

Approved October 17, 2023

## **CORNWALL SELECT BOARD**

Regular Meeting

Location: via Zoom and at Town

Hall

October 3, 2023

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Steve Rheaume, Judy Werner, Liz Marino, Gail Isenberg, Woody Jackson, Marge Drexler, Meg Harris, Stan Grzyb

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

Reconciled Bank Statement - reviewed

**AGENDA** - John R. MOVED / Don B. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as amended, with addition of Review of Reconciled Bank Statement, MREMS contract update, Fish and Wildlife acquisition update, Section 1111 update, and visit with the CORA committee. Motion passed—4 in favor, 0 opposed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Visit with Cornwall Outdoor Recreation Area (CORA) Committee**

Members of the CORA committee updated the Board regarding their efforts and progress towards raising funds to build the first phase of an outdoor recreation area on Town land and discussed the details and reasoning behind their request for \$70,000 in ARPA funds. The CORA committee has the opportunity to apply for a \$40,000 Better Places grant from the State, but needs to have the commitment of funds from the Town to be eligible to apply for the Better Places grant. The total cost of the first phase is estimated at \$130,000. Also discussed were issues of maintenance, trash removal, the need for a portable toilet, talking with the neighbors, results of the survey of residents done early in the process, crowd funding, and plans to access other grants. The Board acknowledged the enthusiasm of the CORA committee, the great efforts and progress on the project. The matter will be on the agenda again at the next meeting in two weeks.

### **APPROVE MINUTES**

September 19, 2023

Ben M. MOVED / John R SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed—4 in favor, 0 opposed.

## **CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW**

- Notice of the education tax rates for 2024 from the Department of Taxes. The homestead rate is set at 1.6427. The non-homestead rate is set at 1.6237.
- Notice that the direct discharge permit for the Town of Cornwall needs to be updated. Steve R. reported that Sue Johnson took care of the paperwork to update the permit before she left on vacation.
- Letter Department of Housing and Community Development informing the Town that on September 25, 2023, the Downtown Development Board found that the Cornwall Village Center application met the statutory requirements (24 VSA Chapter 76A) and designated the village center to receive state benefits. The designated village center will remain in place for eight years, until September 2031. At that time, the town will need to renew its designation.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS - none**

## **ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Steve Rheaume**

- The new grader is here, has been used a few times. Steve said it is smooth and powerful, and has a feature that prevents it from stalling when the blade has a heavy load.
- Road crew has hauled 1,500 tons of sand and Weybridge brought over another 200 tons of sand. The new sand/salt shed's capacity to hold more material is greatly appreciated. There are also 3-4 loads of salt in the shed now.
- Equipment preparations for winter are underway.
- Mike Winslow from with Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) assisted with grants in aid paperwork so that some of the funds from the 2024 award can be applied to the work done in 2023 that was underfunded by the 2023 grant.
- James Road culvert replacement was patched.
- AOT fixed the culvert at the boat access on Swamp Road.
- Tanya B. is ordering (in Sue's absence) the wifi enabled iPad with GPS that Steve needs for the road erosion inventory work.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Salt Shed Project Status Report - project is complete.
- Brief update reports
  - Village Center Designation - Cornwall now has the village center designation. See correspondence for more details.
  - Solar Signage - Don B. has been working on designing a small sign to be mounted by the front door of the Town Hall that says "Solar Powered" with a sun logo. He would like it to be hand painted with a vintage look, as it will be mounted on a historic building. Don is looking for a sign painter.
  - I-beams at 194 South Bingham Street - John R. spoke with the owner and his wife, who promised to remove the I-beams but that has not happened yet. John

will follow up with them again.

- Cornwall/ Weybridge recycling - after gathering information about trash/recycling in both towns, the Board concluded that since participating in Cornwall's trash/recycling service is voluntary, the Town bears no responsibility if its residents are taking their trash and recycling somewhere else. If Weybridge has a problem with people from other towns using their trash/recycling services, the solution is up to Weybridge.
- MREMS contract - Ben M. said he sent a marked-up version of the contract to the Executive Director of MREMS yesterday and is waiting to hear back.
- Department of Fish and Wildlife acquisition - Don B. contacted Will Duane about the possibility of a trail in the new acquisition from the Gortons. Mr. Duane was not open to the idea, because of the stand the Wildlife Division takes about the impact of trails on wildlife.
- Section 1111 - Ben M. said that he wrote to Liz Drexel to let her know what the Town needs in terms of forms and sufficient notice of the planned buried electrical work affecting a Town road.
- ARPA subcommittee - Tanya B. reported that the ARPA subcommittee met to draft a set of provisional criteria to guide decision making about allocating ARPA funds.

Of the \$ 356,319 originally allocated to Cornwall, the Select Board has already spent \$134,883 on a variety of projects including mobile solar powered speed limit signs, video conference equipment at the Town Hall, Maple Broadband start-up funding, digitization of 40 years of the Town's land records, new fire department radios, and a year's funding of after-school activities organized by the Friends of Cornwall School. There are number of ARPA fund requests that are currently under consideration. A full list of funded and pending requests has been posted to the Town website.

The Board welcomes citizen input on other ideas. Current project submission guidelines require:

1. a concise project description;
  2. the amount of ARPA funds requested and a timeline for required funding;
  3. a description of the direct impacts to Cornwall residents, if the proposed project comes to fruition, including a time horizon of the impacts;
  4. a plan to pay for ongoing operational costs and/or how maintenance will be accomplished; and
  5. a discussion of other possible project funding sources (such as grants, private contributions, etc.). This is an opportunity to discuss how ARPA funds might be used to access other/additional funding sources like matching funds.
- Follow up to tonight's meeting with the CORA committee, John R. will contact Adam Lougee from the ACRPC to ask if Act 250 is needed for this project. Ben and Tanya will contact the Town's insurance company to ask if additional insurance would be needed if the property were developed as an outdoor recreation area. Ben and Tanya will also compose a letter to the CORA committee with the questions that the Board has at this time.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

It was mentioned that Sue J. did post the Town Clerk and Town Treasurer position(s) before she went on vacation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

John R. MOVED / Don B. SECONDED a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed— 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board