

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 3, 2023

The duly warned and notified Special Town Meeting for the Town of Cornwall was held on Friday, November 3, 2023 at 7:30pm at the Cornwall Consolidated School. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway presided. Approximately 28 people attended.

Scott Cady was elected moderator and Town Clerk Vera Dinneen read the call of the meeting.

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway made the following motion "Upon recommendation of the Board of Finance, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to spend up to \$500,000 to repair the retaining wall on River Road in West Cornwall at the bridge near Route 128. These funds will come from reserves in the Town's General Fund Account." Lisa Simont seconded the motion.

Mr. Ridgway explained that during Hurricane Irene, the retaining wall sustained damage. The highway crew rebuilt it with rocks. Mill Brook is very powerful. Storms this summer have further damaged the wall. Engineers and stone masons have looked at it and it needs more comprehensive repairs. The bridge itself is not in danger.

They came up with an extensive design involving the removal of rocks, installing footings and setting the rocks back in with mortar, taking up to two months. It went out to bid. The bids ranged from \$400,000 – 700,000, more than the town wanted to spend.

The new design is a pre-cast, simpler design. The road would only need to be closed for a couple of weeks and would be less expensive. Mutual aid would be called for emergency coverage. The wall would be concrete, not stone. New bids are due November 21st. The engineers will then need to sign off on the plans. Work will probably not begin until early 2024, weather permitting. First Selectman Ridgway will check with the railroad to get their permission.

Michelle Shipp made a motion to call the question. Lisa Simon seconded. The vote was unanimous.

The vote on the motion to approve was also unanimous.

First Selectman Ridgway made a motion to adjourn. Lisa Simont seconded. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 7:51pm.

Respectfully submitted
Vera Dinneen
Town Clerk