

CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting

Location: via Zoom and at Town Hall

April 16, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tanya Byker, Don Burns, Brian Kemp, Shawn Fetterolf, John Roberts

ALSO PRESENT: Stan Grzyb (*CORA*); Mickey Heinecken; Molly Daley, Chris Kramer (*FOCS*); Patty Lancaster, Al Wakefield (*Declaration of Inclusion Initiative*); Laura Fetterolf; Steve Rheume

Recording of meeting announced.

The Meeting was called to order by Chair, Tanya Byker, at 7:00 pm.

QUORUM—Established

AGENDA—John R. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as amended; Schedule of Regular Meeting Dates which had been omitted from previous meeting, added here. ***Motion passed—5 in favor, 0 opposed.***

SET MEETING SCHEDULE—Brian K. MOVED, John R. SECONDED, to keep the regular Selectboard meetings scheduled as they have been, on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. ***Motion passed—5 in favor, 0 opposed.***

GENERAL FUND AND HIGHWAY ORDERS—signed

RECONCILED BANK STATEMENT—not yet available

NEW BUSINESS VISITS

- ***Declaration of Inclusion Initiative***—(*Al Wakefield and Patty Lancaster*) The Initiative was first presented in Franklin County. The group was founded in 2020 by Bob Harnish and Al Wakefield and now consists of five members all from Rutland County. Patty is the newest member (2023) and is focused on helping Declaration adopters to implement activities in support of the Initiative's goals as expressed in the Declaration. Those goals include:
 - condemning all forms of discrimination;
 - welcoming all persons regardless of race, color, religion, national origin sexual orientation, gender identity, age, socioeconomic status;
 - striving to ensure all of actions, policies, and operating procedures reflect this commitment;
 - striving to ensure that everyone feels safe and welcome in the community.

The Initiative has received support from several state-level groups (among them: Chamber of Commerce, VLCT, VT Council of Rural Development) and the Declaration has so far been adopted by 142 municipalities throughout the State. Governor Scot has established the second week in May as Inclusion Week.

Tanya read the Declaration and it was put to a vote: John R MOVED, Shawn F. SECONDED, that the Board adopt the Declaration of Inclusion.

Discussion: Board asked what next steps might entail. Al indicated that a

number of further actions can be found on the group’s website, ranging from simple to complex. Municipalities are welcome to take part in any that suit them. When asked if any had declined to adopt the Declaration, AI indicated that one town in Addison County was among six that have declined across the State. In Addison County there are 6 remaining towns the group will be approaching. **Motion passed—5 in favor, 0 opposed.** The Board will sign and send to the Initiative.

- **Speed Limits—(Mickey Heinecken)** Mickey is concerned about traffic on State roads as they pass through the town. Particularly where Sperry Road accesses Route 30. People used to cut across the Fire House lot to access Route 30, but can no longer do so as the parking lot has been closed off to Sperry Road. Mickey has made several inquiries about posting speed limits and has received responses indicating that the State controls speed on the State roads and sets limits according to the average speed of vehicles using them. However, it was noted that a number of towns have been able to set speeds on sections of State roads that pass through the towns. Middlebury, Bristol, and Brandon have done so. He asked if the town’s movable traffic speed signs could be placed on the highway sections passing through Cornwall and see what reaction comes from the State. Also, if a formal appeal/request to VTRANS might bring about the desired result (this apparently as not yet been done). The recently received “Town Center” designation might help in areas lying within that designation.

MINUTES—April 2, 2024

Shawn F. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED to approve the minutes of April 2, 2024, as presented. **Motion passed—4 in favor, 0 opposed;** John R. was absent from that meeting and abstained from voting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- **Friends of the Cornwall School After-School Program—(Molly Daley, Chair of FOCS; Chris Kramer, Program Coordinator)** The FOCS wants to thank the Board for their support and hopes to pursue program growth and sustainability. The group will make any adjustments necessary to ensure the usability of the communal space on the Town Hall’s second floor. There have been some issues as the program unfolds, but Laura indicated that things have run much more smoothly lately. She and the FOCS will work together when scheduling various programs to minimize noise and other intrusions into the first floor work areas.

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

- Tanya will forward an email to the others from VLCT about flood reimbursement.
- Jean Terwilliger is looking for someone who would be interested in helping the group she represents (Addison County Energy Navigator Program) assist local residents in finding resources that will help their energy needs.
- CORA has included a walkway between the school and the park area so the kids will not have to deal with parking lot traffic (see below).

