



CORNWALL NEWSLETTER

Town of Cornwall, Vermont

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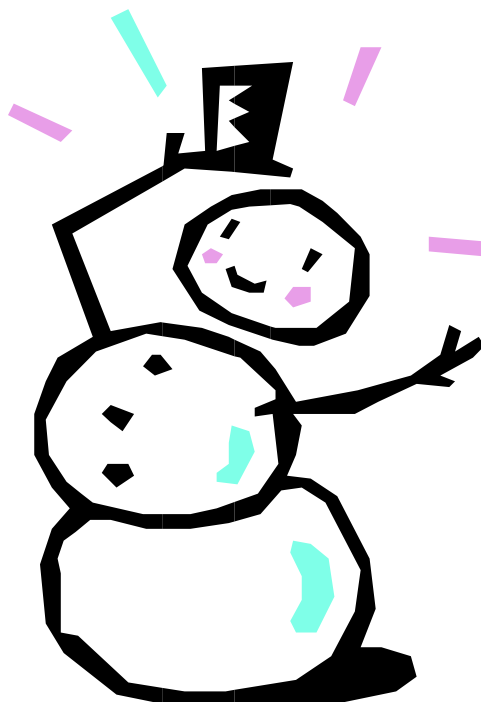
Town Meeting and Election of Town Officials Preparation! Many Openings are Available!

Although it is very winter like out there, this is the time to be thinking about Town Meeting and whether or not you have an interest in running for an elected position in the Town of Cornwall. This year in particular, there are quite a few open positions. The procedure to follow is to come into the town office and obtain a petition for the particular position you are interested in. You must gather 9 signatures of registered Cornwall voters. Some folks think they are registered to vote and they aren't, so I would get a couple more than 9 if you can. Return the completed petition to the Town Clerk by 5:00 PM on Monday, January 27, 2014 and that is it. Your name will be placed on the town meeting ballot. If you are running unopposed, you will be elected as you only need to get 9 votes to be elected. The positions that I know are open for the 2014 Town Meeting Election are:

Selectboard 2 year term;
 School Director to fill an unexpired 3 year term (2 years);
 Town Auditor 3 year term;
 Two Trustees of Public Funds are needed, one for a 1 year term to fill an unexpired term and one for a 3 year term;

Library Trustee 2 year term;
 Two Planning Commissioners are needed for 3 year terms. Of course, anyone who is a registered voter can run for any position that is on the ballot.

Town Meeting Info: If you have an article that you would like to see added to the town meeting warning, you can present it to the Selectboard along with signatures of valid Cornwall voters in the amount of 5% of the checklist. This would be at least 45 signatures. The Selectboard will review the requested article and most likely include it in the warning, but they do not have to include a petitioned article. Town Meeting will be held on Monday, March 3, 2014 at the Cornwall School at 6:30 PM. Australian ballot voting for Town Officials will take place at the Cornwall Town Hall on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 from 7AM-7PM. Register to vote by Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at 5:00 PM.



Happy New Year!

January Meeting News

Just to make you all aware, January is the busy month for Town Meeting preparation. There are two Selectboard meetings, January 7 & January 21. Along with regular business, the board will vote on the General Fund and

Highway budgets for inclusion in the town meeting warning. The Capital Plan/Budget Committee will meet to discuss the Capital Budgets and will hold a hearing on January 21, 2014 at 7:00 PM. After the hearing, the Selectboard will

decide and vote on the amounts for the capital budgets to be included in the General Fund budget. The Selectboard welcomes your presence at any of these meetings.

Special points of interest:

- *Crime Prevention Tips*
- *School Creates Outdoor Classroom*
- *Dog Licenses Available*
- *Winter Storm & Power Outage Checklist*
- *New Materials at the Library*
- *Cornwall Conservation Commission Receives Municipal Planning Grant*

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Crime Prevention Tips from Lt. Michael Manley & Sheriff Don Keeler

Sheriff Don Keeler of the Addison County Sheriff's Department and Lt. Michael Manley of the Vermont State Police would like to provide everyone with some helpful crime prevention tips to assist with home security:

- 1) Make sure you lock all your doors and windows.
- 2) Leave a light on so it appears someone is home when not present.
- 3) Let neighbors know when you will be out of town and keep a watchful eye on each other's property.

