Town of Corinth Selectboard
PO Box 461
Corinth, VT 05039

Approved Minutes of Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday May 6, 2025

Attending for the Board: Holly Groschner, Carl Demrow, and Stephen Devoto. Anne Rosten, Selectboard Clerk. Lee Porter, Road Commissioner: Joe Blodgett, Road Foreman; KellyAnn Donahue, Head Lister and Interim Assistant Treasurer, Jon Ruggles, Bob and Susan Fortunati, Dina DuBois, Chris Preston, Jeremiah Goyette, Mike Tagliavia, Miranda Miller, and Matt Hayes, Animal Control Officer (ACO). Attending via Zoom:, Gary Apfel, Town Meeting Moderator; Anne McKinsey, Matt Nola, Norm Collette, Town Hall Facilities Manager; Chris Groschner, and Carole Freeman.

Board Chair Groschner called the meeting to order at 6:37 PM.

Groschner welcomed all and asked the board to approve the agenda Lister Donahue asked to include a request for the Grand List due date extension . Devoto madee a motion to approve the amended agenda. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of SB minutes of 4/1/25, 4/18/25, and SB 4/7/25 Public Hearing
Demrow made a motion to approve the minutes from the 4/1/25/4/7/25, and 4/18/25 meetings. Devoto seconded and the motion passed with one abstention.

Public Concerns
Groschner noted that the board received an invitation from Corinth Bible Church Pastor Aaron Grefer to come to dinner for community goodwill.

Chris Preston asked about the revised By-Laws from the Planning Commission and all the rewrites. His concern is for the voters to have input. Devoto informed him there will be a public meeting on 6/12/25.
Preston then requested the board to consider appointing him to the School Board to fill Nancy Ertle's seat as she has resigned. Groschner informed him that the subject is on tonight's agenda.

Bob Fortunati presented the board with a document explaining the damage to his property fences, trees, and road ditches by the Town winter plowing. He also produced photos of the damage. The board reviewed the photos and Groschner noted the fence buried by road material. Fortunati asked for an explanation for the use of Rip Rap in ditches. Groschner said the road crew has been aware of his concerns and that these questions will be answered during the Road Commissioner's Report discussion.

Lister Donahue asked the board to approve a 30 day extension for Grand List completion to be changed from 6/1/25 to 7/1/25. Groschner noted Donahue's working three different jobs as Lister, Administrative Officer, and Interim Assistant Treasurer. Groschner also cited Susan Fortunati's help in the Treasurer's Office. Demrow made a motion to approve the application to change the deadline date from June 1st, 2025 to July 1st, 2025 for completion of the Grand List. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Road Commissioner's Report/Highway Dept Concerns
Road Commissioner Lee Porter commented on the amount of people out cleaning up the roadsides weeks before Green Up Day. Porter said he met with Bill Desmond on Taplin Hill to discuss the driveway violation. Desmond agreed to comply with the revised driveway permit to remove the upper driveway and improve the lower driveway at his barn. Groschner asked to add an amendment to read "To be completed by 8/30/25. Demrow made a motion to approve the revised permit with the deadline date added. Groschner signed it. Blodgett and Porter then requested to slightly change the Driveway Ordinance to include a final inspection done by the Road Foreman before signing off. Blodgett also requested that required driveway culvert size be changed to 15" (which is the state standard) from 18". Groschner stated that the board will consider the recommendations and visit the Desmond driveway site.

Blodgett talked about the Hedgehog Bridge project upcoming this Summer. The town is responsible for 10% and the state pays the rest. $125,850 was received from the state and the town will pay $37,239. The state still owes the town $33,515 and needs signatures from the board for the town to be reimbursed by the state.

Groschner then asked Porter and Blodgett about the after- winter maintenance of roads; cleanup of extra dirt, etc. Blodgett said they use the grader and dumptruck to remove the excess of sand and gravel. He said they would use the grader to clean out the ditches but the rain usually washes it away. Blodgett said using Rip Rap is required by the state for the town to receive state highway funds. Groschner asked Blodgett to view the photos provided by Fortunati and come back to the board with a maintenance plan.

