

CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Joint Meeting with Salisbury Selectboard • Regular Selectboard Meeting

Location: via Zoom and at Town Hall

MAY 17, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tanya Byker, Ben Marks, Brian Kemp, Don Burns, John Roberts

ALSO PRESENT: Paul Vaczy (Salisbury SB Chair), Kip Andres (Salisbury SB), Pat Dunn (Salisbury SB); Steven Rheume

Recording of meeting—announced

JOINT SELECTBOARD MEETING ON THE SALISBURY/CORNWALL SWAMP ROAD BRIDGE

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Ben Marks, Cornwall Chair

QUORUM—established

AGENDA—Brian K. MOVED, John R. SECONDED, to approved the Agenda as posted.

Motion passed—Unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS—none

DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON REPLACEMENT BRIDGE DESIGN—

- John R. MOVED, Paul V. SECONDED, that the Boards select the covered bridge design option for the Swamp Road bridge replacement.

- **Discussion**

- **Town preference counts**—As of this meeting, the covered bridge option received 52%, the other two options, combined, totaled 48%. Preferences by town were:

- **Salisbury**—Covered Bridge: 189 Steel Beam: 182 Truss: 42
- **Cornwall**—Covered Bridge: 275 Steel Beam: 145 Truss: 50

- **General:**

- Cornwall: Swamp Road not built to carry the weight of today's heavy trucks and farm equipment.
- Access roads on both sides are likely to be problematical regardless of which option is selected.
- There may be options, down the road, to find State/Federal funds to assist with road upgrades.
- Maintenance, repairs: much can be handled by local contractors when bridge is basically of wood construction, whereas the steel options generally require more distant specialized contractors.
- Extra maintenance and fire protection are strikes against a covered bridge versus either of the other two.
- The money to build a replacement bridge comes from a Federal grant , with towns' portions coming from insurance proceeds. Important not to exceed the insurance proceeds.
- Important to keep residents' sensibilities in mind during selection evaluations.
- Covered bridge won residents' preferences, and are a big draw for visitors as well.

- **Aesthetics**

- Current open bridge has provided a surprisingly attractive view up and down the Creek.
- A hybrid steel/covered bridge could have a steel frame with wood façade, but

State has indicated that the façade would be the towns' responsibility.

- A reproduction covered bridge would have public appeal in terms of its aesthetics, but as a reproduction authenticity/historical value would be off the table.

- **Fire & Vandalism**—Covered bridge has the highest risk of fire/vandalism. However there have been only 2 replacements over a 200-year span, so how big is the highest risk? Any cement supports in use with steel bridges are also subject to graffiti and other vandalism.

- **Traffic**

- Traffic control among biggest concerns for both towns, Not solely volume, but heavy-weight vehicles. Farm equipment can be a problem as well, but trouble typically comes from heavy delivery/transport trucks led to the bridge by GPS mapping.
- GPS mapping companies have been very unresponsive about addressing this issue.
- Signs could be put on roads leading to the bridge.
- 18-wheelers with their length, height, and weight create particular problems when following GPS routes.
- Turn-arounds of sufficient in size to handle 18-wheelers need to be to the sides of entrances on both sides of the bridge.
- Ordinances could be posted but will they be read? Will heavy trucks stop to read them?
- Enforcement: Heavy penalties might have an impact, can be delineated by ordinances and posted.
- Covered bridge might serve as a good traffic-calming unit, but at a considerably higher cost than the other options.

- **Motion called**—Motion on the table to replace the burned bridge with the covered bridge option. **Motion passed.** 7 affirmative; 1 opposed.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Brian will continue as main point of contact between the Boards and Laura Stone (VTrans Scoping Engineer)
- Survey results to be shared with Laura and with John Flowers, *Addison Independent*, who was unable to be at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT—Paul V. MOVED, __ SECONDED, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed. 8 affirmed, 0 opposed

The Joint meeting of the Salisbury and Cornwall Selectboards was adjourned at 8:07pm.

REGULAR CORNWALL SELECTBOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 8:07 pm by Ben Marks, Cornwall Chair

QUORUM—established

AGENDA—John R. MOVED, Brian K. SECONDED, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion passed—5 in favor, 0 opposed.

General Fund and Highway Orders—orders have been circulated by email for signing.

MINUTES

May 3, 2022—John R. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED to approve the minutes as posted. **Motion passed**—5 in favor, 0 opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW—none

PUBLIC COMMENTS—none

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT—No report, Sue is away.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT—Brian Kemp, Steven Rheaume

- The grader has developed a hydraulic oil cooler leak. No after-market unit is available, new cooler unit (\$3,847) is back-ordered. The old unit has been re-installed so the grader is ready for emergency use.
- Ken has been hauling gravel.
- Signs have been ordered to replace those stolen or damaged by bullet-holes.
- Steve R. has received a \$1,000 bid for the tree work on Swamp Road, the formal bid to be submitted, he will seek another as well. Bid includes assistance with the clean up.
- Short discussion on an ash tree evaluation—who to do it, cost, scope of the work. There is some thought that the trees may develop some degree of Emerald Ash Borer immunity over time. Treatment can be prohibitively expensive. Ash trees in the public ROW and may present a danger are a particular concern.
- The mutually-owned crack sealer is in Addison where it has been tested; a first training by the foremen of the towns owning it was held.
- Steve asked who he should contact, in Middlebury, for information on paint and supplies needed for painting the “Stop Ahead” and stop bars on James and Cider Mill. *Brian*: Not certain, suggested just stopping in and seeing who he might be pointed to.
- A hole 18” from the edge of South Bingham Street needs attention, and the stop sign at the junction of Cuttinghill Road and South Bingham Street is down. Steve will check on these new issues tomorrow.
- *Salt/Sand Shed*—The Capital Committee met with Breadloaf, May 10, to review the salt/sand building plan. Breadloaf had not done anything further with the plan since their last talk. The Committee decided to put the project off until next spring. They want to review the project with a general contractor and come up with a revised building plan. Board had a short discussion on the pros/cons of a used hoop building.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Status Report on the Solar Project for the Town Hall**—First draft of contract agreement received, will be reviewed, then sent to Attorney Kite. Board will review after Kite has a chance to see it.
- **Burton Tax Appeal**—The case is rested as Mr. Burton has requested mediation.
- **Approve 2022 Local Emergency Management plan (LEMP)**—The only changes needed were to add Don Burns and replace Mike with Steve Rheaume. John R. MOVED, Tanya B. SECONDED, to approve the changes to the 2022 LEMP. **Motion passed.** 5 affirmative, 0 opposed
 - **Regional Emergency Management**—Ben gave a short report on the recent EM meeting he attended, noting that the committee has had a quorum problem as many towns have not re-appointed Emergency Managers. He is serving as Cornwall's Emergency Manager but encouraged anyone who might be interested to consider the position.
- **Town Shed Alarm**—They have been unable to fix the alarm, it continues to go off. Steve inquired about the next steps he might take.

NEW BUSINESS—none

ADJOURNMENT—The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Submitted by Robin Conway, Substitute Minute-Taker