



## CORNWALL NEWSLETTER

Town of Cornwall

Volume 9, Issue 3

Winter 2012-2013

### Town Meeting, Town Reports & Town Officials

Happy New Year to all! The new year also means that it is time to think about the Town Report, Town Meeting and the election of Town Officials. In regard to the Town Report, we will have copies available on February 22, 2013, if not before. The reports will not be mailed again this year, but last year I delivered those that requested that a report be mailed to them and enjoyed myself very much. It was a good way to meet and greet neighbors and friends, so I will be doing that again this year. I saved last year's mailing requests, so I will be knocking on your door in mid February. I would encourage anyone that would also like a delivery to give me a call or send an email and I will add you to my list.

Town Meeting will be held on Monday evening, March 4, 2013 at 6:30 P.M. at the Cornwall Elementary School. The School District meeting will be held following the Town Meeting as usual. I assume there will

be some type of dinner available as in year's past. Town Meeting voting will take place at the Cornwall Town Hall the following day, March 5, 2013 from 7AM-7PM. If you have an interest in running for one

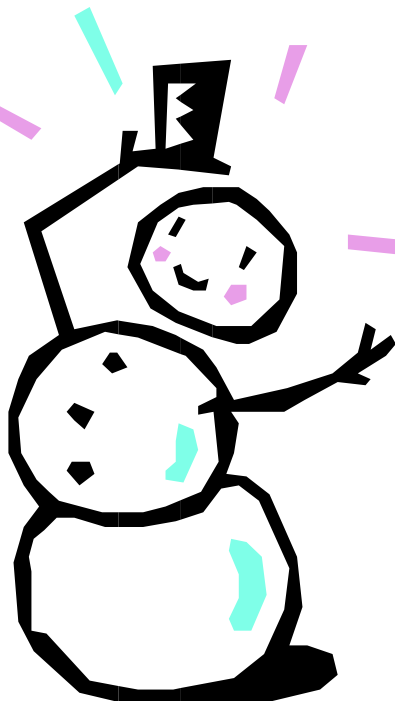
of the elected positions in town, you may pick up a petition at the Town Clerk's office during normal office hours (T-F 9:00am-5:00pm). You would need to obtain the signatures of at least 9 registered Cornwall voters, which is 1% of our checklist and return the petition to the Town Clerk by 5:00pm on January 30, 2013. If you are not a registered voter, you can register at the Town Clerk's office also. In order to vote at Town Meeting, you must be registered by Wednesday, February 27, 2013.

Participation at Town Meeting has dwindled over the years, so I would like to encourage folks to getting involved with the governance and operation of the town.

Don't forget that dog licenses are due by April 1 every year. If I have a valid rabies certificate, all I need is the fee. A valid rabies certificate is required.

Please feel free to call me with any questions at 462-2775 or email to [cornwallvt@shoreham.net](mailto:cornwallvt@shoreham.net).

Sue Johnson



We seem to be having a real winter this year!  
Much different than last year.. Hurray!!

#### Special points of interest:

- *Town Meeting, Monday, March 4, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at the Cornwall School.*
- *Town Meeting Voting, March 5, 2013 from 7:00am-7:00pm at the Cornwall Town Hall.*
- *Winter Tree Identification and Tracking Walk, March 9, 2013.*
- *Red Cross Shelter Training, early February.*
- *Dog Licenses Due by April 1, 2013. \$8.00 spayed/neutered; \$10.00 not spayed or neutered.*
- *Check out our website for upcoming events, board minutes and other important information. [www.cornwallvt.com](http://www.cornwallvt.com)*

### Cemetery Commission Request

The Cornwall Cemetery Commission is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the town cemeteries. The commission believes the cemeteries are a focal point of our town and keeping them looking good is an important responsibility. The Cemetery Commission is comprised of 5

elected members, Nancy Kemp, Joan Bingham, Patricia Anderson, Marc Ringey and Bruce Payne. The commissioners are elected to 5 year staggered terms. Pat Anderson has decided not to run for reelection this year. The commission would like to thank Pat Anderson for her service

to the town over the past 5 years.

