road signage**

Citizens have asked that caution signs be erected at the intersection of DeLong, Douglas and Gavin roads. Michael S. has been in touch with one sign maker who could make a caution sign with no symbols, just letters for \$62. Consideration of this matter will continue at the next meeting after Michael does more research to see if signs can be made with symbols.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Emergency Appointment to the Planning Commission (CPC)**

Don Burns and Conor Stinson informed the Select Board that two members of the Planning Commission, Al Thalen, Jr. and Joshua Stearns, resigned in the past few days, leaving the CPC without a quorum and unable to conduct business. The CPC recommends Marge Drexler be appointed to the Planning Commission, on an emergency basis, tonight.

The CPC has a regularly scheduled meeting tomorrow night, and needs to have a quorum in order to consider and vote on a municipal planning grant opportunity that would enable the CPC to receive services from the Addison Regional Planning Commission on two important projects - doing key updates to the Town Plan and being trained together as a new commission. The streamlined education and training for commissioners would include becoming familiar with the relevant Statutes, conducting effective meetings, planning mechanics and key planning issues. The duration of the grant is 18 months. The application deadline is September 30. The CPC will need a resolution from the Select Board in order to apply for this grant, as the Town would need to provide a 10% match, or \$1,000 - \$1,500 at the completion of the grant in June of 2022.

After discussion, Ben W. MOVED / Magna D. SECONDED a motion to appoint Marge Drexler to the Cornwall Planning Commission, to fill a vacancy on the commission, until Town Meeting in March of 2021.

After discussion, the Board agreed that it would be very beneficial to the CPC and the Town to have new planning commissioners trained together as a group and to be able to begin work on the Town Plan update with the help of staff from Addison Regional Planning Commission (ADRPC). Brian K. MOVED / Ben W. SECONDED a motion to schedule a special meeting of the Select Board on September 28 to consider and vote on the grant. Motion passed - 5 in favor, 0 opposed. Conor S. and Don B. agreed to get the application to the Select Board by September 25 for their review prior to the special meeting. They will be assisted in writing the application by Katie Raycroft-Meyer from ACRPC.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Citizen question about possible school closure** - one Board member received a call asking if the Town has discussed the issue of the intent of the school district to possibly close the Cornwall School and what would the Town do if the school was to be closed.
- **Citizens concerns about the speed on Route 74 in West Cornwall Village area** - a group of citizens who live in West Cornwall Village continue to advocate for traffic controlling measures in their neighborhood. Traffic studies done by the State have not addressed their concerns. Randy Martin added that he used to walk on Route 74, but no longer does - it is just too dangerous, as he was almost struck by a car, near his home, more than once.
- Randy Martin thanked the Select Board for their work for the Town, the extent of which many in Cornwall do not realize.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 pm

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board