4) If you see suspicious activity, report it to the police immediately.

5) Make sure you have your driveway plowed even when you will not be using the property for an extended period of time so that it will not be obvious nobody is living there.

6) Homeowners are having success with setting up trail cameras commonly used for hunting purposes on their driveway to assist with monitoring who enters the property.



Cornwall School Creates an Outdoor Classroom

The Cornwall School community is grateful to everyone who pitched in on Sat., Nov. 16, as we worked on the outdoor classroom. Thanks to all the members of the work crew—Lilly Devlin, Skyler Devlin, George Devlin, Camden Devlin, Justin Holmes, Woody Jackson, Ingrid Jackson, Alisa Breau, Malia Hodges, Frank Wolff, Clara Wolff, Vanessa Wolff, Emily Bridges, Mark Bellinger, Hope Bellinger, Gregg

The Cornwall School community is grateful to everyone who pitched in on Saturday, November 16, as we worked on the outdoor classroom!

Denton, Gary Barnett, Anne Collins, Brian Collins and Monique Bonner.

To Bruce Hiland, Gary Barnett and Barney Hodges for the use of their pickup trucks.

And to Barney Hodges and Sunrise Orchards for supplying and loading the wood chips.

We may put out another all call in the spring, to do some final smoothing and raking and pull stray twigs

and branches. But it's ready for winter and we're grateful for all who helped.

A standing Thank You to Stu Johnson, Kristi Tolgyesi, Linda Brown and Lisa Beck, who have been the driving forces behind this great addition to the school. And we're grateful too to the Four Winds Nature Institute, which supplied a grant in support of our efforts.

Alex Wolff

Co-coordinator, Four Winds Nature Institute program at Cornwall School

An Open Letter from Tammy Denton

To the Cornwall Community:

I write to inform everyone of a vacancy on the Cornwall School Board. Unfortunately, I recently resigned my position after less than a year due to evolving family circumstances. I appreciate all of the candid communications and support I received from so many of our community members relating to school board matters. Communication and transparency are vital to a healthy, productive, and responsible

Board and school. Changes are occurring and others are being contemplated that will impact our school in significant ways. There is great need for strong, attentive, and responsive leadership on our Board and at the supervisory union level. I would strongly urge all community members to seriously consider the possibility of filling the position. If you are not able to take on the duties and responsibilities of a Board position, I would encourage everyone to

attend Board meetings as frequently as possible. We are truly fortunate to have a wonderful, committed group of teachers, staff, and students at Cornwall School. These are challenging times, and they need your support in more ways than can be imagined. Please consider getting involved. Thank you.

Tammy Denton



Selectboard News

First, the good news.

- This spring we will begin improving the space to the south of Town Hall where the Lavalley building stood. We'll start with professional advice and identify opportunities for volunteer gardeners/landscapers. Best of all, the cost is expected to be covered by the Lemuel & Vera Peet fund. A fund which is overseen by our Trustees of Public Funds.
- The "salt committee" continues to research alternatives to the expensive – and apparently endless! - 24/7/365 pumping at the Town Garage.
- We evaluated and selected a new health insurance plan for our Town employees. Both cost and coverage are comparable to what has been in place.
- Community members stepped up to fill openings on the Cornwall Conservation Commission (Bethany Barry) and the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (Holly Noordsy, Delegate and Stan Gryzb, Alternate).
- We met with LT Mike Manley, VSP's New Haven Station Commander, and Addison County Sheriff Don Keeler to update our understanding of law enforcement in Cornwall. You'll see their suggestions in this newsletter. We're in good hands. We can make their jobs more "doable" and our lives

more secure if we all take sensible precautions.

On the "dark side" we had to deal with a troublesome dog and even more troublesome gas pipeline company.

- A resident was injured in a dog-caused event. That situation and the subsequent efforts at resolution demonstrated, once more, that making laws is easy but enforcing them can be an altogether different matter. While Cornwall's dog ordinance is under review our recent discussion with our law enforcement officials raised troubling issues regarding the complications and cost of enforcement.

If you have a dog(s) be a good neighbor and responsible citizen. PLEASE keep your dog under your control ... and that includes barking.

