

Minutes
Select Board Meeting
Town of Coventry
Monday May 2, 2022

This meeting was recorded on Zoom and then posted to YouTube. The link to the Town's YouTube channel is at www.coventryvt.org.

Board Members Present

Scott Briere, Chair
David Gallup
Phil Marquette

Town Officials Present

David Barlow, Treasurer & Acting Secretary to the Select Board
Praneet Menon, School Director & Planning Commission
Deb Tanguay, Clerk

Residents Present

Len and Donna Griffes, residents
Kerry Keement, resident
Leo Piette, resident

Contractors Present

Norman Patenaude

Press Present

none

1. Order

David B called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. Persons present introduced themselves.

2. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

Kerry Keement requested the "Coventry Fall Festival" be added to Other Business.

3. Allow for public comment

Leo Piette handed out a written request to the Select Board. He then stated his written concern that "the Ghou1," Heermanville Road, is on the paving schedule. He feels that the road will lose its character if paved and that as a gravel road, it is best serving the needs of the many walkers, runners, and bikers who use the Ghou1. The Select Board agreed to add this item to "Other Business" so that they could discuss the topic and possibly make decisions.

4. 2022 road work bids

The Select Board opened the three bids received for the proposed 2022 road work. David G stated that the prices were very high at this point in time and volatile. He recommended "crack sealing" the subject roads (instead of top coating) and waiting for the oil market to settle down. He also recommended re-addressing the 2021 paving work that remains to be done, delaying the Airport Road and Heermanville Road paving until next year (2023)(still to be done at the contracted 2021 price). He recommended moving ahead with the paving of Pine Hill Road and the remaining portion of Coventry Station Road (both part of the 2021 contract). The Select Board agreed with this approach, and the 2021 Contactor, Norman P agreed to consider the proposed contract change. A lengthy discussion of paving mix types ensued. Phil M motioned to not accept any of the bids due to market conditions, Scott B seconded, unanimously approved.

5. Meeting house (former church) update

David B presented the draft request for painting bids. He also noted that Mr. Girouard, the adjoining parcel owner, had met with him earlier in the day and expressed his concern that the painters correctly handle any existing lead paint on the building. David B suggested that the Town have the paint tested for lead. The Select Board agreed to have David B get the building tested for lead paint, and reword the proposed request for painting bids to ask for two cost figures - one with lead paint precautions, and one without, and then advertise it.

6. Property line issue at Town garage parcel (269 Main St)

In response to an (251 Main St) adjoining parcel holder's claim that he owned part of the land the Town considers as part of 269 Main Street, David B had researched and submitted the three deeds and two surveys involved to the Town's real estate attorney for her review and opinion. She responded that the disputed piece of land belonged to the Town of Coventry, as noted in the three deeds. The adjoining parcel holder, Mr. Cobb, has been informed of the results and agreed that the Town owned the land. He requested that granite blocks he had placed to block Town access to the disputed land be returned to him at 251 Main St (the Town had removed them to unblock access).

7. Town Administrator job description and advertisement

David B presented an edited version of the job description used to hire the previous Town Administrator. A lengthy discussion over a range of related topics followed, with some suggested edits to the job description and position advertisement from the Select Board as well as direction to David B to publish the advertisement.

8. Flood zone permit update; Board of Adjustment scheduled for 4 May

David B updated the posting of the upcoming flood zone permit hearing for a project at 88 Main Street. He presented the draft “conditions” to the conditional use permit and discussed each briefly. He also presented a letter to the Select Board to ask the Act 250 District 7 coordinator for a jurisdictional opinion on if the 88 Main Street project requires an Act 250 permit. He also requested that the Town establish the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) in the village, based on the State of Vermont’s recommendation to use the 2019 Halloween high-water mark as the BFE. That would involve hiring a surveyor to monument the high-water mark. Phil M motioned to have David B get a surveyor to monument the BFE. Seconded by Scott B; unanimously approved.

9. Minutes from April 18 Select Board Meeting

Tabled, as David B had not printed them out for the Select Board Meeting.

10. Other Business

a. Coventry Fall Festival – Kerry K announced the Fall Festival committee had determined that Saturday, August 28 would be a logical date to hold the festival, with Sunday, August 29 as a rain date for the fireworks show. These dates avoid competing with the Barton Fair.

b. Heermanville Road (the “Ghoul”). This topic was already addressed in the previous road contract discussion. Paving will be delayed at least a year.

11. Warrants:

a. Sansoucy billing

Scott B stated that he had talked with Brian Monaghan (the Town attorney) who was investigating, but that he had not heard back from Brian as he (Brian) is on vacation. A lengthy discussion followed, with direction from Scott B to David B to contact Brian Monaghan.

b. Orleans Fire Dept contract

Following a brief discussion, Scott B will ask Orleans for an updated contract.

c. Review warrants and sign

Phil M motioned to accept the warrants as written, seconded by Scott B, unanimously approved.

12. Adjourn

Motioned by Scott B, seconded by Phil M, unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Approved 16 May 2022

Scott Briere - Chair

David Gallup

Phil Marquette