School Board Appointment
Jeremiah Goyette thanked the citizens of Corinth for coming out to Monday night's Annual School vote. Nancy Ertle resigned her seat on the board. Goyette questioned whether the School Board or Selectboard is responsible for appointing between- election school board seats. They have 30 days to appoint a member. He then said the board needs more active members who will put in the hours required to run the school efficiently. The

meetings usually last from 2 to 2.5 hours and preparation for meetings takes up to 4 hours. Goyette also stated that the appointment does not have to be from Corinth. Susan Fortunati expressed her concern about a lopsided board to benefit one town over the other. The WRVS Charter was implemented in 1972.. Chris Preston said he may have a copy of the charter and will send it to Groschner if he can find it.

Greenup Day Results

Anne McKinsey, Greenup Day Supervisor, gave a report on the day's results. Altogether 222 bags were brought in and the highest number came from Nancy Olivet and Rob Herrick with 49 bags. Hilary Horton brought in 28 bags. 46 tires were picked up and the big challenge of the trash down the steep slope on Brook Rd was cleaned up by Nancy and Rob, and Susan Russell pulling in 30 more bags. McKinsey said the state will start cleanup on Rt 25 in two weeks. The board thanked McKinsey for her hard work and success.

Dilapidated Building Order Ratification

The Appeal decision for the Dilapidated Building Order (DPO) on the Bowen/LaHaye property will be reissued. Devoto said that Mr. LaHaye has applied for a permit to repair the building.

ACO Discussion

The Animal Control Officer (ACO) Matt Hayes sent the board a note describing all the hours he has worked answering many calls; 20 from Topsham and 50 from Corinth, 30 hours travelling to locate dog owners, etc. He reported on the 22 dogs surrendered by a resident on Pike Hill and that all the dogs have new homes. He praised the FB website Potter's Angels. Hayes works together with Game Warden Nate Lumsden who is authorized to seize dogs. Demrow asked Hayes how the board can support him. Hayes said there is a need for a kennel and urged dog lovers to donate to Potter's Angels. He and Interim Assistant Treasurer Donahue discussed payroll. Demrow suggested that Hayes attend a Budget Committee meeting in the Fall.

Response to Barra School Request

Miranda Miller, who is representing the Barra School, had requested a letter of support from the selectboard to add to the grant application to purchase a parcel of land in East Corinth. The Upper Valley Land Trust purchased the Development Rights. Miller met with the Planning Commission who stated that they have no oversight on the subject. Demrow made a motion to approve the Letter of Support. Devoto seconded and motion passed unanimously. The board gave Miller two copies of the letter.

DBO on The Olde Village Store in East Corinth Village

Groschner explained that the penalties on the old store have been accruing and the time has come to take action and go to court. Demrow made a motion for the selectboard to pursue a legal remedy to go to court for not more than $4500. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence and Other Business

The town received a maintenance contract from Yankee Generator. The board will issue an RFP and Demrow will send the contract to Norm Collette.
The Vermont Land Trust notified the town it has received a grant to acquire the development rights to a 113 acre parcel on Taplin Hill
Demrow informed Jon Ruggles that he has contacted Kristen Carlson from GMP about placing flags on the East Corinth Village power poles.
Devoto stated that the town now owns the Martha Travis property on South America Rd. and Travis will be refunded two months of property tax bills.

The next SBF meeting is on 5/11 at 6:30 to discuss the restructuring of the Treasurer's Office. Payroll will be administered by NEMRC for bi-weekly direct deposit. Reg mtg 6/3/25 and SBF 6/9/25 John Sutton will be appointed payroll clerk.

Demrow made a motion to go into Executive Session as required 1 VSA 313(a)(3). Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mtg adjourned at 8:45 PM.