

# TOWN OF CORNWALL

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE

Board of Selectmen

Minutes for meeting held on:

Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

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

<b>Call to Order</b>	7:32 pm
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	N/A
<b>Communications / Announcements</b>	<p>First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several Cornwall residents passed away over the holiday season, active groups of volunteers in town, artists, veterans. Condolences to their families.</li> <li>• Freedom of information workshop – we will put together a workshop for town officials</li> </ul>
<b>Additions to the Agenda</b>	<p>First Selectman Gordon Ridgway added the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Appointing a housing commission</li> </ol> <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to add Appointing a housing commission to the agenda Jennifer Markow - Seconded the motion Discussion – None Motion passed unanimously</p>
<b>1.</b>	<p><b><u>Essex Hill landslide repair</u></b></p> <p>First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Met with Stephen McDonnell, Engineer from WMC Engineering, Jim Vanicky, Contractor, Inland Wetlands to discuss and review the repair needed.</li> <li>• Stephen McDonnell, Engineer from WMC Engineering shared details of the landslide and the process to repair</li> <li>• Discussion ensued on going out to bid for this project, timeframe for project, financing the project</li> </ul> <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to move towards repairing Essex Hill with a combination of WMC and Yield Industries Rocco Botto - Seconded the motion Discussion – None Motion passed unanimously</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b><u>Popple Swamp @ Furnace Brook Bridge, structural repair</u></b></p> <p>First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Near the abutment of the bridge, the northern bank has lost rocks – Jim Vanicky has contacted Josh Tyson about working on the repair to strengthen. Can start on this quickly, putting filter fabric in place. Got approval from Inland/Wetlands tonight for the work.</li> </ul> <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to hire Josh Tyson and his machine to place some boulders along the bank and secure that area Jennifer Markow - Seconded the motion Discussion – Damage timeframe , July Storm/Recent damage, FEMA funding Motion passed unanimously</p>

3.	<p><b><u>West Cornwall retaining wall</u></b>  First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Still waiting for the block to be done, hope to have Craig move forward on Essex Hill (under 1 week) then move into West Cornwall repair work – middle of January at this time, weather permitting.</li> </ul>
4.	<p><b><u>Appointment to Economic Development Commission</u></b>  First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board of Selectmen under town ordinance have the ability to appoint one of their own members to the Economic Development Commission as a representative.</li> </ul> <p><u>Motion:</u>  Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to appoint Rocco Botto to the Economic Development Commission Board of Selectmen representative  Jennifer Markow - Seconded the motion  Discussion – None  Motion passed unanimously</p>
5.	<p><b><u>West Cornwall Waste Water Project</u></b>  First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As of today, we have received word from our engineer that we are ready to post our Final Notice of Environmental Review – will get published in the next week or so. There will be a comment period and then a request for release of federal funds. We will be back at committee meetings after that.</li> </ul>
6.	<p><b><u>Resiliency / Emergency Management meeting 1/16/2024</u></b>  First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diane Beebe has been working to digitize the Emergency Management Plan, will be sent out when finalized. It is state mandated to have this plan, tasks for people and officials to do in emergencies</li> <li>• Hazardous mitigation plan from town planner, Janelle Mullen – will have hard copy and digital copy of this as well</li> <li>• Goal is to get emergency management people, first responders, highway department, selectman – in order to activate the town emergency plan, must be overwhelmed by an emergency</li> </ul>
7.	<p><b><u>Meeting on Municipal Finance funds and flow 1/4/2024</u></b>  First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do this ahead of our meeting on Essex Hill – 10:30 1/4/2024 – Special Meeting BOS</li> </ul>
Addition #1	<p><b><u>Appointing a housing commission</u></b>  First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heard from Jessica Brackman, Ginni Block, Mag Cooley, Jill Cutler, Pam Weltzien, Ingrid Ellen who are on the Housing Task Force and are interested in continuing to serve. Also heard from Caitlyn Lynch who has grant writing experience and is interested in joining</li> </ul> <p><u>Motion:</u>  Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to appoint those seven people to the housing commission (Jessica Brackman, Ginni Block, Mag Cooley, Jill Cutler, Pam Weltzien, Ingrid Ellen, Caitlyn Lynch)  Jennifer Markow - Seconded the motion  Discussion – Discussion ensued on meeting dates and role the commission has  Motion passed unanimously</p>
8.	<p><b><u>Public Comment</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michelle Shipp, Park &amp; Rec Chair – updated for park &amp; rec, thank you to all that came out to pancake breakfast, pickleball, ice skating, community meals, community breakfast, park &amp; rec survey, FISH program</li> <li>• Mag Cooley – asked for clarification on housing commission appointments</li> <li>• Riley Klein, Lakeville Journal – Questions on Essex Hill Work timeline, Popple Swamp / Furnace Brook bridge</li> </ul>
	<p><u>Adjournment:</u> 8:24 pm  Respectfully Submitted: Jane Hall, Administrative Assistant</p>