

Town of Corinth Selectboard
PO Box 461
Corinth, VT 05039

Unapproved Minutes Of Selectboard Meeting
Monday March 14,, 2022

Attending for the Board: Rick Cawley, Carl Demrow, Nick Kramer. Anne Rosten, select board clerk.

Others attending: Lee Porter, Road Commissioner; Joe Blodgett, Road Foreman. Others attending: Glynn Pellagrino, Amy Peberdy, Travis and Kendall Gendron, Anne McKinsey, Olivia Harding-Tillman, Meg Burmeister, Richard Hutchins, Sarah Polli, Lillian Olsen, Rachel Olsen, Norm Collette, Forbes Morrell, Brad Caswell, Carrie Kessler, KellyAnn Donahue, Chris Groschner, Steven Devoto, and Sue Parmenter. Others attending via Zoom: Dick Kelley, town treasurer, Gary Apfel, town moderator; Alex Nuti-de Biasi from the Journal Opinion, Ed Hathaway representing the EPA; Lisa Locke, Babette[last name unknown] , Brian and Christiane Carroll, Carol Freeman, Deborah Kingsbury, Dina DuBois, Dan Wing, Mitzi Motley and Lori Buik.

Meeting conducted in person and on Zoom. Rick Cawley called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM

Approval of minutes of regular meeting of February 14, 2022, and financial meeting of March 8, 2022

Carl Demrow made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular selectboard meeting of February 14, 2022 and the financial meeting of March 8, 2022. Nick Kramer seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of plans for the Pike Hill Mine with the EPA

Ed Hathaway from the EPA addressed the meeting with a timeline for the cleanup which will not start until either July 2024 or 2025. In the interim the EPA will conduct studies, develop plans, and hold as many community meetings as needed and keep the public informed. There were many questions from the audience. Brad Caswell asked pertinent questions about the Ely site as for errors and modifications made in the plan. Hathaway responded how they've implemented the cleanup. He also noted that the Pike Hill project is much smaller than the completed Elizabeth Mine project in Strafford which was huge, much more complicated and presented a few problems. Norm Collette asked about plans for the underground shafts. Hathaway acknowledged the residing bat population and thought that since the underground shafts were mainly horizontal they presented no major issues. Kendall Gendron asked about the Pike Hill Stream which flows through her property and who would be responsible for costs and treatment. Hathaway stated that no land owners would be responsible for cleanup or costs. Collette, who represents the Corinth Historical Society shared that the society has the blueprints for the mines and would make them available. Forbes Morrell asked about the cost of the project. Hathaway relayed that it would be between 15 and 20 million. Dan Wing asked if local contractors could be hired for much of the project. Hathaway said the EPA would welcome as much local contracting as possible. Dina DuBois asked if the trucks used could be electric. Hathaway is not aware that any electric fueled dump trucks are known to exist. However he did not rule out hybrid trucks. Morrell asked how much material will be removed and is it hazardous. Hathaway stated that more material will be brought in rather than out and no, there is no hazardous material found as smelting did not take place there.

Hathaway summarized by focusing on working with the town road crew to improve the two roads accessing the mines for large trucks mainly hauling material in such as stone and topsoil and cleanup of Pike Hill Stream. He did state that town traffic will have preferential status over the trucks. And also he reiterated the priority of having meetings with the public starting this summer.

The selectboard thanked Mr. Hathaway for attending the meeting and answering many questions. Mr. Hathaway's email is hathaway.ed@epa.gov For more detailed information on the timeline and plan please go to the EPA website:

The Pike Hill Copper Mine website can be found at: www.epa.gov/superfund/pikehill

Mr. Hathaway's informational presentation can be found at: <https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/01/100020034>

Public concerns: correspondence re Old Village Store

The selectboard received a letter from Richard Hutchins about vehicles in the right of way in front of the old Village store; a pickup truck and a Volvo; both alleged to be unregistered. Many village residents expressed concerns over the safety of the sight in general. Pedestrians must walk into the street to travel past and the street is limited in right of way width as there is a prominent bank directly across the road. Even vehicles have difficulties safely traveling by the site. Board chair Rick Cawley stated that the town is limited in what action it can take. There was a lot of discussion about the narrowness of the right of way as most of the residences along the street are extremely close to the frontage. The road and residences were laid out and built more than a hundred years ago before automobiles were in use. There was back and forth about registered vs unregistered vehicles in the right of way. Cawley stated that if a more stringent ordinance is adopted it has to apply to all vehicles in or too close to the town right of way. Relative to vehicles in the right of way creating an obstacle for the town snow plows, it makes little difference whether they are registered or not. Different possible options were discussed. Cawley explained how he had sent a certified letter to the landowner to get the Unimog moved and had it served by the constable to have it removed or the town would take action which it did.

