

TOWN OF CORNWALL
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
Board of Selectmen
Minutes for meeting held on:
Tuesday, August 20th, 2024
Hybrid – In Person at Cornwall Library
& Remotely Via Zoom

Present

Selectmen

Others

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

Jane Hall, Administrative Assistant
 Press

14 Total Attendees

Call to Order	7:30 pm
Approval of Minutes	<p><u>Motion:</u> Rocco Botto - Made motion to approve the minutes from 8/6/2024 Jennifer Markow - Seconded the motion Discussion – none Motion passed unanimously</p>
Communications / Announcements	<p>Rocco Botto shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recap of recent events in town and details of upcoming events in town, recap of recent P&Z meeting <p>Jennifer Markow shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recap of recent events in town and details of upcoming events in town
Additions to the Agenda	none
1.	<p><u>Town Hall Roof, Gutters, Building Inspector report, Repairs</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Russ, Cornwall Building Official, has gone through Town Hall to identify the repairs needed and has put together a bid specification • Following the bid opening, Peter Russ will give us a recommendation by our next meeting (September 3, 2024). <p>Peter Russ, Building Official, shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 contractors have reviewed building and the bid specs and will submit their bids by the 29th <p>Discussion ensued on details of repairs needed, bid schedule</p>
2.	<p><u>Highway Department Backhoe</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of the research the office did from the questions pertaining to replacing the backhoe – municipal discount for purchasing new machine, lightly used machine, type of machine, leasing options <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to accept the recommendation of the highway foreman to buy a John Deere backhoe to replace our Caterpillar backhoe through the state bid and Sourcewell program Rocco Botto - Seconded the motion Discussion – Discussion ensued on usage of backhoe and training on new backhoe Motion passed unanimously</p>
3.	<p><u>Hammond Beach roof</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will need to look at the roof at Hammond Beach in the off season
4.	<p><u>Bears</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More reports of bear damage, bears intercepting people jogging, vegetable destruction • Encouraging people to send Selectmen’s office documentation of damage reports • Need for an education program to places that don’t have as many bear
5.	<p><u>Tax Collector – Appointed by BoS – Ordinance to Town meeting</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you to Jean for her service to the town, she has decided this will be her last term serving as tax collector. • Draft ordinance has been sent to Town Attorney to review, goal would be to get this on annual town meeting in the fall <p>Jean Bouteiller, Cornwall Tax Collector, shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax Collector needs to take classes, be certified, and the process could take 3 years. Many towns share appointed Tax Collectors with other towns, most CT Tax Collectors are appointed vs. elected <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to send this ordinance to the town meeting this fall upon review of the town attorney and our tax collector Rocco Botto - Seconded the motion Discussion – Rocco Botto shared the research he did on appointing a Tax Collector Motion passed unanimously</p>
6.	<p><u>West Cornwall Wastewater project</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had a call with HUD today to continue working on completing checklist to get the go ahead to start the design • Goal is to get the committee and Steve back together on a regular basis, starting in September, the 2nd Tuesday of the month
7.	<p><u>TRIPS Grant</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway signed the Commitment to Fund Letter for the TRIP grant for the sidewalk and crosswalk improvement program in West Cornwall and Cornwall Bridge for \$868,000</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to authorize Gordon Ridgway to sign the Commitment to Fund Letter for the TRIP grant Rocco Botto - Seconded the motion Discussion – none Motion passed unanimously</p>
8.	<p><u>Brownfield Assessment Grant – Route 7</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informed of a Brownfield Assessment grant opportunity by Jocelyn Ayer, housing advocate in Litchfield county, and had a discussion with Northwest Hills Council of Governments (COG) that there will be a regional grant application submitted. • This grant will provide funding for assessment for Brownfield site • COG will do all of the administrative work and application <p>Discussion ensued on details of the grant and a brief history of the contamination of the site.</p> <p>Ginni Block, chair of Cornwall Housing Corporation, shared that CHC signed paperwork today to have an option to purchase the property on Route 7 (Clerk addendum: Property being discussed is 282 Kent Rd, purchased by David Berto in the tax lien sale in October 2023)</p>
9.	<p><u>Board / Commission Vacancies</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared a list of vacancies on boards and commissions, will publicize list to full vacancies.</p>

<p>10.</p>	<p><u>Tax Refund request</u></p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to grant tax refund request \$382.72 for overpayment of taxes Jennifer Markow - Seconded the motion Discussion – none Motion passed unanimously</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p><u>Public Comment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 public comments received.
	<p><u>Adjournment:</u> 8:18 pm</p> <p>Respectfully Submitted: Jane Hall, Administrative Assistant</p>