



CORNWALL NEWSLETTER

Town of Cornwall

Volume 12, Issue 3

Winter 2016

Town Meeting Dates and Deadlines

The first deadline is for nominating petitions to run for town offices. You must pick up a petition from the Town Clerk. It requires 9 signatures of registered Cornwall voters. The petition must be returned by 5PM on Monday, January 25, 2016. The Town Clerk's office will be open from 3–5 PM on that Monday.

Local ballots will be available for absentee/early voting no later than February 10, 2016. The ballot can not be prepared before the January 25 deadline, so it will be available as soon as it is printed. The ballots for the Presidential Primary will be available as soon as the Secretary of State has them prepared and sent to the towns. Hopefully late January.

The last day to register to vote in the Town Meeting and Presidential Primary Elections will be Wednesday, February 24, 2016 until 5:00 PM. This is the last year that this rule will be in place. Same day voter registration will start on January 1, 2017.

Our Town and School Meetings will be held on Monday, February 29, 2016. As was voted at last year's town and school meetings, the Cornwall School District Meeting will be first this year, so the school meeting will start at 6:30 PM, with the Town Meeting

to follow. This is a good year for the school meeting to be first as there will be information available about the merger vote that will take place on Tuesday, March 1, 2016.

As soon as the ballots are available, Absentee/Early voting continues until 5:00 PM on Monday, February 29, 2016, after that, you must vote in person at the polls. On Tuesday the 1st of March, curbside voting is available if you can get a ride to the Town Hall. Two election officials will come to your vehicle with the ballots.

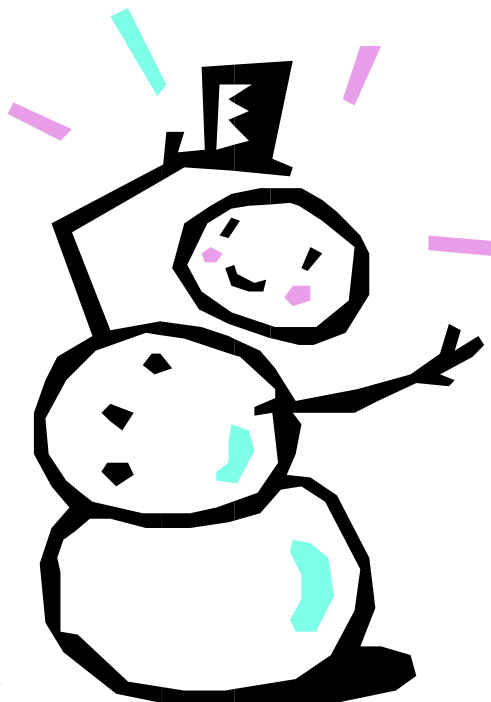
Australian ballot voting will take place at the Town Hall on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 from 7 AM–7 PM. There will be a number of ballots to vote this year, so I suggest checking out the sample ballots once they are posted. Notices are posted at the Town Hall, Town Garage and the Elementary School.

I will remind the voters that the Presidential Primary is the one time every four years that you must select a ballot to vote on. That choice is notated on the Voter Checklist and that information is available to the public upon request.

The town will be sending out a newsletter type printing this year with the Auditor's report, Town and School Meeting Warnings and sample ballots. The full Town Report will be available by February 19 at the several locations mentioned above, Town Hall, Town Garage and Elementary School or by mail if requested.

Please feel free to call the Town Clerk's office to determine what offices are up for election this year if you have an interest in serving the community. There is a vacant seat on the Planning Commission this year for a 3 year term.

The office number is 462-2775.



Waiting for that first real snowfall!!!

Special points of interest:

- *Vermont Wetland Restoration Projects*
- *Emergency Management sponsored events coming.*
- *Openings for a Lister and Planning Commission member*
- *School news about the ACT 46 merger vote*
- *Library News*
- *Conservation Commission News*

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Road Commissioner's Report

Well we finally got some winter weather...sort of. Now its melting and turning to slop...January thaw? Who knows this year. Its been good for the salt & sand budget lines for sure.

With the moderate weather and late fall, we have been able to stay after the gravel roads so they were in pretty good shape before this rain snow slop storm. The other down side to this slop storm is mailboxes took it hard. A colleague refers to the first storm as 'weeding out the sick and weak'! The heavy wet snow coming off the plow has some force behind it. The policy continues to be if we physically hit it with the plow, we will fix it, when we get to it., but if it's the snow cleaning them off its on the owner. If it happens repeatedly, then there's a problem with the design, location, construction or material. Here are some things to consider when installing or repairing.

