

Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 4, 2026 6:30-8:30

Present: Dillon Gallagher, Chair, Jason Bourne, Keith Beardslee

1. BOS reviewed invoices, mail, checks
2. Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30pm
3. Cara Decato reported that Robin Monette was resigning as supervisor of the checklist. Cara asked if the BOS had opinions on a proposed recommendation from her and Hannah Darling to fill the vacancy. Cara expressed interest in finding someone younger who might want to do the job for years to come. Selectman Gallagher said that an appointed supervisor may be until the next election, when a new supervisor would be elected to fill the position. Cara said that she would need an access code to the Town Offices for meeting purposes. Selectman Beardslee asked Cara if the supervisors appointed Mike Monette to read the names. Cara said they did not and suggested perhaps Gwyn Gallagher would be responsible for that. Mary Curtis concurred.
4. Cara Decato reported that the condition of roads has caused her some concern, given the amount of material being spread and expressed concerns for drainage and the addition of cuts in the road which turn into "speedbumps". Cara expressed concern that the roads may be too flat to drain properly. Root Hill, Hilliard, and Tandy Brook roads were examples where material has been added creating drop offs and where ditches appear to be filled in. St. Gaudens Road from Lang to Fernald Hill was also mentioned as in a similar condition.
5. Beverly Duval spoke to the BOS regarding the condition of Old Stagecoach Rd, which she said had been graded and was left with many rocks and there were high spots. Bev said that previously she recalled a roller being used but the grading job this time was not smooth and she was hoping to get her Corvette on the road soon, but felt it was too uneven for such a low car.
6. Selectman Gallagher asked if members of the BOS had driven the gravel roads. Selectman Beardslee reported the roads he has traveled on. Selectman Gallagher reported he had recently driven Sunset Strip, which he reported was a tricky road to keep in shape.
7. Grace McSwain stopped in to tell the BOS that she would like to discuss a letter delivered to John McSwain regarding the use of property on Town House road, where they are currently residing. Grace said that she was not prepared to discuss, but wanted the BOS to know that they wanted to avoid any fines and that she would return with John McSwain on Thursday, May 7th to discuss further.
8. Selectman Beardslee said that he noted a bridge project underway locally was staffed by H.E.B. Engineering.
9. Selectman Beardless asked if the proposal from Brenda Jordan to collect #2 plastic at the recycling center could be approved by the board. Selectman Bourne said that he was only comfortable if Steven Monette thought it was OK as he had previously said they could not have volunteers, but recognized that she would not be putting any material into the recycling facility. Selectman Gallagher suggested waiting a few days before contacting Mr. Monette.

10. Selectman Beardslee suggested posting on the Town website to inform people that no brush clippings were allowed at the recycling center and that help was needed at the recycling center. The BOS agreed these would be important things to post on the site.
11. Selectman Beardslee suggested letting Mr. Joseph Danyow know that we received his request and have not been able to do the research yet to determine the best course of action regarding his property which has been tax deeded to the Town.
12. Mary Curtis asked about a 91-A request for communication between the BOS and Northern Borders Regional Commission Catalyst Grant between February 1 and April 30 of 2025. The BOS conducted limited electronic communication with town counsel regarding the question of the grant conditions representing an encumbrance, which is not subject to 91-A discovery, as it is attorney client privilege. Selectman Beardslee referred to a document of findings prepared on June 17th 2025, based upon the legal guidance from Town counsel. Selectman Beardslee reported that the BOS correspondence with Town counsel occurred at the end of March, citing a draft document dated 3/24/2025.
13. Erich Weeks suggested that members of the Cornish Highway department observe the Hartland highway department to learn about their ditching process so that he could continue grading, providing them with free training opportunities, but noting it would take them time away from road work. Erich reported that a truck was still waiting for welding work, so that presented a limitation for productivity and it could be an opportunity to focus on training. The BOS agreed that Erich could direct the employee to observe as a training opportunity.
14. Selectman Gallagher suggested that plows can be painted on rainy days and that stone can be placed around the highway department under the drip edge to prevent water damage on the siding.
15. Selectman Beardslee asked about a cell phone for the Road Agent. Selectman Bourne said that the BOS had discussed getting the preference of phone type from the Road Agent.
16. Selectman Beardslee suggested that the Town purchase the acoustic panels for the Town Hall. Selectman Bourne suggested that the town would need an account established to make the order and crafted an email to Mary Curtis to establish an account.
17. Selectman Gallagher suggested running Selectman Beardslee's plan for green burials by town counsel. Selectman Beardslee said he would send electronic copies of the file to Selectman Gallagher to share that with Town Counsel.
18. The BOS discussed Memorial Day planning.
19. Meeting adjourned 8:50pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne

Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 7, 2026 4:00-6:00pm

Present: Dillon Gallagher, Chair, Jason Bourne, Keith Beardslee

Selectmen signed invoices and reviewed mail.

