



CORNWALL NEWSLETTER

Town of Cornwall

Volume 7, Issue 3

Winter 2010/2011

Select Board News

In the past three months your Select Board:

Accepted the Cornwall Historical Society's Lavalley Store project report that concluded that no funds are available for restoring/developing the property. An item will be on the Town Meeting Warning to decide the next step.

Met with the CVFD executive committee continuing our initiative to improve communication among town boards.

Has been negotiating with the VT Agency of Transportation regarding a significant cost overrun on the Rte. 30 bike path/shoulder enhancement project.

Worked with the Capital Plan and Budget Committee re inventorying maintenance/improvement needs of Town properties in use.

Continued efforts to get State enforcement action on a local environmental violation.

Along the way we've also supported the Lemon Fair Insect Control District's effort to help them stabilize their financing; appointed a Town Poet, an Auditor and a Green Up Day coordinator; re-adopted pro forma the Town Plan and helped get a municipal planning grant to help pay for this year's Town Plan update.

As mentioned elsewhere in this Newsletter we will have two openings on the Select Board this year. Ideally we'd like to add a face or two from the next generation at the table. We meet twice a month for usually not more than an hour. Qualifications include common sense, community awareness and dependability. The work is interesting and provides real benefit to your community. If you are interested just ask Sue Johnson for a petition to get on the ballot.

Cornwall Awarded State Planning Grant

On December 22, 2010 Cornwall was awarded \$6,525 in state funds to undertake an update of the Town Plan. This grant comes from the state Municipal and Regional Planning Fund, which was established in 1988 to help Vermont municipalities guide future growth and development and improve their quality of life. Cornwall was one of 46 towns across Vermont selected in a competitive award process.

The projects funded this year will support planning activities such as updating town plans and zoning bylaws, as well as planning-related downtown and village revitalization efforts. Our grant will largely fund the development of surveys of residents, compilation of data, establishment of town goals, and publishing the new town plan. Cornwall will have a year and a half to complete this project. "These grant

projects will help promote economic activity, community development, and housing in our downtowns and village centers, while protecting Vermont's working landscape", said Tayt Brooks, Commissioner for the Department of Economic, Housing and Community Development, "and each one represents a great deal of dedication by municipal staff and volunteer commissioners."



Special points of interest:

- *CVFD gives important information*
- *Town Meeting 2011*
- *Poems written by our Town Poet, Gary Margolis*
- *Emergency Management Needs survey*
- *Lemon Fair Bridge almost finished*
- *Route 30 Paving*

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Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department Gives Important Reminders!!!

The Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department would like to remind town residents of some ongoing programs we have to increase the effectiveness of our response to fire and medical calls. Primary among these is our 911 sign program, which encourages all town residents to install a green reflective 911 number sign at the bottom of your driveway.

These standardized signs make it easier for us to locate your house in an emergency- many homes have inadequate signage, including non-reflective numbers located on mailboxes that may be on the opposite side of the road or even away from the actual driveway. In some areas long stretches of roadway have no clearly visible numbers. Lost minutes may prove devastating in case of an emergency- just recently our medical responders were called to respond to a choking victim and the home could not be located for some time due to lack of signage. Fortunately this story had a happy ending, but others may not.

If you wish to install a sign yourself, please check with the Department on specifications and be sure to call

Shoreham Telephone or Digsafe before driving any stakes. The Department will also install a sign at your residence for a \$50 donation to cover our expenses.

If you have an automated alarm system, which are becoming increasingly common, please contact the Department regarding access to your home in case of false alarms. If we are unable to access your home and cannot determine conditions, we may have to force entry to the residence causing unneeded damage. Also, long waits for key holders or homeowners to arrive create an undue burden on members who may be away from jobs or other responsibilities. Preplanning access arrangements with the Department is an easy way to avoid these problems.

