

TOWN OF CORNWALL
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
Board of Selectmen
Minutes for meeting held on:
Tuesday, April 4th, 2023

Present

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

Others

- Jane Hall, Administrative Assistant
 - Local Press
 - Citizens
- 16 - Total number of attendees**

Call to Order	7:30pm
Approval of Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of minutes from 3-21-2023 meeting <p><u>Motion:</u> Priscilla- Made motion to approve the minutes Janet- Seconded the motion Discussion - none Motion passed unanimously</p>
Communications / Announcements	<p>1 Announcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared that Cornwall Housing Corporation has put out a fundraising letter highlighting the need for housing in town.
Additions to the Agenda	None
1	<p><u>Fiber Optics – Optimum & Frontier</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Selectman Gordon Ridgway provided an update on fiber optics; cable companies are out and Optimum is continuing to wire the town. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussed a meeting that was had with Frontier – planning to start wiring Cornwall. Slide packet sent to the BoS, will put up on the website. Frontier is wiring the whole state of Connecticut, plan to start wiring this summer and make it useable this coming fall. Frontier is not going to start with wiring the whole town, will start with village centers and roads that have the most customers on it. We will publicize both companies (Frontier & Optimum) information for customers to make an informed choice. Frontier will submit a proposal for wiring the rest of the town. Frontier did indicate a \$50 hookup fee as long as there is existing conduit to the house and they have no plans at this point to turn this network into a 5G mobile network.
2	<p><u>Hammond Beach Summer Plans</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Selectman Gordon Ridgway reviewed the Hammond Beach Summer plan submitted by Marina Kotchoubey, Beach Director. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are advertising for lifeguards and already received some applications. ○ Marina is working with Park & Rec for certain events, town wide picnic in June • Marina is available to answer any questions • Beach pass and rules were discussed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Keeping fee schedule the same ○ Keeping rules the same ○ Offer free pass to town board members and people on the fire & ambulance squad • Discussion was had amongst the Board of Selectmen about scheduling of lifeguards, how many days Marina will be there, roles of various positions, schedule of Marina and WSI, process for head guard applications and hiring <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway- Made motion to keep rates the same as last year Priscilla Pavel- Seconded the motion Discussion - none Motion passed unanimously</p>