Dillon called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

Steven Monette reported on mower maintenance needed, which would cost \$227 in parts. Steve reported on trees down at Huggins Cemetery. They plan to cut that up into smaller pieces and dispose of the wood. Selectman Gallagher asked Steve if he was comfortable with Brenda Jordan collecting number 2 plastics from people at the Recycling Center. Steve said it was fine and reported that they had done a similar project and received a bench previously, which is currently at the school. Erich Weeks asked if there were any barrels available for the school to collect the number 2 plastics. Steve said there were some at the Recycling Center.

Selectman Gallagher asked Steven Monette if he was currently a Cornish resident. Steve said he had just moved to Claremont. Steve said that he would be happy to help the Sexton, should one be appointed by the BOS, referring to Dale Lawrence, and would work with Bill Newton.

Road Agent Erich Weeks reported that wires on Hell Hollow have been moved up higher on the poles.

Erich said that Mike Duval offered to move the roller when needed for \$100.

Erich reported on fuel leaking from a gasket on the fuel pump and that he contacted Beardsley from Springfield, VT, for a repair.

Erich reported that a hydraulic line on the grader was repaired.

Erich reported having a discussion with the Fire Chief regarding road signs needing to be replaced. Erich said that there were missing road signs and stop signs. Selectman Gallagher said that the Select Board makes decisions about adding stop signs. Selectman Gallagher said it would be fine to propose those signs to the BOS, but they should not be added without approval.

Erich reported street sweeping would begin May 15th at 7:00 am. Erich said that with a new blower, there could be cost savings if the highway department could blow it away from any homes.

Erich reported that he contacted Osgood regarding welding and was told that the truck would be welded tomorrow.

Erich asked if he could coordinate with Caroline Storrs to arrange a drop-off of the blue recycling from Green Up to save man-hours for the highway department. Selectman Beardslee said that he felt that it was asking a lot of volunteers.

Erich reported that a driveway permit on Pete Daniels Rd would benefit from a culvert to divert water from the uphill side of the road. The landowner offered to pay for it to keep good neighborly relations.

Erich reported that he spoke with Bruce at All State regarding chip seal and that rubberized chip seal would, at this point, be applied late in the season based upon scheduled work. Erich reported that \$300,000 would get 4 miles of rubberized and 7 miles of conventional chip seal.

Erich reported that Bob from the highway department benefited from observing Hartland's ditching process.

Erich reported that he contacted Dig Safe for culvert maintenance on Center Rd, Clark Camp Rd, and West Pass Rd. Erich reported that Leavitt Hill Rd had a flat section that could benefit from culverts. Erich asked if road closures should be warned a week in advance. Selectman Gallagher asked how long the road would be closed. Erich reported it would likely be 9am - 2pm. Selectman Gallagher asked if the work could cover half the road to open one lane sooner. Erich said the equipment would be in the road, so it would not be passable. Erich asked if the GPS coordinates would be sufficient for the culvert inventory, matching the coordinates to the culvert numbers previously provided. Selectman Gallagher suggested that Erich continue the inventory of culverts not already on the list, then focus on updating GPS coordinates on the list.

Erich provided a proposed Mission Statement for the Highway Department and a proposed 1-year and 10-year plan for the BOS to consider.

Selectman Gallagher asked if Road Agent Erich Weeks could provide a plan in advance of weekly work, saying that the BOS could provide some guidance if there was advance notice, rather than receiving reports of work done the prior week. Erich said he could do that.

Erich reported on the grading work done on Sunset Strip. Selectman Gallagher said that Sunset has a difficult ditch line due to ledge and expressed his concern that grading could contribute to filling in the shallow ditch line. Selectman Beardslee on material having been put down on Tandy Brook Road and expressed concern that the ditch was filled in and that the grade of the road was shallow, nearly flat in some spots. Erich said that the grader can't cut the road enough to get the proper grade. Selectman Beardslee reported that Mike Duval had reported in the past that he would have to cut multiple times. Erich reported that he cuts two times in each direction, but that he ends up trying to cut into the base. Erich reported it's possible to get more material down to correct some of those spots. Selectman Beardslee reported that \$30,000 had been put down already. Erich said he anticipated putting down \$80,000 in gravel. Erich reported that he had 1-1/2" material he can't use stockpiled. Erich said that he prefers to use a 3 percent grade, but could use a 4 percent grade if the BOS wants. Selectman Gallagher reported that the BOS had received feedback on grading and ditching in our last meeting. Erich said more time could be spent on grading, but that there could be overtime implications. Selectman Gallagher said that Erich should focus on shaping the roads. Erich asked if the BOS wanted him to hold off on adding any more material. Selectman Beardslee clarified that the BOS was not saying that Erich needs to stop putting material down.

Jacob Simino reported that the Fair Association is revising their parking plan for the Cornish Fair. The Cornish Fair Association is asking for permission to park cars on the soccer field and the baseball diamond. Selectman Beardslee asked for clarification of the lease agreement. Jacob reported that the lease agreement is through 2029. Selectman Gallagher asked if the soccer field was soft. Jacob said he had just walked it and reported it was dry. Selectman Bourne asked if Jacob had a copy of the 2019 lease, which is currently in effect. Jacob retrieved a copy from his truck. Selectman Gallagher said that he has some concerns about ruts in the soccer field and compaction of soil. Jacob said that the CFA has equipment to remedy those concerns. Selectman Bourne asked what changes necessitate the need for parking on the soccer field. Jacob said the effort was to streamline parking, people moving, and to be more efficient with parking attendants.

