

Town of Corinth
Board of Selectmen
PO Box 461
Corinth, VT 05039

Unapproved Minutes of the Select Board Meeting
April 9, 2018

Attending for the Board: Chris Groschner, Steve Long, Hal Drury
Catherine Tudish, selectboard clerk

Others attending: Lee Porter, road commissioner; Joe Blodgett, road foreman; Karen Galayda, lister and administrative officer; Rev. Kelly Ann Donahue, pastor, East Corinth Congregational Church; Chris Preston; Kenneth Schaffer

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes of select board meeting of March 12, 2018 and financial meeting of April 3, 2018 were approved.

Election of Select Board Chairman

Long nominated Chris Groschner, Drury seconded, and it was moved that Groschner would continue as Chairman.

Public Concerns

Rev. Donahue raised a concern about the state of disrepair of the building at 657 Village Road, the former store adjacent to the Congregational Church. She asked if there was a plan to bring the building into compliance with safety standards.

Groschner replied that the selectboard was well aware of the condition of the store, which was why the board created a building ordinance. He added that the board has dealt with the state "quite unsuccessfully" about septic arrangements. Groschner mentioned that the road crew has expressed concern about vehicles associated with the building being parked in the roadway. The board has also talked to the building owners, but has little leverage in changing the situation, he said.

Long noted that the building ordinance was for public safety, not an eyesore ordinance.

Groschner said the owners have installed plastic fencing to put a barrier around the foundation, but whether the building is more secure is questionable. The board would be happy to do anything citizens suggest that would be within the board's ability, he said.

Donahue asked if the condition of the building would cause a problem for abutters getting insurance.

Groschner replied that it might, as the current state of the building also made it a fire hazard.

Drury asked Donahue to check on the number of vehicles on the property, noting that abandoned or discarded vehicles can be removed.

Galayda said the state Department of Transportation would have to be involved in any vehicle removal.

Road Report

In response to a concern that the posted speed limit sign of 35 mph in Cookeville was too far away from the electronic speed warning sign, Blodgett said he was going to move the electronic sign so that both signs could be viewed at the same time.

Porter said he attended the conservation commission meeting the previous week to discuss ideas for beautifying the roadside at the new transfer station site.

Blodgett reported that the road crew had added stone to Abe Jacobs Road to mitigate the swampy mud situation.

Blodgett presented forms for board signatures confirming state compliance. He also had the board sign forms for authorizing purchase of a new tractor with roadside mower, thereby avoiding a 6% price increase scheduled to take effect in May.

Blodgett recommended using remaining funds from the paving budget to put gravel on the unpaved section of Cookeville Road and to seal cracks in paved roads. These recommendations were approved by the board.

School Board Appointment

Groschner noted that two people, Chris Preston and Kenneth Schaffer, had volunteered to complete the term of retiring member Jessica Osgood, whose term would end in March 2019.

After hearing from Preston and Schaffer, the board decided to consider both candidates in executive session at the end of the meeting and notify them of its decision.

Fire Station

Drury presented the warning for a vote on the \$850,000 bond for construction of the new fire station.

Voting is scheduled for May 15, 2018, at the Corinth Town Hall, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., open to all legal voters of Corinth.

Drury said that an informational meeting will be held on May 10, 2018, at 7 p.m. at the Corinth Town Hall to explain the proposed fire station and its financing.

The warning and information on registering to vote will be posted on the town website and other authorized posting sites.

Administrative Officer's Concerns

Galayda asked the board to give lister Linda Weiss a raise to \$14/hour. The board approved the raise.

Galayda said the listers had met with attorney Dan Richardson regarding the town reappraisal. Richardson said that Vermont Appraisal Company did not adjust in terms of the fair market value of real estate in the town of Corinth. Correcting the errors to the appraisal would cost about \$5,500 Galayda said.

Maxine Slack was reappointed to the Zoning Board of Adjustment by the select board for a period of one year.

The letter to property owners drafted by the select board concerning regulations affecting new construction and development will be mailed out soon.

Emerald Ash Borer Plan

A public information meeting was scheduled for April 10 with information from the state forest service. Long is establishing a Corinth task force to inventory ash trees and look for signs of infestation by the insect.

Porter and Blodgett both agreed to be on the task force. Additionally, Long recommended members Virginia Barlow, Bradley Wheeler, Dan Wing, Glynn Pellagrino, and Russ Pazdro. The select board approved the task force with these members.

Town Website

Anne McKinsey, who maintains and designs the town website, requested approval for the purchase of a new Word Press theme and other upgrades. Approval was granted by the select board.

Other Business

The select board appointed Joe Truss as emergency management coordinator for a one-year term.

Correspondence

Drury noted that the select board had received an animal report from the state, containing a record of vaccinations and dog licenses. A copy will be sent to the Corinth dog officer.

The select board went into executive session at 8:25 p.m., and came out of executive session at 8:35 p.m.; no decisions had been made. Long then moved to appoint Kenneth Schaffer to the open school board position, Groschner seconded, and Schaffer was unanimously appointed for the term ending in March 2019.

Groschner moved to adjourn, Long seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.