

Town of Corinth
Board of Selectmen
P.O. Box 461
Corinth, VT 05039

Minutes of the Special Meeting
December 21, 2020

Attending for the Board: Chris Groschner, Steve Long, Rick Cawley.
Others Attending: Karen Galayda, administrative officer.

The meeting was held as a Zoom call. Groschner read a notice authorizing this public meeting to be conducted by remote access, in accordance with a special provision of Vermont's Open Meeting Law. It was called to order at 10:02 p.m.

Town Center Designation

Groschner and Galayda spoke about the application for Town Center designation for East Corinth and Cookeville. The application was started in 2019 but not completed. Representatives from the state (Richard Amore) and Two Rivers Ottauquechee assisted and participated in site visits to the two potential centers. Boundaries were drawn up based on these site visits.

The benefits of the designation include the opportunities for grant funding from the state, and tax credits for businesses. Cawley asked if there were any downside to it, and Galayda and Groschner didn't see any. Cawley wondered if we were giving any rights away, and Galayda said that she didn't think so, and that if the town had later misgivings, the designation needed to be renewed every 8 years and we could not re-apply. Cawley said he could support the application. The board voted unanimously to pursue the Town Center designation for East Corinth and Cookeville. Galayda will contact Bob Haynes from Green Mountain Economic Development and Peter Gregory from Two Rivers Ottauquechee to take the next steps.

Other Business

* Groschner reported that at the Covid response weekly meeting, it was again suggested by Jeff Spiegel that a donation from the town to the East Corinth General Store to support its Pay it Forward Program would be appreciated. The board agreed that there are no funds designated for such an expense in the budget. Any request for funds should come up at a warned selectboard meeting and be on the agenda. But the board also agreed that these are strange times, and given so, it was willing to make the exception. It approved Groschner using \$100 of the health officer's budget if he determined through speaking with Renee at the store that there was a need for reimbursement for the charitable work that the store is doing to feed people in the time of Covid. The check should go with the memo line of Pay it Forward Program.

* Cawley said that he had fielded complaints from researchers who weren't able to get in to the Town Hall for research and hadn't been able to get access to older records that weren't available on the town's new online access to land records.

Cawley said he would check in with town clerk Nancy Ertle to confirm how far back the records had been scanned and were thus available on line. And he would ask that she make it possible for researchers to get older records that aren't available on line. Otherwise, it means that banks and title researchers will not be able to work on Corinth real estate transactions.

* Long asked the other members of the board for their opinions on whether we should continue to work with Hazen Hill to install solar, or to work directly with contractors. Hazen Hill knows the building inside and out and would be a valuable asset. On the other hand, their participation comes at a cost. The board decided to contact two contractors independently, and to compare their quotes with the preliminary quotes provided by Hazen Hill. This is still in the information gathering phase, and no decision was made.

The meeting adjourned at 10:52.