The discussion turned to the building itself which is dilapidated and dangerous. Residents asked about the health and safety issue. Cawley stated that would have to be taken up with the health officer. Glynn Pellagrino from the Conservation commission stated that the building could possibly be condemned. Sue Parmenter asked about using the ARPA funds to improve the site. The landowner would have to agree to sell first. Road commissioner Porter also mentioned that the building is designated historical which restricts options. The frustration of the audience was acknowledged as it has been an ongoing issue for over 12 years. It was suggested that any discussion of zoning would need to start with the Planning Commission. It was also noted that the selectboard and Planning Commission are working on updating the town road ordinance.

Demrow made a motion to verify the status of the pickup truck and Volvo's registration and if not registered, that the selectboard send a certified letter to have the vehicles removed within 60 days or the town will have them towed. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Road Commissioner's report / Hwy. Concerns

Commissioner Porter relayed that on Chelsea Rd. by Corinth Corner that a trailer is in the town right of way as well as a pickup truck. It has been an ongoing problem at this address. Porter has tried to contact the resident numerous times to no avail. The selectboard agreed that something needed to be done. Demrow made a motion to send a letter to the landowner that the vehicles in the right of way will be towed if not moved. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Road foreman Blodgett asked that the board vote to approve the posting of dirt roads from March 15th through May 15th, 2022; with 15,000, 18,000, and 20,000 weight limits for different classes of vehicles. Demrow made a motion to authorize the road commissioner and road foreman to post the roads for 15,000, 18,000, and 20,000 weight limits from March 15 through May 15, 2022. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Kramer heard from the Turkey Hill resident who has been pushing snow into the road this winter making a hazard for the town trucks to plow. He will not comply with the road foreman's request to cease pushing the snow into the road. Foreman Blodgett stated that he will remove the snow.

Appointment of Conservation Commission member

Kramer made a motion to appoint Katharine Lea as a new conservation commission member. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Compensation for the town hall maintenance/projects

Norm Collette brought up a list of projects that need attention at the town hall building and premises. He also stated that he would welcome help with the bigger projects. Kramer mentioned he knew someone who may be interested. After discussing all the different issues concerning the building the board and Collette agreed to consider having a new position created; a facilities manager. Cawley made a motion for the board and Collette to hold a special selectboard meeting at the town hall and review all the needed projects and decide on compensation for the jobs on Saturday March 26, 2022 at 10:00 AM. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

ARPA proposals

Kendall Gendron opened with a request to consider using some ARPA funds to restore the old school house in East Corinth. Steven Devoto said he'd like to put in a proposal to have electric vehicle charging stations around town. Amy Peberdy asked how detailed the proposals have to be to submit. Cawley informed them that the ARPA committee will be meeting on March 22, 2022 at 7:00 PM and suggested that they attend and/or get their proposals to the committee. It was stated that the committee's deadline is March 18, 2022 to send in proposals for the March 22nd meeting. However, the selectboard will continue to entertain suggestions at least through Town Meeting on May 17.

Selectboard meeting schedule

Demrow made a motion to change the regular selectboard meeting to the first Monday of each month at 7:00 PM and the financial meeting to the second Monday of each month at 7:00 PM. Kramer second and the motion passed unanimously. [Post meeting it was discovered that the new meeting dates conflicted with other meetings at the town hall. It was agreed to leave the schedule as is except for switching the financial and regular meetings].

Town meeting 2022 warning

Cawley wrote up the town meeting warning for the board to review and will send it to town moderator Apfel and town clerk Ertle to review. Demrow made a motion to approve the town meeting warrant provided town clerk Ertle and town moderator Apfel approve it. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence

Cawley presented the "No Suits Pending" form prepared by the listers for the board to sign

Other business that comes before the board

None

Executive session/ personnel matter

Meeting adjourned at 9:20PM.

