

Approved September 3, 2024

## CORNWALL SELECT BOARD

Regular Meeting

Location: via Zoom and at Town Hall

August 6, 2024

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Laura Fetterolf, Steve Rheaume, Taylor Sisson, Nichole Fox, Ben Tietze, Kate Gieges, Ian Gill, Katherine Branch, Caroline Mellish, A. Quinttus, M. Richards, Elizabeth Keefe, Mike Winslow, Jim Rowe, Rebecca H., Tom Hughes, Bastian Phair

Recording of meeting—announced

The Meeting was called to order by the Chair Tanya Byker at 7 pm.

**QUORUM**—established

**AGENDA** - John R. MOVED / Shawn F. SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as amended, with the following items removed: Review Bank Statement, Website Committee Update, and the following items added: CCC Recommended Appointment and Update on Solar Array Insurance. **Motion passed**—5 in favor, 0 opposed

### **MINUTES - July 2, 2024**

John R. MOVED / Shawn F. SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as presented **Motion passed**—4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (Brian K).

### **MINUTES - July 18, 2024**

Shawn F. MOVED / Brian K SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as presented **Motion passed**—4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (John R.).

General Fund and Highway Orders - signed

### **NEW BUSINESS VISITS**

- **Highway Division of the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) regarding Cornwall-Middlebury VT Rt 125 Scoping**

Taylor Sisson, VTrans Project Manager; Benjamin Tietze, VTrans Transportation Design Engineer; and Nichole Fox, Fuss & O'Neill Project Manager, presented information about and discussed with the Select Board the VTrans project to improve a section of VT Route 125 that begins in Middlebury near the Cornwall Town line and continues in Cornwall for about 2 miles to Hamblin Road. The Project is also known as STP0172 (11). The project was initiated in March of 2022, in collaboration with the towns of Middlebury and Cornwall, the Addison County

Regional Planning Commission, and Middlebury College. A local concerns meeting was held in June of 2022, and the process to develop and evaluate alternatives took place from July 2022 to September of 2023. The presentation today is the outcome of that scoping process.

Proposed short term low-cost improvements include vegetation trimming and thinning in key location, gate posted stop signs (already in place), and optical speed bars in both directions on approach to the knolls, and in both directions on approach to the Cider Mill Road/James Road/ Rt 125 intersection. These improvements could be done immediately, this summer.

Proposed middle and long term improvements include replacing the cable guardrail with a steel beam guardrail, removing rock outcropping and widening Route 125 between Ridge Road and Hamblin Road, widening Route 125 between Ridge Road and the Middlebury town line, and improving the profiles of the two knolls by decreasing the height of the “hills” and decreasing the depth of the dips. This is considered a major project and construction would be several years out. Mr. Sisson said that there is funding bookmarked for the design phase of this project. The total estimated cost is \$13 million. 80% of the cost would be federal funding, 20% State funding.

A separate long term improvement project that was identified by the scoping phase, is a shared use path, led by the towns, ACRPC and Middlebury College. This section of Route 125 gets a lot of bike and pedestrian traffic, especially by the college students.

Next steps:

- Endorsement by the Select Boards of Shoreham and Middlebury
- Finalize the scoping report
- VTrans management approval of the scoping report
- VTrans and town collaboration on short term alternatives
- Town/ACRPC/Middlebury College can begin the shared use path process

Shawn F. MOVED / Brian K. SECONDED a motion to endorse the short term alternatives and at a later date, consider the middle and long term alternatives.

**Motion passed** - 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

- **Cornwall Board of Auditors** regarding Annual Audits

After discussion with Town Auditors Ian Gill, Kate Gieges, and Caroline Mellish, Shawn F. MOVED / Don B. SECONDED a motion to go forward with the quote from Telling & Associates for an annual professional audit of Town finances. **Motion passed** - 5 in favor, 0 opposed. A search of other auditing firms, did not identify a better option than Telling & Associates, a firm with a long history of providing quality auditing services for Cornwall, and whose fees are comparable to other firms. The Board of Auditors will continue to provide their other services to the Town.

## **CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW**

Notice of Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) workshop for Town officials on ordinance adoption and enforcement , august 29, 9am -12pm. John R. said he will attend.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Elizabeth Keefe, resident of South Bingham Street, expressed her concerns about souped up vehicles and pick up trucks repeatedly creating a noise problem in the West Cornwall Village by revving up and peeling out on the area roads, including late at night and early in the morning. She would like the Select Board to consider passing a vehicular noise ordinance. If the Town had such an ordinance, it would provide the basis for law enforcement to cite offenders.
- Jim Rowe spoke on behalf of the Friends of Ann Story, a group who want to recognize Ann Story (1741-1817), the woman who is considered “The mother of the Green Mountain Boys” and Revolutionary war heroine. She is buried in Middlebury with her third husband, under her married name. In 1914, the Mary Baker Chapter of the D.A.R. placed a marble monument on the Cornwall side of Otter Creek, at the site of the Story cave. Friends of Ann Story want to improve the base of this old monument and make a trail to the cave site. The Select Board informed him that such a trail would be on private land. Mr. Rowe is seeking support from the Select Board for the proposed Friends of Ann Story activities. The matter may be put on the agenda of a later public meeting.

## **TOWN CLERK - Laura Fetterolf**

- Jackman’s Fuels replaced the outside heat pump unit with a new one and it is working well. The filter needs to be cleaned monthly, by someone other than the Town Clerk.
- Board of Abatement hearing is no longer being pursued by the applicant.
- Laura has started making a list of vendors for the upkeep of the Town Hall.
- The parking lot needs re-striping.
- The August 13 primary election will be managed by a skeleton crew. The Town Hall will be open 7 am - 7 pm for voting.
- The Board of Civil Authority will meet in October to prepare for the November election.
- Vermont has a new gun law that law states that a person can’t knowingly possess a gun at a polling place or “on the walks leading to a building in which a polling place is located” on Election Day, and the provision must be posted outside the entrances to polling places for 45 days prior to Election Day.
- Laura will be attending the annual conference of the Vermont Municipal Clerks and Treasurers Association (VMCTA) on September 11, 2024 and the Secretary of State’s election training.

## **TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT - none today**

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

- Discussed potential opportunities for new paving on Ridge Road with the Board. Steve sent out paving quotes for Board review. Vote will be on the agenda of a September meeting. Meanwhile, a letter will be sent out to affected landowners with the pros and cons of paving their section of road. Also discussed was the benefits of making a 5 year paving plan.
- Steve met with Mike Winslow regarding a grants-in-aid project on Galvin Road, The \$6,000 project has been approved.
- Nick's last day is August 16. There are at least 2 applicants interested in the position. Deadline for applications is this Friday. Steve and Brian will interview all of them.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Update on Updating of the Local Hazards Mitigation Plan** - next step is a public meeting of stakeholders.
- **Report and Recommendations from the ARPA Subcommittee** - ARPA subcommittee along with John R. and Shawn F, met with the DAR recently. No recommendation at this time.
- **Discussion of Potential Revisions to Town Purchasing Policy** - A draft has been circulated to the Board. Don advised that the Board look at Monkton's policy.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Discuss possibility of delegating certain authorizations (i.e. catering, facilities) to town officials and/or employees** - Laura has begun a list of vendors
- **Solar array insurance issue** - the Board will review the draft and then vote at the next meeting.
- **Conservation Commission new member recommendation** - Donna Marks has been recommended for appointment to the CCC. John R. MOVED / Don B. SECONDED a motion to appoint Donna Marks to the Conservation Commission. ***Motion passed—5 in favor, 0 opposed.***
- 

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Secretary of the Select Board