

TOWN OF CORNWALL

REGULAR MEETING OF THE

Board of Selectmen

Minutes for meeting held on:

Tuesday, November 7th 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 10/17/2023 and 10/24/2023 meetings <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to approve the minutes. Priscilla Pavel - Seconded the motion. Discussion - none Motion passed unanimously</p>
Communications / Announcements	<p>First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid/Flu clinic Thursday 11/9 12-5pm at Cornwall Town Hall • Passing of John Green– John served the town in many ways, will be missed by many.
Additions to the Agenda	none
1.	<p><u>West Cornwall retaining wall – November 3rd Town Meeting</u>- First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Meeting was on Friday night – authorized to spend up to \$500,000 on repair. • 11/20 – bids will be back and ready to present before next Board of Selectmen meeting
2.	<p><u>Little Guild Agreement – Foote Field</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lease agreement was signed. • Karen Doblin from Little Guild shared the following: No update on the construction date, would like to start before Thanksgiving. The builder would like to have the prefab kennel by Dec 1. • Fire department has interest in using the old building for a drill prior to demolition. <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to sign the agreement with Little Guild Discussion - none Motion passed unanimously</p>
3.	<p><u>Tax Sale 10/27/2023 -</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax Lien sale was successful, active bidding on both parcels. Gordon Ridgway explained the process of next steps for the tax lien sales. Winning bids: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$56,000 for property under Cornwall Bridge (all the taxes owed) ○ \$75,000 for property on Route 7 (half the taxes owed)
4.	<p><u>5 Year Plan revisions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joe Pryor and First Selectman Gordon Ridgway continue to meet with the school administration on their capital needs. 5-year plan will be presented at the December 8th town meeting. • State did allocate \$15 million for tree removal, especially ash trees – Tree Wardens Jim Vanicky and Bruce Bennett just completed a survey of trees that need to be removed – dozens if not hundreds on town roads. <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to increase capital 5-year plan by \$50,000 in the next 2 years with the expectation of getting the grant program from the state to help us with the cost of removing hazard trees on town roads. Priscilla Pavel - Seconded the motion. Discussion – Discussion ensued on cost and allocation of funds from state. Motion passed unanimously</p>
5.	<p><u>Town garage chimney replacement</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Russ, building official, got quotes to replace the chimney at the Highway Garage in the next couple weeks, will cost approximately \$12,000
6.	<p><u>Health screening CVFD</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A generous offer received from Meg McMorrow and Brad Harding to do health screenings for the fire department personnel and do acupuncture. They would like to be able to use town hall to do this on temporary basis, set up for sessions. <p><u>Motion:</u></p>

	<p>Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to grant this generous offer and provide space for Meg McMorrow and Brad Harding to help with health screenings and acupuncture for the fire department. Priscilla Pavel - Seconded the motion. Discussion – Discussion ensued on location of screenings, cost, and notation of offering of Physicals for fire department members. Motion passed unanimously</p>
7.	<p><u>Town report – Board of Selectmen</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board of Selectmen reviewed the draft of the Town Report – Board of Selectmen and signed. <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to forward town report to printer. Priscilla Pavel - Seconded the motion. Discussion – none Motion passed unanimously</p>
8.	<p><u>Compost update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the setbacks received from DEEP with the plans, engineering needs, drop off scraps, and needs to move forward on this plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plan to contact state representative for guidance to mirror what the town of Litchfield is doing. • Discussion ensued on revisiting in-home composting systems with a cost sharing or purchase for residents to eliminate amount of food scraps brought to transfer station
9.	<p><u>Tax returns</u></p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to grant tax refund of \$5,838.11 for overpayment of real estate tax. Priscilla Pavel - Seconded the motion. Discussion – none Motion passed unanimously</p>
10.	<p><u>Nipper Bottle funds</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard Bramley shared information on the “Nipper bottle fund”, the environmental fee that is collected and then distributed back to the towns to be spent on environmental improvements. • Discussion ensued on what to do with the funds (\$1,700), home composting needs. <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to authorize the First Selectman and Finance Director to put \$1,700 towards composting kits. Priscilla Pavel - Seconded the motion. Discussion – Discussion ensued on bulk pricing for compost kits, Selectwoman Janet Carlson will work on negotiating pricing with other companies. Motion passed unanimously</p>
11.	<p><u>Public comment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Selectman thanked Janet Carlson and Priscilla Pavel for their work and efforts serving on the Board of Selectmen for the past 2 years. • Nancy Berry – Question and discussed home composting state mandates and Cornwall Conservation Commission composting supplies. • Michelle Shipp, Chair of Cornwall Park & Recreation – Friendsgiving on 11/18 & family movie night – RSVP • Jen Markow, Director of Cornwall Park & Recreation – Senior Lunch 11/14 at Parish House, Community Breakfast 11/28 at Parish House - RSVP • Richard Bramley – Thank you to Janet and Priscilla for serving on the board.
	<p>Adjournment: 8:10 pm</p> <p>Respectfully Submitted: Jane Hall, Administrative Assistant</p>