Town of Corinth Selectboard
PO Box 461
Corinth, VT 05039

Approved Minutes of Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday October 7, 2025

Attending for the Board: Chair 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, Mike Tagliavia State Representative, Amy Peberdy, Bill Desmond, Brian Kirkpatrick, Andrew Alexander, Jim Guyer, Norm Collette, Town Hall Facilities Manager; Mike Pittman, Fire Dept Rep; Margaret Loftus, Robert Tilden, Dan Wing, Jennifer Locke, and Michele Perkins. Attending via Zoom:, Gary Apfel, Town Meeting Moderator and Matt Nola.

Board Chair Groschner called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Groschner welcomed all and asked the board to approve the agenda. Demrow made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of SB minutes of 9/2/25
Demrow made a motion to approve the SB meeting minutes from 9/2/25 as amended to include names of the officers the Planning Board voted in. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Concerns
Andrew Alexander asked about the Emerald Ash Borer Fund and who manages it. Chair Groschner explained the whole process; that it is administered by Tree Warden Ginny Barlow, bids come in from tree removal services, and the board authorizes the contract. Alexander then asked about the two different town maps that TRORC has provided to the Planning Board. He stated that at the last Planning Board meeting there were over 20 people attending to hear TRORC's scheduled explanation but TRORC was a NO-SHOW. It does cost the town money for TRORC to attend meetings though the town pays annual dues. Groschner duly noted Alexander's concerns.

Jim Guyer said he looked at both maps and noticed the differences; that the latest map shows more conserved areas and asked how that can be achieved without intervening on private property.

Michelle Perkins from Heath Rd brought up her concerns about drivers speeding on her road as she walks and jogs and does not feel safe. Groshner said that the State Police need to patrol the area more.

Warrant
This item which is usually dealt with at the financial meetings has been moved this one time to the regular meeting due to this month's calendar to avoid late fees. Interim Assistant Treasurer Donahue had numerous bills to add to the warrant that came in late: Irving Oil for $227.66, Ruggles Engineering for $5828.80, Charlebois or $375.49, Milton Rents (Better Back Roads) for $1265, OReilly Auto Parts for the F550 for $179.17, Viking Truck Repair for $260.60, Matt Hayes two month's invoices for $919.06, VT State Police for $446.52, and Oakes Bros (Bethel Mills) for $13.99. and Blue Cross Blue Shield for $11,334.25. The total to add to the stated Warrant is $42,123.88 which brings the total of the Warrant up to $1,371,323.55. Demrow stated the need for the warrant to be completed prior to the financial meeting and not add new incoming bills. The bills need to be in by the Friday before Monday's financial meeting from now on. Demrow made a motion to approve the amended Warrant for $1, 371,323.55. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Audit

Batchelder's Associates have finished FY22 and FY23 audits and are working on FY24 now. The board would like to have the FY25 by March 2026 for the Town Meeting.

Road Commissioner's Report/Highway Dept Concerns

Road Commissioner Lee Porter said the biggest complaints he's had lately are about the dusty roads. He also has noticed more drivers speeding and also many unregistered vehicles about. The board asked if signage would help. Porter stated that as soon as signs are up they are removed. Rosten asked if having an electronic sign as in East Corinth Village might help in Cookeville as she slows down when seeing them. Porter got a call today that the UPS driver was threatened to be shot . Road Foreman Blodgett said that dirt roads are 50 mph limit unless otherwise signed.

Blodgett asked Groschner to sign the Cargill Salt Contract which has raised their per ton price $20 more than last year. Blodgett is looking into other vendors to find a more economical option. Blodgett also presented a proposal from a uniform company which will save the town $20 a week. He said that Unifirst's service has been lacking of late.

Matt Nola stated that he encountered a State Policeman parked at the Town Hall as he was riding his bike and stopped to tell the officer of his gratitude.

Town Hall Project Grants

The board received a form to accept a Community Development Block Grant for $150,000 for the renovation of the Town Hall back porch. The research work is being done by the town hall building committee: Carl Demrow, Norm Collette, John Haney, Dan Wing, and Patrick Martin; each working on a specific aspect of the Town Hall project. The committee is also working with MERP for Town Hall office heat pumps and the new design for the furnace. An RFP on engineering that system will be released this week. Dan Wing and Norm Collette are working on the weatherization aspect of the project to find insulation contractors to spray insulation in the Town Hall attic as well as carpentry sheet foam. Wing brought proposals from three different contractors: Chey Insulation from NH for $8342.40, VT Foam from Chester, VT for $9468.55, and Superior Spray Foam from Littleton NH for $10,651. After some discussion Demrow made a motion to accept the bid from Chey Insulation for $8342.40. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Wing stated that there will be more bids for the carpentry sheet foam aspect of the project.