If you have any interest in either serving as a commissioner or simply working with the commission, please give Nancy Kemp a call at 462-2370 or Sue Johnson at 462-2775.

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## Road Commissioner's Report

So winter finally got here after a fairly easy fall. We remembered how to plow snow after a year off and nothing broke, so that's all good. Several mailboxes weren't up to the snow coming off the plows, but none were physically hit. We did have to plow around several cars parked in the street. Besides the p.i.t.a. factor, there is a town ordinance that says the car can be towed at the owners expense. Obviously, short term it is not a big deal, but after a couple times plowing around it, it needs to be moved. The Clark Road culvert boondoggle seems

to have been settled. This summer we will be digging out the 'emergency repair' and putting in a single culvert (over 6' so it will be a bridge). This will make the A.N.R., D.E.C., hydrologists, biologists, archeologists and other untold bureaucrats feel all tingly.

The excavator has worked out well for both towns. The year end numbers came out extremely close to expectations. So that's a good thing.

It appears that we are not in line for a state paving grant this year and possibly next year as well. In light of this, putting

together an updated paving plan is a little challenging. I expect the end plan will involve more of the rubberized asphalt chip seal bicyclists seem to dislike.

As part of the Capital Buildings Plan, we hope to be working with some kids from the Hannaford Career Center to come up with some design ideas for expanding the town garage to get everything under cover and secure. Beyond that not much going on. If the snow banks shrink, we may get to cutting brush, otherwise, plow snow and wait for spring.

Stu

## Select Board Report

The Select Board has moved ahead with the deconstruction of the Lavalley building. Weather permitting that project will be completed in January with the final touches of site improvement, seeding, etc. completed when warm weather returns. All components of value connected with the building have been preserved or sold. Special thanks go to Ben Wood for navigating us through the rocks and shoals of this challenge.

In late November Vermont Gas briefed the Select Board and Planning Commission representatives regarding their proposal to construct a natural gas pipeline from Middlebury through Cornwall and Shoreham to the International Paper plant in Ticonderoga, NY. This project is budgeted to cost \$70 million and is being financed entirely by International Paper. As proposed the pipeline is intended to serve only the IP plant and will not provide gas service to any

others along its route. Vermont Gas intends to apply to the State of Vermont Public Service Board for a Certificate of Public Good this July and hopes to complete construction during 2015. During January and February an advisory committee composed of representatives from the affected towns will meet with Vermont Gas officials regarding the pipeline route. The Cornwall Planning Commission appointed Jim Duclos to represent Cornwall in those discussions. Further details of the proposal will be communicated to Cornwall residents as available.

Other items of interest include:

- In anticipation of including Town-owned buildings in the Capital Budget Select Board members inspected Town Hall and the Town Highway shed property.
- Working with the Town Attorney, Collector

of Delinquent Taxes and conservation interests we are in the process of resolving a long-outstanding tax delinquency problem with the Foote estate. As a result the town will be receiving all monies owed and the Middlebury Area Land Trust will acquire a 100 acre parcel of environmentally sensitive land off Rte. 125 below the ledges.

- Openings for a Lister and the Lemon Fair Insect Control Board have been filled thanks to Liam English and David Dodge.

The Cornwall Planning Commission is completing its work updating the Town Plan and has conducted the required public hearing. When the plan is submitted to the Select Board for approval the statutory hearing process begins and we expect that to be completed by Town Meeting.

## Planning Commission Report

While subdivision activity remained low in the last quarter, as it was all year, the CPC was busy pushing the new Town Plan towards adoption. A public hearing was held in November and, while it was lightly attended, a couple of issues surfaced and are being dealt with by the CPC. The next move will be forwarding to the Selectboard for another public hearing, further revisions if deemed appropriate by

the Selectboard, and finally – formal adoption.

The process is long but it provides ample opportunity for public input at all stages and we thank all who have participated.

Additionally, the CPC is representing Cornwall on a committee comprised of affected towns and the gas pipeline com-

pany as possible routes for the pipeline through Addison County are evaluated. The committee work will occur during 2013. The State of Vermont has ultimate authority but we hope to insure an outcome that is equitable for the Town of Cornwall. Jim Duclos is the official point of contact but any CPC member can forward comments or concerns.



