



## TOWN OF CALAIS

3120 Pekin Brook Road  
East Calais, Vermont 05650

Selectboard Approved Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 27 and March 2, 2023  
Location: Calais Town Hall (note no Zoom option)

6:05 pm – called to Order

Curtis Pond Dam Public Informational Meeting for bond vote warned for Town Meeting ballot.

Attendance list attached.

Sharon Fannon made a motion to nominate Barbara McAndrew to serve as moderator, seconded by Denise Wheeler, unanimously approved.

Barbara McAndrew read the bond language (Article 20) into the record.

CPA members Colleen Bloom, Jamie Moorby, Reenie DeGus and John Rosenblum provided background on the Curtis Pond Dam and presented a short video prepared by Don Bell. Jamie Moorby noted the CPA's fundraising efforts. Many in attendance commented on this matter. (See ORCA video for comments.)

At 6:50 pm Sharon Fannon made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Denise Wheeler and unanimously approved.

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Selectboard Meeting:

Attending: Sharon Fannon, Denise Wheeler, John Brabant, Rick Kehne and Marc Mihaly (via telephone)

Others attending: ORCA media (left the meeting unexpectedly after the Curb Cut Ordinance discussion), see attached attendance list

Called to Order at 7:05 pm.

- Additions/Changes to the Agenda
  - Acknowledged Pelchuck letter re: Lightening Ridge Rd. concerns (email of 2-26-2023)
- Review and Sign Warrants

7:00 PM - Public Comment (for items not on the agenda) - NONE

Consent Agenda –

- \* Minutes for January 2, 5, 9, 20, 16, 18, 25 meetings; February 8 and 13 meeting.

- \* Sign letter to VTrans re: TH #7 discontinuance clarification

- \* Ratify Denise and Rick completion of road crew \$5,250 change order request for fit-up of new 2024 Western Star truck

Denise Wheeler made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Rick Kehne, and unanimously approved.

Curtis Pond swim area railing proposal – Linda Schütz presented a \$4,500. estimate from Northstar Ventures. Linda stated that the railing would provide greater accessibility and safety for those accessing the swim area. Linda requested that ARPA funds be earmarked for this expense. The board thanked Linda for taking on this initiative and coming back to the board with a proposal in February as requested.

Friends of Calais Town Hall – the board received a second letter of request from the Friends on February 27<sup>th</sup> requesting \$5,000. from the ARPA funds to help offset costs for improvements to the upstairs of the town hall (insulation and heating system). Denise Wheeler read the letter into the record.

The board reviewed an updated ARPA funds spreadsheet and concluded that it had over committed. Denise Wheeler suggested that the traffic calming study could be completed by seeking a grant which would include grant administration through CVRPC. John Brabant stated that a budget adjustment request for the cost of the railings could be made from the floor at Town Meeting. Sharon Winn Fannon clarified that the board had overpromised, but not overspent. Except for funds already distributed to CVFiber and spent on radar speed signs, the funds are still available.

A future board will ultimately have authority and responsibility over unexpended ARPA funds.

Appoint Denise Wheeler and John Brabant to continue as CPA dam project liaisons, until a new board appoints liaisons.

Rick Kehne made a motion to appoint Denise Wheeler and John Brabant to continue as CPA dam project liaison until a new board appoints liaisons; this was seconded by John Brabant, and unanimously approved.

Review proposed revisions to curb cut ordinance. Stephanie Kaplan, Chair, Conservation Commission reviewed and discussed with the board recent updates and revisions made to the ordinance after receiving public comment from the board's meeting on February 13, 2023 and further consultation with the town attorney. It was noted that this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> selectboard warned public meeting to discuss this item.

Rich Cowart, Jamie Moorby and Mack Gardner-Morse spoke in opposition to the revised ordinance stating they felt that the process has been rushed and that the ordinance needed more work and opportunity for public comment and input.

No action taken.

Review second draft traffic control ordinance. John Brabant explained and reviewed revisions made based on public input from the February 13, 2023 meeting.

The following residents spoke in favor of the ordinance:

Sage Kennedy, Bob Patterson, Peter Harvey, Cindy Gardner-Morse, Chris Lyford, Betty Copeland, Mason Singer, Janet Ancel, Eva Gumprecht, Maureen Cassidy, Naomi Reid (not necessarily in that order). John Brabant read and email from Carolyn Herz in favor. Some also spoke to the need for more enforcement of the speed limits.

Rose Pelchuck was not in favor of the ordinance for reduction in speed limits the dirt roads; she is in favor of speed reduction on County Rd. and noted some dates of amendments errors in the ordinance.

John Brabant made a motion to approve the revised traffic ordinance; seconded by Marc Mihaly and unanimously approved. John Brabant made a motion to rescind the approved motion, seconded by Marc Mihaly and unanimously approved. John Brabant made a motion to approve the revised traffic ordinance after making corrections to the ordinance amendment dates and adding the findings and adoption page as advised by the town attorney, this was seconded by Rick Kehne and unanimously approved.

Eva Gumprecht Curb Cut application CC # 2023-1. This project meets the sight distance requirements; no new culvert is needed. Rick Kehne made a motion to approve the curb cut application, seconded by John Brabant and unanimously approved.

At 9:35 pm the board made a finding pursuant to § 313(a)(1) that premature general public knowledge would place the public body at a substantial disadvantage. At 9:35 pm Denise Wheeler made a motion to enter executive session per § 313(a)(1)(F) to discuss a confidential attorney-client communication; this was seconded by John Brabant and unanimously approved. The board exited executive session at 9:55 pm and had nothing to report.

At 10:00 pm Denise Wheeler made a motion to continue this meeting to Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Calais Town Hall, this was seconded by John Brabant and unanimously approved.

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At 7:10 pm on Thursday, March 2, 2023 the board reconvened the meeting from Monday, February 27, 2023.

<http://www.calaisvermont.gov/>

Attending: Denise Wheeler, Rick Kehne, John Brabant, Sharon Fannon and Marc Mihaly (via telephone).

Others attending: Stephanie Kaplan, Chair, Conservation Commission

The board continued its review and discussion of the revised curb cut ordinance. John Brabant made additional changes based on the discussion and public input from Monday, February 27, 2023. The board struggled and labored over the deep belief and concern that the curb cut ordinance (from 2004) needed significant modifications and updates to incorporate important natural resource components and involve other town departments in the curb cut process including notification to adjoining/adjacent landowners that may be impacted.

The board acknowledged and thanked the Calais Conservation Commission for the significant time and effort that was done to modify and update the ordinance.

There will be a new selectboard in a week and the current board believes the Ordinance is 90% complete but does not feel comfortable given some additional changes that need to be made. The board will adopt a resolution and submit it to the new board asking that they pursue and pass the updated curb cut ordinance and not let it linger.

The board agreed to meet on Monday, March 6 at 7:00 pm at the Calais Town Hall to adopt and sign the resolution. Denise Wheeler will warn the meeting.

Roads Report – Rick Kehne provided an update.

Kent Hill scoping study grant awarded to Calais for the culvert at intersection of Kent Hill and Pekin Brook Rd.

Denise Wheeler made a motion to authorize Rick Kehne as acting road commissioner to sign the approved grant forms, seconded by John Brabant and unanimously approved.

Denise Wheeler will submit the signed forms.

At 8:25 pm Rick Kehne made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Denise Wheeler and unanimously approved.