

Town of Corinth Selectboard  
PO Box 461 Corinth, VT 05039

Unapproved Minutes of Selectboard Meeting  
Tuesday February 7, 2023

Attending for the board: Rick Cawley, Carl Demrow, and Nick Kramer. Anne Rosten selectboard clerk. Mark Nielsen, designer; Joe Blodgett, road foreman, KellyAnn Donahue, lister. Others attending: Mike Tagliavia, Anne McKinsey, Jeff Spiegel, chair of the Coalition Commission; Jeremy Goodrich, and Glyn Pellegrino, chair of the Conservation Commission. Attending via Zoom: Norm Collette, town hall maintenance; Gary Apfel, town moderator, Alex Nuti-de Biasi, editor from the Journal Opinion, Debra Kingsbury, Steven Devoto, Lori Buik, Sarah Polli, Building Safety Officer Katharine Lea, and Dina DuBois.

Board chair Rick Cawley called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Approval of minutes of regular meeting of January 3, 2023 and financial meeting of January 9, 2023.

No discussion. Demrow made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 3, 2023 and the financial meeting of January 9, 2023. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Road Commissioner's report / Hwy. Concerns

Cawley decided to put the highway agenda item before the public concerns item due to the inclement evening weather so Blodgett could leave after discussion to assess road conditions.

- a. Mileage certificate: Demrow made a motion to authorize Blodgett to post the roads from March 1, 2023 to May 15, 2023 and to sign the mileage report. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Jeremy Goodrich again brought up the problems he is having with the town road crew plowing snow into his driveway. After the board viewed Goodrich's before and after pictures it was decided to have the road crew give Goodrich's driveway a wide berth to which Goodrich agreed. Goodrich then asked about the car that was seen on the town trailer. Blodgett said it was one of the crew's family member's car that broke down and it was an extenuating circumstance. Goodrich then asked if the trailer is for public use which Blodgett said no. Cawley stated that in his view, it is not a problem. Rosten informed Blodgett of 2 large trees dangerously hanging over Coppermine Rd.

Public concerns, Better Places Program

Donahue and WRVS principal Carlotta Simonds-Perantoni have been in contact and have agreed to designate the school and the ECCC as emergency shelters.

Collette has been in contact with Jon Ruggles from the Better Places Program about a grant to beautify the Main Street of East Corinth village; putting flagpoles with flags on the telephone poles and maybe flower pots. Sarah Polli talked with Wade Pierson about it who is enthused about the project and knows all the regulations involved with Green Mountain Power. She said the village residents are quite happy about it. Jeff Spiegel expressed his concern about what kind of flags would be displayed and asked if Mr. Ruggles would attend the next Corinth Coalition meeting in March to discuss it.

Building Safety Officer Lea completed a property safety report on the Olde Village store property which has been an issue for years. A certified letter has been sent to the property owner who has not picked it up. Lea was thanked for her work. It was suggested to get in touch with the Agency of Natural Resources for help. Cawley stated that they've been contacted before and have limited enforcement power and mostly for wastewater issues. McKinsey asked if a new ordinance with harsher penalties could be drafted. Demrow answered that the current ordinance is adequate. Once the property owner receives the notice then there is a certain number of days before action will be taken.

Listers / reappraisal

Donahue requested that the board sign a form confirming there are no grievances on the town grand list values so she can close the book on the Grand List for this year. She then stated that Bill Tobin will be resigning soon which will leave her as the lone lister. The board asked Debra Kingsbury if she would serve as a stand in consultant for another year to which she agreed.

Demrow reviewed what the legislature is working on involving the 160 towns including Corinth that are noncompliant with the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA). His committee (Ways and Means) is working on a bill to impose a moratorium on new appraisal orders. He explained that most states do reappraisals on a county basis rather than town. Kingsbury asked numerous questions about the moratorium and had a few suggestions. Cawley stated he's been in touch with a Newbury selectboard member about possibly pooling resources with Newbury and a couple of other towns to hire an assessor. Kingsbury suggested that combining a few towns to appraise would allow for a full time job with benefits that would more likely attract more interest in applying for the job. The board decided to keep this conversation going and see how the moratorium bill comes out. Demrow said he'd have more information for the town meeting.

#### Town hall repairs and renovations (ARPA), list of potential bidders

Designer Nielsen said the next step is a pre bid meeting. He compiled a list of contractors which Cawley reviewed and noticed many that are now retired. Collette suggested putting the bidding process out to the public. Cawley asked Nielsen to write up a project description and that he would submit it to the Journal Opinion, Valley News, and Times Argus to solicit contractors to bid on the town hall project. He will do so this week and the ads will run for two weeks or longer. Demrow stated that Act 172 funds will be available this Fall to fund the weatherization as well as other grants. Moderator Apfel asked if the town had any vision for the upstairs and recommended contacting the Historic Preservation Trust. Collette said that the subject has been hashed over many times over the years but there are structural limitations but could be brought up again some time down the road. The discussion turned to scheduling a date for the pre-bid meeting with potential contractors. Friday, March 24th at 10:00 AM was settled on. The structural drawings will be handed out at the meeting.

#### Town meeting preparations / lunch

Pellagrino from the Conservation Commission reserved the town hall for a presentation on the Dartmouth forestry project near the Clement Loop Trail with two UVM professors which is scheduled for Monday March 6th from 7:00 - 8:30 PM which is the evening before the town meeting. He was hoping to keep the date, even though the hall will be set up for the next day. He assured the board and Collette there would be minimum interference with the set up and all would be back in place after the trail meeting. The board and Collette agreed for Pellegrino to keep the date.

Apfel asked about the microphone set up for the Town Meeting and suggested having the school principal send a few students to help out with running the mics to speakers and helping the historical society with lunch.

#### Liquor license / Crossmolina store

Kramer made a motion to approve a liquor license for the Crossmolina store to sell beer and wine. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### Correspondence

None

#### Other business

None

Demrow made a motion to adjourn. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 8:50 PM.