- The pipeline saga continues. *A separate letter explains where we are and your role in deciding how Cornwall may deal with this problem.* The State has just approved the "Phase 1" pipeline to Middlebury. **Our concern is solely with the "Phase 2" proposal** to drive a high-pressure transmission line through our community to serve the International Paper mill

in Ticonderoga, New York.

The Select Board continues to express Cornwall's opposition to Vermont Gas Systems' plan. We believe we are reflecting the overwhelming majority of opinion that you have expressed at Select Board meetings, the Town forum and in your petitions, letters, phone calls and personal conversations with Town officials. We are avoiding wasting taxpayer dollars while making certain that we are effectively represented in the State-mandated process just getting underway. The Governor's reply to our letter simply stated his preference to let the Department of Public Service and the Public Service Board processes determine the outcome. Sadly, he ignored our request to provide leadership to find a better solution.

For their part the pipeline company has been remarkably unresponsive to our concerns and instead has chosen to spend a great deal of money on advertising, promotion and public relations. Only after filing their formal application with the State on 11/19 did they ask to meet with us to explore possible options. We expect to meet with them again in early January.

Dog Licenses

I know there will be another Newsletter around April 1, 2014, but this is just a heads up that you can purchase your 2014 dog license any time starting January 2. The cost of the license this year is \$8.00 for a spayed/neutered dog and \$10.00 for an unsprayed/not neutered dog. These prices are good through April 1 and then the cost goes up as there is a late fee assessed. The license is a lovely green dog head this year, so don't delay,

come and acquire the lovely jewelry today! We express our thanks to Bruce Payne for being our dog officer for the last several years. Bruce is no longer serving in this capacity, so the town is looking for someone that might be interested in serving in the capacity. There is pay-



Dog Licensing starts now through April 1. Get your license today.

ment involved, but the "job" is not particularly "fun" and can be time consuming. Wanted to give full disclosure. Give Sue or one of the Selectboard members a call if you have an interest.



Road Commissioner's Rant (whoops) Report!

So what's the hottest happenin' joint in Cornwall these days? The Cornwall Highway Sand Shed uh huh uh huh oh yeah uh huh. Hopefully no politicians will figure out that you can see more people up here after an ice storm than at any chicken pie supper or BBQ. Course if they were to help shovel in stead of schmoozing....nah. Probably the Marshall's Service could even find a few scoundrels in the crowd. Yep, one thing for sure and for certain, the sand pile took a whippin' the last couple weeks. And this ice won't be going anywhere for a while especially if we get some snow on it. It'll take a really serious January thaw and that's not even in the long range forecast.

So it seems like we may be in for a real winter despite the goofy fall weather and a late start. I wouldn't worry about the sand pile so much if it was the first of February but its not. We'll probably have to draw in some more sand at some point. We're pretty well convinced the coarser stone has helped during these ice storms however we're running out of that stuff. We will probably be a little more judicious with it especially when it's real cold as it just gets blown off. At the same time, when the sun hits the sand, it melts into the ice and is basically gone. So we hit it again. This ice/ sanding gets old and is costly but I don't see to many options. We may be able to cut back a little but how much with out reducing the safety aspect is a grey area.

As we sit here in single digit temperatures, keep in mind that salt, even with the additives, doesn't work effectively at these lower temps. And Vtrans still seems bent on using salt brine. It has its place in warmer temps but at these lower temps, things can go bad in a hurry if they don't use enough salt and additives to go with it. They have also opted not to stockpile any sand so that is not an option for them either. Bottom line; be cautious on the state roads especially when it's cold.

Typically we don't salt until the storm is or is nearly over. We are trying yet another additive which makes the salt a dark brown. Safemelt does help make the salt work at lower temps and makes it

a bit tacky so it doesn't get whipped off the side of the road, reducing usage by about 20%, at least that's the goal. This is a byproduct of the paper industry and is not subject to the price volatility and supplies of the commodity feed market products from which other additives were made.

