

Unapproved Minutes of Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday March 7, 2023

Attending for the board: Rick Cawley, Carl Demrow, and Nick Kramer. Anne Rosten selectboard clerk. Joe Blodgett, road foreman; Lee Porter, road commissioner; Wade Pierson, Jon Ruggles, Anne McKinsey, Bob Fortunati, Dan Wing, Dina DuBois, and Jeff and Sandy Spiegel. Attending via Zoom: Glyn Pellegrino, chair of the Conservation Commission; Norm Collette, town hall maintenance; Gary Apfel, town moderator; KellyAnn Donahue, lister; Lori Buik, Sarah Polli, Building Safety Officer Katharine Lea, Anne Bergeron, Linda Weiss, Joyce McKeeman, Katie Kramer, Twig Notman, and Chris and Holly Groschner..

Board chair Rick Cawley called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Approval of minutes of regular meeting of February 7, 2023 and financial meeting of February 13, 2023.

No discussion. Kramer made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 7, 2023 and the financial meeting of February 13, 2023. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Public concerns, Better Places Proposal

Jon Ruggles handed each board member a folder of information about the Better Places proposal to put flags on power company poles through the village of East Corinth and possibly flower pots. The proposal is to fly the flags 24/7 365 days a year. Wade Pierson stated that 90% of the surveyed residents were in favor of the proposal, although it is not entirely clear if the full extent of the proposal was explained, with 2 residents opposed. He said flags would not be displayed without the property owner's permission. Flag etiquette calls for flags flown at night to be lit up. Green Mountain Power has granted permission for the flags as long as not controversial or political. Road foreman Blodgett expressed his approval for how the flags would honor veterans and that the display would not hinder plowing or other road work for the crew. Anne McKinsey, a village resident, expressed her concern about light pollution and that having flags on the poles all year would not have as much meaning as during patriotic holidays such as Memorial and Independence Day. Linda Weiss agreed. Jeff Spiegel's concern was that the flag could be divisive to some and a small segment of Corinth was surveyed instead of the whole town and hoped for another meeting where all interested residents could express their thoughts. Dan Wing and Dina DuBois were also concerned with light pollution as they have had experience with helping Cookeville tone down the lighting around the town hall. Lori Buik and Sarah Polli were very much in favor of the project and that the lighting will add to the safety factor of the village. Pierson explained that there could be historic banners put up to honor the Bobbin Mill and Beetlejuice, Page's Box Shop, etc. After more visitor comments Mr. Ruggles stood up to address the meeting. He felt that it needn't be a divisive issue as the flag represents all of us and we pledge to the flag at the opening of Town Meeting and other functions.

Cawley stated that there was presently no request made of the selectboard other than to allow this public discussion.

Road Commissioner's report / Hwy. Concerns

Commissioner Porter reported that the Hedgehog Brook bridge design by the hammock shop is updated and is consistent with prior estimates

Bob Fortunati handed each board member a paper on the research he's found on the effects of too much salt used on the roads that leads to roadbed damage, roadsides, and streams. Porter explained that they have cut down on the salt used but sand without salt will freeze solid. School bus safety is also an issue.

Porter stated that over 30 inches of snow fell over the last 7 days. He stressed that people plowing driveways not plow snow into the road as it is a hazard for the town plows and others traveling the roads.

Status of village store property/Building Safety Inspector's order

Building inspector Lea said that the Fed-X delivery of her order was signed for by the village store property owner on February 9th and if no action is taken after 30 days there will be a \$150 penalty and then \$10 per day penalty until the owner responds with a plan for action.

Town hall repairs and renovations (ARPA), pre-bid meeting

The pre-bid meeting will take place next Wednesday, the 15th and Cawley will put one more notice on the LRN about it.

Liquor license and tobacco licenses/ECGS

Demrow made a motion to approve the liquor license and the 3 tobacco licenses for the East Corinth General Store. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Corinth's 5 year hazard mitigation plan has, or is, about to expire and now is the time to re-apply and create a new one to qualify for FEMA grants. The process has changed since the last time this had to be done and is much more time intensive for the town. Previously the regional planning commission handled it. The selectboard doesn't have the time to pursue this without administrative staff. Cawley will contact the planning commission to see if they have any interest in pursuing this.

Opioid settlement participation

The board received a notice from the State of Vermont about a settlement in an opioid case and that the Town of Corinth may be eligible to participate in the settlement. The town does not have to take any action at this time and will review when further information is forthcoming.

Mailing list

A question was raised about the town's mailing list for town reports and other communications. Kramer reported that the town clerk is working with the postal service and is ready to compile a corrected list. Demrow suggested mailing to homestead property owners and those on the checklist and eliminating duplicate mailings to the same address. Anyone else, i.e. second home owners and renters may request a report or other communications from the town.

Correspondence

None of note.

Other business that comes before the board

Road commissioner Porter asked for updated dump stickers that would not be dated. Cawley stated that they would be sent out with the next tax bills.

The board borrowed the library's OWL sound system for this meeting and asked Zoom attendees for their input. All said it was much clearer and better heard and could actually see all who spoke. Gary Apfel, town moderator, stated it was a great improvement as did others. Kramer said the OWL system would cost from \$1000 to \$1500 and is well worth the investment. Kramer made a motion to approve the expenditure to acquire the OWL sound system using ARPA funds, not exceeding \$1500. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Demrow made a motion to adjourn. Kramer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting ended at 8:55 PM.