

# TOWN OF CORNWALL

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE

### Board of Selectmen

Minutes for meeting held on:  
 Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup> 2023  
 Remotely Via Zoom

**Present**

- Selectmen
- Gordon Ridgway, First Selectman
  - Rocco Botto
  - Jennifer Markow

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

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| <b>Call to Order</b>                  | 7:30pm   |
| <b>Approval of Minutes</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval of minutes from 11/7/2023 meeting</li> </ul> <p><u>Motion:</u><br/>         Jennifer Markow - Made motion to approve the minutes<br/>         Rocco Botto - Seconded the motion<br/>         Discussion - none<br/>         Motion passed unanimously</p>  |
| <b>Communications / Announcements</b> | <p>First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thanks to the Cornall Association for lighting up the town – appreciated in this darker time of year.</li> <li>• There will be a tree lighting in Cornwall Bridge at the Bank on Friday (12/1/2023) at 5:00pm – The Market will be giving out refreshments. Thank you to Jim Laporta for getting the tree going.</li> </ul> <p>Jennifer Markow shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park &amp; Rec – Flu &amp; Covid clinic a week or so ago – 109 covid shots, 40 flu shots.</li> </ul> <p>Rocco Botto shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Cornwall Turkey Trot to benefit Cornwall Library on Thanksgiving Day at 9:00am</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Additions to the Agenda</b>        | none   |
| <b>1.</b>                             | <p><b><u>Welcome to new members</u></b> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome to Jen and Rocco – new members on the board.</li> <li>• Had a very nice swearing in ceremony with Senator Blumenthal, Congresswoman Johanna Hayes, and Representative Maria Horn.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Members from various boards/commissions attended and were sworn in</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |
| <b>2.</b>                             | <p><b><u>Town Meeting December 8<sup>th</sup></u></b> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting will be at 7:30om at Cornwall Consolidated School</li> <li>• 4 items on call include: Town report/audit, 5 year capital plan, establishing an Affordable Housing Commission, amend ordinance to increase building permit fees.</li> </ul> <p><u>Motion:</u><br/>         Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to have a town meeting on December 8th, 7:30pm at Cornwall Consolidated School for the 4 items (listed above)<br/>         Jennifer Markow - Seconded the motion<br/>         Discussion - none<br/>         Motion passed unanimously</p>   |
| <b>3.</b>                             | <p><b><u>Appointments</u></b> First Selectmen Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vacancies on the following: Board of Assessment Appeals, Conservation Commission, Cornwall Grange Trust Fund, Park &amp; Recreation, Zoning Board of Appeals.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If interested – let Board know, along with your experience for the commission.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The following appointments were made:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Conservation Commission                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Kate Freygang – 2-year term</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Cream Hill Lake Study Group                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Heidi Cunnick – 2-year term</li> <li>▪ Nancy Berry – 2-year term</li> <li>▪ Richard Griggs – 2-year term</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

- Economic Development Commission
  - Jane Herold - 3-year term
  - Duncan Webb - 3-year term
  - Simon Hewett - 3-year term
- Housatonic River Commission
  - Phil Hart – 3-year term
- Inland Wetlands & Water Courses Agency
  - Debby Bennet – 2-year term
  - Bill Hulburt – 2-year term
  - Peter Demy – 2-year term
  - Steve Hedden – 2-year term
  - Jeff Morgan – 2-year term
  - Allan Bahn – Alternate – 2-year term
  - Robert Nethery – Alternate – 2-year term
- Park & Recreation
  - Stacey Dolan – 2-year term
  - Jane Hall – 2-year term
  - Stephanie Jeski – 2-year term
  - Michelle Shipp – 2-year term
  - Beth Dinneen – Alternate – 2-year term
- Planning & Zoning Commission
  - Michelle Shipp, Alternate – 6-year term
- Tree Warden
  - Jim Vanicky – 2-year term
  - Bruce Bennett – 2-year term

Motion:

Rocco Botto - Made motion to appoint Kate Freygang to Conservation Commission  
 Jennifer Markow - Seconded the motion  
 Discussion - none  
 Motion passed unanimously

Motion:

Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to appoint Heidi Cunnick, Nancy Berry, and Richard Griggs to Cream Hill Lake Study Group  
 Jennifer Markow - Seconded the motion  
 Discussion - none  
 Motion passed unanimously

Motion:

Jennifer Markow - Made motion to appoint Jane Herold, Duncan Webb, and Simon Hewett to Economic Development Commission  
 Rocco Botto - Seconded the motion  
 Discussion - none  
 Motion passed unanimously

Motion:

Jennifer Markow - Made motion to appoint Phil Hart to the Housatonic River Commission  
 Rocco Botto - Seconded the motion  
 Discussion - none  
 Motion passed unanimously

Motion:

Rocco Botto - Made motion to appoint Debby Bennet, Bill Hulburt, Peter Demy, Steve Hedden, Jeff Morgan, Allan Bahn – Alternate, Robert Nethery – Alternate to the Inland, Wetlands & Water Courses Agency  
 Jennifer Markow - Seconded the motion  
 Discussion - none  
 Motion passed unanimously

