

TOWN OF CORNWALL
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
Board of Selectmen
Minutes for meeting held on:
Tuesday, January 16th, 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

11 - Total number of attendees

Call to Order	7:31 pm
Approval of Minutes	<p>Minutes from 12/19/2023, 1/2/2024, 1/4/2024</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to approve the minutes from 12/19/2023, 1/2/2024 (with correction), and 1/4/2024 Rocco Botto - Seconded the motion Discussion – Correction to 1/2/2024 minutes for typo - #5 “int eh” should be “in the” Motion passed unanimously</p>
Communications / Announcements	<p>First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freedom of Information Commission will be doing a training for municipal officials on February 29th at 10:00am. It will be recorded. • Congratulate the Cornwall Market for opening – very successful first week, we wish them well <p>Rocco Botto shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cornwall Web Committee will be hosting a live presentation at the Cornwall Library on Sunday 1/20 at 11:00am for an overview of Cornwall website – likely to be recorded • Continued to work with Peter Russ, Building Official to create a page on the Cornwall Website to include applications & resources <p>Jennifer Markow shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park & Rec – Ice Skating Saturdays from 7-8, Pickleball Thursdays from 6-8, Afternoon Social at Parish House from 3-4, next Tuesday community breakfast at 9:00 at Parish House
Additions to the Agenda	None
1.	<p><u>Essex Hill, Popple Swamp, West Cornwall Storm Repairs</u></p> <p>First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spoke with Craig Bothroyd, Yield Industries, this morning on scheduling projects. He is planning to start Essex Hill Monday (1/22/24), town will be providing some of the material. • Town crew has been delivering boulders to Popple Swamp Bridge to get that ready to go. • West Cornwall will take longer, water level needs to go down. Craig has begun to stockpile the materials for the repair in the event it does collapse he will be ready to go in for the repair. We will publicize well in advance for the start of the West Cornwall project, tentative start in February/March • Will work with Barbara this coming week to get BoS and BoF a report on how much extra this will be. Parts of CT did declare a state of emergency, we will see if we are eligible for FEMA funding
2.	<p><u>Governor’s Visit</u></p> <p>First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor Ned Lamont visited Mohawk Mountain Ski Area last Thursday – the board attended the meeting. Governor announced an outdoor recreation initiative to try and get more use and utilization of the state parks
3.	<p><u>Solar Electric Project</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sent the board an outline of a conversation had with Doug Rick from the Sharon Energy Environmental Group and Emily Basham from Connecticut Green Bank <p>Discussion ensued on potential sites, process of installation, cost, billing for energy</p>
4.	<p><u>Storm Preparedness</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are looking at tough cold weather out there, some ice conditions. We will continue to put out storm notifications to people in town to help them prepare.
5.	<p><u>Housing Commission meetings & appointments</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have scheduled the first meeting of the Affordable Housing Commission – 1/22/2024 at 5:00pm – zoom meeting • Came across that we appointed 6 democrats to the Housing Commission, can only appoint 5 individuals of one party – spoke with Maggie Cooley and she will step aside <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to resent appointment of Maggie Cooley Rocco Botto - Seconded the motion Discussion – We appreciate Mag’s input and sorry for that mix up Motion passed unanimously</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to appoint Oscar Anderson to the Affordable Housing Commission Jennifer Markow - Seconded the motion Discussion – Given qualifications and experience and on conservation commission, would be a great fit Motion passed unanimously</p>
6.	<p><u>West Cornwall waste water project</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public comment period has ended for the environmental assessment. We did get one comment with questions which we will respond to. Consulting Engineer needs to add the comment and response to comment into the review on the platform. • Once we get that approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development that we have completed our responses we will ask them for the release of funds. The Committee will start the design phase of the project • We did get one anonymous comment and HUD people wanted us to respond/send a notification to Friends of Cornwall, as they have no known address, it is hard to communicate to a group that we do not know who they are <p>Discussion ensued on timeline for next steps</p>
7.	<p><u>Budget meetings (1/30)</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a Special Meeting on 1/30 with town departments that want to discuss budgets • Will have budget packet to BoS prior to meeting • Expectation is to get draft to BoF in early February <p>Discussion ensued on budget season and additional special meetings</p>
8.	<p><u>Appointments</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received interest from Caroline Daifotis to be on the Zoning Board of Appeals as an alternate <p><u>Motion:</u></p>

	<p>Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to appoint Caroline Daifotis to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an alternate Rocco Botto - Seconded the motion Discussion – Good qualifications, good experience Motion passed unanimously</p>
9.	<p><u>Emergency Management meeting</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1/22/2024 at 7:00pm Emergency management meeting • Town Emergency Plan has been digitized • First part of meeting will be with BoS, First Responders, Highway Department, Eversource Liaison – second part of meeting will be with Conservation people to look at community resiliency and what we can do for infrastructure, mostly flooding
10.	<p><u>New/Used Highway Truck</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town purchased a highway truck from the town of Harwinton – came with a snowplow and on spot chains – needs 2 new tires • New truck is orange
11.	<p><u>Planning & Zoning Town Plan meeting 1/23</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting will be 1/23/2024 at 7:00pm, zoom only • Town Plan of Conservation & Development is put together every 10 years <p>Anna Timell, Planning & Zoning Chair, shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The focus of the meeting will be to hear from different organizations in what way they have contributed to the goals outlined in the town plan.
12.	<p><u>Compost / MSW</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met Commissioner of DEEP, Katie Dyke at Mohawk, she also attend the COG meeting to encourage municipalities to increase the diversion of food waste. Will be working with Katie and her staff on moving the compost project forward. • Inviting DEEP to come out to visit the Transfer Station, landfill, and proposed site <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to continue our efforts to get our compost project going with the help of DEEP Jennifer Markow - Seconded the motion Discussion – Discussion ensued on moving forward with compost project, recycling, food waste, big black bags Motion passed unanimously</p>
13.	<p><u>Public Comment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nancy Berry – Good news on composting, question on website seminar recording / additional sessions • Riley Klein, Lakeville Journal – Questions on: Solar Project location for CCS/Transfer Station, spelling of name, and new truck year & cost
	<p><u>Adjournment:</u> 8:28 pm Respectfully Submitted: Jane Hall, Administrative Assistant</p>