

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CORNWALL BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Tuesday, April 19, 2022
7:30 p.m. – Via Zoom

PRESENT: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway; Selectman Priscilla Pavel; Selectwoman Janet Carlson; Beach Director Marina Kotchoubey; two members of the press; five members of the public.

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

MINUTES: First Selectman Gordon Ridgway moved to approve the minutes from the April 5, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Priscilla Pavel seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

COMMUNICATIONS: First Selectman Ridgway thanked Frank Way for the charity event to benefit the World Central Kitchen's efforts in Ukraine. Over \$10,000 was raised by the event.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: First Selectman Ridgway moved to add a donation request of \$1000 from the Transfer Station redeemable can deposits for an MS Walk fundraiser. Selectwoman Janet Carlson seconded, and the motion unanimously passed. Next, Selectwoman Janet Carlson moved to add Rail Road Herbicide Spraying to the agenda. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS UPDATE: First Selectman Ridgway thanked Jen Markow and Park 'n Rec for organizing a very successful Covid Vaccination Clinic at Town Hall. Over 150 shots were administered. Another covid vaccine clinic is scheduled for May 19.

BUDGET HEARING APRIL 22, 2022: The Board discussed the budget and the budget hearing scheduled 4/22/2022 at CCS and via zoom. First Selectman Ridgway noted that the remaining \$45,000 of 2021/2022 ARPA funds will be transferred onto the budget for first responders and front-line workers. Selectman Priscilla Pavel noted that printed copies of the proposed 2022/2023 Budget are available at the various Cornwall post offices. First Selectman Ridgway discussed the increases to the proposed budget.

WEST CORNWALL WASTE WATER PROJECT UPDATE: First Selectman Ridgway provided an update on the West Cornwall Waste Water Project. First, the Board of Selectmen plan to consider the project proposal at their regular meeting on May 17, and the Board of Finance plans to consider the project proposal at their regular meeting on May 19. Next, an informational meeting is scheduled for June 11 @ 7:30 p.m. via Zoom, then an in-person Town Meeting will be held June 25, 7:30 p.m. at CCS. Finally, a Referendum Vote at Town Hall is scheduled for July 9, 12:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. First Selectman Ridgway discussed: (1) who can vote on town referendums; (2) availability of absentee ballots ; and (3) the referendum's explanatory text.

CORNWALL CONSERVATION TRUST FOOTE FIELDS: Barton Jones of the Cornwall Conservation Trust discussed a three-pronged proposal to use Foote Field parking area for visitors to an adjoining conservation preserve, install an information kiosk at Foote Field, and maintain a trail around the edge of Foote Field providing access from the parking area to the conservation preserve. First Selectman Ridgway moved to allow Foote Field parking area to be used as a trail

head / parking for the trail going up to Coltsfoot Mountain maintained by the Cornwall Conservation Trust. Selectman Priscilla Pavel seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

HAMMOND BEACH: Hammond Beach Director Marina Kotchoubey and the Board discussed steps towards opening Hammond Beach this Summer. Beach Director Kotchoubey plans to re-write the job descriptions and include a new position to assist the Director with day-to-day operations such as scheduling staff. Also, Director Kotchoubey is seeking to co-ordinate swim lessons and swim team with the CHLA.

TOWN MEETING MAY 20, 2022: The Board discussed two items coming up for a Town vote on May 20, 7:30 PM at CCS: (1) 2022/2023 Municipal Budget; (2) Blaine Mathews septic pipe easement under Whitcomb Hill Rd. First Selectman Ridgway moved to authorize a notice for the Town Meeting to be published in accordance with notice requirements. Selectman Priscilla Pavel seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

HEALTH CARE UPDATE: Selectwoman Janet Carlson provided an update on the mobile health care van operated by Community Health and Wellness. The mobile health care van is scheduled to be outside the Union in West Cornwall Village on Wednesdays starting May 4 from 9:00 a.m. until Noon. The Board discussed some of the details related to the service, including a possible second location outside the Cornwall Library.

CRICKET VALLET UPDATE: First Selectman Ridgway reported that the air quality gage in Cornwall has remained steady, indicating that there has been no local spike in air pollution associated with the Cricket Valley power plant in New York.

DONATION TO MS WALK: The Board discussed a request to donate \$1,000 to a Multiple Sclerosis fundraiser walk. The \$1,000 donation would be paid with money collected from aluminum can deposits redeemed by the Transfer Station. First Selectman Ridgway moved to grant the request. Selectman Priscilla Pavel seconded. The Board discussed the procedure for donations / grants through the redeemable deposits can fund. The motion passed with First Selectman Ridgway and Selectman Priscilla Pavel voting in favor. Selectwoman Janet Carlson abstained due to the need for the redeemable can fund to build up to the \$1,000 amount.

RAIL ROAD HERBICIDE SPRAYING: First Selectman Ridgway stated that there was no new update from the Rail Road or from the State regarding the plans to spray herbicide along the Housatonic Rail Road right of way in Cornwall this year. There will be an article in an upcoming Chronicle regarding the use of herbicide by the Housatonic Rail Road.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Nancy Berry of West Cornwall noted that the redeemable can fund made past donations to a photography group doing work with students at HVRHS and for water quality tests purchased by the Cream Hill Lake Task Force. Park 'n Rec. Chair Michell Shipp announced that the next Cornwall Covid Vaccine Clinic is scheduled for May 19, 2022, 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall on Pine Street.

Selectman Priscilla Pavel moved to adjourn. Selectwoman Janet Carlson seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Berry
Administrative Assistant
Town of Cornwall