TOWN CLERK—Laura Fetterolf

- **Computers and email**

- Laura's new computer is set up, but Nicholas' is not yet done.
- The town has contracted with Silloway Network, an IT firm in Rutland. However, there have been issues. Despite the contract for back-up and security services and Microsoft Apps for Business licenses (\$77/month), help-desk/service calls are additional charges. Silloway wants to move the town to additional services which would cost \$719/month with help-desk and service calls included. Also included would be staff/board gmail accounts to Silloway's archiving service. This makes some sense, as when someone leaves their position their gmails go with them, and are lost to the town. Making accounts relative to a position rather than a person would help with this. However, there is a cost for this (a one-time fee of \$3,500 for all accounts) and all accounts must be archived with them, no choice.
 - Shawn noted that there is a free archiving tool offered by gmail that might be looked into.
 - VLCT might be able to offer some advice on this, and it would be worthwhile looking into what other towns do.
- **Newsletter**—Any additions to the newsletter should get to Laura as soon as possible.

TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT—*Nicholas Gill*—no report. Don will check with Nicholas on the Monday before Selectboard meetings about the reconciliations.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT—Brian Kemp, Steve Rheaume

- **Swamp Road is Closed**—The flooding seems to be happening before Otter Creek crests. Brian wants to check north of town to see if he can locate any blockage. He will use a drone.
- Steve noted that the last rains caused the flooding to increase from 2" to between 6" and 8", with a strong current, over a one-day time span. A lot of debris was floated in which could create serious issues for anyone trying to drive across.
- **Discussion**—Would it be better to leave the road open, with "high Water" signs, until it reaches a certain height (6"–8") or should it just be closed off even with a minimal height of flooding? Once the road is covered, it is impossible to determine where the shoulders are, making it very hazardous to drive through. Also, attempts to block traffic from the road tend to be seen as a challenge to drag off the blockage. A different plan is needed. The Board agreed it would be better to simply close the road even with minimal water depth. Steve and Brian will develop a more secure blockage method.
- New road signs have been put up to replace those that have been stolen.
- Grading will continue as weather permits.
- The safety grant that was applied for last year has been granted. However, it contains provisions prohibiting tree cutting between March and November because of the danger to bats. This leaves only December in which the crew can do the work approved by the grant. Steve will see if it is possible to get an extended end-date.
- An adapter has been made that will now allow all the big plows to go on the grader.

OLD BUSINESS

- **ARPA**—No report.

- **CORA**—(Stan Grzyb)
 - **A drive permit** is needed, how do they go about this? Steve: He will schedule a site visit with a CORA member.
 - **ROW on the school road**—Stan brought some documents to share with the Board. A 1981 map shows the end of the road actually extends about 30'–40' beyond the end of the pavement. Also, the surveyor found indication of a “perpetual easement” have been granted that goes even further out, to about 80'. Stan will be provided with the documentation.
 - **Compost shed and elevated vegetable garden** are on town land not school land. The shelter structure is tilted so that it can be used for solar panels in the future.
 - An extension has been created off the walking trail between the school and the park area so that the kids can move back and forth without needing to navigate through the vehicle parking area.
 - **No wetland permit will be needed**, ANR just advised staying 65' away from Gills' mound system.
 - **Because this is an internal parcel**, it requires that setbacks on all sides be equal to the district's front setback which, in this case, is 35'.
- **Website Update**—(John R.) Margie Young has indicated that it may be possible to adjust the existing website.
- **Hazard Mitigation Plan**—Three bids were received, with the one from ACRPC being the most desirable as they are the most local (one was from Oklahoma and was the most expensive), there is a working relationship already established, and their proposed cost was \$7,854, with a requirement for in-kind hours. John R. MOVED, Don B. SECONDED, that the Board accept the ACRPC proposal. **Motion passed—5 in favor, 0 opposed.**
- **Purchasing Policy**—A proposal was made that the Board reassess the Purchasing Policy and put it on the Agenda to discuss next time. A short discussion raised a suggestion to raise the amount which would trigger the bid process, or to keep it at its current \$500 limit, but add provisions to delegate an approval process in lieu of requiring a full Selectboard meeting to discuss and approve. John noted that the original intent of the existing policy was not to require approval for what would fall under “regular maintenance” or replacement types of things, but to cover unexpected or unusual items. Clarification of triggers and the bidding process is needed.

NEW BUSINESS—See above under “New Business Visits”

OTHER BUSINESS—None

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 pm.

Submitted by Robin Conway, Substitute Minute-Taker

Declaration of Inclusion

Town of _____, Vermont

The Town of _____ condemns racism and welcomes all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, disability, or socioeconomic status, and wants everyone to feel safe and welcome in our community.

As a town, we formally condemn all discrimination in all of its forms, commit to fair and equal treatment of everyone in our community, and will strive to ensure all of our actions, policies, and operating procedures reflect this commitment.

The Town of _____ has and will continue to be a place where individuals can live freely and express their opinions.

By the _____ Selectboard on _____ 20__.