

**CORNISH PLANNING BOARD
MINUTES
DECEMBER 2, 2021**

The Cornish Planning Board met on Thursday, December 2, 2021, at 7:00 PM. Members present were Bill Lipfert, Chair, Everett Cass, Jonathan Glass (via zoom), and Kellie Patterson Parry (via zoom); Linda Leone, Alternate (via zoom); Dillon Gallagher, Selectman; and Heidi Jaarsma, Secretary.

Bill Lipfert called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Approval of 11/4/2021 Minutes.

The Board discussed the proposed road improvements described in the 11/4/21 minutes. Dillon Gallagher made a motion to approve the minutes. Everett Cass seconded the motion, and the vote of the Board, by roll call, was in the affirmative, 6-0.

Broadband.

Bill Lipfert reported that he had spoken with Carol Miller from the National Coalition for Digital Equity about the creation of a broadband plan for the Town. Mr. Lipfert said that the \$5,000 quote from the Coalition was not a lot of money when talking about digital services. From his experience in the engineering consulting profession, Mr. Lipfert said that anything less than \$25,000 does not make economic sense for an engineering firm. For between \$25,000 and \$50,000, Mr. Lipfert said that a consulting firm would create a map of every residence of Cornish, outline who is served, who is not, make recommendations, and support the town in negotiating with Consolidated, Comcast, the utilities, and any other organization expressing interest in providing broadband service to the Town. He added that the Coalition for Digital Equity was a non-profit and likely was hoping for an economy of scale by having a buy-in from a large number of towns. Heidi Jaarsma said that a broadband study, whether by the Coalition or a private firm, could be an eligible use of LFRF funds. Such a plan would also inform the Master Plan update.

Bill Lipfert suggested that the first step was to ascertain interest in addressing broadband. The Board discussed the current internet options available to residents and emphasized that any use of public funds brings the question of who will benefit. Mr. Lipfert circulated the *Monadnock Broadband Implementation Guide* as an example of the type of plan the Town might commission. The Monadnock guide included a community survey which the Board could use as a template to gauge interest in broadband expansion. Bill Lipfert stated that the Board could find out through a survey (1) who currently has broadband. (2) who would be interested in a new service. The Board discussed methods of implementing the survey and the type of data that would be collected. The level of interest in new service as indicated by the survey would inform a decision create an RFP for a broadband plan.

Other Business.

The Board reviewed the 2021 budget and made the recommendation to increase the miscellaneous line by \$200 for a total of \$300 to cover the expense of a broadband survey. Everett Cass made a motion to request the 2022 budget \$3,377.00, which includes an increase of

\$200 in the miscellaneous line. Jonathan Glass seconded the motion, and the vote of the Board, by roll call, was in the affirmative.

Heidi Jaarsma informed the Board that Jennifer Beliveau would like to go ahead with a previously proposed subdivision of her Leavitt Hill Road property. She has scheduled a preliminary discussion for December 21, 2021. Per Ms. Beliveau, Patrick Dombroski will send preliminary plans and a septic design shortly.

Everett Cass made a motion to adjourn. Heidi Jaarsma seconded the motion, and the vote of the Board, by roll call, was in the affirmative. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi M. Jaarsma