## Conservation Commission News: January 2013

Greetings and best wishes for 2013! The Conservation Commission has some good news to share. We recently received word from Ben and Jerry's Foundation that we were awarded a grant of \$500 as a contribution to an inventory of our town's natural resources. While the amount is smaller than we'd hoped for, it is a welcome start to our fund raising efforts. We are now exploring other sources for funds. While the CCC hopes to secure the majority of the cost for the Inventory through grants, matching funds from the town are frequently requested by granting agencies. Thus, we have asked the Select Board to include money for the Inventory in its budget for the coming year.

Some readers may be asking, "What is a Natural Resources Inventory and how will it benefit Cornwall?" Inventories provide information about valuable ecological features that help landowners and planners protect publicly valued places and prevent the degradation of environmental quality. Information is gathered about wildlife habitat and travel corridors; rare and uncommon species and natural communities; wetlands and riparian areas of special importance for water quality pro-

tection; and habitats for species of greatest conservation need (which have been identified by the state Fish and Wildlife Department). Most comprehensive, specific, and accurate inventories are conducted by professional consulting ecologists. Town residents would be involved in numerous ways from providing basic information about special places that they know to assisting with on-the-ground evaluation of selected sites. Such visits are conducted only with landowner permission. The results of the inventory would be presented to the town via public meetings, a written report, maps, and GIS layers.

The CCC will be sponsoring two events in the coming months. Vermont winters are long and learning to identify trees during the season can be an interesting and useful skill. On **Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**, Addison County Forester Chris Olson will lead a **Winter Tree Identification and Tracking Walk**. This is an exciting opportunity to get out into the forest during the winter and observe nature. (See details below.)

After the winter ice has melted, CCC members Brian Howlett and Lawrence Pyne have offered to lead residents on an **Exploration of Otter Creek** by canoe and kayak. We will put in at the Swamp Road boating access and take out in Middlebury, probably at 3 Mile Bridge. Areas of the Cornwall Swamp will be flooded at this time allowing paddlers to explore places impossible to reach under other conditions. The exact date of the outing is dependent on weather condition, but is likely to be in early April. To put your name on a contact list, let Brian ([drbrianhowlett@gmail.com](mailto:drbrianhowlett@gmail.com)) know that you would like to participate. We will also post the day, time, and meeting place on the Cornwall website.

The CCC would like to introduce its newest member, Mike Sheridan, to the Commission. He has jumped right into the work of the CCC and is busy helping with grant writing. Mike and his family have lived in Cornwall since 2006. He teaches anthropology and environmental studies at Middlebury College and specializes in African land management issues. Mike was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Kenya.

## Winter Tree Identification and Tracking Walk

Join Addison County Forester Chris Olson for a **Winter Tree Identification and Tracking Walk** on Saturday, March 9th from 1:00 to 3:30 pm. This workshop is a good opportunity for people of all ages to get out into the forest in winter and observe nature during this season. Participants will follow Chris as he talks about forest and land management for the benefit of wildlife and points out the characteristics of different tree species. The outing will take place near a bobcat denning area (we will be on the lookout for their tracks), as well as traces of other animals. If there is deep snow, snowshoes will be helpful.

Families are invited to participate in this workshop. It will take place at the home of Mary Dodge and Michael Katz, Sperry Road, Cornwall. We will meet at the **Cornwall Town Clerk's Office at 12:45 pm on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>** and then car pool to Mary's and Michael's house from there.

The Walk is sponsored by Vermont Coverts and the Cornwall Conservation Commission. For more information or directions, contact Gisela Palmer at 462-3383 ([gisela@shoreham.net](mailto:gisela@shoreham.net)) or Brian Howlett at 462-3909 ([drbrianhowlett@gmail.com](mailto:drbrianhowlett@gmail.com)).