Chief Bill Harthan reported that Mike Monette's service at Edminster Cemetery would be on May 23rd 11:00am.

The BOS discussed a proposed order for acoustic panels. Selectman Bourne said that he could call the vendor to confirm the liftgate delivery and/or get a revised quote for lift gate service.

Grace McSwain met with the BOS to discuss the camping permit at a property on Town House Rd. Grace said that she intends to avoid the commencement of further action by the town related to the camping. Grace said that she contacted Mike Fuerst of the Zoning Board. Selectman Bourne asked if she was appealing the BOS decision. Grace said that she did not intend to make a formal appeal, but she began filling out an Equitable Waiver form, found on the Zoning Board page of the Town website. Selectman Bourne asked what the Equitable Waiver would address with regard to the camping. Grace said that the steel roof over the camper had been there for 15 years with no notice of any violation and said that she felt the other structures should similarly be allowed. Selectman Bourne said that the camping permit was not subject to an equitable waiver of dimensions and said that camping there was not permitted as the site cannot comply with any setbacks. Selectman Bourne said that the remedy for the denial of a camping permit could be a variance from the Zoning Board. Selectman Beardslee asked for clarification of the structures on the site. Grace said that they moved a steel frame shelter, but not the other buildings which Chearino had placed on site. Grace said that she would be pursuing a variance and stated that she had done some research about variances and cases where they had been granted previously. Grace asked if there were any permits needed currently. Selectman Gallagher said that the Town cannot issue any permits, legally. Grace said that their intention in purchasing the land was not to use it as a campsite. Grace said that they wanted to build a log cabin to complement the landscape. Selectman Bourne asked if the McSwain's were aware the land was unbuildable when they agreed to purchase it. Grace said she was aware of the Shoreline Protection Act. Selectman Bourne said that purchasing a piece of land in hopes of getting a variance was a gamble. Selectman Gallagher agreed that a variance would be very hard to get. Grace provided a contract between John McSwain and Steve Cheering for the purchase of the property in question. Selectman Bourne asked if the Town could have a copy. Grace agreed to have the town make a copy. Selectman Bourne said that the violations and penalties would be addressed by the property owner, who is Mr. Chearino. Selectman Beardslee said there were letters sent to both parties to address the structures and the camping. Grace said she intends to address the structures with an Equitable Waiver of Dimensional Requirements. Selectman

Bourne asked Grace how she intended to address the violation of the camping situation. Grace asked why the BOS issued them a permit in the prior year. Selectman Bourne said that the BOS issued that in error and that upon further review of the ordinance determined that the site could not be used for camping due to the setback requirements, which are the same requirements which make the lot unbuildable. Selectman Gallagher cited Article IV-C-8A-9 of the Zoning Ordinance which allows for camping on a building site for a period of 12 months. Grace said that she would be measuring the site to determine where a building could fit in a variance scenario. Selectman Gallagher clarified that the Town could not grant a variance of the State setbacks from the waterway. Selectman Gallagher recommended that the McSwain's contact the State Department of Transportation to determine the setback from the Town House Road right of way. Selectman Beardslee said that a septic system would need to be approved in order to get a building permit. Selectman Gallagher suggested that she ask a septic designer if the site was suitable. Selectman Bourne suggested Grace follow up with Mike Fuerst on the variance process.

Selectman Beardslee said that the appointment of a Sexton needed to be addressed.

Selectman Beardslee said that the BOS needs to cite RSA for the 91-A request from Cathy Parks. Selectman Bourne cites 91-A:5, XII as the RSA exempting attorney-client privileged communication from disclosure.

Selectman Beardslee moves to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Bourne. Motion passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 6:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 11, 2026 6:30-8:30**

Present: Dillon Gallagher, Chair, Jason Bourne, Keith

BOS reviewed checks, invoices, and mail.

Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Mike and Sharon St. Martin asked the BOS if there were any plans, to their knowledge, to add two utility poles on their property, across the street from their house. There are currently two stakes which appear to be aligned with other utility poles and Mike said there are no easements for utility poles in his deed. Mike asked if the BOS knew Hub66's plan for bringing fiber optics down Town House Rd. Selectman Bourne said that he was aware that Hub66 was bringing fiber

in from Plainfield down Rte. 120 but had not seen any specific plans for Town House Rd. Selectman Bourne said that he would contact Hub66 to see if they know anything about the stakes on Town House Road.

The BOS discussed a future meeting with the Road Agent. Selectman Beardslee will not be available Thursday, May 14. Selectman Bourne said that the BOS could warn an earlier meeting if that provided more time to meet with the Road Agent without cutting into meeting time. Selectman Beardslee suggested the Road Agent could share information with the BOS using a Google shared folder.

The BOS discussed shared folders in Google Workspace and how to retain archives of shared documents. Selectman Gallagher expressed some concern that sharing documents may run afoul of 91-A. Selectman Bourne suggested a call to NHMA for clarification.