Water and Wells

Groschner opened with discussion about the many dry wells around town and the need for all of us to be very careful about water usage: limit toilet flushing, laundry, and please, not washing vehicles. Margaret Loftus said there will be a need for some to fill large tanks, especially for livestock. Norm Collette said the Town Hall and Library have water for those in need. The well at the Town Hall provides 10 gallons per minute vs the library's 75 gallons per minute. The WRVS school is available for showers and laundry. Collette stated that the State of VT website has a link to all drilled wells in the state. Loftus asked if there were funds to possibly purchase a tanker truck through Emergency Management. Demrow said that the Bradford, Newbury, Corinth, Topsham area is the driest in the state. Mike Tagliavia will look further into what resources the state can provide to this need. Matt Nola said he would be willing to serve on the Emergency Management Team and attend the quarterly TRORC meetings.

Appointments/Correspondence/Other Business

Devoto said that there is now a vacancy on the Planning Commission for an alternate and made a motion to nominate Andrew Alexander to the position. Demrow seconded. Groschner asked Alexander why he wanted to serve and what his background was. Alexander responded that he has experience in real estate, worked for Putnam Investments, and has been going faithfully to Planning Commission meetings and is up on current issues. He also wants to offer a different point of view to represent more town residents. Groschner stated her hope that his role

will find some ground for collaboration. The board voted unanimously to appoint Andrew Alexander as an alternate to the Planning Commission.
Devoto tendered his resignation as Corinth's representative to TRORC and made a motion to nominate Patrick Martin as TRORC rep. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Demrow then made a motion to appoint Matt Nola to the Emergency Management Committee. He comes with EMS and nurse experience. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Other Business: The Planning Commission passed an amended draft of the By-Law regulations that they will send to the selectboard for review. The board will then have a public meeting before a vote at the March 2026 Town Meeting.
The Planning Commission has asked the board to approve applying for a municipal planning grant for up to $15,000 for which the town is responsible for 10%:' $1500. /Demrow made a motion to resolve to approve applying for the grant up to $15,000. Devoto asked to amend $20,000 which would come out of the Reserve Funds. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence: Groschner presented an Engagement Letter from Batchelder Associates for FY24 which stated the costs to be the standard hourly rate. Groschner said the rates may be more expensive so wait to sign until Tuesday's financial meeting. She then read a letter from Mr and Mrs David Adams praising Animal Control Officer Matt Hayes on how he handled aggressive dog problems on their property.
Matt Hayes informed the board that he has issued a third violation to the Booth family on Hayward Rd about their multiple dogs going off property and a resident being bitten. He wants to issue a citation with a penalty and give them 10 days to license the dogs or impound them. The Boothes did install an electric fence but the dogs got through it. Hayes would visit the Booths with either a State Policeman or the Game Warden. Groschner stated that there needs to be a Dog Complaint File in the office.

VLCT sent an assessment for the Workman's Comp premium to be reviewed and town billed for $243.76.
Groschner would like the town website to have all town policies on the town website.
The new town map came in which has a small change for South Rd to be Class 2. Bill Desmond asked about the new subdivision by-laws. Andy Alexander said the amended by-laws were voted in by only 43 people. Devoto is hoping for feedback and discussion and a public hearing before the Town Meeting vote.

Groschner will draft a Signing Policy and put out an RFP for the replacement of the town Computer System.

Donahue said that the LMHP Chairman Stephanie Mangan needs the edits to the plan. Donahue will let her know that Matt Nola is now a member.

<u>Calendar for future meetings</u>
Groschner asked that the financial meeting be changed from Monday Oct 13 to the next evening Tues Oct !4. All board members agreed except Rosten who has another commitment. The next regular SB meeting will take place on Tuesday November 4th.
Mike Pittman who represents the Fire Dept is concerned about having Budget Meetings in October as it has been usual to schedule them in November. Groschner said she will send a memo to the Budget Committee to remind them about the upcoming meetings.

<u>Executive Session</u>
Demrow made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 VSA 313(a)(3). Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.