

Unapproved Minutes of Selectboard Meeting  
Tuesday July 5, 2023

Attending for the board: Nick Kramer, Carl Demrow, and Holly Groschner. Anne Rosten Selectboard Clerk.  
Lee Porter, Road Commissioner; Joe Blodgett, Road Foreman; Norm Collette, Town Hall Facilities Manager; and Mike Tagliavia. Attending via Zoom: Linda Buermeyer and Rick Moore.

Board chair Nick Kramer called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Approval of minutes of regular meeting of June 6, 2023 and financial meeting of June 12, 2023

Nick Kramer made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular selectboard meeting of June 6, 2023. Kramer was the only existing board member to attend that meeting so his was the only vote and the motion passed. Carl Demrow made a motion to approve the financial meeting of June 12, 2023 and Kramer seconded. The motion passed unanimously, with both Kramer and Demrow voting in favor.

Public concerns

None

Road Commissioner's report / Hwy. concerns/ Ancient road query.

Commissioner Porter stated that the new dump stickers will cost \$654 for 2000 compared with a little over \$400 for 2000 in 2019. He also said that the red stickers will fade over time and not be dated. There was discussion about enforcement of out of town cars. No one has volunteered for that job but it was felt that Rick, the regular Casella driver, is familiar with the town's residents who use the transfer station and will spot violators. Porter hoped to have the stickers go in the mail with the tax bills but will likely not arrive on time for that. Demrow made a motion to authorize Porter to purchase the stickers out of the transfer station funds. Newly appointed selectboard member Holly Groschner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Road foreman Blodgett reported that there are two grants on the way for the two paving projects scheduled for this year: one to pave from the bridge by Devins Farm where Brook Rd begins to the beginning of Richardson Rd. and another to pave Taplin Hill Rd. from where it meets Hayward Rd. to Rte. 25. Blodgett also had a grant in hand for the board chair to sign from the Better Back Roads program for improving Hoots Place for \$20,000. Groschner asked about ongoing erosion due to rain runoff down by Devins farm. Blodgett said he would contact the Agency of Natural Resources to look at where the runoff fills the ditch with dirt. Demrow made a motion to authorize chair Kramer to sign the grant from the Better Back Roads program. Groschner seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Demrow then made a motion to authorize Kramer to sign for the \$200,000 grant when it arrives for the Devins bridge to Richardson Rd. project. Groschner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Blodgett talked about the other projects the road crew is working on; keeping up with storm damage and culverts scheduled for Brook Rd.

Kramer received a query from the owner of the old Smith Mines on Pike Hill about the road leading to the mine. The owner has anecdotal evidence that leads him to believe that the road leading to the mine may have been mistakenly claimed as a town road, as opposed to another nearby road bordering his property that eventually intersects Maplewood Road. In the owner's opinion, the town would be better served from a recreational standpoint to reclaim the road intersecting Maplewood. Porter recalled the work of the Ancient Roads Committee completed in the last several decades to examine old road records and clarify town right of ways and expressed that the roads in question would have been carefully scrutinized as part of that process. Both Porter and Blodgett expressed the opinion that there was little value to the highway department in reclaiming the road in question, and given the extensive work of the Ancient Roads committee, a hesitancy to proceed. Porter described the historical documentation, surveys, and other resources on which the work of the Committee was based. Kramer indicated that he will reach out to the landowner to share the information discussed.

The Charlestown Productions film crew asked if they could temporarily replace a light fixture on an electrical pole outside the library, and install several others along poles through East Corinth village with pre-fabricated lighting fixtures for the filming. Green Mtn Power will grant permission with an ok from the selectboard. Groschner made a motion to approve the temporary replacement and installations. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### Town highway discontinuance request - property inspection, public hearing, notice.

There has been an official request from a landowner to discontinue a section of Town Trail 13, which connects to Heath Rd. Kramer composed three letters addressed to the abutting landowners informing them that there will be an onsite road inspection by the board on Friday evening, August 4th at 7:00 PM and to hear testimony from involved parties. All three board members signed the letters, to be sent by certified mail to the landowners. After the road inspection, the board will hear testimony on site regarding the proposed discontinuance. Porter expressed his opinion that too many back roads have already been given up and it would be unwise to give up any more. Collette also stated that access to Garden Hill would be cut off if the request is granted.