Related to plowing... We've had a few problems/ complaints about folks plowing out into or across the road and leaving a mess. Now technically, it's against state law to deposit snow in the ROW. (23VSA 11.26a if you care) The whole deal is safety of the traveling public. A bit of mess during the storm before we finish plowing is not a big deal unless it enough to do damage. Yeah it's a nuisance to have to go back after we're done and clean up a mess but I'm not going to call VSP. But if something bad happens or the complainant calls them instead of me, it might be an issue for the landowner. So, do what you can not to leave snow in the road and your neighbors will be happy and not calling me or my wife, making me happy even though it's supposed to be all about safety.

I was, until recently of the opinion we would be eligible for a state paving grant this year and intended to use it on Parkhill Rd. and the paved portion South Bingham St. While it's not in too bad a shape except for the culvert cuts, it has been 11 years. We'll probably proceed with changing out the rest of the failing culverts this summer and hopefully get better at patching them. Then we'll be ready for paving it the next year. We had talked of reworking the intersection of the two roads but will put that off until the paving project is assured.

I rarely use this opportunity to render an opinion so I'll identify this as an Editorial Comment. This last week we have watched our neighbors up north get walloped by an ice storm reminiscent of what we went through in '98. Many were stranded for two days and many more without power for several days. I also look at the danger involved for those dealing with the sprung over trees, be they power crews, tree crews or road crews. Cutting a sprung tree

like that is about the most dangerous thing you want to do with a chainsaw. So what am I getting at? Kill more trees? In a nutshell yes. While we didn't have it nearly so bad, we didn't have nearly the trouble with trees as we might have and I do believe it is because we have been pushing back the brush/tree lines over the years. Actually, most of the stuff hitting the trucks were limbs on trees we had left when we last cut there. We're still working on a safe, efficient way to deal with that. Wider clear zones help. A 40' tree on the edge of the right of way will reach the power lines on the other side not to mention block the road. Selective species cutting, because some species are much more susceptible to ice than others and while they may straighten up when the ice comes off, until then the powers off, the roads blocked and some poor schmuck is going to cut it anyways so cut it during a maintenance operation at a time when conditions suit. Think about this a little when you're giving the tree trimmers a hard time. By the time they get done whittling on a tree to suit you and the GMP forester, they've pretty near killed it anyways or made it so lopsided it'll fall in the road, so let them take it down...free. They're doing what they need to, to keep you and your neighbors with power. The rest of us are working to keep the roads passable for Fire, Rescue, power guys and you Think about it when you plant trees under or next to the power lines or ROW. They will grow and become a problem even if its just shade creating a man made cold icy spot requiring more salt or sand. We now have several of them in town.

I'm not saying we go after the big old maples though it irks me to watch all that firewood rotting from the inside out. When they are dead enough to be gone, the next generation needs to be farther back so nurture them.

Tree lined roads are nice, pretty and all. I'm just saying the tree line ought to be 20' back instead of 10' or less.

I could probably rant some more but I feel better now



The Annual Winter Storm & Power Outage Checklist

1. Have a phone that works when the power is out.
2. HAVE A PHONE THAT WORKS WHEN THE POWER IS OUT!
3. Consider water pipes, plants, etc. should the power be out for a long time, and no backup heat
4. Keep, and refresh, water supplies for drinking, cooking, hygiene, and pets
5. Have a 5 gallon pail with water, and/or fill the bathtub, to flush the toilet
6. Know what's in your refrigerator and freezer. Have a cooler accessible for storing food outside†
7. Check and refill meds or other personal needs before a storm comes in
8. If you have an electric stove, make a plan for meals that you can make without power†
9. Have charged/checked batteries and/or crank radio to keep informed of area events
10. If you have a generator, test it, under load, on a regular basis. Keep extra fuel in a safe and secure location.
11. Keep outside exhaust vents clear of snow so they don't get covered and fill your house with poison
12. Have and check fire extinguishers in easily locatable places around your home. Make sure everyone knows how to use them
13. Keep flashlights and spare batteries somewhere you can find them in the dark
14. Keep a shovel near the front door, as well as sand or salt
15. Be prepared to remain in your house for up to 72 hours without outside assistance*
16. Have a plan in case you can't get home during a storm
17. Talk with neighbors about pooling resources during an emergency: cooking, heat, water, etc.
18. If you are on an electrical-dependent medical device*, call GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER to be sure they know that your power is out. 800/649-2877
19. Know where we publish information:
 - Sign up for Cornwall Connection Email Alerts, covering public notices, roadwork plans, emergency alerts, and other local details. Sign up with Sue: cornwallvt@shoreham.net
 - Listen to WVTM, 92.1FM or WOKO 98.9 FM for general, area-wide announcements
 - Phone Vermont 2-1-1 and ask for "Cornwall Updates" to find out information about our roads, shelter options, and other details for our community
 - during storms or incidents, www.cornwallvt.com and the Town Clerk answering machine (462-2775) will be updated as much as possible with contact information
 - Join the Weybridge/Cornwall Front Porch Forum, as place to exchange ideas, tips, resources, and referrals. <http://frontporchforum.com>