The CFVD is very pleased with the limited number of chimney fires and other winter heating related incidents in recent years. Making sure your chimneys are clean and safe for use, as well as having your heating systems regularly checked and serviced makes good economic AND safety sense. As always, smoke and CO detectors need to be kept up to date

with regular testing, twice-yearly battery changes and replacement when out of date. These simple devices truly save lives!

For information on these programs or any other issues, please contact any member or leave a message at 462-2990. Speaking of members, we are always on the lookout for dedicated, enthusiastic men and women to join our all-volunteer Department. If you are interested in being part of either our fire or medical response crews please let us know.



Skating into the New Year. A wish for a Happy one to all.

Town Meeting 2011

Now that 2011 is here, it is time to start thinking about Town Meeting. This year's meeting will be held on Monday, February 28, 2011 at 6:30 PM at the Cornwall Elementary School. This year's meeting will be held on the earliest day it can be, so the Auditor's and I are working hard to get the Town Report together so we can get it out to you the minimum of 10 days before the meeting. To this end, anyone submitting a report to be included should

get the report to us by the requested date of January 20, 2011.

The other important item for January is obtaining and returning nominating petitions in a timely fashion. There are several open positions this year and I would love to have a name to put on the ballot, so we do not get our usual high number of write in candidates. The openings that I am aware of are: Selector, 3 year and 2

year spots, Planning Commission, at least one 3 year spot, Library Trustee, several 2 year openings. Of course, any legal voter can run for any position on the ballot. If you have questions or an interest in running, please contact Sue Johnson at the Town Hall, 462-2775. Petitions are due back to me by January 24, 2011.





Cornwall Congregational Church Calls Middlebury College Professor as Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Cavazos, a Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion at Middlebury College, has been called to serve the First Congregational Church of Cornwall as its settled pastor.

Dr. Cavazos, who has served as Associate Pastor of the High Street United Methodist Church in Springfield, Ohio, will hold affiliations with both the United Church of Christ, with which the Cornwall Church is affiliated, and the United Methodist Church.

At Middlebury Dr. Cavazos teaches courses in African-American Religion and U.S. Religion and Culture. Her research interests include the intersections of race, gender and sexuality in religious expression and practice. Her current research focuses on the vision and practice of Christian missionary service among 20th-century African-American women as a vehicle for race-reform activism. She serves as faculty adviser to the college's African-American Alliance.

She is among the fourth generation

of ordained clergy in her family, following a great-grandfather, a grandfather, and an uncle; her sister currently serves a United Church of Christ congregation in Farmington Hills, Mich. Like her father, a choir-master for 40 years before his retirement in 1995 from Lake Shore Presbyterian Church in St. Clair Shores, Mich., Dr. Cavazos sings and plays the piano.

"As clergy, I view my role as being one of inspiring and encouraging, to help others discover their gifts," Dr. Cavazos said. "I'm excited to be with the people of the Cornwall Church and to hear God's call to us in new ways."

"Mary Kay will bring many gifts and skills to our church," said Jack Watts, who co-chaired the search process. "She is wise and mature, yet youthful and vibrant. She is an excellent preacher and a creative worship leader. She possesses a wonderfully open spirit, strong musical background, penchant for diversity, and a good sense of humor."

Dr. Cavazos holds a B.A. in History from Albion (Mich.) College; a Master of Divinity from the Methodist Theological School in Ohio; and a Ph.D. in U.S. Religious History from New Jersey's Drew University. A native of Michigan, she is the mother of three children: Martha, a senior at Kalamazoo College; Sam, a freshman at Rutgers University; and Anna, a freshman at Middlebury Union High School.

A unanimous choice of the Search Committee after a 10-month process, Dr. Cavazos was also called without dissent in a vote of the congregation after she delivered her candidate's sermon in Cornwall on Nov. 28.

The Cornwall Congregational Church is an open and affirming congregation that offers worship service every Sunday at 9:30 a.m., with Sunday School and child care available. For more information e-mail cccucc@shoreham.net or call 462-3111.

The Day After the End of Hunting Season By Gary Margolis

Those deer, browsing, grazing
in the open field, can afford not
to look up in the same way.