Motion:

Rocco Botto - Made motion to appoint Stacey Dolan, Jane Hall, Stephanie Jeski, Michelle Shipp, Beth Dinneen – Alternate, to Park & Recreation  
 Jennifer Markow - Seconded the motion

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|    | <p>Discussion - none<br/>Motion passed unanimously</p> <p><u>Motion:</u><br/>Jennifer Markow - Made motion to appoint Michelle Shipp – Alternate to Planning &amp; Zoning Commission<br/>Rocco Botto - Seconded the motion<br/>Discussion - none<br/>Motion passed unanimously</p> <p><u>Motion:</u><br/>Rocco Botto - Made motion to appoint Jim Banicky, Bruce Bennett as Tree Warden<br/>Jennifer Markow - Seconded the motion<br/>Discussion – They have worked very hard to come up with tree list, work with tree crew to cut down trees on town right of way<br/>Motion passed unanimously</p>  |
| 4. | <p><b><u>West Cornwall retaining wall bids</u></b> First Selectmen Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bid opening was yesterday, very interesting bids – All came in within \$15,000</li> <li>• Low Bid was \$387,480 – High bid was \$402,860</li> <li>• Significant savings over last bid for this project, over \$100,000</li> <li>• Low bidder is Yield Industries of Torrington – they can do the work in about 8 days <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discussion was had on reference check, recent jobs, conversation with Principal of Yield Industries, pedestrian traffic, and timeframe of project.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Motion:<br/>Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to accept the low bid of Yield Industries based on their references and their complete bid package<br/>Rocco Botto - Seconded the motion<br/>Discussion – Discussion ensued on success of projected job with Yield Industries and overall project<br/>Motion passed unanimously</p>  |
| 5. | <p><b><u>Meeting formats</u></b> First Selectmen Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good meeting two weeks ago at Library with the zoom room</li> <li>• Keep remote / zoom option for meetings – Hybrid meeting, in person at Library with option of zoom – starting next meeting</li> </ul> <p><u>Motion:</u><br/>Rocco Botto - Made motion to move to a Hybrid format<br/>Jennifer Markow - Seconded the motion<br/>Discussion – Thank you to Library for hosting<br/>Motion passed unanimously</p>   |
| 6. | <p><b><u>Meeting Schedule 2024</u></b> First Selectmen Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting schedule presented to Board of Selectman: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of month at 7:30, Hybrid at Cornwall Library with Zoom option</li> </ul> <p><u>Motion:</u><br/>Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to adopt the meeting schedule as presented – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month<br/>Jennifer Markow - Seconded the motion<br/>Discussion – Thank you to Library for hosting<br/>Motion passed unanimously</p>  |
| 7. | <p><b><u>Board goals for term – initial discussion</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board of Selectman reviewed last terms goals and discussed the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Housing – Housing Commission formalized to work as housing advocates.</li> <li>○ Health - Sharon Hospital State decision has been appealed</li> <li>○ West Cornwall Wastewater plant – working on Environmental Review and start a design, bid in next two years</li> <li>○ Transfer Station – recycling and composting initiatives</li> <li>○ Renovations - town hall is in need of work inside and outside, Cornwall Bridge Fire House in need of some paint and work, Solar at CCS</li> <li>○ Internet – fiber optic being installed in town</li> <li>○ ARPA Funds – completed</li> <li>○ 2020 Plan of Conservation &amp; Development – housing items directly tied to P&amp;Z regulations, and they are working on updating some of those</li> <li>○ Volunteer Organizations – key Cornwall topic</li> <li>○ Attract new residents / business – remains important – sustaining our local businesses.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• New Board of Selectmen term goal ideas were discussed:</li> </ul> |

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|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gordon Ridgway <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Community Resiliency</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Jennifer Markow <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Community Center</li> <li>▪ Community town bus</li> <li>▪ Signage at transfer station / town garage</li> <li>▪ Fixing signage by front of Town Hall</li> <li>▪ Old cemeteries fixed up - upgraded</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Rocco Botto <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recreational ideas / community focused</li> <li>▪ Expand projects with housing</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| 8. | <p><b><u>Housing meeting 11/25 5:00pm</u></b> First Selectmen Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upcoming housing meeting, will post tomorrow – next Monday</li> <li>• Housing commission will get on a regular meeting schedule</li> <li>• Grant opportunities / land acquisition</li> </ul>  |
| 9. | <p><b><u>Public Comment</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michelle Shipp – community breakfast on Tuesday – RSVP, holiday event – santa&amp;grinch 12/15 5-8pm at CCS</li> <li>• Ruth Epstein, Waterbury Republican – clarification on name of Yield Industries</li> </ul>   |
|    | <p><u>Adjournment:</u> 8:34pm</p> <p>Respectfully Submitted: Jane Hall, Administrative Assistant</p>  |