

Approved _____, 2023

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CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting

Location: via Zoom and at Town
Hall

September 19, 2023

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

ALSO PRESENT: Steve Rheaume, David Dodge, Betty Gorton, Will H. Duane

Recording of meeting—announced

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by the Chair

QUORUM—established

General Fund and Highway Orders - signed

AGENDA - Ben M. MOVED / John R. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as distributed. ***Motion passed***—5 in favor, 0 opposed.

NEW BUSINESS

Visit with Will H. Duane, Land Acquisition Coordinator, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, Agency of Natural Resources

Mr. Duane said that the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife (VDFW) is seeking the Town of Cornwall's support for its proposed acquisition of 91 acres in Cornwall on the west side of West Street, currently owned by Betty Lou Gorton. VDFW has entered into a purchase and sale agreement with Mrs. Gorton to acquire the property as an addition to the existing Lemon Fair Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The goals for this acquisition are to conserve and enhance the existing grassland bird habitat, and to ensure public access for wildlife-based recreation such as birding, hunting, and angling. A small parking lot and a kiosk is planned to facilitate public access.

The acquisition will be paid for with funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. The Agency of Natural Resources makes annual Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) for properties it owns and manages. PILOT payments are based on the property's listed real value and the municipal tax rate in the year of acquisition. Estimated PILOT payments to the town of Cornwall will be approximately \$1,534.78 annually beginning in 2024.

After discussion Ben M. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion that the Town support the aforementioned proposed acquisition. **Motion passed** —4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (John R.).

Tanya B. added that the Cornwall Conservation Commission has written a letter of support for the proposed acquisition, which she shared with Mr. Duane.

In response to the Board's question about who at the Department of Fish and Wildlife is responsible for the fishing access on Swamp Road, Mr Duane provided the name of Amy Alfieri in the Fish Division.

APPROVE MINUTES

September 5, 2023

John R. MOVED / Don B SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as amended, with one typo corrected. **Motion passed**—4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Brian K.).

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Letter of Support regarding the proposed acquisition of land on West Street by the Department of Fish and Wildlife, from the Conservation Commission
- Letter from Angela Drexel regarding proposed underground utilities work by Centerline Utilities. Ben M. will follow up with Ms. Drexel regarding the needed paperwork.
- Email from Chris Anderson, recycling coordinator for the Town of Weybridge, regarding Cornwall residents dropping off their recycling in Weybridge. Tanya B. will reply to Mr. Anderson, with information about how recycling is handled in Cornwall.
- Approval for a Level II energy resilience assessment for the Town Hall and Town Garage

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

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

Tanya B. read Sue's report:

- Sue J. is going to apply for a Park and Ride grant in hopes of getting the Town Hall parking lot re-paved. If the Town receives this grant, paving would not happen until 2024.
- Cornwall History Day was successful, with 30 people at each of the presentations, and around 45 people visiting the Town Hall. The blacksmith shop was also a popular stop. The plan is to make it an annual event. The flyer that advertised the event indicated that the #5 schoolhouse still belonged to the Town, but it is now privately owned and on private property. The owner is concerned about liability if folks come onto the property thinking it is public. Sue plans on putting something in the town newsletter with the correct information about the #5 schoolhouse.
- The Board of Civil Authority met today to review and approve the challenging of voters believed to no longer live in town. This is a required event every off-election year.
- Sue plans on putting an ad in the paper next week for the Town Clerk and Town

Treasurer position.

- Sue will be meeting with the Cemetery Commission tomorrow to talk about Pleasant Hill Cemetery and other cemetery issues.
- Final payment was sent to Lussier Barn Builders.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Steve Rheaume

- Steve R. met with Mike Winslow from with Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) and submitted the grants in aid paperwork.
- Steve signed a permit for Maple Broadband for 4 poles on North Bingham Street.
- Road crew started hauling winter sand today. Salt has been received back from Shoreham. Shoreham and Weybridge road crews will be providing mutual aid to assist Cornwall in hauling sand to fill the new shed.
- The new grader is scheduled to arrive this Thursday afternoon.
- A motion light or timer is planned for the new shed, to minimize light impacts on the neighbors.
- Road erosion inventory is coming up. Steve said that staff at ACRPC is will to help him this year, with Steve shadowing to learn how to do it going forward. He will need a new iPad with the program installed, to do the road erosion inventory work.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Salt Shed Project Status Report** - Ben M. congratulated everyone who worked on the sand and salt shed project. Ben said that the Town owes them a debt of gratitude. The entire project went very well and other towns have now come to look at the result. \$10,000 is the remaining balance owned to Sean Sterns for the site work.
- **Brief update reports**
 - Cornwall Town Plan Approval and Village Center Designation - the Town Plan has been officially regionally approved by the ACRPC. Ben M. praised the Planning Commission for this excellent Town Plan update and the major effort put forth to complete it. The Village Center Designation application process is underway and the application will be reviewed by the by the Vermont Downtown Board on September 25 at 1:30 pm in Rutland. Marge Drexler will be present.
 - Solar Panels activation at the Town Hall - the solar panels are now generating power!
 - Scheduling / warning ARPA sub-committee meeting - meetings will be warned when scheduled
 - Scheduling / warning website sub-committee meeting - meetings will be warned when scheduled.

NEW BUSINESS - continued

- **Discussion of appointment of David Zarowin to Lemon Fair Insect Control District (LFICD) upon the retirement of David Dodge** After discussion with David Dodge, John R. MOVED / Ben M. SECONDED a motion to appoint David Zarowin to the LFICD

upon the retirement of David Dodge on September 30 and to warmly thank David for his years of service to the Town. ***Motion passed***—5 in favor, 0 opposed.

- **Discussion of Janet Franklin to Cemetery Commission** - John R. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to appoint Janet Franklin to the Cemetery Commission. ***Motion passed***—5 in favor, 0 opposed.
- **I-beams at 194 South Bingham Street** - Heavy I-beams remaining after the demolition of a trailer at 194 South Bingham Street are still in the Town right-of-way, pose a hazard, and need to be removed. John R. will follow up with the owner.

OTHER BUSINESS - MREMS contract - Ben M. has been in discussions with MREMS about the proposed 5-year contract and will continue these discussions. Ben sees two options, to either let the voters decide in March to enter a 5-year contract, or to warn the matter at Town Meeting as a line item for funding for one year. The current Select Board does not have the authority to sign a 5-year contract that would be binding on future Boards.

ADJOURNMENT

John R. MOVED / Ben M. SECONDED a motion to adjourn the meeting. ***Motion passed***—5 in favor, 0 opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board