A doe can look tense and not
afraid, can signal her fawns,
yearlings maybe, not to bound

away. Maybe she thinks—no
it's me who's thinking—senses
there's nothing to come between

us today, nothing as stray,
I could say for her, as a day
after's, out of season round.

Although why we call something
killing-sharp a round is beyond
me. But not her and her half-

family. Her husband's not around.
Her buck-of- a man, I come to
think of him as, still hiding

or bounding away somewhere,
bleeding, leaving his own trail,
laying down.





Repairing Route 30

By Gary Margolis

We're older than we were
the first time you turned your sign
for me to stop. It takes more
than I can tell how you stand
all day holding your post,
waiting for a voice on the other
end of the road, telling you
when to let me go, let those behind
me through. I never thought
our road would have its turn
to be repaired again, in this
our frost-heaved lifetime.
Never thought that girl, you
were, would turn herself
into a sign of the clouds breaking
Up, beyond us, over there
in the unpaved mountains.
Never thought I'd be waiting
in line for you again, to drag
On your cigarette, to hold me
Long enough, for the dust
to settle, the water truck to
lay down its rainy carpet.
For that dragon of a paver
to roll down its hot surface
To drive our lives on, to take
us between, across, over these
fields and into the town, just north,
we never called our own.

My Fellow Cornwallians By Gary Margolis

My fellow Cornwallians,
before I forget, can I ask you
to recall the songs
you heard your grandfathers

sing, under their breaths,
when they thought no one
was listening, when they were
sitting alone in the cabs

of their tractors? And the tunes
their wives, your grandmothers
sang, when they were putting up
apples, trying to put the breeze,

coming from the orchard,
lifting off the swamp, into a jar.
Can I ask you to remember
what a neighbor said near

the counter in Longey's store
that later turned into a new
hymn? Or had such a beat
you could feel it, even in your

clay-caked boots. I wouldn't
expect you to forget the tapping
a loose shutter makes, when it
can't forget the wind was made

in the nearby lake, in the leaves
the smoke sends into our ears,
we have to make something of,
even if it isn't quite the missing
bell

in the roof of the Congregational
Church. And who's to say who
didn't hear a cow bellowing in
the back field and found their own

way to hum it in a low register,
to bring it to mind, even in the
dead of winter, when the power
lines are down, when they can't
sing

like cicadas. Like you, my fellow
Cornwallians, who hold all your
songs in your dreams, who wake
before dawn to sing them back
into the barn

and the fields the barn stores.
You, who took the story of
Ngawang Choepel to heart. May I
remind you, he was the Tibetan
young man

who studied nearby for a year
at the college and returned to Ti-
bet
to save, to record the songs and
dances of his ancestors, his coun-
trymen and women.

Who was jailed for saving that liv-
ing music and sending it out into
the world, keeping it, too, in the
mouths of his cellmates.
Who, like us, will know how to sing
themselves

Awake. We, who feel how the sun
is free to raise the deer from their
unforgettable, leafy beds. Who
sing back what we can't forget
what was sung to us.

ARE You Prepared?

The Cornwall Emergency Management Network (EMN) encourages individuals and families to be prepared for any type of disaster, and to be ready to take care of themselves—their household, their animals—for up to three days without outside assistance. While we urge this of everyone, we realize that there may be circumstances in which someone will need additional resources at the onset. Getting support to people with critical needs is part of the Town's Emergency Response Plan for disasters, including potentially long-term power outages or periods of limited traveling conditions.

To help us in our planning, the EMN is conducting a scaled-down Needs Survey. Three years ago we collected extensive household and resource information (the full survey is downloadable from the Town website). This year we're focusing on residents who require specialized equipment or care which would make it difficult or dangerous to remain isolated.

Response is voluntary, and please understand that, *providing us with the information does not guarantee a response*. But if we *don't* know, we *can't* help. You can also call VT 2-1-1 to find out what resources are available.