3	<p><u>May Road Sealing Projects</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Selectman Gordon Ridgway discussed that Jim has been working with Seymour Sealing, we have used in the past. Funds to do this, about \$50,000. We pave or seal roads every 5 years to keep them from cracking. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Roads that will be done this spring: upper part of town street, Yelping Hill Road, Scoville Road ○ Roads that will be done this summer: Hautboy Hill Road and Herbert Place, roads in the Southeastern part of town. ○ Looking into getting some paving done on Popple Swamp, South Road, Everest Hill Road ○ Looking to put a bridge deck on Popple Swamp Road <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway- Made motion to authorize Jim to organize work with Seymour Ceiling Town Street, Yelping Hill, Scoville Road to get resurfaces with a chip seal surface this May Priscilla Pavel- Seconded the motion Discussion - none Motion passed unanimously</p>
4	<p><u>TRIPS Grant Submission</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Selectman Gordon Ridgway discussed that the TRIP grant was put together with the assistance of WMC Engineers after tour of West Cornwall and Cornwall Bridge. COG will vote to send these on hopefully this week. Estimated cost of this is \$868,000, actual construction costs are about half of total, rest is contingencies and some construction mobilization, incidentals and some prices escalations considering this may take two or three years to accomplish. If the price goes over budget, then the town has to pay the overage. • Competitive grant, not guaranteed town will get it • We will have to go tot a town meeting to authorized the money if we get this is a reimbursement grant and will have tighter numbers then. Can take questions at that time.
5	<p><u>Housatonic Railroad Spraying</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared a conversation he has with Parker Rodriguez, general counsel for Housatonic Railroad Company <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HRR received our letters in years past and explained that they have cut back on the spraying of the tracks in the last two years ○ HRR has done some expensive trimming opposed to spraying in West Cornwall and Cornwall Bridge areas. Trying not to spray the sides of the track and in the populated areas. ○ They do not acknowledge no spray zones but they are acknowledging them in practice ○ Impractical to mow where there is gravel, it is possible to mow the sides of the rail bed but not the railbed itself because it is metal. • First Selectman Gordon Ridgway has spoken with Maria Horn about getting a meeting together and will talk with Mr. Rodriguez to se if he would participate on a zoom call with State Officials and Local Officials • Issues beyond spraying that we should be concerned about <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ First Selectman Gordon Ridgway stated that he has supported the railroads application for state funding to upgrade the rails and ties for rail safety. • First Selectman Gordon Ridgway received a 70 page report from the local group who has been concerned about the railroad spraying. BoS will read the report prior to responding and pursing a meeting with all involved. • Selectman Priscilla Pavel added that the trains have been slowing down while coming through West Cornwall – in the last few weeks they seemed to be more attentive to slowing down and it is appreciated as a neighbor • Selectwoman Janet Carlson added that there may be a way to better partner with the railroad and for people along the tracks to take care of the weeds on the track so that HRR can eliminate the need to spray.
6	<p><u>Compost Permit Application</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Selectman Gordon Ridgway provided an update on the Compost Permit Application. He stated that he visited the Transfer Station last week and that Ted & Will have come up with a new site for the compost demonstration project (To the left of the bulky waste containers up on the hill). New site will satisfy requirement of getting compost pile more than 100 ft away from a water source.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will be getting a new map together and reapplying for permit with details of new site within a week ○ If this does become a 3 month process this will put us out of sync with the collection of leaves fairly soon, but we may have to start this up in the fall ● First Selectman Gordon Ridgway encouraged people to do things at home as a first step for composting
7	<p><u>West Cornwall Waste Water Project</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First Selectman Gordon Ridgway stated that boring was done at site between the 3 Guys shop and the Post Office, went down 20 feet and found water at 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Steve McDonnell the engineer felt that this showed that we can dig & put in tanks and the site is workable ● Eric Teitz and his wife Helen have purchased the building and the bookstore from William Betts. Eric and Helen are open to having the town continues to look at that site as a solution to the wastewater problems in West Cornwall. The bookstore is without well or septic. ● Steve McDonnell has a proposal from Eagle Engineering that he has accepted to do the environmental report, should happen within 2 months time. After report is received, Steve can start on the design. ● Project committee will meet next Tuesday at 5:00
8	<p><u>Budget 23/24</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Budget hearing will be April 21st 7:30pm at Cornwall Consolidated School. ● First Selectman Gordon Ridgway and Joe Pryor, Board of Finance Chair met with school board to discuss their capital projects, some significant plans (rewire some of the internet, roof issues, carpet issues, heating issues). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Capital funding for the school was increased for projects in next years budget ● Board of Finance is meeting Thursday night at 7:00 to work on finalizing the budget for the coming year ● First Selectman Gordon Ridgway and Jane Hall, administrative assistant, met with the towns insurance company today (CIRMA) to discuss a 3 year package on insurance of Liability, Auto, Property (LAP) as well as Workers Comp and to cap the increases. Rates will be fairly similar to current year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cyber Security Insurance – We have taken steps in town hall with IT person to harden our systems and we will now be looking to get town cyber security insurance. CIRMA suggested to start in June with a 13 month policy.
9	<p><u>Grant Requests</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Received 2 Grant requests for the bottle fund for a total of \$2,000 – funds to grant these requests should generate in about a months’ time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Request received for \$1,000 grant received from Housatonic Camera Club (HCC) ○ Request received for \$1,000 donation to MS Walk from Jennifer Kenniston-Larson <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway- Made motion to approve the two grant requests for a total of \$2,000 Priscilla Pavel- Seconded the motion Discussion - First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the Grant Request process and the list of previous years grants given from the Bottle and Can Recycling Grant Program, totaling \$14,316.02 (listing of Can and Bottle Recycling Grant Program history 2015-2022 attached to these minutes) Motion passed unanimously</p>
10	<p><u>Tax Refunds</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● \$5,059.19 tax refund request for duplicate payment of real estate taxes on 175 Dibble Hill Rd to Aaron Landman ● \$597.52 tax refund request for overpayment of real estate taxes on 61 Hollenbeck Rd to Thomas J Kearns III and Lisa Rivard ● \$144.97 tax refund request for overpayment of real estate taxes on 91 Town St to Oscar Shamamian and Llewellyn Sinkler <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway- Made motion to approve 3 tax refund requests for a total of \$5,801.68 Priscilla Pavel- Seconded the motion Discussion - none Motion passed unanimously</p>
11	<p><u>Public Comment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Michelle Shipp, Park & Rec Chair provided update on upcoming Park & Rec April events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Second Tuesday of each month UCC Parish Hall – community lunch