*If these questions or any health/safety issues relating to "sheltering in place" concern you, please talk with someone involved with the Emergency Management Network and we'll help you develop plans.

†Cornwall received a Red Cross Local Shelter Kit, and with it, has designed a Local Shelter operations plan. If we have a storm that cuts power for an extended period of time or restricts travel, we will open the Town Hall for food, device charging, overnight sheltering, and other basic needs with which we might assist.

Kate Gieges, Emergency Manager.
462-2182. gieges@shoreham.net



Thanks from the Library

The Trustees of the Cornwall Free Public Library wish to thank all of you who supported our 2013 Book Sale. It was a great success thanks to everyone who donated books, shoppers, and volunteers who helped with setup, sale, and take down. Proceeds from the sale go directly to stock the library shelves with new materials for the community to borrow and enjoy. Thank you all again!

We are also pleased to acknowledge a grant of \$850 that was received from the *Holmes Advised Fund at the Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes, Inc.* Thank you for your continued support of the Cornwall Free Public Library.



Book Group ???

A few patrons have indicated that they would be interested in joining a daytime book group at the Cornwall Library, and we'd like to know if you might be too. The options include (1) 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday or Thursday with beverages and snack provided by the Cornwall Li-

brary or (2) a brown bag lunch, with beverages and snack provided by the Cornwall Library, at noon on Wednesday or Thursday.

Please call Sue Johnson by January 25th at 802-462-2775 or e-mail her at cornwallvt@shoreham.net to let her know if

you are interested. Also, please let her know which days and times work better for you. If there is enough interest and if there is consensus on the day and time, we will get the book group started.

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, to see the complete list.

A sampling of new materials include:

FICTION

The First Phone Call From Heaven - Mitch Albom, *Longburn* - Jo Baker, *King and Maxwell* - David Baldacci, *The Gods of Guilt* - Michael Connelly, *Dust* - Patricia Cornwell, *The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion* - Fannie Flagg, *Sycamore Row* - John Grisham, *Innocence* - Dean Koontz, *The Lowland* - Jhumpa Lahiri, *Three Can Keep A Secret* - Archer Mayor, *A Tale for the Time Being* - Ruth L. Ozeki, *Gone* and *Cross My Heart* - James Patterson, *The Longest Ride* - Nicholas Sparks, *The Valley of Amazement* - Amy Tan, and *The Goldfinch* - Donna Tartt

NON FICTION

One Summer - Bill Bryson, *Still Foolin' Em* - Billy Crystal, *The Bully Pulpit* - Doris Kearns Goodwin, *Things That Matter* - Charles Krauthammer, and *I Am Malala* - Malala Yousafzai

YOUNG ADULT

Allegiant - Veronica Roth and *Steelheart* - Brandon Sanderson

CHILDREN

Cinders - Jan Brett, *Ladybug Girl and the Big Snow* - Jacky Davis, *Pete the Cat and His Magic Sunglasses* - James Dean, *Strega Nona Does It Again* - Tomie dePaola, *Flora and Ulysses* - Kate DiCamillo, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Hard Luck* - Jeff Kinney, *An Otis Christmas* - Loren Long, *Snowflakes Fall* - Patricia MacLachlan, *Wild Born* - Brandon Mull, *The Real Boy* - Anne Ursu, and *Mr. Wuffles* - David Wiesner

AUDIO BOOKS

The Last Phone Call - Mitch Albom, *Gone* - James Patterson, *Accused* - Lisa Scottoline, and *D.C. Dead* - Stuart Woods

