Town of Corinth Selectboard
PO Box 461 Corinth, VT 05039

Approved Minutes of Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday April 7, 2026

Attending for the board: Chair Holly Groschner, Carl Demrow, and Stephen Devoto. Anne Rosten Selectboard Clerk. Lee Porter, Road Commissioner; Joe Blodgett, Road Foreman; Kelly Ann Donahue, Head Lister and Interim Treasurer;; Brian Kirkpatrick, Jennifer Locke, Mary White, Jim Guyer, Andrew Alesander, Jeremy Goorich, Jon Ruggles, Sarah Polli, Patrick Taylor, Shawna Pierson, Olivia Tillman, Peter Phelps, Carol Appleton, Luke Campbell, and James and Chelsea Begin.
Attending via Zoom: Town Meeting Moderator Gary Apfel, Bob Fortunati, Asa Porter, Ahn Lee, Neil Ryan, and Chris Groschner.

Board Chair Holly Groschner called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Welcome and Agenda Approval
Chair Groschner welcomed all attendees and asked for any changes to the agenda. None. Demrow made a motion to approve the agenda. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from 3/9/26 combined SBF & SB Meeting.
One small change was made to the March minutes. Demrow made a motion to approve the amended minutes from the combined SB and SBF meeting minutes 3/9/26. Groschner seconded and the motion passed. Devoto abstained due to his absence on 3/9/26.

Highway Dept Report
Road Commissioner Porter reported that he's received requests for heavy load exemptions on Class lll and lV roads. Road Foreman Blodgett asked the Board to sign the annual Financial Plan, another form to access funds for Class ll and Class lll roads, and a new Town Bridge Standards form. All were signed. Blodgett will send the Board members another form having to do with FEMA to take up at the financial meeting on Monday.

Public Comments
Jeremy Goodrich of Turkey Hill Rd brought a letter of request for compensation for property damage done during the Turkey Hill Bridge construction. Material (gravel and soil) was removed but not replaced. Goodrich provided a quote from Martin's Quarry for replacement in the total amount of $8,750.

Jim Guyer made a request that the town "No ATV" ordinance be waived for one week before Green Up Day to make trash collection easier.

Sarah Polli expressed her frustration about the long standing problem of the Old East Corinth Village Store (OECVS). The building is in dilapidated shape and parts of it are ready to fall into the Tabor Brook. It has been going on for 17 years and no enforcement taken against the owner who has had numerous certified letters sent and accrued penalties not paid. Olivia Tillman, who sits on the board of the Congregational Church next door, stated that she has paid for dumpsters to help the owner clean up but there are still problems, i.e.theft, trash, camping out, etc. Jon Ruggles requested that he be appointed Alternate Safety Officer under the ordinance. Groschner said that the Board would have to post the appointment before appointing anyone. Demrow mentioned that Katharine Lea could use some help. Groschner said she would talk to Ms. Lea and post it.

Groschner informed the audience about all that has been done about the OECVS and the latest information from the town's legal counsel. The next step is to take the owner to Criminal Court but the town has to provide documented proof of all attempts to remedy the situation. Devoto said he would take on the file and devise a

plan toward acquiring a lien on the property. The item will again be on next month's agenda. Tillman asked if taxes are being paid. Interim Assistant Treasurer Donahue said taxes are paid last minute at the town tax sale. Demrow explained that other similar blight problems have come up but dealt with privately, but unsuccessfully, without town intervention.

Ruggles then presented a proposal for three early American and Vermont flags the East Corinth Beautification Committee would like to display on the village electric poles. Ruggles also presented a proposal to make pedestrian travel in the village safer by improving the sidewalks. The Board will take up the proposed gravel paths with Blodgett.

Mary White, co-owner of Fort Waite farm in Corinth, opened a discussion about the status of S325, a bill having to do with changes to Act181. It is now moving through the legislature. Members of the public can mail to the House Environment Committee or go to the VT.gov website and click on Act 181 to file comments. White explained how to find one's property on maps that designate the different tiers and regulations. She stated her concern about the negative impact this law will have on a small rural community as ours.

Shawna Pierson said that before the subdivision amendment vote she had no idea what Act 181 was and how it affected land owners. She asked how the town's people could be more informed. Groschner told her that every SB meeting is posted days before the meetings at four places in town: bulletin boards at the East Corinth Post Office, the Town Hall, the Transfer Station, the East Corinth General Store, and on the Town of Corinth Website.
Carol Appleton said that although she lives in Topsham she has property in Corinth which would require a 2000' access road which would require Act 250 review under Act 181.
Sarah Polli stated that Act 181 is more for suburban areas and would not work for rural areas like ours.
Andrew Alexander opined that the owner of the OECVS with all their ordinance violations and unpaid penalties has more property rights protection than Act 181 has for law abiding Corinth landowners.
Neil Ryan, a landowner on Maplewood Rd, said he would be testifying in Committee for S325 tomorrow, Wednesday the 9th.Ryan stated that other towns have written letters concerning Act 181 to the legislature and he hoped the Corinth SB would do the same. . Ahn Ryan testified that thousands of acres will be affected by tier ll and lll of Act 181 and state her frustration with the participatory process for landowners.
Brian Kirkpatrick said that the town needs to be more proactive in getting the community involved.
Chelsea Begin stated that she works for Community Bank; her concern is that Act 181 will kill the mortgage market.

Groschner stated that all need to discern fact from fiction. She also noted she hears that citizens are concerned about generational wealth and being able to subdivide property for offspring to construct housing in Vermont.
Demrow asked what they would like the Board to do. Mary White said to write to the legislature and urge them to either change or repeal Act 181.
Devoto observed that although as much as two- thirds of the town may want to change Act 181, the other third does not and the SB needs to represent the whole town and cannot act without input from everyone.
Groschner informed the audience that there is a Town Plan which is online at the Town website. Devoto suggested that the Board consider writing a letter of concern.
Demrow made a motion for the Board to draft a letter to the House Environment Committee and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee stating the concerns about Act 181's Tier ll and Tier lll mapping and other factual issues discussed here tonight. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
Demrow made a motion to table item 6. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Bread Loaf Contract and Resolution
Demrow stated that work on the backside of the town hall and porch begins tomorrow, Wednesday April 8th. The contract from Bread Loaf has been reviewed and modified twice by the Town Hall Building Committee.

Demrow made a motion to approve the contract for $226,900 with Bread Loaf Construction for the back wall and porch of the town hall. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
The grant requires a resolution to accept the Bread Loaf Construction Contract and todesignate a public agency fraud policy which the town has. Demrow made a motion to adopt the resolution. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Corinth Selectboard Facebook Page

Groschner explained that even though residents are interested in receiving town information through Facebook,VT has a public meeting law that sets the requirements for publishing meeting information, preparing for and conducting meetings takes a lot of work and time. She referred to public comments that information on a Facebook (FB) page would help residents and suggested a plan for a low-maintenance managed approach to FB by hiring a web assistant. The FB page would include a link to the town website. It would not take public comments and be a one way post. Included would be a summary of meetings and minutes and the Board would need to hire a webmaster to create the page. Devoto said he was in favor but worried about abuse as happened in Vershire which caused their road crew to quit. Matt Nola asked if there was a policy for public behavior. Demrow and Rosten recalled some discussion about it a few years back but were not sure about an adopted a policy.
Devoto made a motion to move forward with the FB page proposal. Demrow seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The SB will consider the terms and conditions of creating the FB page at a later meeting.

Other Business

VLCT sent a member guide listing services.

Adjournment

Demrow motioned to adjourn. Devoto seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 8:35 PM.