- 1) Call Dig Safe if you are digging.
- 2) The postal service has requirements and a handout not to mention VTrans and AASHTO.... Never mind.
- 3) While the temptation might be to overbuild to withstand vandalism and launched snow, should an accident happen involving an overbuilt mailbox the liability is on the owner. The standards the lawyers will use, require mailboxes be built to US Postal Service standards.
- 4) Set backs are probably the biggest

issue followed closely by height. The bottom of the mailbox is supposed to be 42" from the ground. The set back should be no less than 2 feet off the travel lane and as much as it can be and be practicable for the carrier.

- 5) Keep any cantilever as short as practicable and put the brace on the back side.
- 6) Minimize the surface area of bracing, i.e. don't use plywood and use the smallest mailbox that is practicable for your needs.

I have a folder full of different standards, ordinances, regulations, designs, etc. I'm not sure who the enforcer is but it's not me. I am willing to help people try to figure out where and what will work. Cornwall does not have a mailbox ordinance at this time. You think I'm an anal sphincter??? There are some town ordinances out there that would have us pulling up a lot of the mailboxes in town at the owner's expense. The twisted irony of all this for me is that my father was a Postmaster and I can remember him coming home and cussing out one way plows 50 years ago.

Enough of the mailboxes already.....

Let's talk Phosphorous and TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load). So most everyone has heard about the big, no enormous, water quality initiative to clean up Lake Champlain and eventually Long Island

Sound, so eastern VT gets to play too. This is a huge deal for agriculture in the state. A big deal for municipalities with sewer treatment facilities. It will be a big deal for some towns especially hill towns. Most of the Best Management Practice's and obligations required of towns regarding the roads are just being developed, but what we've heard is that they will not be as onerous as was originally suggested. Unless unrealistic zealots take over the discussion, Cornwall should be in pretty good shape. By the time we have to apply for our Municipal Road General Permit and pay our \$400 application fee and the \$2000 per year permit fee, our obligation should only be maintenance of our existing system. Another little irony, kind of a we told you so.....Some of the people charged with developing the BMP's for roads have been down taking pictures of the roadside disks and are asking to set up demonstrations around the state. They think, as we've said, that it is a good tool for managing roads. We're gonna tear up the whole state!!! They have also been talking and taking pictures of our rollers. Like it or not, Addison County road crews are on the cutting edge and the standard being used for many road related innovations and technologies for towns around the state.

Stu

Vermont Wetland Restoration Projects

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has just released a video showing why wetlands and restoration projects are important in Vermont. <http://bit.ly/VermontWetlands> They have completed several wetland restoration projects in Vermont. Several of the restored wetlands are upstream from or within the 7 mosquito district towns in the state.

Pomainville Wildlife Management Area (Pittsford, Vermont) was an early wetland

restoration project that now provides breeding habitat for 15 species of fish. http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_73079/File/Where%20to%20Hunt/Rutland%20District/Pomainville%20WMA.pdf

Partners in this project included USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Wildlife Federation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Waterfowl USA and Ducks Unlimited. Projects like these increase the biotic diversity in formerly

farmed fields of reed canary grass – ideal habitat for *Aedes vexans*. Pomainville has now become a popular site for bird watchers. <http://rutlandcountyaudubon.org/pomainville/>

Alan C. Graham
State Entomologist
Vermont Agency of Agriculture



Emergency Management Network

Coming this spring...

Emergency Management Network sponsored

Emergency Shelter Test Run

CPR/AED Certification

Basic First Aid Certification

*Watch for updates on Cornwall Connection, Front Porch Forum,
and Town Bulletin Boards*

or contact Kate: 462-2182, gieges@shoreham.net





Cornwall Town Listers

With the new year, the Cornwall Listers are sending out a request to Cornwall citizens to consider becoming a Lister. Cornwall has, by statute, three Listers. Stephenie Pyne, who has served in that capacity several years, has resigned her position as she has moved out of town. She will be greatly missed.

What does a Lister do? The job is unique to Vermont and a vital one for the functioning of government in Vermont. In the early years of the state, certain citizens were charged with the task of "listing" all real and personal property owned by each land owner. It was pretty straightforward in the early days (20 acres of land, 3 cows, 4 sheep etc.) but over the years has become more complex as lives and the economy have evolved. Nowadays, Listers still enumerate real property of tax payers and business personal property in each town.

