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CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting

Location: via Zoom and at Town

Hall

December 19, 2023

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

ALSO PRESENT: Steve Rheume, Sue Johnson, Gary Barnett, Kate Gieges, Stan Grzyb, Gail Isenberg, Meg Harris, Marge Drexler, Brian Gill, Ian Gill, Kelly Gill, Shelley Payne

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 / Don B. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as presented. ***Motion passed—4 in favor, 0 opposed.***

NEW BUSINESS visits

• Gary Barnett: Discussion about establishing an Energy Committee

After providing a summary of discussions with the Weybridge Energy Committee so far, Gary said that the Weybridge Energy Committee is willing to mentor Cornwall for a year and then assess joint efforts after that. Gary B. plans on setting up a table at Town Meeting with energy information and a sign up sheet for those interested in joining a Cornwall energy committee. Tanya B. will proceed with applying for a grant to establish an energy committee. Gary described what the Weybridge Energy Committee does:

- Button Up workshops twice a year
- Helps residents navigate energy resources
- Energy fairs, EV demonstrations
- Provides lots of information handouts
- Advises the Town of Weybridge on energy issues

Gary added that the Energy Committee in Weybridge is an ad hoc committee, not appointed by the Select Board and that the Town of Weybridge approved a 1 cent tax for 4 years to fund energy projects in Weybridge.

• Shelly Payne: 911 issues (Hornbeam Hill Rd and 31o2 West St)

Shelley Payne and Kate Griegs discussed the 911 safety issues at Shelley's address

3102 West Street. Shelley said that navigation apps that most people use to locate E-911 addresses, are sending people to the wrong address. People drive into her driveway mistakenly, including delivery trucks. People she wants to come to her home, including emergency personnel, may not be able to find the home, because they end up in the Foote Farm development. Kate G., Cornwall's E-911 Coordinator said she has been working for a couple of years to resolve the issue at 3102 West Street, but a solution has not yet been found. Tanya B. said it is important to continue to work on this to find a solution. Shelley will give copies of information she brought tonight to Kate. Tanya offered to share the use of her Apple laptop with Kate, so Kate has access to Apple-based technology she needs. Ben M. said the Fire Department uses their knowledge of local roads and addresses as well as an E-911 app that is not based on the State E-911 map. Ben will send a screen shot of the app he uses, or information about it, to Kate G.

- **Brian Gill: Discussion of uses of Town land**

Brian Gill said that he needs access to property that he owns that is adjacent to the Town owned parcel next to the school, that is also the proposed location of the CORA project. Brian needs access for mowing and also to access a planned storage barn to hold boats. He asked if a driveway could be made to facilitate his access. Ben M. said that being that the CORA project is early in development, he felt a solution could be found. Ben added that if the school parking lot is part of a solution, Brian would need to talk with the district school board about that, as the school no longer belongs to the Town. Brian had some other questions which were answered when the CORA committee provided the following update report. Brian also asked CORA if there are plans for a fence at the property line. The reply was that yes, a barrier is possible but it would be a living fence, vegetation.

- **CORA Committee update**

Members of the CORA committee present are Gail Isenberg, Stan Grzyb, Meg Harris and Marge Drexler. Gail provided information to the Board regarding progress with permitting, fundraising, and the status and conditions of the Better Places and Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) grants. The VOREC grant is paid by reimbursement, so that does not give CORA funds up front to pay expenses. Gail said that regarding permitting, they may only need one permit at a cost of \$100-\$600. CORA is working closely with Addison County Regional Planning Commission and ACRPC is providing project management for CORA. Meg Harris has been developing a website that includes a way for people to donate to CORA and a linked MailChimp account. The Town is the fiscal agent for CORA. CORA is partnering with local residents involved in the Pollinator Pathway and everyone is excited about ideas for a pollinator garden - "Flora for CORA." Gail asked if the Town would be able to revisit the stipulation about when funds for CORA could be released, as cash flow is of concern at this point in the project. For example, if cash is needed for a permit fee, and CORA is stuck with no other options.

APPROVE MINUTES

December 5, 2023

Ben M. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as posted.

Motion passed—4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (John R).

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Email about the Municipal Energy Resiliency Planning grant
- Invitation to the January 19, 2024, 10 am annual Addison County budget meeting of the Assistant Judges of Addison County
- Email from Bob Cluss of the Lemon Fair Insect Control District (LFICD) Board. Following up on discussions with the Select Board 2 weeks ago, The LFICD requests an additional \$6,000 be added to the 2024-25 Cornwall budget, to be spent only if more aerial treatments are needed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

TOWN CLERK / TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT - Sue Johnson

- Town Office is closed next week December 25 - January 1 and reopening January 2.
- The Capital Committee will be meeting then and will hold a hearing in January on the Capital Fund budget.
- Laura Fetterolf was appointed by Sue J. to be the Assistant Town Clerk and started training for the Town Clerk position last Friday.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Steve Rheaume and Brian Kemp

- 2023 was an extraordinary year weather wise and unfortunately this may be the new normal that will require different planning and strategies to maintain the town's roads.
- Swamp Road is closed probably until next week, as Otter Creek is still rising. Steve said he erected concrete barriers and a barrier on the bridge as well.
- Several gravel roads, including Sperry Road, Morse Road, and Tully Road, developed deep trenches, because the ditches could not handle the amount of water that fell yesterday. Steve said the road crew has been trying to fix these trenches with grading. Brian K. added that using the disc is a strategy that needs to be revisited. Brian added that if the current weather trend persists, the Town may need to contract for more help on the road crew.
- Steve said that 90% of the culvert and road work that was done in the summer has held up, but culverts are now filled up with leaves washed in with all the rain. Ben M. said that the Fire Department has equipment to blow out those leaves. Steve will provide the locations of the culverts to Ben.
- Dave Burno installed the interior motion light in the sand/salt shed.
- Nick build a new roller for the grader, which can be installed as soon as the wing is installed by John Deere.
- Steve said he needs to buy more traffic cones. Ben M. MOVED / John R. SECONDED a motion to approve the purchase of 25 additional traffic cones. **Motion passed—5 in favor, 0 opposed.**
- Steve reported that a town resident who was getting some walkway sand at the sand/salt shed reported that they saw someone in dark clothes and a hooded sweatshirt

“snooping” around behind the sand/salt shed. Steve said that he has not noticed anything missing.

OLD BUSINESS

Brief update report: website subcommittee - John R. said that he will schedule a couple of meetings of the subcommittee in January to move things along.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

- **Consideration of appointment of Town Treasurer** - after discussion, Ben M. MOVED / Don B. SECONDED a motion to appoint Nicholas (Nick) Gill as Town Treasurer for approximately 8 hours a week (including having physical presence at the Town Office) at the rate of \$35/hour, effective March 6, 2024 and to authorize training by Sue Johnson. ***Motion passed—5 in favor, 0 opposed.***
- **Preliminary Review of 2024-25 Budget worksheets** - the Board began to review the Highway budget, including discussing plans to prepare for the “new normal” weather. Sue J. said that discussions of the budget will continue at the next meeting and there will be a Special Meeting in January to approve the budget and the Town Warning.
- **Consider proposal from Lemon Fair Insect Control District (LFICD)**
See Correspondence. Tanya B. will follow up this issue to find out what support the LFICD will have in 2024-25 from the other 2 towns in the district - Bridport and Weybridge.

ADJOURNMENT

Brian K. MOVED / Don B. SECONDED a motion to adjourn the meeting. ***Motion passed—5 in favor, 0 opposed.***

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board