

CORNWALL SELECT BOARD
Regular Meeting
Location: via Zoom and at Town Hall
June 7, 2022

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

ALSO PRESENT: Steven Rheaume, Sue Johnson, Mary Dodge, Andrea Landsberg

Recording of meeting—announced

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm

QUORUM—established

AGENDA - Don B. MOVED / Tanya B. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as modified, moving Emerald Ash Borer presentation to the top of the agenda. **Motion passed**—4 in favor, 0 opposed.

General Fund and Highway Orders - orders have been circulated for signing.

Reconciled Bank Statement - has been circulated for review.

NEW BUSINESS

PRESENTATION: Emerald Ash Borer - Conservation Commission members Andrea Landsberg and Mary Dodge

Andrea Landsberg shared what she learned from a Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) course she took about the Emerald Ash Borer. She shared some information about the history of this insect's presence in the United States, efforts to contain it (which failed), the year (2018) it was discovered in Vermont, the damage and inevitable death it causes to ash trees, and the danger this presents to public safety, when ash trees are located in public right of ways. Only 1% of ash trees survive an infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer and die within 3-5 years. The danger to public safety has to do with the fact that when it dies, an ash tree is very brittle, structurally unstable, and is unpredictable how it will break.

If the Town wanted to conduct an ash tree survey, to assess if Cornwall has a problem with elm trees in the public right of way or on Town property, there is training for volunteers. Andrea L. and Mary D. said such a survey would not be something the Conservation Commission would take the lead on, as it is out of the scope of what the Conservation Commission is charged with doing, but Andrea L. is willing to be a resource and to arrange a training for volunteers.

Sue J. said that she would speak with Stu Johnson, Cornwall's Tree Warden, to see if he is familiar with the issue of the Emerald Ash Borer and would assist with assessing the number of ash trees in the public right of way and on Town property. Everyone agreed this would be the perfect next step.

MINUTES

May 17, 2022 - Don B. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as posted. **Motion passed** - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Letter of intent to participate in grants-in-aid program, Better Back Roads. Ben M. has signed.
- Latest correspondence from Robert Burton concerning his tax appeal.

- Notice from State of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation, regarding an easement on the property of Randy and Jean Quesnel.
- Notice that the Beaver Brook development has received its Act 250 permit.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT - Sue Johnson

- Unspent American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds will need to be moved into either a separate checking account or a separate account in the accounting system (if possible), by the end of the fiscal year June 30. Sue J. will investigate these options and take appropriate action.
- Highway maintenance position ad will run on June 23 and the deadline for applications will be July 1 at 5 pm.
- Cornwall resident Carolyn Anderson who has expressed interest in the Town Clerk and Town Treasurer positions, has been shadowing Sue J. for 5 days, and has begun assisting Sue with some tasks.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Brian Kemp and Steven Rheaume

- Road Maintenance: The crew has been doing roadside mowing and spreading chloride. Stu Johnson helped in grading one road.
- Grader needed another repair, now it is fixed and ready to go.
- Only one paving bid was received. The paving scope is the Snake Mountain apron and sections of West Street, where culverts were previously installed and the surface has now settled. It was agreed that because there are no other acceptable options, that the single bid be accepted from Pikes, a company that has done good work for Cornwall in the past.
- Bids for tree work on Swamp Road are still in process.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Swamp Road Bridge Replacement** - status update - John Roberts is researching information on the details of the insurance payout. Sue J. will contact the insurer to follow up. Paul Vaczy, Chair of Salisbury Select Board, submitted the results of the surveys in each town to the State. Ben M. and Paul V. have consulted on the matter of choice of bridge. Paul V. plans on asking the State if a hybrid bridge can be built with the look of a covered bridge but with a concrete deck.
- **Cornwall Solar Project** - status update - before discussion, all agreed that there is no conflict of interest nor any appearance of such conflict, to have Ben M. continue as Chair during this discussion. Benj Deppman has done the legal review of the solar project lease agreement. A special meeting will be called for the final discussion - special meeting has been pencilled in for June 20.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Brian K MOVED / Tanya B. SECONDED a motion that premature general public knowledge of a discussion related to attorney-client privileged information and a discussion of Town employee matters would place Cornwall at substantial disadvantage by waiving privileged information and by disclosing confidential personnel matters. **Motion passed** - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Brian K. MOVED / Tanya B. SECONDED a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss attorney-client privileged information and Town employee matters. **Motion passed** - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:26 pm.

No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Brian K MOVED / Tanya B SECONDED a motion to adjourn the meeting. ***Motion passed*** - 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board