

TOWN OF CORNWALL

REGULAR MEETING OF THE

Board of Selectmen

Minutes for meeting held on:

Tuesday, December 5th, 2023

Hybrid – In Person at Cornwall Library
& Remotely Via Zoom

Present

Selectmen

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

Others

Jane Hall, Administrative Assistant
Citizens

13 - Total number of attendees

Call to Order	7:28 pm
Approval of Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of minutes from 11/21/2023 meeting <u>Motion:</u> Rocco Botto - Made motion to approve the minutes with the correction Jennifer Markow - Seconded the motion Discussion – Correction to minutes of 11/21/2023 – spelling of “Vanicky” Motion passed unanimously
Communications / Announcements	First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COST annual town meeting in February at Aquaturf – opportunity for Selectmen to hear from various officials • COG – Regional meeting 2nd Thursday of each month – zoom or in person • Referendum for Region 1 Capital retrofits – High school – January 8th • Little Guild - Digging may begin at Foote Field this week • Swap shop has reopened at Transfer Station – had trouble with people dropping off items in Swap Shop that should have been put in dumpster – check with attendants before putting items in Swap Shop
Additions to the Agenda	First Selectman Gordon Ridgway added the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Same Day Voting <u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to add Same Day Voting to the agenda Rocco Botto - Seconded the motion Discussion – None Motion passed unanimously
1.	<u>West Cornwall Retaining Wall</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project bid has been accepted and there will be a preconstruction meeting with contractor and engineer Thursday at 10:00 at the site in West Cornwall. • Estimated work to be completed in early January – pedestrian traffic to stay open • Discussion ensued on possible changes to plan of keeping portion of roadway accessible for emergencies – questions will be brought to contractor / engineer at preconstruction meeting
2.	<u>CVFD Fire Truck</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Got word from the Fire Department secretary that the department voted at their last meeting to encourage the town to buy a new firetruck to replace current engine 3-0. Received some bid specifications. Original cost was over \$800,000 – current quotes are closer to mid \$600,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will be working with John Laporta, CVFD President, and Joe Pryor, Board of Finance to get process moving forward with process ○ Discussion ensued on specs, performance bond, liability coverage, service center, competitive bids, financing/pricing, third party buying associations, repurposing 3-0

3.	<p><u>West Cornwall Wastewater</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to work on this project with the Engineer and HUD
4.	<p><u>Board Goals</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway reviewed the Board of Selectmen goals from last term:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Housing – stay on for goals 2. Healthcare – Sharon Hospital appeal, social service: safety net, heating assistance, food pantry 3. Wastewater project – Vote has already happened, will change goal to Construction. 4. Update Transfer Station – physical updates completed - keep Recycling, compost, and reduce amount of garbage as goal 5. Renovations of Town Buildings, new roofs needed, work needs to be done at Town Hall and CB Firehouse 6. Internet services - can be replaced with Cell Service 7. ARPA funds disbursed – remove this goal 8. Plan of Conservation & Development – encourage housing, businesses 9. Volunteer Organizations in Town – continue to be backbone of town 10. Attract new residents / businesses – remains important goal <p>Rocco Botto made the following suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing – revise goal: Establish Affordable Housing Commission and have a project in place by end of term • Healthcare – add to goal: Continue to attract and provide more local healthcare and wellness activities in town • Renovations – add to goal: CCS project / solar • Add to goal: Support and create recreational wellness projects and resources <p>First Selectman Gordon Ridgway made the following suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar Project – provide town electrical needs at reduced prices • Community Resiliency – Infrastructure needs, emergency management planning
5.	<p><u>December 8th Town Meeting</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual town meeting will be Friday 12/8/2023 7:30pm at Cornwall Consolidated school with the following items on the agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Town report / audit ○ 5-year capital plan ○ Authorize Affordable Housing Commission ○ Update building fees
6.	<p><u>Budget Season 2024</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letters will go out to town departments for budget requests- due by February 1st <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will be meeting with town departments in January to review budgets • Budget proposals will be presented to Board of Finance by mid-February
7.	<p><u>Town Report 22/23</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you to Barbara Herbst for putting the Town Report together: report is posted on www.cornwallct.org and will be available around town at Post Offices, Town Hall, Transfer Station – will be available at Annual Town Meeting
8.	<p><u>Solar Project</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Joe Pryor on solar project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Two options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Do all install and own the panels – long run could make us more money, could sell back unused energy, would need to be responsible for maintenance. ▪ Sell rights – work with a third party for install / ownership of panels • Will be having a meeting next week – February deadline
9.	<p><u>Overnight Winter Parking Ban</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not just overnight – no parking vehicles on roads during snow season starting 12/8/2023 – 3/30/2024 – must be at least 6 feet back – will move vehicles in violation • Notice signed by Board of Selectman (attached) <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to sign annual parking ban Jennifer Markow - Seconded the motion Discussion – None Motion passed unanimously</p>
10.	<p><u>Community Resiliency Planning</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazardous mitigation plan already in place per FEMA • Planning to have public meetings with Resiliency group to review plan mid-January <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Selectman, Emergency management coordinator, highway department, social services, First Responders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will be looking for volunteers for this group
Addition #1	<p><u>Same Day Voting</u> (Board Clerk amendment – <i>Early Voting</i> not <i>Same Day Voting</i>) First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State has mandated early voting – Election officials – registrars, poll tender, moderator, etc. - need to be available 1 week to 10 days ahead of election day so voters can vote early for elections not necessarily referendums • May cost taxpayers \$10,000 per election – we did receive one \$10,000 grant
11.	<p><u>Public Comment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connie Hedden – Question on West Cornwall Wastewater Project - sewer treatment plant or a septic system and question on staffing/monitoring
	<p><u>Adjournment:</u> 8:28 pm</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Rocco Botto - Made motion to adjourn Jennifer Markow - Seconded the motion Motion passed unanimously</p> <p>Respectfully Submitted: Jane Hall, Administrative Assistant</p>



TOWN OF CORNWALL

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NOTICE

December 5, 2023

TO: CORNWALL RESIDENTS
FROM: THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
RE: NO PARKING NOTICE DURING SNOW SEASON

Effective December 8th, 2023, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Cornwall will evoke its power to prohibit the parking of all vehicles that are situated so as to interfere with snow plowing activity on Town highways.

The restrictions will apply 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from **December 8, 2023, through March 30, 2024.**

Plowing activity can occur at any time and includes set back plowing in clear weather.

Interference with plowing can occur unless a parked vehicle is at least 6 feet from the traveled or paved portion of the highway.

Section 14-307 of the Connecticut State Statutes empowers the Cornwall Board of Selectmen to remove vehicles parked in violation of its orders.

Your cooperation is requested. Thank you.

Gordon M. Ridgway, First Selectman

Rocco Botto, Selectman

Jennifer Markow, Selectman