Drop off or mail cards to the Town Hall, 2629 Rte 30. **Return Cards by 5:00pm, Feb 28th**, and be entered into a raffle. Six winners will select either:

an AC/Dynamo **Weather/FM Radio** or a Vehicle **Seatbelt-cutter/Window-breaker Tool**.

The Cornwall Emergency Management Network meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month, 5:30pm at the Town Hall. Join us if you have questions, concerns, ideas, or just want to see what it's about. We also have a group of volunteers learning about operating an Emergency Operations Center, where your calls and town resources are handled during a large-scale incident. Contact Kate if you're interested in learning more, or with any other questions.

Kate Gieges—Emergency Management Coordinator • 2698 West St • 462-2182 • gieges@shoreham.net

Route 125/Lemon Fair Bridge..... Replaced

Almost a year ahead of schedule, St. Onge Contractors of Montgomery, have nearly completed the Route 125 bridge over the Lemon Fair River. The new bridge was opened to traffic, including our town grader, the afternoon before Thanksgiving. The push to complete the bridge ahead of schedule was driven in part by concerns that the ground beneath the temporary bridge was not stable enough for the projected duration. Fortunately, the fall weather remained suitable for ongoing construction, and St. Onge continued working into the first weeks of December, removing the bypass structure. They will return in the spring to replace the barriers with guardrails and put other finishing touches on the new structure, as well as clear up the roadsides. The company is run by two brothers, whose 85 year-old father started the original crane-operating business.

See more pictures on the next page.





Decking (what was left of it) removed from the 1938 bridge.

Photos courtesy of Kate Gieges. Thank you !!!



West Street View.



The evening the beams for the new bridge arrived from Maine, Arthur St. Onge, Sr. was back in his crane. His son, Arty, talks with the men at the other end. Son, Randy, switches the grab-ons from the lifting crane to his father's stabilizing one.



Aerial view from the north, late October.



The last days on site, the crew was removing the supports for the temporary bridge and getting their equipment moved back to their shop.



Road Commissioner's Report

So winter's here, although they say we're going to lose most or all the snow this weekend (which we did).

This fall we mixed another abrasive product into the winter sand. It is cheaper and easier to work with than the natural sand. It's white so you'll have to look hard in the snow pack but it shows well on bare gravel. I suspect we'll continue to use it, probably at an even higher concentration in the future.

We will be mixing an additive into the salt pile to increase the effectiveness of the salt. We will be using a calcium chloride based product with agriculture additives i.e.: molasses, beet juice, maybe even some booze juice. Several other towns are working with a magnesium chloride based liquid with the same agriculture additives. Though 25–30% savings in salt usage are advertised, no one around here has realized anything close to that yet. They are seeing greater effectiveness at lower temps, less bounce and scatter at application, and better carry over between applications. So the savings come from how much you don't have to put down more often, not that you can turn the application rates down the 25%. Only a few of the town's are set up with the speed control systems we have in the new truck, which maintains the

material flow at the set rate as the ground speed changes. As they and we have seen, this alone has reduced our salt usage and we hope to see further savings and effectiveness with the treated salt. The next level in this technology is to put a tank and equipment onto the truck to apply the same liquid onto the already treated salt as it hits the spinner. This again increases the effectiveness of the salt and therefore supposedly more savings. I'm not sure when and if we'll go there.

I don't often give credit to VTrans for anything, but I will say that the interest in this technology was piqued by their development of the salt brine program. While the jury is still out on the effectiveness and cost benefits of brine, the additives they have to use are the same ones the towns are getting involved with. So through the County Foreman's group, we will be comparing notes on the different products, equipment and technologies to see what works best, to hopefully save some money and make for safer roads sooner.

While I've only had one totally negative comment about the brush cutting, I guess the Selectors have heard more. I will concede that I might have used a little more finesse especially with the bigger stuff, lessons learned.