## Update on the North Bingham St. Fire Station

The Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department recently completed a total renovation of its West Cornwall Station, located on North Bingham Street just off Route 74. The renovated station has two 14' doors and one 12' door to accommodate larger trucks, a new roof system which sheds snow to the sides of the building rather than in front of the doors as in the previous configuration, is highly insulated and has new energy efficient heating and lighting systems. An automatic alarm system protects the town's investment in the building and the vehicles within. We will be holding an open house in the spring to show the building to the public. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who contributed to the construction of this building. First and foremost, the townspeople of

Cornwall who generously voted the funds to complete the work; we are pleased that we were able to complete this 2500 square foot building for about \$82,000.

The following businesses and individuals helped with the building process through volunteer work, in-kind donations of materials, and discounted pricing on services and materials. Their generosity and support saved the town and department a considerable amount of money and is greatly appreciated.

Bryant Lumber  
Carrera Concrete  
Casella Waste Management  
Cornwall Highway Dept.  
Energy Alternatives

Freeguard Concrete  
Fyles Brothers  
Glen Peck Electric  
Goodro Lumber  
Green Mountain Door  
Marshall's Alarm Service  
Nop's Metal Works  
Ramunto's Pizza  
Rich Reichert  
S&J Excavation  
Shelburne Limestone

Many CVFD members assisted with the building. We would like to particularly recognize Assistant Chief David Berno for his efforts in coordinating and executing this project.

## Cornwall to Receive Red Cross Shelter Supplies

The Vermont & New Hampshire Upper Valley Red Cross has offered communities training and equipment to operate local shelters for up to 72 hours before outside assistance arrives.

This initiative arose out of the Irene Storm when more than 30 communities were in need of shelter assistance, but the Red Cross was only able to open and staff 13 regional facilities. This spurred the Red Cross to develop this plan to provide every willing and interested town with a basic supply of gear and training.

The Cornwall Town Hall was officially designated as our Emergency Shelter facility a year ago. To that end, we have accumulated some supplies, but we have believed that most people will prefer to stay home. The idea of a "day-" or "warming-" shelter—one where people stop in during the day to get warm, check email, get hot coffee—is what we've considered most likely. (And really isn't far from what we have now when the Town Clerk's office is open.)

Having the ability, however, to allow 20-25 individuals to stay, or at least have a place to rest safely, increases the resources we can provide, as a town, during a disaster. It is also possible that residents from another town may need to stay at our shelter, and the Red Cross would request our assistance for that.

The Local Disaster Shelter Initiative provides each town with the following "pallet" of goods: 25 cots and blankets; bottled water, emergency weather radio, lighting, and Red Cross Shelter signage, forms, and volunteer vests. For now, these will not be stored at the Town Hall, but near by and accessible if needed.

**WE WANT YOU!** to join us for a half-day training, provided by Red Cross staff, to become a volunteer with our shelter. The training covers official Red Cross policy and procedure, and how it will be handled on the local scale. We'll learn how to set up the space, what documentation to collect, how to oversee the shelter, and how to take it all apart afterwards. These shelters will also be in our neighboring towns, and we're hoping to have enough volunteers to be able to help each other out at various times.

We will be scheduling this training for the beginning of February. Please indicate interest by **Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup>**: [giegess@shoreham.net](mailto:giegess@shoreham.net) or 462-2182.



## Check Out the New Materials at the Library

New additions to the library shelves are continually being added to the collection of materials at the library. Come on in and look them over OR check out the Library Section of the town website, [cornwallvt.com](http://cornwallvt.com), to see the complete listing.

Below is a sampling of the new materials that the library now has for your borrowing pleasure.

### ADULT FICTION

**The Forgotten** - David Baldacci, **The Black Box** - Michael Connelly, **The Twelve** - Justin Cronin, **The Round House** - Louise Erdrich, **Notorious Nineteen** - Janet Evanovich, **The Last Man** - Vince Flynn, **The Racketeer** - John Grisham, **In Sunlight and in Shadow** - Mark Helprin, **Flight Behavior** - Barbara Kingsolver, **The Twelve Tribes of Hattie** - Ayana Mathis, **The Secret Keeper** - Kate Morton, **Dear Life: Stories** - Alice Munro, **Merry Christmas, Alex Cross** - James Patterson, **The Casual Vacancy** - J. K. Rowling, and **The Art Forger** - B. F. Shapiro