Selectman Gallagher suggested the BOS learn more about tax deeded property law, noting that there is a tax deeded property which is being contested currently and since the Town is dealing with another tax-deeded property which has been very complicated to resolve.

Selectman Gallagher reviewed a list of ongoing topics the BOS has on its “to do” list.

Jan Lord visited the BOS to check on green burial. Selectman Gallagher said that town counsel has our draft plan for green burial in Cornish. Selectman Beardslee stated that the draft was created based on the City of Lebanon’s plan and that town counsel reported that the City of Lebanon’s plan had been reviewed previously by their firm. Jan expressed her surprise and dismay to hear of Mike Monette’s recent passing. The BOS expressed sadness for the Monette’s.

Jan Lord asked about the Highway Department and the Road Agent. Selectman Gallagher told Jan that Erich Weeks had been hired. Jan said that she appreciated the Highway Department driving slowly when she was on her horse.

Selectman Beardslee moves to adjourn, Selectman Gallagher seconds, motion passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 9:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 14, 2026 4:00-6:00pm**

Present: Dillon Gallagher (chair), Jason Bourne

Absent: Keith Beardslee

BOS reviewed invoices and mail.

Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

BOS discussed a request from the Conservation Commission for a third email address. Selectman Bourne asked if Heidi Jaarsma was already working on the request. Selectman Gallagher said that he spoke with Ms. Jaarsma and that she was waiting for approval from the BOS. The BOS will discuss when Selectman Beardslee returns.

Road Agent Erich Weeks reported a complaint that Spike Jones has been grading East Rd from his house down to Perkins Rd. Selectman Bourne suggested Erich have a conversation with him to understand what he is doing.

Erich reported on equipment maintenance including a windshield and power steering on the loader. Erich reported that the hydraulic fluid heats up, which impacts the effectiveness of the power steering. Erich said he did not consider it a safety issue. The BOS will discuss further on Monday.

Erich asked about the roof trusses near the Highway Department, citing deterioration from being exposed to the weather. Selectman Gallagher said that it makes sense to cover them better for now. Selectman Bourne asked for clarification on the origin of the trusses. Selectman Gallagher explained his understanding of the origin. Selectman Bourne suggested the BOS make a decision to dispose of them if they were not going to be used.

Erich reported that garage door openers for the vehicles would cost \$350 for the remotes \$150 for the service call and \$150 for programming and \$60 for a transmitter for a total of \$680. BOS agreed that the remote door controls were a good idea.

Erich reported that the Cintas rep provided the cost for t-shirts for the highway department at \$4.40/week. Erich reported that the additional cost could be defrayed by reducing the number of long-sleeve shirts during the summer months, then switch back to long-sleeve in the Fall.

Erich reported on ditching on Clark Camp Rd. Bob Johnson is developing his ditching skills. Erich reported that Bob is ditching on Burr Rd. next. Erich had done some grading on Burr Rd and had some time at the end of the day to go to East Rd to repair some holes in the road.

Erich provided an accounting of work being done on beaver dams on Parsonage Rd and Tandy Brook Rd.

Erich provided a list of missing Stop sign locations where posts exist, but no Stop signs.

Erich reported on culvert work on Clark Camp Rd.

Selectman Gallagher asked if street sweeping had been postponed due to the weather. Erich reported that sweeping is scheduled for May 15th. Selectman Gallagher asked if the sweeper would be able to get the material at the edge of the road at the grass line. Erich said he was not yet familiar with the process, but he would find out.

Marie Derusha reported that the “triangle” between St. Gaudens Rd and Lang Rd had damage around the corners and that Burr Rd was graded in such a way that water was not running off the road and that Burr Rd is now very muddy. Ms. Derusha asked if it made sense for work to be done on a small section of road on one side of town, not touch all of the roads in the area, then spending multiple days on a road on the other side of town.

The BOS discussed reviewing the 2014 Road Plan for consideration and possibly sharing that plan with the Road Agent.

Glen McKinstry called looking for Dale Lawrence as the 911 coordinator to get addresses for lots 3 and 4 on North Parsonage Road. Selectman Gallagher offered to forward his contact information to Dale and suggested that Glen follow up at the Town office to fully understand the restrictions on buildings and driveways for those parcels. Glen said he would be happy to come in.

