

TOWN OF CORNWALL

REGULAR MEETING OF THE

Board of Selectmen

Minutes for meeting held on:

Tuesday, March 21st, 2023

Present

Selectmen

Others

- Gordon Ridgway, First Selectman
- Priscilla Pavel
- Janet Carlson

Jane Hall, Administrative Assistant
Local Press – Riley Klein

9 - Total number of attendees

Call to Order	7:31pm
Approval of Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of minutes from 3-7-2023 meeting <p><u>Motion:</u> Priscilla Pavel- Made motion to approve the minutes Janet Carlson- Seconded the motion Discussion - none Motion passed unanimously</p>
Communications / Announcements	None
Additions to the Agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Calhoun Portrait 2. Building Official Update 3. Fiber Optic Update 4. Public Comment <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway- Made motion to add the 4 additions to the agenda Priscilla Pavel- Seconded the motion Discussion - none Motion passed unanimously</p>
1	<p><u>Storm Report</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Selectman Ridgway provided an extensive update on the storm and storm damage. Cornwall and Goshen were hit the hardest in Connecticut. Forecast was accurate, 1-2 feet of snow. Very challenging storm with heavy snow and lots of tree limbs down. Eversource put on a very good effort with contractors they called in ahead of time. Tree down caused road closures limiting access to Sharon Hospital. Power went out throughout town. Several fire and ambulance calls. Excellent work by Diane Beebe, EMD to punch tickets to ensure power company was aware of and monitoring outages. • First Selectman Ridgway recapped a phone call he received from Governor Ned Lamont about storm. Governor Lamont was checking in to make sure the power company was in town working on outages. • Some damage to town trucks during the storm while pushing back down trees on blocked roads. • First Selectman Ridgway made a motion to give Cornwall Highway crew an honorarium of \$500/person and \$750/ to the Highway Forman <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway- Made motion to give honorarium to Highway crew Priscilla Pavel- Seconded the motion Discussion – minimal discussion ensued. Motion passed unanimously</p>
2	<p><u>TRIPS Grant</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Selectman Ridgway discussed this morning’s special meeting (3/21/2023) and provided an update on TRIPS grant project that will be used to upgrade state or local roads to make them more pedestrian and bike friendly • West Cornwall Update:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Signs</i> – Up the hill from 3 Guys stores, some warning signs about pedestrians and increase number of’ slow” signs, reinforcement about height of covered bridge ○ <i>Sidewalks</i> – We currently have 2 sidewalks in West Cornwall, needs to be re-curbed. ○ <i>Crosswalks</i> – below the railroad track between River Rd and The Local and at RT 128, push button operated, flashing beacons ○ <i>Speed tables</i> – like a speed bump but 12 ft wide, has been found to slow down traffic. Needs to be approved by state. ○ <i>Parking</i> – reconfigured 3 Guys parking lot to make it single access so there is no backing out in to traffic, open up the parallel parking in front of the pink house ○ <i>Bike Racks</i> – Placement in West Cornwall to welcome people to town along the Western New England Greenway ● Cornwall Bridge Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Crosswalks</i> – proper crosswalk in between the market and lumberyard with beacons ○ <i>Sidewalk</i> – from the market all the way down to the Cornwall Bridge firehouse. Section of the firehouse parking lot was purchased by town and can be used to create public parking. Add a small sidewalk and landing on the west side of route 7 by lumberyard/hardware store/candle shop area ○ <i>Paving</i> – pave lot in front of the market, half of the parking lot is a state right of way ○ <i>Bike Rack</i> – Put a bike rack out front of the market ● Need to get this application in by the end of the month to COG, this is a competitive grant and not a first come first serve. <p><u>Motion:</u> Priscilla Pavel- Made motion to submit application for the grant Janet Carlson- Seconded the motion Discussion – none Motion passed unanimously</p>
3	<p>Compost Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First Selectman Ridgway provided an update on the compost project, may not be able to have composting ready by our target date of Earth Day (3-month approval process per DEEP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need to apply for a leaf composting permit first ○ May need to reconfigure layout of composting piles ○ Storm water permit at transfer station was not found by the state, may need to apply for one ○ Will try to have all
4	<p><u>Assistant Town Clerk Appointment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First Selectman Ridgway reported that Kathryn Cheney was selected as the Assistant Town Clerk. She will be working with Vera Dinneen (Town Clerk) part time for the next several years to get trained.
5	<p><u>West Cornwall Waste Water Project Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Last meeting was postponed due to snow storm ● First Selectman Ridgway provided a brief update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Location for boring on site has been mapped out for the waste water plant by Steve (McDonnell) ○ Steve is working with a company called Eagle Environmental to do the environmental study, which should take approx. 2 months
6	<p><u>Tax Refunds</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First Selectman Ridgway reviewed the 4 tax refund requests for a total of \$3,668.97 <p><u>Motion:</u> Priscilla Pavel- Made motion to approve tax refund Janet Carlson- Seconded the motion Discussion - none Motion passed unanimously</p>
	<p><u>ADDITIONS:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Calhoun Portrait</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First Selectman Ridgway received a phone call from John Calhoun today. Calhoun family has a portrait of John Calhoun (grandfather or great grandfather of current Cornwall resident John Calhoun, who’s family gave the town hall to the town in 1908) and his brother. The family has offered to donate the portrait to town hall and it would hang above the fire mantel in the Selectmen’s office.

Motion:

Gordon Ridgway- Made motion to accept the gift and hang on mantel in Selectmen's Office

Priscilla Pavel- Seconded the motion

Discussion - none

Motion passed unanimously

2. Building Official Update

- First Selectman Ridgway discussed offering Peter Russ a stipend for taking the building official. Proposing that the town pay Peter \$4,000 for attending the class and another \$3,000 upon his successful completion. Peter is spending a lot of time and milage getting to class, should wrap up in July.

Motion:

Gordon Ridgway- Made motion to pay Peter Russ a stipend

Priscilla Pavel- Seconded the motion

Discussion - none

Motion passed unanimously

3. Fiber Optic Update

- First Selectman Ridgway provided an update on the Fiber Optic – he spoke with Casey Cook who still has some unanswered questions from the government liaison, but has been assured that the rates will be similar to the rates people are paying for cable.
- Frontier wants to also string some fiber in town, possible mobile hot spots throughout town.

4. Public Comment

1. Will Berry – Project SAGE donation, First Selectman Ridgway gave an update and confirmation that the additional donation (total of \$3,000) has been granted to SAGE
2. Riley Klein – Asked for confirmation on the name of the TRIPS grant (Transportation Rural Improvement Program), also would like a copy of the sketches for plans when available, also would like a copy of the portrait

Adjournment 8:18pm

Submitted: Jane Hall, Administrative Assistant