In addition to this function, the Lister's primary responsibility is to appraise all real property in Town in compliance with applicable Vermont State statutes. This includes annual maintenance of records such as updating changes resulting from additions to existing homes, construction of new houses and outbuildings, and transfers of property, as well as periodic revaluations when mandated by the State.

To make sure that the process is fair, valuation has been computerized in such a way that personal valuation is minimized. In addition, each town is graded on a Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) which ties actual sales data to the appraised valuation of properties. With 100 being congruence between sales data and appraised value, Cornwall's CLA this year of 108.85 indicates that our appraised values are close to actual value.

So, a new Lister has an important job to do. It is a part time position and is paid. The hours will vary from month to month and so are quite flexible. Perhaps the best part of this office, however, is the chance to get to know the town and its citizens better and to know that, as a Lister, you are a vital part in keeping our democracy functioning.

Give the Lister's office a call if you are interested. Our telephone is 462-3386. Our email is Cornwall_listers@shoreham.net.

The Grand List for Cornwall will be fixed on April 1, 2016. For those of you who have building permits out, please let us know if your project has been completed or you will not start the project before April 1. There is a lot of planned building activity in town, so it is very helpful for us to get this information as early as possible.

Report from Our UD#3 Representative

As you many of you have read or heard, the Addison Central Supervisory Union board has proposed creating a unified school district of the seven towns of the ACSU, with one governing board with representatives from all towns, similar to the make-up of the Middlebury Union High School/Middle School board (UD-3). Residents in the seven towns (Cornwall, Weybridge, Shoreham, Bridport, Salisbury, Ripton and Middlebury) will vote on the charter that would create this new governance structure on Town Meeting Day, as well as voting on the candidates for this new board. Folks will also vote on the

candidates for the current board structures, which will stay in place for 18 months if the unified board is approved. I have spent much of the fall and winter presenting to various groups in the school system about the proposal, and will continue to at a much greater pace leading up to the March 1 vote. This includes a Jan. 20 "Tea with the Principal" at the Cornwall Elementary School at 4 p.m. to which all are invited. Cornwall Principal Jen Kravitz and I will talk about the proposal from a citizen point of view (mine) and an educator's (hers). This will include a look at the significant tax savings unifi-

cation would bring to Cornwall. I am also happy to talk to any Cornwall residents any time I can about it. If you are part of group that would like to learn more about the proposal, just give me a call. Or if you just want to chat individually about it, I can be reached at 462-3134. I encourage everyone to follow the conversation in print, at meetings, online or wherever you can as we move forward on this change in school governance.

Peter Conlon



Cornwall Conservation Commission Report Winter 2015-2016

In September, Mary Dodge and I attended “Municipal Day” put on by ANR, and VTrans, in Montpelier. There were a variety of workshops on Vermont’s Ecology and Environment, including an introduction to town planning for natural resources, flood resilience, adapting to a shifting climate, “Where Land and Water Meet”, about wetlands, and “Natural Resource Inventories: Forest Blocks, Wildlife Corridors, Natural Communities and Rare Species”, and others. We were also able to connect with others in Vermont, both curious and concerned about the same issues in their towns.

In November, we went to the “Annual Community Conservation Summit: Celebrating 100 Years of Vermont Town Forests” in Randolph. Four of us carpooled in a Prius (!), representing three towns: Cornwall, New Haven and Salisbury, and the day was fun, informative and deepened our relationships as neighbors, CCers and friends.

“Our Town Forests are the Commons”, and they bring us together, offering us

“places to get lost in”, in nature, which we all need. There are currently 168 towns with 67,000 acres of Town forests in Vermont. Town Forests have brought communities together through shared and protected natural resources, and education. Hogback Mountain in Marlborough, VT is a great example of the community working together to preserve this special area of forests, streams, wetlands and fields. They raised money, built trails, and offered free guided hikes to learn about mushrooms, wildlife, birds, the streams and salamanders, and some history on the cellar holes about “the family who used to live here”. (www.hogbackvt.org) How about something here in Cornwall? Imagine this, fellow Cornwallians – instead of “A Day on the Mountain” for the elementary school to learn about vernal pools, a porcupine den, cellar holes, and plant and tree I.D, we could have “A Day Along the Lemon Fair”! “Or Exploring the Cornwall Swamp”, or, as I look out my window and see a small flock flying around our 6 bluebird houses, perching

and eating the winterberries nearby, what about “Learn about Brilliantly Blue Bluebirds Wintering-over”? There are many opportunities for us in Cornwall! Maybe even a “Trail Around Cornwall”... if you are interested in exploring any of these possibilities for a Town Forest, please let us know.