Selectman Bourne moved to adjourn, Selectman Gallagher seconds. Meeting adjourned 6:05pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 18, 2026 6:30-8:30**

Present: Dillon Gallagher (chair), Jason Bourne, Keith Beardslee

BOS reviewed invoices, checks, and mail

Chair called the meeting to order at 5:34pm

Road Agent Erich Weeks came in to speak to the BOS about aligning on Highway Department matters. Erich was not sure what the Board’s expectations are for East Rd. Erich said that he felt the Board did not want him putting material down, but material is needed. Erich said he heard there were utility poles in the ROW of East Rd, having been cut off and abandoned. Erich said that there may be a concrete basin near the former Sullivan Farm. Selectman Beardslee had earlier shared the GRIP plan which he had. Erich said that he had some notes from Mike Duval, previously shared with him by Selectman Beardslee, and understood roughly what would be required. Erich said that the cost for materials on East Rd would be \$161,000 and asked if we had that budgeted. Selectman Beardslee asked if he included any 1 1/2” material. Erich said he

had not. Selectman Beardslee said the plan had been put together based upon Mike's description, including base material where needed and top material in all locations. Selectman Beardslee said the plan had been to subcontract all of the East Rd project to a bulldozer operator. Selectman Beardslee said that there is RSA regarding changing the watercourse to inform abutters of potential changes in water flow, including a warned public meeting. Selectman Beardslee said that he calculated the amount of materials based on taking material out of the road to put base material down. Erich asked what would happen to the material cut out of the road. Erich asked what the criteria was for changing the watercourse if the road is falling every year. Selectman Gallagher said that you have to work based upon the current conditions of the road. Selectman Beardslee suggested that the heavier material would be put in the central part of the road allowing for a crown and said that most people driving on gravel roads aren't driving on the edges of the roads. Selectman Gallagher said that there was value to having a good base on the edges as well and pointed to a section of Center Road where the base is compromised on the edge of the road. Eric said that Windsor and West Windsor have just been putting more material on top and have not had issues with the roads. Selectman Gallagher said perhaps they did not have RSA regulating the change of watercourses and pointed to the Rice farm on Burr Road, which experiences flooding since John McNamara built that road up by simply adding material. Selectman Gallagher said that the GRIP was developed as a compromise to address as much of East Road as possible within budget and without changing the course of water drainage. Selectman Gallagher asked Erich how many tons he estimated. Erich said he used cubic yards for materials. Selectman Beardslee said to use 1.5 tons, per yard conversion, as a figure. Erich said 4500 cubic yards x 1.5 tons per yard so around 6750 tons. Selectman Gallagher said the GRIP included 5100 tons of 3/4" material, 4900 tons of 1 1/2" material, \$171,500 delivered to the job site. Selectman Beardslee asked if the town would be contracting the East Road job out. Selectman Gallagher said we may be getting ahead of ourselves. Erich said that there could be some ditching work done. Erich said there's a failed culvert in the northern end of East Rd. Selectman Gallagher said that a culvert had been put in without a public hearing and it overwhelmed a driveway culvert as an example of why following the RSA is important. Selectman Gallagher suggested that Erich start with ditching and getting to understand what's needed to prepare the road. Erich said he was most concerned about the northern most section of East Road where material is needed. Selectman Beardslee suggested that Leavitt Hill Rd would be another road to consider looking at since there are drainage issues on that road. Selectman Gallagher suggested that Erich speak to landowners if he thinks there needs to be culverts added on Leavitt Hill. Selectman Gallagher explained that East Rd is a through road with a large number of households reliant on it, so that is why it was prioritized. Erich said the goal would be to get all of the roads in good shape. Selectman Gallagher said that there is always a struggle to keep all of the roads in good condition due to budgetary constraints and that ongoing maintenance was important to prevent deterioration in paved roads, similar to rebuilding gravel roads. Erich asked if GRIP was funded outside of his budget. Selectman Beardslee said it was funded as a separate warrant article. Selectman Gallagher said that material previously ordered for the highway department, if used in GRIP, could be funded from that pool of money. Erich asked if he should or should not put material down now. Selectman Beardslee recommended he focus on shaping the roads to see what they needed. Selectman Gallagher asked what the plan was for grading around Saint Gaudens Road and that side of town, understanding Erich had done some grading there. Erich said he did spot grading but wanted to keep the grader closer to East Rd since that was the planned

improvement. Selectman Beardslee said he felt that Erich could add material to East Rd from the money allocated through the warrant article, after the grading and shaping of roads was completed. Selectman Beardslee said there would be accounting challenges, but communicating with the BOS about what material is going where would help to allocate funds appropriately. Selectman Gallagher suggested Erich plan his grading routes like plow routes.

Selectman Beardslee suggested that Erich hold off on training another grader operator while he is focused on grading. Erich said that, prior to starting at Cornish, he made a call to find out what the background of a new employee had been with heavy equipment and was recommended not to put the employee in the grader. Selectman Beardslee asked if training on ditching was going well. Erich said there was improvement and also still a work in progress. Selectman Gallagher asked if the water tank was operational. Erich said there was some rubber hose needed to get it operational. Selectman Gallagher said that there was a good tree man on the highway department. Erich said that they had already looked at Child's Cemetery and it would require a contractor. Steven Monette suggested the wood from the tree be put at the Recycling Center in case someone wanted to burn it.

Erich discussed uniforms with the BOS. Erich said that a change to mostly t-shirts and cutting back on the number of long-sleeve shirts represented \$7.24/person/week representing a \$2.06 increase per man per week and if they went with hi-visibility shirts it would be \$3.00 increase per man per week.

Erich explained that he had been working the loader and described the fading power steering as the machine heats up. Selectman Gallagher asked if the hydraulic oil had been tested. Erich said he could get a sample of the fluid for testing.