- Social Hour – third Wednesday of the month 3:00-4:00 pm – rotating location
- Nancy Berry had two comments:
 - Bottle fund question on processes and requests – answered by First Selectman Gordon Ridgway
 - Hammond Beach – suggested to use some Park & Rec members to be a committee or support for Marina. Discussed an issue over past summer with guest pass fee. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway will look into a max. guest pass pricing.
 - Question about the railroad spraying and who regulates the tracks
- Richard Schlesinger suggested hiring local Cornwall kids for the summer jobs at the Hammond Beach
- Richard Griggs asked about the West Cornwall Library physical building and the plans for that. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway advised that he doesn't know the plans for it and is not aware of any permits for it.
- Riley Klein – Lakeville Journal has a few comments:
 - Asked for clarification on street sealing
 - TRIP grant – requested copy of the map – Jane Hall will send copy of map
 - Spraying – asked if focus will shift after conversation with Mr. Rodriguez of HRR and authority over who regulates the tracks.
- First Selectman Gordon Ridgway clarified that covered bridge is not being taken over by town of Sharon

Adjournment 8:36pm

Respectfully Submitted: Jane Hall, Administrative Assistant

**Town of Cornwall
Returnable Grants - History**

Date	Name	Memo	Amount
11/12/2015	Cornwall/Goshen Cub Scout Pack 35	Returnables processed by Ed Scbranack and approved by the BoS	-1,038.36
12/07/2015	CCS	CCS 8th Grade: Returnables from 10/1/15 through 12/1/15	-625.25
02/22/2016	CCS	CCS 8th Grade: Returnables from 12/31/15 through 1/26/16	-383.75
06/01/2016	Cornwall/Goshen Cub Scout Pack 35	Returnables processed by Ed Scbranack and approved by the BoS	-1,063.30
07/14/2016	All Saint's Eqiscopal	Returnables processed by Hunt William and approved by the BoS for canning and jam making	-1,000.00
10/13/2016	Cornwall/Goshen Cub Scout Pack 35	Returnables processed by Ed Scbranack and approved by the BoS	-1,081.05
04/26/2017	Cornwall/Goshen Cub Scout Pack 35	Returnables processed by Ed Scbranack and approved by the BoS	-1,086.45
09/18/2017	United Church of Christ in Cornwall	Returnable bottles and cans grant - to benefit UCC "Re- Member" organization	-1,279.61
11/27/2018	Cornwall Library Association	Returnable bottles and cans grant - to benefit Children's Program	-1,141.25
04/16/2019	National Multiple Sclerosis Society	Returnable bottles and cans grant - to sponsor Jennifer Larson	-1,117.00
05/20/2020	National Multiple Sclerosis Society	Returnable bottles and cans grant - to sponsor Jennifer Larson as approved by the BoS 5/19/20	-500.00
08/17/2020	Woman's Society UCC	Returnable bottles and cans grant	-1,000.00
06/16/2021	National Multiple Sclerosis Society	sponsor Jennifer Larson as approved by the BoS 5/18/21	-1,000.00
09/08/2021	Housatonic Camera Club	bottle and can returnables grant approved by BoS 9.7.21	-1,000.00
06/01/2022	National Multiple Sclerosis Society	sponsor Jennifer Larson as approved by the BoS 4/19/2022	-1,000.00
Total Grants issued			-14,316.02

Attached is a grant report through today.

The available balance is currently \$115.63

It takes anywhere between 6 to 8 weeks for the fund to reach \$1,000.

When there are no NFP organizations lined up for a grant the \$\$ goes to the General Fund and is not available for Grants.