The CC invites you to grab your snowshoes and join us for a **Guided Walk through the Cornwall Swamp** in late February with CC’s Brian Howlett– more will be revealed as weather and hiking conditions become clear! We’ll post the date and time as soon as we pin it down. You can also let Brian know now if you’re interested (drbrianhowlett@gmail.com) and he will contact you as soon as the details are finalized.

Happy New Year, and winter at last!
Bethany Barry, for the Conservation Commission

News From the Cornwall School

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER: Lots of great things are happening at Cornwall School this year. If you want to hear about them in our weekly newsletter, email Jen Kravitz at jkravitz@acsu.org. You can also check out our newly updated school website from the ACSU website (acsu.org) and choosing Cornwall from the pull down menu on the top right corner.

TEA & CONVERSATIONS: I am hoping to engage the Cornwall community in conversations about what is happening at Cornwall School, in ACSU, and general trends in education over the course of this year. I am really hoping you can come to one or more of these meetings because it will help deepen the connection between the school and the community. The meetings will be from 4-5pm.

The winter & spring schedule is:
20 January - Act 46 (School Board Consolidation)

10 February - TBD

14 March - Integrated Studies

11 April - Farm to School

11 May - Year in Review

FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

If your family has small children who are not yet school age, we would love to hear from you. We welcome you to come visit the school to see what we are doing in classes. If you are interested in visiting, please contact us at 462.2463 or jkravitz@acsu.org. We can also add you to the school newsletter, so you know what is happening at school on a weekly basis.



Who would suspect the Buddha would mind by Gary Margolis

my granddaughters sitting in his temple, the small
meditation hut the wind made of branches
in my back yard? Pretending they are princess

orphans, their mother and father having resigned
their thrones, left for a mission to another
state. My wife and I won't for a minute

be able to dispel them of their own thoughts,
the story they need to know why they are
here with us for a few holiday days.

And not at home in their own city
room. Where the wind sweeps off the lake
like a chant. And the snow surrounds their

feet in a prayer for spring to return, return
their parents to them. Which is what my wife
and I are afraid to say to each other, watching

the clock, scraping butter from our antique
chair, wondering when the Buddha would want us
to put them to bed.

On Snake Mountain by Gary Margolis

My wife's holding a bewildered red-tailed hawk
in her right hand. Who seems calm for a wild bird.
Not knowing he was caught in an invisible fine net,

feeling the heat of that bait mouse down there.
And not her eventual hand, she's grasping him with,
so one of her astonished students can band him

with a number for a name. The manual says
the wind will be able to read, to know where
he can return a year from now to be known

Urge by Gary Margolis

The poplar's ablaze with black birds.
Twittering smoke. Hundreds of them
balancing on their branches' scales.
Until I have the urge to lift them

from their frightened perches.
With a throat sound. More gun
shot than song. Selfish of me
to want to see the one bird

hundreds of them make, escaping
the tree, veering as if they're one
wing, flashing and dark. As if
they cared for each other, more

than a solitary place to light on,
one by one. Light being less
selfish than the black bulbs they are.
My throat a switch, an urge.

again, by his broken beak, what appears to be
a dyed feather too much of the sun streaked.
The sky here losing its filter. The sun burning

a hole to the earth. I didn't know this poem
would be needing to say. When I wanted
just to be seeing my wife about to release

that immature hawk, back to his drafting
and circling. Not thinking of what
can't be caught or saved in the Thanksgiving air.



Cornwall Free Public Library News

THANKS FROM THE LIBRARY

The Trustees of the Cornwall Free Public Library thank all of you who supported our 2015 Book Sale. It was a great success thanks to everyone who donated books, shoppers, and volunteers who helped with setup, sale and take down. We would also like to thank all of you who answered our appeal and made a donation to the library to supplement our operating funds. AND, we are also pleased to acknowledge a grant of \$1000 that was received from the *Holmes Advised Fund at the Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes, Inc.* Thank you so much for your continued support of the Cornwall Free Public Library.