Steven Monette reported that Tom Spaulding has been picking up recycling from Willing Hands and wanted to be compensated for the gasoline and wanted to be paid three hours for going out. Steve talked to Bill Newton who thought it could be a two hour commitment. Steve said the Recycling Budget would be impacted by paying employees to do this. Selectman Beardslee asked what the materials being hauled are. Steve said a lot of cardboard and some compostable materials. Steve asked if the Town wanted to pay two hours of time for that service. The BOS agreed that two hours could be allocated, understanding it was potentially more than one hour but likely less than two hours. Steve said that hauling aluminum to Springfield costs two employees over four hours. Steve asked if the well near the Town Hall was school property and asked if he should be mowing that grass around the well. The BOS felt it should be cleaned up. Steve said that the price for flags at cemeteries was \$25/flag and that he was purchasing a number of less expensive flags for now, not understanding the cemetery budget.

Selectman Gallagher said that he called All States Material Group to ask about chip sealing on Cornish Stage Rd and Dingleton Hill Rd and was told there could be spots available for sealing if an RFP was issued ASAP. The BOS approved a proposed RFP for chip sealing that Selectman Gallagher had created. Mary will post the RFP and distribute to the vendors.

Mike West called to report that the road was graded 5 inches below the driveway and his wife could not get in the driveway. Mike reported that he fixed it at his house. Selectman Gallagher asked if he had a photo he could send to Mary.

Selectman Gallagher proposed crack seal be applied where it makes sense. Selectman Beardslee suggested contacting Steve Halleran at Town of Plainfield to see who they use for crack sealing.

The BOS discussed Memorial Day planning.

The BOS discussed an email from Hub66 regarding proposed utility poles on a state road and their impending request of the town to approve utility poles in the right of way. The Town does not hold the right of way on a State Rd.

The BOS discussed reporting formats for Highway Department communication and record keeping.

The BOS discussed the need to appoint an interim Sexton.

Selectman Beardslee suggested that the BOS plan to address non-compliance concerns on a property on Town House Road.

Meeting adjourned 9:00pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 21, 2026 4:00-6:00pm**

Present: Dillon Gallagher (chair), Jason Bourne, Keith Beardslee

BOS reviewed invoices and mail

Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00pm

The BOS discussed an email from Hub66 requesting a license for utility poles. Selectman Bourne said that he sent an email to Andrea Vient explaining that Town House Rd is a state road and the application needs to go to NHDOT.

The BOS discussed energy usage at the Flat Fire Station and control systems for the heat pump climate control system to maximize efficiency.

The BOS discussed a document being submitted pursuant to a 91-A request related to the CCI Library project. The BOS agreed that the document proposed for submission is the same one

previously signed by Selectmen Bourne and Beardslee, but it would be preferable to get a copy of the signed document for the requestor. The signed copy was not immediately available. Selectman Bourne felt that the copy of the unsigned document provides all of the content of the document signed.

Bill Wall reported that a pickup truck with Massachusetts plates which had been parked at the fire station moved today, but left a trailer in the parking lot.

Bill asked if Travis Wright could have an alternate location to accept trash when the recycling center is closed. Selectman Bourne said that the challenge is scheduling at Town properties, since they are often used for events. Bill said that he was not alone in his interest in an alternate location during closures.

Road Agent Erich Weeks reported that the 2017 truck has been picked up from Osgood Welding. Erich reported that a hinge pin was also replaced.

Erich reported that the screen on the fire pond drain is back in place.

Erich reported that brakes for the 2017 truck would cost \$2200, worst case scenario.

Erich reported that the 2002 truck conversion hubs have been located and will cost \$4135. Selectman Gallagher asked if that included brakes. Erich read through the parts list on the estimate, which included brakes. The BOS agreed that work should all be done.

Erich reported that the Highway Department utilized the new blower on Leavitt Hill and reported it works well. Selectman Beardslee asked if any of the ditch material ends up in the road. Erich said they get blown into the woods.

Erich reported that there would be a culvert replacement on Fernald Hill Rd. Selectman Beardslee asked if it took 4 people to replace a culvert. Erich said it did not but that he wanted Bob to watch the process so that he could understand the digging process.

Selectman Gallagher asked if the fuel pump had been serviced. Erich said that the vendor has found the gasket needed and has it on order.

Selectman Beardslee proposed that he meet with Erich Weeks to work on electronic documentation. Selectman Beardslee proposed Erich save any electronic reports as .pdf files for distribution.

Erich asked when abutters to road work where drainage may be impacted should be notified. Selectman Beardslee said that the focus for now should be grading.

Erich said that the Highway Department would be spending the next day inspecting and reporting on condition of the Highway Department trucks and heavy equipment.

Merilynn Bourne asked the BOS why tax maps are not online, stating that it is inconvenient to have to come to the office when they could be electronic and accessed from anywhere. Selectman Gallagher said that the current maps are not necessarily accurate and that he was not sure whether the electronic tax cards and electronic tax maps were part of a package deal. Selectman Beardslee produced an electronic copy he had received by email. Selectman Gallagher expressed frustration with the inaccuracy of Avitar's mapping and assessing services.