### NON FICTION

**Mortality** - Christopher Hitchens, **Help Thanks Wow** - Anne LaMott, **The Last Lion** - William Manchester, **Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power** - Jon Meacham, **Killing Kennedy: The End of Camelot** - Bill O'Reilly, **The End of Your Life Book Club** - Will Schwalbe, and **Waging Heavy Peace** - Neil Young

### YOUNG ADULT

**Son** - Lois Lowry and **Iced** - Karen Marie Moning

### CHILDREN

**Llama Llama Time to Share** - Anne Dewdney, **My Mama Earth** - Susan B. Katz, **The Three Little Aliens and the Big Bad Robot** - Margaret McNamara and Mark Fearing, **The Three Billy Goats Fluff** - Rachael Mortimer, **The Mark of Athena (Heroes of Olympus, Book 3)** - Rick Riordan, **Infinity Ring 2: Divide and Conquer** - Carrie Ryan, and **The Expeditioners** - S. S. Taylor

### AUDIO BOOKS

**Gone Girl** - Gillian Flynn, **The Racketeer** - John Grisham, **Killing Lincoln** - Bill O'Reilly, and **The Light Between Oceans** - M. L. Stedman

### DVDS

**Madagascar 3 – Europe's Most Wanted**, **The Avengers**, **Dark Shadows**, **Hatfields and McCoys**, **Doc Martin – Seasons 1 and 2**, **Magic Mike**, **The Dark Knight Rises**, **Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days**, and **Secret of the Wings**

## News from the Library



The library is pleased to acknowledge a grant of \$800 that was received from the *Holmes Advised Fund at the Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes, Inc.* Thank you for supporting the Cornwall Free Public Library.

Do you have an overdue Book/DVD/Audio Book? Please be considerate of others and try to return materials on time, or remember to renew them. Can't get here during Library hours? Not a problem - you

can place materials in the drop-off box located to the right of the door at the Town Hall Building.

Just a few reminders. The Library has a public use computer connected to a printer, and we also have wireless access so we provide free internet access to those of you who have laptops and devices with wireless cards. ListenUp! Vermont which gives you access to dozens of titles to read on your computer, MP3 player, eReader or other mobile devices,

and Universal Class which is an online continuing education program which gives library patrons access to over 500 online courses are available to Cornwall Library patrons. New books, audiobooks, and DVDs are continually being added to the library collection. Come on in and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee while you browse.





## Openings for Elected and Appointed Positions

The town has a few openings for anyone interested in serving in some capacity in the town.

First, Dena Greenman has indicated that she will not be continuing as our Green Up Coordinator for 2013. Anyone interested in serving in that capacity, please give Sue Johnson or Dena Greenman a call to find out what is involved. This is an appointed position, so no petition needed. There will be two openings on the Library Board of Trustees. These are two year terms and do require a petition as they are elected positions. If you have any

interest in the Library Trustee position, give Sue Johnson a call to get the low down on the position.

In other elected positions for the town, we have need of two Grand Jurors, one Trustee of Public Funds and a Town Agent.

There are vacancies in the appointed posi-



tions of alternate to the Addison County Regional Planning Commission. After Town Meeting, when the Select board attempts to fill all of the elected and appointed positions, there may be other openings. If you have any interest, give Sue a call and she will make a note.

## Dog Catcher's Song by Gary Margolis

Maybe this is your door	over beyond your
your blanket	panting unknown
bed	name nameless you
where you run all night	come not underhandedly
in your sleep	more welcomed than
dreaming	not where are you
not seeing, breathing in	
feeling blood	who's calling you
something staying	back beyond here
caught on its grey	by your name
fur spotted	given and recorded
Maybe here is the hand	evenly
that feeds you	in a hand not yours
lets you in against	in the town's tagged
dreaming's better	unleashed
judgement calls you	book

## Writing a Prescription

Deborah Digges (1950-2009)

Gary Margolis

Oh, there was one more half-  
Cure left to work, a dose  
Untried, something one of us

Could still think of, suggest.  
Something natural, an herb  
Growing even in a ditch.

