

TOWN OF CORNWALL

REGULAR MEETING OF THE

Board of Selectmen

Minutes for meeting held on:
Tuesday, April 15th, 2025
Hybrid – In Person at Cornwall Library
& Remotely Via Zoom

Present

Selectmen

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

Others

- Jane Hall, Administrative Assistant
- Press
- Citizens

Call to Order	7:36 pm
Approval of Minutes	<p><u>Motion:</u> Jennifer Markow – Made motion to approve the minutes from 4/1/2025 Rocco Botto – Seconded the motion Discussion – none Motion passed unanimously</p>
Communications / Announcements	<p>First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robert Nethery has resigned from the Inland Wetlands Commission as an alternate <p>Jennifer Markow shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccine clinic at UCC parish house May 14th <p>Rocco Botto shared an update on the CEN project</p>
Additions to the Agenda	none
1.	<p><u>Budget Hearing 4/11</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget hearing was last Friday, Will continue to post and will vote on it at town meeting
2.	<p><u>Town Meeting 5/16</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town meeting is scheduled for 5/16 – two items on agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt the town budget Appropriate \$10,000 from Gates bequest for 250th celebration <p>Discussion ensued Gates bequest fund</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway – Made motion to take those two items to a town meeting on May 16th at 7:30pm at CCS Rocco Botto – Seconded the motion Discussion – Details of meeting, details of advertising meeting Motion passed unanimously</p> <p>Board of Selectmen signed the town meeting notice and return.</p>
3.	<p><u>Naomi Freeman Rd 4/23</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be a presentation at CCS on 4/23 at 10:30 by the 7th graders
4.	<p><u>America 250</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared details of potential programs for the celebration and statewide efforts to collaborate on the events.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway – Made motion to appoint Bill Dinneen, Warren Stevens, Bill McClean, Gordon Ridgway, Jennifer Markow, and Rocco Botto to the America 250 Committee Rocco Botto – Seconded the motion</p>

	<p>Discussion – none Motion passed unanimously</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway – Made motion to join the statewide effort for America 250 Rocco Botto – Seconded the motion Discussion – none Motion passed unanimously</p> <p>Warren Stevens joined the discussion and shared information about his progress on the Militia Day encampment.</p>
5.	<p><u>Compost / Municipal Solid Waste</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spoke with HRRRA about their composting success • have letter from COG that asks up for support the efforts of keeping the Torrington Transfer Station open as a public facility – would honor current municipal service agreement through June 30 2027 <p><u>Motion:</u> Jennifer Markow – Made motion to allow Gordon Ridgway to sign letter of support Rocco Botto – Seconded the motion Discussion – none Motion passed unanimously</p>
6.	<p><u>Road Resurfacing – Cream Hill Area</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweeping and resurfacing Cream Hill, Cogswell, part of Music Mountain, Rexford, and possibly Rattlesnake Rd.
7.	<p><u>West Cornwall Covered Bridge</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Cornwall Covered Bridge was hit again last week, luckily not damaged heavily – have been in contact with state liaison <p>Discussion ensued on ideas to prevent motorists from hitting the bridge</p>
8.	<p><u>Hammond Beach</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiring lifeguards, a new Beach Director, and Water Safety Instructor – will post in chronicle and get advertise in the papers and with the schools
9.	<p><u>Town Ordinance Request – Tax Reduction for Hiking Trails</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received request for the town to adopt an ordinance for people that have a granted easement on their property – alt of these properties already have a complete tax reduction or have a 490 reductions We should try to maintain our tax base • Will not be taking it to a town meeting
10.	<p><u>Highway Department – Maintainer Interviews Schedule</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received applications for the position – will work on getting a schedule for interviews later this month
11.	<p><u>Land Use Coordinator – Job Posting</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long time land use coordinator, Karen Nelson, is retiring probably effective 1stof July. Goal is to set that date so we can advertise and interview candidates
12.	<p><u>Suspend Tax List</u> First Selectman Gordon Ridgway shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax suspense list, mostly taxes owned on cars – by suspending it does not mean that they no longer owe the tax, it means that it will no longer be on the town’s books – they are turned over to a collection agency to collect- just under \$2000 total <p><u>Motion:</u> Gordon Ridgway - Made motion to grant the request of the Tax Collector to add these old owed taxes to the suspense list Rocco Botto - Seconded the motion Discussion – none Motion passed unanimously</p>

13.	<p><u>Tax Refund Request</u></p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Jennifer Markow - Made motion to grant tax refund requests totaling \$173.59 Rocco Botto - Seconded the motion Discussion – none Motion passed unanimously</p>
14.	<p><u>Public Comment</u></p> <p>2 public comments received</p>
	<p><u>Adjournment:</u> 20:23</p> <p>Respectfully Submitted: Jane Hall, Administrative Assistant</p>