The BOS left a voicemail message for Eckman Engineering, requesting a Form 4 load rating certificate which was overdue.

Mary Curtis produced the signed copy of the document requested in a 91-A request. Selectman Gallagher stated that document storage in the Town Office needs to be addressed as we are running short on space for paper documents.

Selectman Gallagher asked Selectman Beardslee about his calculation for the gravel needed in the GRIP plan. Selectman Beardslee said that he used a nominal road width of 18 feet.

Fire Chief Bill Harthan spoke to the BOS about driveway permits. Bill asked if grade of the driveway could be assured when considering a driveway permit. Selectman Gallagher stated that the BOS is the enforcement agent. Bill said that a proposed driveway on Parsonage might be steeper than 15% grade, citing the difficulty of firetrucks entering steep driveways. Selectman Gallagher said that the BOS needed the approval documentation from the Planning Board to help guide Chief Harthan. Chief Harthan felt more comfortable approving the permit if he could specify that the driveway must be 15% grade or less and accessible by the fire truck and specified that on the permit.

Selectman Beardslee asked if the BOS should reach out to NHMA to ask about the process for dealing with a tax-deeded property, to determine if there is a simple way to transfer the property back upon payment of back taxes. Selectman Beardslee asked Selectman Gallagher would be drafting the request to NHMA. Selectman Gallagher agreed to do that.

Chief Bill Harthan reported that the Fire Department air bottles are all tested and certified. Bill said that the air packs themselves are still in need of service and that he was trying to find other departments which could share some of the cost of having the service provider make the trip.

Selectman Gallagher asked if the Town should contract out fence repairs at Chase Cemetery, using a gift for that purpose. Selectman Bourne asked how much was in the gift. Selectman Gallagher stated it was \$20,000, to his recollection. Selectman Beardslee said that it would be good if the sections of fence could be easily removed in sections for painting and maintenance. Selectman Beardslee said that he would like to investigate powder-coated chain at another cemetery and there was cost involved in coring the granite posts. Selectman Gallagher suggested Cummings cemetery as one which could be done with a smaller amount of material. Selectman Bourne suggested the cemetery in the flat as a short run with higher visibility.

Selectman Beardslee said that his search for a Memorial Day speaker has not yet been successful. Selectman Beardslee got recommendations from people he called that perhaps Lee Baker and Walt Gobin as possible speakers.

Selectman Bourne suggested a high quality digital audio file be used, along with a the bluetooth portable PA system, for Taps if a bugler could not be found.

Selectman Beardslee recommended that the Select Board prepare to take legal action on a non-compliant property on Town House Road. Selectman Beardslee suggested seeking an injunction from the courts. Selectman Gallagher suggested a phased approach, beginning with fines, then court as a future measure. Selectman Bourne said that a lien would be applied to the property if there was an injunction from a court and said that could impact the sale of the property. Selectman Bourne said that addressing a camping violation of the residents who don't yet own the property is complicated if the court injunction results in a lien which is applied to property own by someone other than the residents.

Selectman Beardslee moved to adjourn, Selectman Gallagher seconds, motion passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 6:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne

**Town of Cornish
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 28, 2026 4:00-6:00pm**

Present: Dillon Gallagher (chair), Jason Bourne, Keith Beardslee

BOS reviewed mail and invoices

Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00pm

Road Agent Erich Weeks met with the BOS to report that his efforts to get replacement road signs provided a \$1182 quote from the State Dept. of Correction for 13 of the signs. Erich reported that he received a quote for 16 signs for \$577 and \$317 for mounting hardware from New England Barricade Sign & Safety from Barrington, NH. Selectman Bourne asked if the specifications were the same between the State and NEBS&S and Erich said it was. Erich reported that the vendor assured him the signs were the same quality as the State. Selectman Beardslee cautioned that cheaper signs can delaminate and fade. Erich said that he had assurances from the vendor that the signs should not delaminate or fade. Erich said he would get verification again on any differences. Selectman Gallagher reviewed the vendor's website for lead times of 3-5 days.

Selectman Beardslee asked if the policy was that the Town does not clean out driveway culverts. Selectman Gallagher said that if ditch maintenance is performed in alignment with the driveway culvert, the town may be clearing debris that could clog it, but the homeowner is responsible for maintaining the culvert itself.

Selectman Bourne moved to approve the minutes from April 2026; Selectman Beardslee seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mary Curtis reported that Doug Hackett rented Trinity Church and the Town Hall for a wedding reception and said the Town Hall was dirty and needed cleaning. Mary said that she will be stopping in to inspect the Town Hall on her way in to the Town Offices. Selectman Gallagher asked Mary to keep track of her time and to take photos. Mary said that she sent Chelsea to clean the Trinity Church in advance of the wedding and it took her two hours to clean it. Selectman Bourne asked whether the rental cost covered cleaning. Mary said it did not in this case.

Jason Tetu stopped in to the BOS office to ask whether the BOS had considered further using CREA land as a site for a well for the school and Town Hall. Jason left the BOS with a building permit.