And not those stadium steps  
And their thinner air,  
The empty parking lot.

Oh, for the life grief gives.  
A prescription for grieving  
And side effects we can live

With, like living. Those flow-  
ering  
Weeds in the ditch the dust  
Picks first and tests for us.

Something to eat, boil to  
drink.  
Almost beautiful to look at  
And pick, take inside. To put

Into a vase, for the time it  
should  
Take for their budding leaves  
to flower  
Into a curable death.

## Coffee Still Available at the Town Hall!

There is still coffee available most days at the town hall. Free wifi is also available, and a good selection of books in the library. Stop by!





## ***Driving With Handel to Wal-Mart***

Past the wrapped, twined bales.

The raptors perching their poles.  
Eagle and Red-tailed.

The humming wires. The lower  
rain-flooded, frozen fields.  
Rinks for awhile. Past the stone

house by the Lemon Fair.

The artifacts dug for, found  
there. Arrow and Indian heads.

Around three curves. Over  
a hill. Past these carefree, drenched  
cows. Their cement-walled, sweet-

smelling manure trenches. The farm  
ponds, diamond rocks. To where  
125 crosses 22A. West. Past

Pratt's store to the Adirondacks.

The bale-lined fields. Sun-  
stored. That man selling more bird

houses, hand-built, than milk.

Soon trailers, the winter-  
lit houses. Over to Cham-  
plain's new

curving bridge. The low-flying  
ducks, the arrowing geese.  
Chimney

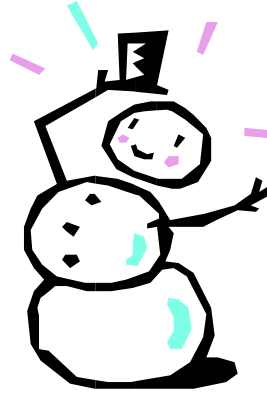
Point's cold museum. Past

the empty encampment.  
Crown

Point's stone light. Heber's  
time-  
frozen, sculpted Champlain. Looking

over the lake. The face France sent,  
Rodin-made. A frieze still here.  
In this other state. Where we turn

to the left on that side of the lake. South  
of Bulwagga Bay's, ice-holding shan-



ties.

Past the native's house, his  
bakery  
shut down. Seneca, it can be  
remembered

and sung. Fife and  
drummed. Kept in  
apple bins. It's likely, sitting  
next to me,

you feel the notes fluting their  
crates.

The paper mill's smoke,  
cleaner than thought.

Something that's best left  
unsaid. Looking

back. Even as we're made to slow to a  
stop.

Within sound of the Fort. At the four-  
way light. Pulling into the parking lot.

By Gary Margolis



Larry Clark took these photos near his home on Clark Road.  
(Thank you to T Tall for sharing) I guess that is why we need  
the moose sized culvert there?!!!!



**Town of Cornwall**

2629 Route 30  
Cornwall, VT 05753

**We're on the Web**  
**[www.cornwallvt.com](http://www.cornwallvt.com)**

***“Tramp in the Barn, 1978”***  
**...why the door is slightly ajar...**  
**what is not there any longer. Andrew Wyeth**

Barn doors a bit apart.  
Red boards. Red flags.  
It must have snowed last  
night. After he went in.  
No tracks showing yet.  
Here the barn is home.  
Homeless hasn't been  
discovered yet. It's cold  
enough to keep the snow  
barn-roofed. To see  
your breath if you were  
here, spending the night  
and not inside the owner's  
house, down there,  
behind the unlocked fence.  
Still, a broken bale makes

a better bed and knowing  
he's sleeping in a stall,  
straw, corn-fed. Fed as in  
cared for. Somewhat  
warm. Breath is a breathing  
cow and what you could see  
of his coming up  
from underneath  
the hay. How the sky blends  
in. As if there's a roof  
over his head. Which  
there is, if he needs to stay.  
If there isn't a train  
across the field, slowing  
down, scattering the snow,  
he feels he has to ride.

By Gary Margolis