

**TOWN OF CORNWALL**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
**Minutes for meeting held on:**  
**Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 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**

<b>Call to Order</b>	7:30 pm
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval of minutes from 12/5/2023 meeting</li> </ul> <u>Motion:</u> Rocco Botto - Made motion to approve the minutes Jennifer Markow - Seconded the motion Discussion – none <u>Motion passed unanimously</u>
<b>Communications / Announcements</b>	Jennifer Markow shared the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication from Community Healthy &amp; Wellness Center – congratulating board on elections</li> <li>• New Years Day pancake breakfast</li> <li>• After New Year – Pickleball at CCS gym</li> <li>• After New Year – Ice Skating at Hotchkiss</li> </ul> Rocco Botto shared the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Met with Building Official, Peter Russ, last week – will be doing some work to build a page for the Building Official on the website, fee schedule, applications, resources, contact information</li> </ul>
<b>Additions to the Agenda</b>	First Selectman Gordon Ridgway added the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Storm Damage</li> </ol> <u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to add Storm Damage to the agenda Rocco Botto - Seconded the motion Discussion – None <u>Motion passed unanimously</u>
<b>Addition #1</b>	<u><b>Storm Damage</b></u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over the weekend, we got 5 inches of rain. Damage to infrastructure. Not many power outages, contact Selectmen’s office so we can expedite restorations.</li> <li>• Some washouts throughout town dirt roads</li> <li>• Essex Hill Road had a landslide, road is closed for foreseeable future – guardrails are suspended mid air</li> <li>• Popple Swamp wooden bridge over Furnace Brook – rocks have started to wash out</li> </ul> Discussion ensued on repairs and prevention of further damage
<b>1.</b>	<u><b>West Cornwall Retaining Wall</b></u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spoke with contractor today, discussed logistics for equipment, where to leave/use equipment.</li> <li>• Rain this past week, water was been as high as it was back in July, ground water is saturated</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approx 3 weeks to engineer approval and have all the blocks precast cured, will advertise when we have a date scheduled for starting</li> </ul>
2.	<p><b><u>Goals for Board of Selectmen</u></b>  First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on board goals: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Housing</li> <li>2. Healthcare</li> <li>3. Wastewater project</li> <li>4. Update Transfer Station – MSW long term goal</li> <li>5. Renovation of Town Buildings</li> <li>6. Cell Service</li> <li>7. Plan of Conservation &amp; Development</li> <li>8. Volunteer Organization in Town - Support</li> <li>9. Attract New Residents / Businesses</li> <li>10. Support and Create Recreational Wellness Projects and Resources</li> <li>11. Community Resiliency – will plan meeting mid January</li> <li>12. Improve Public Transportation – Jen will reach out to Goshen &amp; Geer and research the process for the Cornwall/Goshen Bus</li> <li>13. Secure Community Center Space – Possible partnering with the church</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p><u>Motion:</u>  Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to adopt these goals  Discussion – none  Motion passed unanimously</p>
3.	<p><b><u>Fire Truck Bid Update</u></b>  First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Got information on Sourcewell – will continue to turn the specs into a bid document. Need to do research on performance bond. Would like to run this past the town attorney to make sure we are not missing anything. Try to get this out by February</li> </ul>
4.	<p><b><u>Special Meeting 12/28 – Municipal Finance</u></b>  First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special meeting schedule for next Thursday during the day – to cover Municipal Finance – good to get together with Barbara to get an overview of how funds move through the town.</li> </ul>
5.	<p><b><u>COST meeting</u></b>  First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COST town meeting will be on Thursday 2/8/2024 at the Aquaturf -will sign up 3 board of selectmen members to attend. Agenda was discussed.</li> </ul>
6.	<p><b><u>Hazardous Tree Reports</u></b>  First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thank you to Bruce Bennett and Jim Vanicky for getting the tree survey together, 100’s of trees in Cornwall having issues, list is broken down by street, species.</li> <li>• Online tree reporting is up and running – Rocco Botto working with Jane Hall to set this up</li> </ul> <p>Bruce Bennett, Assistant Tree Warden shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eversource has been wonderful to work with and taking down both the trees they are and are not responsible for, minimizing the amount of trees town has to take down</li> <li>• Online tree reporting is very important, will help streamline priorities</li> </ul> <p>Discussion ensued on the list, amount of trees, location of trees, funding</p>
7.	<p><b><u>Garbage / Compost</u></b>  First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Had a meeting with the Council of Governments last week and discussed the regions garbage problem. Incinerator in Hartford is shutdown and all garbage is being trucked out to PA. Top priority for COG.</li> <li>• Need to come up with plans for the next few years for trash removal. Try to get long term contract with the region</li> <li>• State Rep. Maria Horn visited the Transfer Station about our composting initiative.</li> </ul>

	<p>Discussion ensued on options that other municipalities are using and short term/long term solutions, leaf composting &amp; food scarp composting process, work with Fuss &amp; O'Neill</p> <p><u>Motion:</u>  Rocco Botto – Made motion to approve the minutes  Jennifer Markow – Seconded the motion  Discussion – none  Motion passed unanimously</p>
8.	<p><b><u>Housing Commission</u></b>  First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have asked the people on the Housing Task Force if they are interested in serving on the Affordable Housing Commission, had others asking to join. Will get list ahead of January meeting for appointments</li> </ul>
9.	<p><b><u>Solar Project</u></b>  First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with Joe Pryor on this – state and local towns – some put on landfills. Have identified a few companies who can do the work on this. Thought of using a third party to install, after time we would own the system.</li> </ul> <p>Discussion ensued on location, funding, options on installation/ownership</p>
10.	<p><b><u>Public Comment</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michelle Shipp, Park &amp; Rec Chair – Shared upcoming events, survey in the chronicle, FISH</li> <li>• Riley Klein, Lakeville Journal - Question on storm damage on Essex Hill, use of landslide photos, Board Goals, Town events</li> </ul>
	<p><u>Adjournment:</u> 8:39 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>