

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

Approved Minutes of the Select Board Meeting
May 8, 2018

Attending for the Board: Chris Groschner, Steve Long, Hal Drury
Catherine Tudish, select board clerk
Others attending: Lee Porter, road commissioner; Joe Blodgett, road crew foreman; Dick Kelley, chair, planning commission; Dean Gregoropoulos, Irene Mann

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

Minutes of select board meeting of April 9, 2018 and financial meeting of May 1, 2018 were approved.

Public Concerns

Dean Gregoropoulos brought up the issue of building restrictions in the river corridor, stating that he had been required to remove a shed, at considerable expense, he built on his parents' property, following a state inspection of the site. He believes the decision was unfair, because the shed did not violate the restriction regarding an "auxiliary structure" greater than 500 square feet within 50 feet of the stream bank. The shed, Gregoropoulos said, was less than 500 square feet and over 60 feet from the stream bank. He has moved the shed, but he strongly recommends modifying the flood plain restrictions. He said the select board voted in the restrictions in 2015 without notifying the public and wants to know if the select board can now modify or retract them.

Groschner and Long pointed out that there were two public hearings on the issue prior to the select board voting to put the bylaws in place, and that those attending the hearings had expressed support for the restrictions.

Long said he thinks it is a good policy not to build within 50 feet of the river corridor.

Gregoropoulos said he agrees with the 50-foot rule, but that the new restrictions had not been made clear to the public prior to taking effect.

Groschner suggested appointing someone to the planning commission to specialize in flood plain concerns, and Kelley agreed.

Drury and Long asked to see the paperwork involved in order to understand the reason for the order to remove the shed.

Groschner said the select board was willing to review the process.

Long added that the board wants the process to work for everyone. "We would love to understand how this failed," Long said. If the bylaws need to be changed, he said, they can be.

Kelley told Gregoropoulos that he could petition for changes in the bylaws by gathering signatures.

Gregoropoulos left the meeting and returned later with a folder of relevant paperwork for the select board to review.

Irene Mann raised an issue regarding the pricing of trash removal. Casella's per-bag pricing does not cover every bag size, especially the size she uses, and she wanted to know if there could be other price options. Mann also asked why the town was using Bob Sandberg to pick up food scraps for composting, rather than taking the food scraps to the Washington Electric facility and making use of the methane. Long said the state mandate is that food scraps can no longer be included in household trash, effective July 2020.

Groschner added that the town benefits from having Sandberg pick up and haul food scraps without charge.

Road Commissioner's Report/Highway Concerns

Blodgett raised the issue of loggers leaving a narrow band of trees standing along roadways when they complete a job. These trees are more likely to be blown down in a windstorm, blocking roadways and knocking down power lines. This should be a subject of further discussion, he said.

Groschner commended the road crew for its work clearing away fallen trees following the May 4 thunderstorms and asked whether all members of the road crew had up to date safety gear. Blodgett assured him that they did.

Blodgett presented the annual financial plan form from the state for board signatures. The document was signed and returned to Blodgett.

Porter said Carole Freeman had called about two cracked chimneys, claiming the contractor who put in the Chicken Farm Bridge had damaged her chimneys because of the impact of construction work. Porter added that the bridge was built approximately three years ago.

Groschner said the time frame makes it difficult to determine a cause-effect relationship.

Groschner thanked Porter for informing the board about the situation.

Porter asked to purchase a rusted steel beam of about 40 feet that came from the Bear Notch Bridge that is now at the new transfer station site.

Long moved to sell it to Porter for \$100, Drury seconded, and the motion passed.

Blodgett informed the board that he is using funds from the current budget to buy sand for next year.

Fire Station

Drury reported that he had elevation drawings from Morton Builders and would make multiple copies for the public meeting on May 10.

He said the fire department is working with Billy Ricker to get another estimate for site preparation.

Drury is still waiting to get septic costs.

Drury said he has a computer program that will let individuals calculate their tax liability for the bond based on their property tax assessment.

Drury confirmed that he has checked with Wells River Savings Bank about securing a construction line of credit to draw on until we can secure a bond from the bank next spring.

When the question of heating for the new fire station was brought up, Drury said the fire crew had expressed a preference for heating the building from the top down. Porter recommended heating from the bottom up as the most effective and efficient.

Correspondence

The select board received a letter from the state Agency of Agriculture confirming that the re-testing of water at the Town Hall found no coliform or e. coli present in the sample.

Other Business

Groschner moved that the select board appoint Anne Little to the planning commission. Drury seconded the move, and the motion was approved. Another member may be appointed to specialize in flood plain concerns.

Long moved to adjourn, Drury seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.