

TOWN OF CORNWALL

REGULAR MEETING OF THE

Board of Selectmen

Minutes for meeting held on:

Tuesday, May 16th 2023

Present

Selectmen

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

Others

- Jane Hall, Administrative Assistant
- Local Press
- Citizens

11 - Total number of attendees

Call to Order	7:36pm
Approval of Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of minutes from 5/2/2023 meeting <u>Motion:</u> Janet Carlson - Made motion to approve the minutes Gordon Ridgway - Seconded the motion Discussion - none Motion passed unanimously
Communications / Announcements	First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks go out to Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department for rescuing 3 people out of the river today. Please remember to always wear a life jacket if you go in to the water. There is a kayak race this weekend. And a thank you to our rescue squad who responded to the bus accident in Goshen over this past weekend, there were 15 people transported to the hospital.
Additions to the Agenda	First Selectman Gordon Ridgway requested to add the following two items to the agenda: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vietnam Veterans event 2. Bituminous asphalt bid <u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to add the two items to the agenda Janet Carlson - Seconded the motion Discussion - none Motion passed unanimously
1	<u>Memorial Day Observations</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared details of the upcoming Memorial Day Observances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event will take place this Memorial Day; Starting at 9:30am at the North Cornwall cemetery, 10:00am Seamans memorial service in West Cornwall, 11:00am parade and activities at Cornwall Village Green, 12:00pm annual carnival at UCC
2	<u>May 19th Annual Budget Meeting</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared a reminder of the upcoming Annual Budget Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town annual budget meeting is at 7:30pm this Friday (5/19/2023) at Cornwall Consolidated School • Draft budget is up on the website – paper copies around town post offices and town hall
3	<u>Little Guild Request</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following request from Little Guild (attached to minutes): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Guild is requesting temporary usage of town property to set up operating space during construction of their new facility, proposed locations are Fire Department and Foote Field. Tentative moving date would be around November. <u>Motion:</u> Priscilla Pavel - Made motion to approve temporary quarters for Little Guild on town property Janet Carlson - Seconded the motion Discussion - none Motion passed unanimously
4	<u>Cancel June 6th Meeting</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Selectman Gordon Ridgway will be away on June 6th <u>Motion:</u>

	<p>Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to cancel 6/6/2023 Board of Selectmen Meeting Priscilla Pavel - Seconded the motion Discussion – Quorum and holding a special meeting Motion passed unanimously</p>
5	<p><u>West Cornwall Septic Update</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jane has been working with the environmental engineer to get him on the Federal Platform to submit the report. Engineer thinks the environmental report should be completed by mid-June.
6	<p><u>Winsser Rock</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following on Winsser Rock:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinating with Trinity Retreat and Park & Rec, more details to come
7	<p><u>Railroad Spraying</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following on Railroad Spraying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gordon Ridgway did hear from Mr. Rodriguez from Housatonic Railroad Company, who would like to have a meeting with just First Selectman Ridgway, Rep. Horn, and our State Senator. Gordon Ridgway shared what will be asked and discussed during that meeting.
8	<p><u>Housing Update</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway recapped the recent meeting with the housing task force and shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jessica Brackman put together a communication plan for Cornwall Affordable Housing, includes resources and Lakeville Journal articles.
	<p><u>Addition #1- Vietnam Veterans Event</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared information on the planning of a Vietnam Veterans Service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretary of the State’s office has reached out with plans to combine Cornwall, Kent, and Warrens Vietnam Veteran Memorial Services. Location likely to be in Kent at the Veterans Memorial Area. We will be surveying the Veterans to see if they will consider going – we can take people to the ceremony on the Goshen/Cornwall bus.
	<p><u>Addition #2 – Bituminous asphalt bid</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared information on an upcoming bid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jim Vanicky is working on developing a Bituminous bid, Popple Swamp, Everest Hill, and Dudleytown. Estimating bids will come in between \$150,000-\$200,000 Work would happen in the summer <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to go out to bid for paving Priscilla Pavel - Seconded the motion Discussion - none Motion passed unanimously</p>
9	<p><u>Public Comment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Janet Carlson: Congratulations to Riley Klein of the Lakeville Journal on being recognized for 2023 reporting, photography, and video skills. Michelle Shipp, Park and Recreation Chair – Shared many upcoming events that Cornwall Pak & Rec are hosting. Produce for the People – email Michelle with information of surplus produce in your garden to donate to the Food Bank Riley Klein, Lakeville Journal – Requested copy of summary of meeting with Railroad, Date for Vietnam Veterans Event, Markey in Cornwall Bridge
	<p><u>Adjournment:</u> 8:13pm</p> <p>Respectfully Submitted: Jane Hall, Administrative Assistant</p>



May 9, 2023

Board of Selectmen
Cornwall Town Hall
24 Pine Street
West Cornwall, CT 06796

Dear Board of Selectmen,

Thank you for allowing us to submit this proposal to you.

The Little Guild is trying to build a new building at its current site. It has spent more than two years researching and planning, has a good design, has hired Burlington Construction and has raised \$3.5 million dollars toward the project. We own less than 2 acres, against a hill, and have negotiated a lot line adjustment with our neighbor the Cornwall Conservation Trust which makes the site more buildable. We had planned to build immediately next to our current building; however, we recently received an estimate for the costs of between \$700,000 to \$1,000,000 of site work including retaining walls and remediative landscape design. That is really beyond our means.

We have concluded our only option is to raze our building first and build on top of the current site. Costs and environmental impact will be much lower, but we can only do this if we find a temporary location for the 10-14 months we estimate the building will take. To be closed for an extended period would be devastating to our program. We provide many valued services in the county; we have 12 staff members to whom we are dedicated; and we have built a base of 150 volunteers and many donors who may lose interest if we are closed for an extended period.

We are writing to ask you to consider allowing us to put three temporary structures on Foote Field for 10-14 months, the expected time of construction. We are not sure when the start date would be but it is very unlikely to be before November 1.

One structure would be a kennel for dogs (photo attached). The dimensions are 12 x 42. This structure would house 6-8 dogs (half our current number). The other two would be construction trailers that are 10 x 50; one to house 10-12 cats and the other would be an office trailer. They are equipped with bathrooms.

We would require a water source and electrical hook up. In addition, we would need approximately 10 parking spaces and to fence an area approximately 25x75 feet as an outdoor play area, and ideally a second small yard of approximately 15 x 25 feet.



THE LITTLE GUILD OF ST. FRANCIS

285 Sharon-Goshen Turnpike, West Cornwall, CT 06796
860-672-6346 www.littleguild.org

We would do everything we could to be good neighbors. The kennel is staffed 7 am to 6 pm, 7 days a week. Dogs are let out in the fenced area alone or in pairs and only with supervision. We would return the property to the same condition we found it. Several of our board members are in Cornwall and would be on hand and responsive to any concerns from neighbors at any time.

We are extremely appreciative of all the town has done to support the Little Guild in general and on this project in particular, including the ARPA grant of \$35,000, and are appreciative of your consideration on this matter very much.

Sincerely and with thanks,

Jenny Langerdoerfer
Executive Director

Karen Doeblin
President, Board of Directors

Proposed Dog Kennel:

