

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 1, 2024 6:30-8:30 pm**

Present: Dillon Gallagher, Chair, John Hammond, Jason Bourne

1. BOS reviewed invoices, mail and signed checks.
2. Mary Curtis asked to take Thursday off. All agreed it was okay.
3. Troy Simino came in to report that he would be doing forestry work on Skyline Drive on the Class VI portion of the road. He will improve the road to allow trucks to transport logs from the landing. A bridge will need repair as well as a few culverts that are plugged or need to be replaced. Troy will be doing the work and shoulder the cost. He will be working there this summer. Troy would be interested in bidding on the job to repair the Leavitt Hill bridge. The BOS is planning to have an RFP available for bidding.
4. John made motion to approve the March 2024 minutes for the BOS. Seconded by Jason. Voted unanimous in favor.
5. John mentioned that he had heard from one of the Platt family that Connie White would be back in Cornish in mid-April. Her daughter Daphne will bring her up to Cornish. She suggested that the BOS send a letter informing Connie that she is the recipient of the Boston Post Cane. A formal letter will be sent to her.
6. Joanna Sharf came in to talk about the weatherization of the Town Office Building. She was seeking 3 RFP's and only received 2. The building would have the ceiling capped with cellulose insulation and the windows and doors sealed of cracks and air leaks. Joanna also encouraged the BOS to get on board with Community Power Initiative. She feels the Town could benefit with the Joint Power Agreement.
7. Justin Ranney came in to report that 2 wells had been drilled and have come up empty. They have run out of money and plan to go back to a filtration system on the current water supply. The school is continuing to look at other locations. Justin also came in to talk about the voting days being held at the Town Hall. The BOS replied that the state and general elections will be held at the school gym. Justin brought up the topic of having both the school and Town voting on the same day. The BOS felt that it might create a lot of confusion combining the two entities.
8. The BOS returned a phone call to Tim Schad. He is persistent in his concern about the state of the roads in Town.
9. The BOS had a continued discussion on an ad hoc temporary Road Advisory Committee. They feel that 5 members would be a good number.

Respectfully submitted.

John S. Hammond

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 4, 2024 4:00-6:00 pm**

Present: Dillon Gallagher, Chair, John Hammond, Jason Bourne

1. Mike Boutilier came in to be sworn in for another 3 year term as Fire Chief.
2. The BOS discussed the repair of the Leavitt Hill bridge. Eckman Engineering has presented a preliminary proposal for the repair of the bridge. A discussion took place about possible placing a temporary bridge across the brook by the fire station to access LeClair drive. This would allow the current bridge to be closed. Also, while the bridge was repaired the swimming hole could be dredged. There would need to be an RFP for Professional Engineering and Survey Services. The Board will be looking for multiple proposals for the engineering bids.
3. The BOS took the time to clean up excess paperwork on the desk.

Respectfully submitted.

John S. Hammond

**aTown of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 8, 2024 6:30-8:30 pm**

Present: Dillon Gallagher, Chair, John Hammond, Jason Bourne

1. BOS reviewed invoices, mail and signed checks.
2. The office does not have phone service since Saturday. Other places in Town do not have land line service.
3. The Selectboard, in a majority vote, accepted the terms of the Emergency Management Performance Grant as presented in the amount of \$32,000.00 for the purchase and installation of a shelter generator for the community's shelter. Furthermore, the Board acknowledges that the total cost of this project will be \$64,000.00, in which the town will be responsible for a 50% match (\$32,000.00).
4. Motion made by Jason, seconded by Dillon to accept the Cornish Hazard Mitigation Plan. Voted unanimous.
5. Linda Leone came in to visit the BOS. Linda came to see if the Town had a zoom account. She also said the Town of Plainfield asked to see if the Town would be interested in Neighbor to Neighbor to have students from Plainfield come and help out with community service. It could amount up to 12 individuals. Linda also asked about liability concerns. Discussion took place on various places in Town that might be possible; Cornish Fair, Cornish School or Town buildings.
6. The BOS called Wayne Gray to ask about the plan for grading the dirt roads. He has Mike Duval coming in on Tuesday to start the grading. He has reviewed the job applications and is interviewing Chris Chilton this week.

7. Lyle Parry came in to talk about the condition of the roads. He is concerned about the plans to get things done. Lyle encouraged the BOS to talk to some capable folks in Town to be able to be available for part time work for the Highway Department.
8. The BOS had a lengthy discussion concerning the personnel at the Highway Department. Records and planning are not being addressed in the workings of the department. The BOS is going to adhere to the current Town policy of an 8 hour day and a 5 day work week.

Respectfully submitted.

John S. Hammond

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 11, 2024 4:00-6:00 pm**

Present: Dillon Gallagher, Chair, John Hammond, Jason Bourne

1. BOS reviewed mail and invoices.
2. Mike Monette came in to inquire if the BOS had signed the "permit by notification" for the state. Wayne Gray also talked about the cemetery (Childs) funeral on April 26th. There are a couple trees that need to be removed before the funeral. Dillon asked if a rear discharge mower was needed to be used instead of a side discharge mower. If the Town hired a contractor, this would be stated in the proposal.
3. Mike also asked if Kevin Noble could set up the speaker system at the Memorial Day Ceremony. Stone Vault from Newport has given the Town a quote to straighten the headstones in the cemeteries. Wayne will get a quote in writing so we can get started. There is money available to pay for the work. Mike will contact Leo Maslan and set if the Boy Scouts will set out flags for Memorial Day.
4. Steve Parks came in to talk about mowing some of the Town properties. He would be using his own equipment. It amounts to 12 properties excluding the cemeteries. Steve doesn't have the means to pick up the leaves. He would only commit to mowing the grass.
5. Marcia Paradise came in to talk about plow damage to her lawn on Root Hill Road. This was due to the late March snow storms. There has been a lot of plow damage late this winter. Wayne said that he was going to go out and address the damage. It amounted to about 150 feet along the road.
6. Wayne said the floor grates at the shop have been pretty well worn out. Cohen Steel gave a quote, for just the material, of \$2,014.16. Wayne will get quotes from 2 other vendors. The '24 truck will go to Reed's to have some issues addressed. If it isn't run daily, the battery goes dead. The Highway crew has been working on opening up some of the beaver dams. Larry Duval has been monitoring the water levels around town. Dillon asked what needed to be done to finish paving on Jackson Road. He is looking for at least 3 quotes to bid the proposed jobs. He will be asking for 2024 bid prices.

7. Jason said that we would look for 3 engineering proposals for the bridge repair on Leavitt Hill. Eckman Engineering has given an assessment of the bridge but needs a more complete report. Jason will prepare an RFP for the proposals.
8. Wayne has requested to lock in the price for material from Pike Industries. The BOS agreed to his request.
9. The BOS gave Wayne some paperwork that will help provide records of work done. Jason brought up the subject of the current four 9 hour days and a 4 hour day on Friday. The Town policy states five 8 hour days for a full 40 hour work week. Wayne was directed to return to the five 8 hour work days.
10. Edminster Cemetery Road is open. The short section of Clark Camp Road is still closed as is Whitten Cemetery Road.

Respectfully submitted.
John Hammond

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 15, 2024 6:30-8:30 pm**

Present: Dillon Gallagher, Chair, John Hammond, Jason Bourne

1. BOS reviewed invoices, mail and signed checks.
2. Lois Fitts came in to talk about a new driveway on Route 120 across from Creamery Road. There is a poor line of sight looking at the traffic coming from the north. Her suggestion is a "blind driveway" sign would be a good safety precaution. She has expressed her view to folks at the DOT. The DOT hopes that the BOS will contact them and support the concerns.
3. Jayden Garland came in to drop off an application for laborer at the Highway Department. He is a Cornish resident that recently moved to Town.
4. Shelly Brookings came in to submit a building permit for a porch roof on St. Gauden's Road. A shed is also included in the permit.
5. Jason moved that President's Day be a holiday to replace Town Meeting Day. Seconded by Dillon. Voted in favor unanimously.
6. Mike Duval came in to report on his grading on the Town roads. He reports that the roads are very hard and the grader is having trouble cutting out the pot holes. The last 2 snow storms in March, a lot of the gravel was plowed off into the ditches. Mike prefers putting down 1 ½" crushed gravel for adding to the soft roads. For roads that are hard, ¾" hard pack works well for a top coat.
7. The BOS discussed the sale of some town owned properties. Another discussion talked about the alternate route for traffic with the repair of the Leavitt Hill Bridge at the end of School Street. The BOS will meet at 4:00pm on Thursday April 18th at the Fire Station for a site visit.

Respectfully submitted.

John S. Hammond

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 18, 2024 4:00-6:00 pm**

Present: Dillon Gallagher, Chair, John Hammond, Jason Bourne

1. BOS met with Wayne Gray at the Highway Garage. The Board looked at the material samples supplied by St. Pierre and Pike Industries. Products were 1 ½ “ crushed stone, 1” crushed stone, hard pack and 1 ½” crushed gravel. Wayne has ordered a large load of each product to stockpile.
2. BOS then made site visits on Lang Road and Fernald Hill Road.
3. BOS returned to the office and reviewed mail and invoices.
4. Tim Godfrey came in to give a quote for mowing the Town cemeteries. He has looked at the cemeteries and also said he might be interested in a job for the Town. The BOS encouraged him to put in an application.

Respectfully submitted,

John Hammond

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 22, 2024 6:30-8:30 pm**

Present: Dillon Gallagher, Chair, John Hammond, Jason Bourne

1. BOS reviewed invoices, mail and signed checks.
2. The 2024 updated Hazard Mitigation Plan is complete and in the Town Office. Prepared by the UVLSRPC and the Cornish Hazard Mitigation Committee.
3. Bill Wall came in to talk about a change in the law when a lease has expired the landlord may evict the tenant. He also brought in an article concerning the Lebanon landfill's power generation plant using the methane produced. The bill of 6.6 million dollars will be paid by the users of the landfill.
4. Mike Boutilier came to check in the with BOS. Everything seems to be going well in the Cornish Fire Department. Engine 2 has some rust that needs to be repaired. The truck is a 1995 model. Dingee Machine will look at the truck.
5. Steve Jameson came in to talk about the beavers that are flooding his property and building a dam inside the culvert on Parsonage Road. He has done extensive work in the past few years on his land and it is again under water. The Road Agent has been monitoring all the beaver activity in Town. It is an ongoing problem in many places.
6. Wayne Gray discussed the beaver dam inside the culvert on Tandy Brook Road. It is currently about 2/3 full in the inside of the culvert.

7. Mike Duval has been grading the roads around Town.
8. Mike West has given his notice and will be done in 2 weeks. The BOS will have an exit interview before he is done. The BOS asked that Mike give a written notice of his departure.
9. Wayne will be ordering more ¾” crushed stone from Pike Industries. Six loads will be delivered and will be tailgate spread on the roads. The BOS encouraged Wayne to try and find some local parttime help with a CDL license.
10. Wayne has picked up some downed trees in some of the cemeteries. Childs and Huggins cemeteries still have dead and wind fall trees that are down.
11. Steve Parks came in to get an Elementary School raffle permit for his wife. He also gave the BOS a proposal for mowing the Town buildings and grounds.
12. Wayne has been getting quotes on paving projects for this summer. He is requesting quotes from 4 paving companies. Top coats and shim coats will be priced differently. Two inches for shim coat and 1 ½” for a top coat. Wayne will be putting cold patch on pot holes on the tar roads.
13. Recycling Center needs to crush the glass and take the material to Springfield.
14. Paul Rondeau has picked up a driveway permit from the Highway Department. A driveway has been put in but does not comply with the line of sight and the Town standards. The permit will be reviewed but may not be approved.

Respectfully submitted.

John S. Hammond

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 25, 2024 4:00-6:00 pm**

Present: Dillon Gallagher, Chair, John Hammond, Jason Bourne

1. BOS reviewed invoices and mail.
2. BOS looked at and repaired a leak in the upstairs bathroom.
3. Road Agent, Wayne Gray, came in to talk about highway issues. He has gotten quotes from some of the paving companies. It appears that a house on Center Road has an addition under construction that seems to be too close to the brook and doesn’t meet the setback requirement.
4. The Tandy Brook beaver dam in the culvert has been removed. Mike Duval ran the back hoe. The water dropped 6 feet below the dam. The beaver problem on Parsonage Road has been addressed. The back water created by the dam has receded but continues to be a problem. Some of the dead fall at the cemeteries has been picked up and removed.
5. Several building permits will be site visited next Thursday.
6. Sylvia Platt stopped at the office to say “hi” as she was registering her vehicle with the Town Clerk.
7. The new ’24 Town truck has been picked up at Reed’s. A kill switch was installed to remedy a draw on the battery due to the addition of the radio. Projects that the highway crew will work on include cemetery clean up, culvert replacement and cold patch tar

roads. There is an exposed wire on East Road by Tiff Road that is a problem with being able to grade the road. It seems to be a Consolidated wire and has been put under the road. Wayne will try to find more information on its origin and use. The grading has been concentrating on the most travelled roads. About 1/3 of the roads have been covered. The roads should be unposted by the first of May.

8. The BOS will continue to look for proposals to contract out the cemetery mowing and spring cleanup. The grass has started growing.
9. Mike Trenholm called looking for Mary Curtis concerning a building permit. He needs to talk to the Fire Chief.
10. Larry Dingee came in and talked about the repair to the Leavitt hill Bridge. The BOS discussed the idea of a temporary bridge next to the fire station as an access from LeClair Drive to Leavitt Hill. A washout on the brook would need to be filled in to reduce the temporary bridge span.
11. Tim Schad called to encourage the Town to purchase from Pike Industries.
12. Larry Dingee asked about how much ARPA money was available for use. He said that the applications need to be in by September.

Respectfully submitted,

John Hammond

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 29, 2024 6:30-8:30 pm**

Present: Dillon Gallagher, Chair, John Hammond, Jason Bourne

1. BOS reviewed invoices, mail and signed checks.
2. Bill Wall came in to inform the BOS about a senate Bill 553. The banks will take money from the state pool to invest (680 million). He feels the BOS should contact our legislators.
3. Norman Skakalski called in inquire about an interior renovation of his home. He would like to finish a room upstairs into another bedroom. The BOS suggested that he check his septic design size to allow for another bedroom. Other than the septic system, no permit would be needed to do an interior upgrade. Norman will check with the state and get back to the BOS.
4. Jim Strout came in to talk about the mowing of Town properties and cemeteries. He would like to have the money stay in Town instead of hiring a contractor out of town. He also feels that the fire pond needs to be dredged.
5. The BOS did a site visit to view the landscaping at the front of the Town Office. A suggestion was made that forsythia be planted on either side of the entrance.
6. Steve Wilkie called about putting a bridge in for the Sullivan County ATV Club. They have decided to put in a steel structure for the deck on the bridge. The proposed bridge upgrade is on Skyline Drive. They will be applying for a grant to cover the extra cost.

7. The BOS continue to discuss the repair of the Leavitt Hill bridge. Troy Simino has expressed interest in being part of the project. A site visit would provide more insight on how to do the project.
8. The BOS called a couple Town residents about being part time help for the highway department. This would allow for more work to be done on the roads by folks that have a CDL license.

Respectfully submitted.

John S. Hammond