WANTED

The Library always welcomes donations of books, audio books, and DVD's, new or used and other materials. (**NO** magazines, textbooks, or encyclopedias.) These items will be entered into the collection or sold as part of our annual library book sale. **BUT PLEASE, no musty, smelly, damaged, mildewy or broken/warped books. THANKS!**

COME AND CHECK OUT THE LIBRARY

Have you been to the library in the last six months? Seen the expanded, bright space and the new arrangement of materials? Looked over the new fiction and nonfiction books, classics, children's books, audio books, DVD's? **THEN** come on in and look them over. If you prefer to see what is new at the library from home, you can see the complete list of materials under the library section on the town website, cornwallvt.com. COME CHECK US OUT!

Here is a sampling of the new books, audio books, and DVD's.

FICTION

The magic strings of Frankie Presto - Mitch Albom, **The Japanese Lover** - Isabel Allende, **The Guilty** - David Baldacci, **Did You Ever Have a Family** - Bill Clegg, **The Crossing** - Michael Connelly, **Tricky Twenty-Two** - Janet Evanovich, **Rogue Lawyer** - John Grisham, **City on Fire** - Garth Risk Hallberg, **The Hummingbird** - Stephen P. Kiernan, **Ashley Bell** - Dean Koontz, **Slade House** - David Mitchell, **God's Kingdom** - Harold Frank Mosher, **After You** - Jojo Moyes, **Medici's Daughter** - Sophie Perinot, **The Muralist** - B. A. Shapiro, **See Me** - Nicholas Sparks

NONFICTION

Between the World and Me - Ra-Nehisi Coates, **Thomas Jefferson and the Tripoli Pirates** - Brian Kilmeade and Don Yaeger, **Lights Out** - Ted Koppel, **Boys in the Trees** - Carly Simon, **Humans of New York: Stories** - Brandon Stanton

YOUNG ADULT

Six of Crows - Leigh Bardugo, **Library of Souls (Miss Peregrine)** - Ransom Riggs, **Carry On** - Rainbow Rowell, **The Hired Girl** - Laura Amy Schlitz

CHILDREN

The Thing About Jellyfish - Ali Benjamin, **Virgil and Owen** - Paulette Bogan, **Waiting** - Kevin Henkes, **Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Old School** - Jeff Kinney, **Little Tree** - Loren Long, **Dream Animals: A Bedtime Adventure** - Emily Winfield Martin, **Thank You and Good Night** - Patrick McDonnell, **Bear and Bunny** - Daniel Pinkwater, **The Sword of Summer** - Rick Riordan, **The Marvels** - Brian Selznick, **Diva and Flea** - Mo Willems, **The Whisper** - Pamela Zagarenski

AUDIOBOOKS

The Promise - Robert Crais, **Cross Justice** - James Patterson, **See Me** - Nicholas Sparks

DVDs

Inside Out, **Jurassic World**, **Marvel's Avengers: Age of Ultron**, **Me & Earl & The Dying Girl**, **Minions**, **Mission Impossible – Rogue Nation**, **Mr. Holmes**, **Mrs. Murder – Series 1**, **North Pole: Open for Christmas**, **Red Army**

Town of Cornwall

2629 Route 30
Cornwall, VT 05753

Happy New Year from Cornwall Church!

We had a busy December to round off 2015:

- On December 6 we delivered Christmas greetings around the town of Middlebury. Cars parked at Porter Hospital and Helen Porter Rehab, and cars parked on Main Street in Middlebury each received a Random Act of Christmas Kindness (R.A.C.K) note on their windshield.
- On December 13 we made chili and macaroni and cheese to feed the residents of the Warming Shelter at Charter House.
- And on the 20th we shared Christmas cookies and a lively caroling after worship. We saved up some of the cookies to deliver to the diligent staff of Children's

Across the Street

Services at their offices in Middlebury.

- Our Christmas Eve Candlelight service was a beautiful evening of readings, music, and warmth. Our special offering received \$1001.00 which was divided between HOPE, CVOEO, and the Refugee Relief Fund for Church World Service.

With the start of the new year we are looking forward to the ways the light of God will guide us to make the world a place of peace and justice.

- We will celebrate the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. on January 17 with a special worship service at Weybridge Church at 10:00 am. Our guest speakers will be the Muslim chaplains from Middlebury College. Please join us!

- Our Baked Potato Bar is just around the corner!! You won't want to miss this! Your support benefits the work of Addison County Habitat for Humanity.
- January 31 is a 5th Sunday and that means we work! We will be working on a project for HOPE and making more meals for the Warming Shelter. We would love to have you join us at 9:30.

As always, you are welcome to join us on Sunday mornings. Our motto is, "No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome!"

Peace and Blessings for 2016,
Rev. Mary Kay