Selectman Gallagher reported that he spoke briefly with Kellie Parry about the possibility of taking on the responsibilities of Sexton and she did not say that she wouldn't do it.

Selectman Beardslee said that he reached out to a number of veterans in town and could not find anyone willing to speak at the Memorial Day ceremony, so he had asked Moderator Gwyn Gallagher if he would speak at the ceremony and Gwyn agreed. Selectman Beardslee subsequently spoke with David Haseman about speaking and he agreed to speak. Selectman Gallagher reported that he received permission from the Historical Society to use their PA system for the ceremony.

Mary Curtis reported that the Town Hall rental fees have been \$100 for in-town rentals and \$175 for out-of-town rentals for quite some time. Ms. Curtis reported that Dale Lawrence agreed to work with Steven Monette to determine where corner stones go.

Selectman Beardslee said that the Conservation Commission agreed to allow use of the soccer field for Fair parking at the CREA property and suggested that the BOS appoint new CREA committee members.

Selectman Gallagher said that NHMA provided guidance regarding the repurchase of tax-deeded property.

Selectman Bourne called Kevin McIver from Acoustical Solutions to request a change from prepaid to NET 30, as previously discussed. Kevin reviewed the order and agreed that it should be on NET30 terms. Selectman Bourne said he would be submitting alternate contact information for delivery logistics. Kevin suggested that those be emailed to him, and he would create a change order to submit back to Selectman Bourne. Selectman Bourne asked the BOS

members if they would approve of his reviewing the change order and signing off on it. The BOS agreed.

George Edson asked what the requirements would be for a building permit on his property off of Center Road. Selectman Gallagher said that it would need to be 100 feet from the wetlands. Selectman Beardslee said he believed the entire property was in the wetlands overlay district. Mr. Edson said he was working with a wetlands engineer to determine the wetlands' boundary and that just because someone said it was wetlands did not make it so. Mr. Edson said that he understood that a variance would be hard to get in Cornish. Selectman Gallagher said that beaver dams on the property are causing the wetlands to expand. Selectman Beardslee showed the Town's wetlands conservation overlay district map, which appeared to cover the entire property in question. Selectman Gallagher asked about the source of the data used for the map. Selectman Bourne reviewed the property in the UNH Granit database with wetlands layers shown, which did not match the wetlands conservation overlay district map. Selectman Bourne read the Zoning Ordinance regarding the wetlands conservation overlay district and confirmed that the wetlands conservation overlay district map was created using the NH Granit data plus a 100ft buffer from that data.

Selectman Gallagher reported that he met with a paving contractor to review Dingleton Hill and Stage Road for possible chipseal and crackseal. Selectman Gallagher received a quote from All State Construction for sealing.

The BOS called Mike St. Martin regarding a Hub66 application for utility poles on Town House Rd, explaining that Hub66 confirmed they were applying for such a permit from NHDOT. Mike said that he encountered a contractor who was going to install utility poles, whom Mike characterized as aggressive, and informed the installer that there was no easement on the property for such poles. The contractor was from Massachusetts and said he would follow up with the requester of the utility poles on the right-of-way and obtain the necessary permissions. Mike thanked the Select Board for the follow-up call.

Selectman Gallagher reported that DrummondWoodsum provided edits to the BOS's Green Burial draft plan submitted to them with minor edits.

Selectman Beardslee reported his review of East Road with Road Agent Erich Weeks for gravel road work projects, considering the potential removal of material and addition of material with particular focus on avoiding any change in runoff. Selectman Beardslee confirmed that he and Erich discussed sections of road to be rebuilt so that Erich did not add any material to those sections.

Selectman Gallagher opened a quote from All State Construction for pavement sealing totaling \$479,302.25 for sections of East Rd, Jackson Rd, Center Rd, all of Dingleton Hill, all of School St., and all of Cornish Stage Rd. Totaling approximately 7 miles. Selectman Gallagher said he would get the figures for Dingleton Hill Rd. and Cornish Stage Rd. as priorities, given the Town's available budget. Selectman Beardslee asked how Selectman Gallagher would determine the values. Selectman Gallagher said he would use the vendor's measurements and compare them with his own to ensure they are consistent enough to make a reasonable estimate of the cost

based on the amount of material the vendor would need to apply to cover that area of the roadway. Selectman Gallagher estimated, based upon measurements he conducted with the vendor, \$206,769 for Dingleton Hill and \$76,568 for Cornish Stage Rd.

Selectman Bourne moved to accept a proposal from Walker Heating LLC to install mini-splits in the upstairs of the Town Office, Selectman Gallagher seconded, motion passed. Selectman Gallagher asked Justin Walker if there were switches that could disable mini-splits when outdoor temperatures drop below an efficient temperature. Justin said there were, and he would investigate what that might cost to integrate. Selectman Gallagher asked if Justin could provide a quote for fan service for the Modine heaters at Town Hall. Selectman Beardslee asked Justin if he could look at the Highway Department for heating options to replace the electric baseboard heat.

Selectman Bourne moved to adjourn. Selectman Gallagher seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 6:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bourne