DVDs

The Croods, *Despicable Me 2*, *Doc Marin: Series 5*, *Elf*, *Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas Special*, *The Internship*, *Man of Steel*, *Monsters University*, *The Newsroom: The Complete First Season*, *Now You See Me*, *Olympus Has Fallen*, *Planes*, *Red 2*, *Thomas and Friends: Blue Mountain Mystery*, *Thomas and Friends: Santa's Little Engine*, and *World War Z*



First Real Snow by Gary Margolis

It's either Beethoven or Coach Beaney
shoveling his driveway. Lifting
the notes of the snow. The plow

hasn't arrived to make a drift
from a Mass in C major, to plan
strategy for a game. So the two

of them are out lifting their hearts,
pausing, resting between pauses and lifts.
I'm plow-less, driving by. And would

stop if I could. If I didn't want to skate
on Route 30's rink. Didn't want to
sing, when I should be stopping.

What happens to me when I'm looking
and listening? And one man turns
into another. The road is a sheet

of music. Our coach is composing
the snow. A composer is drawing
his x's and o's.

Flicker's Back by Gary Margolis

drilling my left-over
cage of fat
his cap red as a dripping
winter flag I'd take him

to stadiums all over the world
if I could starting here
after he's done and before
a ball is set in place

before the fans stand and sing
or mourner's celebrate
at the bottom of the world
a *transitioning* I'd open

my hands where I'd been holding
his flickering praise him
like a homing pigeon a flag
that eats its dust

Driving to California from Vermont by Gary Margolis

I'm sitting in my dirt driveway
typing your name and address
into my GPS. Straightening

the mirror. Pushing the scan
button for a few stations
to drive me across our country.

To sing or talk or read me a story.
As if it was you, sitting next to me
and we were saying nothing

or finding a few words. Anything
to move us from one united
state to another. To keep us

awake to each other. I'm trying
to remember if I have everything
I need, with the engine running.

Water. A sandwich. A list of numbers.
Matches and flares. And a back-up
map. In case I can't understand

what she is saying, when I'm driving
around in circles. When she's telling
me to put my car into Drive.

To turn down the volume. And look up
the freezing road. When love's
keeping me home.

Town of Cornwall, Vermont

2629 Route 30
Cornwall, VT 05753



News from the Cornwall Conservation Commission

The CCC has some excellent news to report – we have just received a 2014-2015 Municipal Planning Grant for \$11,985. This money, which will be added to prior grants, allows us to complete the inventory of Cornwall's natural resources. Our consultant Brett Engstrom interviewed many of you in October, and he gathered a lot of great information about the town's wildlife and plants at our Public Forum on October 16th. Brett is now preparing for fieldwork in the spring and summer, when he will be documenting natural features and biodiversity at the sites that you helped him prioritize this fall and winter.

With the assistance of Prof. Bill Hegman from Middlebury College, we are preparing big town maps (about 4 feet by 3 feet) that bring together satellite photos with road names and ecological features. These maps are really detailed, and you can make out

every rooftop in town. Each classroom at Cornwall Elementary is going to get a map so that the kids can find their houses, measure distances, make their own maps of wildlife encounters, and whatever other uses they come up with. We're also going to put one of these maps in Town Hall so that anyone who didn't attend the Public Forum in October, or who has something new to tell us about, can give us information about Cornwall's natural, plant, and wildlife features. There will be an Observation Log next to the map, and the idea is that you can put a numbered dot on the map and then write a description in the Log. What should go in the Log? Everything that you think is significant, from bobcat sightings to the ladies-slippers you once saw in the woods to caves and deer yards.

If you are particularly interested in learning how to identify wildlife from

their tracks, here's a great opportunity – sign up for the 2014 Keeping Track Monitoring Program (<http://www.willowell.org/programs/wildlife-monitoring/>). Tracker and habitat specialist Sue Morse will be leading five full-day tracking workshops on Sundays from January to May. For more information, visit their web page or email them at info@willowell.org. Finally, the Conservation Commission is happy to welcome our newest member, Bethany Barry. And thanks to all of you for your support and interest! We're really looking forward to completing the biodiversity inventory!

Thanks,

Mary Dodge and Marc Lapin (co-chairs), Bethany Barry, Brian Howlett, and Mike Sheridan