Town of Corinth Selectboard
PO Box 461 Corinth, VT 05039

Unapproved Minutes of Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday August 5, 2025

Attending for the board: Chair Holly Groschner, Carl Demrow. Stephen Devoto, Anne Rosten Selectboard Clerk. Joe Blodgett, Road Foreman: Kelly Ann Donahue, Head Lister and Interim Treasurer: Orange County Rep Mike Tagliavia, Jim Guyer, Jeff McLaughlin, Tim Jarvis, Bob Fortunati, Katie Kramer, Jennifer Locke, Tree Warden Ginny Barlow, and Cemetery Commissioner Raymond Moulton, Attending via Zoom: Norm Collette.

Board Chair Holly Groschner called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

Welcome and Agenda Approval
Chair Groschner welcomed all attendees and asked to add "Livestock running at large ordinance" to the agenda. Demrow made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from 7/1//25 SB Meeting
Demrow made a motion to approve the SB minutes of July 1, 2025. Devoto seconded and the motion passed. Groschner abstained.

Public Concerns
Jeff McLaughlin, as he did at the June SB meeting, brought up his concerns about why ATVs are not allowed on class 4 roads as they are allowed in surrounding towns. He would like to legally visit neighbors who live on Maplewood Rd via ATV as the road is rough and unmaintained. He said snowmobiles speed on the road in winter and asked why they are allowed but not ATVs. Road Foreman Blodgett replied that snowmobiles do not rip up the roads as they are snowcovered. McLaughlin suggested that the town issue permits or stickers for more town revenue and allow responsible ATV use. Tim Jarvis, who owns an 11,000 tap sugarbush on Richardson Rd said he needs the use of an ATV to cover his property which requires driving on the road. Board chair Groschner said that the ATV issue can be put on the Sept agenda for further discussion.

Road Commissioner's Report / Highway Dept
Road Foreman Blodgett reported that the Hedgehog Brook Bridge project is done except for paving and guardrails. The bypass culvert on Joe Lord Rd is complete so residents can get in and out while the larger bridge replacement project goes forward. Johnson Rd work is in progress and the Turkey Hill Bridge project is next in line. Blodgett said Claflin Rd will be shut down next week for culvert work. Demrow asked about progress on MERP grants at the Town Garage. Blodgett stated that the new furnace is there waiting to be installed and the garage doors are due to arrive soon. Two grants for the Better Back Roads have come in for approximately $100,000.

Emerald Ash Borer Report
Tree Warden Ginny Barlow reported that Adam Longto Tree Service finished the White Road Ash tree removal: 123 trees removed out of 129 that were marked. The six not removed were due to landowner's requests though they were in the town right of way. Barlow was happy with Longto's work with the exception that on DeWolfe's property the logs were stacked 2 to 6 feet higher than contract requires. Barlow asked how to move forward as the Ash Borer is in town and infesting the ash trees on other town roads, especially Cookeville Road. The best bid received by the town required spending approximately $7000 per mile to remove the ash trees. Barlow requested help to keep going and suggested asking Tyler Mousley, a private forester, to work with her. Groschner asked Barlow to contact Mousley. If his services do not exceed $3500, then no competitive bid is required. Barlow suggested that she will come to the September SB meeting after talking with Mousley, Road Foreman Blodgett, and Joanne Garton from the state. The board thanked Barlow for all her work for Ash Borer Removal.

Cemetery Commission Bookkeeping
Raymond Moulton stated his concerns about using the Town's payroll system for the Cemetery Commission. Moulton said his frustration is with lack of communication with the treasurer's office, especially since the departure of the treasurer last

March. As discussed at the July meeting of the Selectboard, the Financial Clerk Shirley Montagne has agreed to work on the books and clean up the accounts for the Cemetery Commission and the Cemetery Commission has agreed to pay Montagne $25/hour for her services.Groschner said the board will discuss how to handle payroll for the Cemetery Commission at Monday night's financial meeting. Groschner stated that she believes that the Cemetery Commission should bear its own bookkeeping costs as part of its statutory obligation to manage the Commission and its separation from Selectboard oversight. Moulton suggested that the Town's payroll function could be utilized to pay Cemetery Commission payroll out of the General Fund, and then the Cemetery Commission could reimburse the Town for such payments, up to the amount of the Cemetery Commission's budgeted allocation from the General Fund. Groschner reminded Moulton that the Town payroll is now done through NEMRC and is direct deposit on a biweekly cycle. Commissioner Norm Collette described his work with Montagne to bring the Commission's bank accounts up to date and establish signatories.

Dog Ordinance

The Animal Control Officer, Matt Hayes, relayed in a telephone communication to Groschner that Meagan Olwell, a relative of an East Corinth resident, was bitten by a dog owned by Raymond Moulton of East Corinth on July 6th. Raymond Moulton, present at the meeting, stated that the dog was vaccinated for rabies and is no longer at Moulton's residence. Animal Control Officer (ACO), Matt Hayes, contacted Moulton about the dog, requesting proof of vaccination which was not provided. Moulton complained that Hayes was belligerent with him over the phone. Hayes has reported to Groschner that Olwell, the victim, was past the period of contracting rabies and while severely bruised, her skin was not broken. The selectboard concurred that it would not at this time issue a written warning to Moulton. (Subsequent research by Groschner showed that no dog is licensed at the Moulton residence).

Livestock Running At Large

Groschner received a call from Nancy Olivett from Rollie Day Rd about cattle doing damage to her property. The same cattle have also damaged the Popisle and Fortunati property on Rollie Day Road (as well as one other property owner whose name was not mentioned). Olivett had determined that the cattle owner is Mike Danforth and has informed him of the damage. The SB is authorized to issue a warning or fine by state law. The town ordinance for impoundment only applies to dogs. Groschner will draft an Impoundment ordinance with a Hold Harmless clause applying to livestock for the board to review. The selectboard agreed to issue a written notice to Danforth. Demrow will try to deliver the notice to Danforth by hand.

Correspondence and Other Business

The board received a letter from Norumbega Trailriders and Montshire Trailriders informing them of a charity motorcycle ride on Sept 6th and 7th that will run through Corinth on the 7th.
A notice came from VLCT to nominate a champion for local government with a deadline of 8/1/25; too late. The board thought it was a good idea and will work to make it happen next year.
A notice of Class Action Opioid Settlement agreement arrived and was executed by the Town Clerk.

Town Updates

Groschner reported she's interviewed four candidates for Town Treasurer with two possibilities.

Kelly Ann Donahue, the Interim Assistant Town Treasurer reported that the tax bills have been mailed out. Taxes are due September 9th.
Carl Demrow reported that TRORC is looking for an administrator to assist in acquiring grants for the Town Hall renovation.

Calendar

The board approved confirmation of the next SB meeting dates: 8/11/25 SBF meeting and 9/2/25 regular SB meeting.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.