However, more brush and yes trees were cut within the right of way in the 3 days we had that machine than we could do in 3 years. And it was done safely. Next to back injuries and falls, VLCT PACIF (our insurance provider) has more chainsaw related claims than any other. I like killing trees with a chainsaw more than most, but working in ditches some with water, snow banks, side hills, throw in a power line for fun and I'll tell you safety is an issue. Then we can talk about recommended clear zones and storm mitigation. If we can safely and efficiently remove even some of the trees and brush that will come down during an ice storm (remember '98') making roads impassable then I think we should. I mentioned the complaints to some of my peers that have been using the machine for several years and they smiled and said the first couple years you'll have that. Some will always complain, but over time most will get used to it and see the benefit of it. I'd hope that will be true here.

I'll talk about budget stuff in the town report except to say we are level funding or lowering most lines and only raising a few.

Stu Johnson

Route 30 Paving

Just an FYI, the Route 30 paving project is not complete. The section from the Route 74 intersection to the Whiting/Sudbury town line is finished, although the lines will be repainted next year.

The section from the Town Hall to the top of the Golf Course Hill is not complete. There are two more lifts of asphalt to be added. They will pay more attention to the 3 foot shoulders when they do the final line striping next year.



CPR Class at the Town Hall sponsored by the Cornwall Emergency Management Network, Fall 2010.

Town of Cornwall

2629 Route 30
Cornwall, VT 05753

Excerpts from Cornwall Houses and Their Inhabitants By Stewart Witherell

We continue our slow steady trip along Cornwall's roads with the help of Stewart Witherell's narrative. Remember the book is available at the Town Hall for \$6.00, benefit of the Cornwall Historical Society.

The next place south and on the west side of the road (Route 30) is the marina, shop and home of Virginia Brileya and Thad Bronson (currently Champlain Valley Motor Sports). Their home is where Ed Harris had his blacksmith shop. Ed's son Lee inherited the shop, and worked there until he moved to Bridport. This was the last shop in Cornwall for shoeing horses. Later the blacksmith shop burned; on its foundation was erected the present house.

South of Bronson's is a house built about 1795 by Martin Post, who practiced law there. Since the Civil War the owners have included Sam Everts, Ed and Carrie Harris, Lee and Blanche Harris, Arthur and Frances Stevens, Donald and Agnes Murray, Horace and Alice Bronson,

Leighton and Linda Riley. The latter raised their family here. Linda is active in the youth group of the Cornwall Church. Leighton Riley has been chief of the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department. The couple have made considerable improvements to house and grounds.

Across the road from the Riley's (now Nancy Sawyer) is the Anna Stowell Sunderland Bingham Memorial School. It was built in 1960 after a gift of Peet land, and financed entirely by contributions from the local people and those interested in the town. No tax money was spent on its construction. Just south of School House Road is a trailer which is the home of Richard and Linda Wilder. Linda is the daughter of Milly and Hugh Longey.

In 1871 Jock Blair and his family were living in the house just south of Leighton Riley's. Later this house was owned and occupied by Frank and Mary Bond Randall, and more recently by William and Clara Viens Ringey. Here the Ringey's raised their large family. Mr. Ringey was

a mechanic. In front of his house he built a garage for his trade, where he worked until his health was impaired. Mrs. Ringey was town clerk for several years, and was chosen Vermont's Catholic Mother of the Year. Mr. Ringey was the Cornwall representative to the Legislature. After his death the house, lot and garage were sold to the Douglas Fenn's (currently Castle), the present occupants.

In the corner of School House Road and Route 30 is the property that Nathan Stowell purchased from Judge Joel Linsley. Mr. Stowell was a tavern keeper who came to Cornwall in 1796. He lived only until 1818, but his son Chauncey carried on the business. He built the spacious front addition, and either he or his father constructed the secret chamber to hide potash that was being smuggled into Canada. About 1830 Chauncey sold to Sidney Booth, and he sold to Sylvester Rockwell, who discontinued the tavern. From the Rockwell's, Henry and Charlotte Manchester bought the house and land. They lived there many years. **To be cont.**