#### Discussion: Corinth Law Enforcement Study Committee recommendations

There were no members of the Law Enforcement committee present. The board reviewed and discussed the recommendations. Groschner asked about the pending contract from the sheriff's dept. and what are the town's needs. She would like to investigate what surrounding towns are doing about law enforcement. The board wants to meet with Sheriff Contois and go over what the dept is willing to commit to. Mike Tagliavia expressed his frustration about the lack of any police presence in town and how nefarious individuals may take advantage as crime is rising noticeably in VT. Porter agreed and said by cutting the sheriff dept budget at town meeting it sent the wrong message. Groschner suggested inviting the sheriff to the August meeting for a discussion. She will review the contract agreement.

Chris Diaz resigned his post as constable. Demrow will contact people who have law enforcement backgrounds to see if there is interest in the constable position. No action taken on the law enforcement study committee's recommendations.

#### Animal control complaint

There has been an ongoing problem with loose dogs roaming on Hayward Rd. Resident Jeff Spiegel filed an official complaint with the Town, in accordance with the Dog Ordinance. Animal control officer Michelle Boyer has issued multiple warnings to the dog owner John Booth, and shared with Kramer her intention to begin issuing fines according to the Town's Dog Ordinance. If no action is taken following the imposition of fees, then impoundment action may be taken. Based on a conversation with the Animal Control Officer, Kramer agreed to contact the game warden to see whether he would be able to provide additional support in the eventuality of an impoundment.

#### Town Hall Renovations - meeting room floor bids

Collette received three bids for the meeting room floor remediation and recommended going with Levaggi whose bid came in at \$4,875 to remove 220 square feet. Groschner observed that the bid request specified a floor size of 390 square feet, and it was determined that before moving forward, Levaggi should have the opportunity to revise the bid. He agreed to do the job on weekends in September. Kramer made a motion to appoint Demrow as point person to work with Collette on amending the town hall renovation plans as needed and go with Levaggi's revised bid. Groschner seconded with the stipulation that the revised bid retain the same cost per square foot. The motion passed unanimously.

Demrow talked with the contractor Mark Reinheimerr about revising his bid for the Town Hall rear entry renovation project, based on a simplified design. Reinheimer will not be available to start on the project until next summer. Collette and Demrow reviewed the scope of the project for Groschner's benefit, as she is new to the board. Collette reminded the board that the Town Hall roof also needs replacement which will cost \$30,000 which will come out of the town hall capital improvement funds.

Kramer reported that applications for building assessments, through the Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) are now open. He explained that once they come out and do an assessment of the town energy needs the town could be eligible for up to \$500,000 in grant money. Demrow will call Harry Falconer from TRORC to schedule an assessment and then the board and Collette will put together a list of town energy needs. Demrow made a motion to contact TRORC and get on the MERP list for assessment. Groschner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### Corinth Website COVID Information

Anne McKinsey let the board know that the COVID information is still on the town website. They discussed the options whether to leave it there or take it down. Groschner said there was valuable resource information that would be useful such as the 211 chart, etc. Kramer said he would follow up with McKinsey and ask Service Officer Kathy Haley to review the website and make recommendations.

#### Delegation of authority to Town Clerk to approve one-time event permits

Groschner made a motion to authorize the Town Clerk to approve one-time catering permits to approved licensees for FY24. The selectboard will retain the authority to review the initial license applications. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### Correspondence, VEM survey

Kramer completed the Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) survey.

The board then read the complaint form from Jeff Spiegel about Hayward Rd resident John Booth's loose dogs with a description of complaints.

The board read an invoice from TRORC in the amount of \$2,372 for the annual dues.

They read the official resignation letter from Constable Diaz dated 6/20/2023.

#### Other business that comes before the board

None

#### Executive Session

Demrow made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a legal matter. Groschner seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The board entered into executive session at 8:55pm. They came out of executive session at 9:05pm and took no action. The board adjourned at 9:06pm.