



# Cornwall Newsletter

## SPRING REMINDERS

So, I always like to start out the Spring Newsletter with the spring reminders. That would be dogs and taxes.

I know it is a nuisance that the dog licenses are due on April 1 and the property taxes are due on May 1, but that is the way it works. By the time you receive this newsletter, April 1 will have come and gone. The dogs still need to be licensed. I will hold the on time price, which is \$9 and \$11 through April 12. After that, the price goes up to \$13 and \$15. I will send a list of unregistered dogs to the Selectboard early in May, and they will send you a letter encouraging to get your dog registered. I remind you each year that registering your dogs is a state law, not a town decision.

The second installment of property taxes are due on Wednesday, May 1, 2019. The office will be open from 8:30 AM—5:30 PM that day. The town does accept postmarked payments as on time. Just a reminder that this being the second payment, any taxes that are not paid by May 1, will be considered delinquent and will be forwarded to Rodney Cadorret, the delinquent tax collector. There will be interest and a penalty applied.

Feel free to give a call if you have questions about dogs or taxes.

## REDUCE, RE-USE AND RE-BAG

If you like to sew, or want to learn, come and join us with **Sewing for Change**. We've made 200+ cloth bags so far and given them away to help stop the plastic pollution.

We meet to sew, and to create community. A Re-BAG a day keeps the plastic away!

And if you have extra fabric, we'll take that too!

For more info, contact Bethany Barry at 462-2000 or [bethanybarryvt@comcast.net](mailto:bethanybarryvt@comcast.net).



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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Green Up Day, May 4
- Guided Walk, May 18
- Road Conditions
- Dog Licenses, April 1
- Property Taxes, May 1
- Reduce, Re-Use, Re-Bag

## FROM THE CORNWALL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Many residents are familiar with the fascinating volume *A History of Cornwall Houses and Their Inhabitants* lovingly compiled by Stuart Witherell and published in 1989. In an effort to make this work more relevant and useful for current residents, we plan to digitize that information and to bring it up-to-date. It is our intention to make this work available free online to anyone interested in the town. We would appreciate your help by adding any information you can to the short questionnaire sent to you in February. If you've misplaced your copy, please pick one up at the Town Hall.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE CORNWALL SCHOOL??

Lots of great things are happening at Cornwall School this year. While we update our website from time to time, to know more of what is happening at school, you can receive our weekly newsletter by letting Jen Kravitz ([jkravitz@acsdvt.org](mailto:jkravitz@acsdvt.org)) know your email address. You can also follow Cornwall School on Twitter (@cornwallschl) and Instagram (@cornwallschoolvt) to see more of what we do.

### FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

If your family has small children who are not yet school age, **we would love to know who you are and be in touch about what is happening at school** so you know what to look forward to when your children begin school. You are welcome to come visit the school to see what students are learning in class. If you are interested in visiting, please contact us at 462.2463 or [jkravitz@acsdvt.org](mailto:jkravitz@acsdvt.org).

### KINDERGARTEN WELCOME MEETING

We will welcome families and children who will be 5 years old by 01 September 2019 to come visit Cornwall School on the afternoon of 07 May 2019. Children will have a chance to meet their teacher and classmates, play, and explore the kindergarten room. Parents will have a brief introduction to Cornwall School. If you have an incoming kindergartener in Fall 2019, please contact us at 462.2463 or [jkravitz@acsdvt.org](mailto:jkravitz@acsdvt.org).

### INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB)

This year we have been implementing the first 3 (or more) units of inquiry that align with the International Baccalaureate's Primary Years Programme (PYP). These units have ranged from a full year exploration of the different ways we express ourselves through the arts (in kindergarten) to how governments promote or deny human rights (in 5th grade). After teaching each unit, teachers are reflecting on the unit and adjusting it for next year. This spring, the remainder of the 6 units of inquiry will be written for each grade level. In the fall of 2019, we will submit our application for authorization to become an IB World School. There will be a series of IB PYP information sessions this spring, so be on the look out for those on our calendar.

## THERE IS A NEW FIRE WARDEN IN TOWN!!!!

Spring is right around the corner and with spring, Cornwall's thoughts turn to . . . burn piles? Well, yes, as the winter snows clear folks begin thinking about cleaning up their yards, burn piles are one thing that comes to mind. But there are some changes this year that will affect everyone who wants to get rid of an unsightly stick pile.



First things first: Those of you who were at Town Meeting or who have picked up a copy of this year's Town Report know that after 25 years of tireless service, Larry Clark has stepped down as Cornwall's Fire Warden. Stepping into his shoes is Tommy Frankovic, who also serves on the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department. Tommy's number is **802-989-4473** and his e-mail is **tommyfrankovic831@gmail.com**.

Tommy is hoping to bring modern tech to the job. Got a brush pile you want to burn? Send him a set of photos of your proposed burn pile to his phone or e-mail address a **few days** before you plan to burn! Tommy's inspection can start there, and he'll let you know by return text or e-mail when he has issued a permit for your burn. You can also call Tommy a **few days** before you plan to burn to discuss your burn pile. Tommy may have to come by and look at the pile, so calling a few days ahead gives him time to deal with that.

Many of you know that the burn regulations were tightened up several years ago. In broad terms, the Agency of Natural Resources advises that the following items may be burned:

- Campfires and outdoor barbecues;
- Leaves, brush, deadwood, tree cuttings, and weeds from your property;
- Clean pallets; or
- Natural wood bonfires on festive occasions.

However, it is illegal to burn:

- Paper and cardboard;
- Tires and other rubber products;
- Treated, painted, or finished wood, or processed wood like plywood or laminate;
- Tarpaper or asphalt shingles;
- Plastics, oil; or
- Garbage.

A full copy of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's burn rules may be found here:

<https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/aqc/compliance/documents/APCRules.pdf>

If you have any questions about your burn pile, please give Tommy a call.

## NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

The Cornwall Library is always looking for book donations so clean off those bookshelves, end tables, night tables, or wherever else you keep the books that you've read and bring them over to the library. We accept donations all through the year. We take books, CDs, and DVDs. **However, textbooks, encyclopedias, magazines, or books with torn and/or defaced pages or mold and mildew need to be discarded. Please recycle them instead.**

Just a reminder that the library is now **open on Saturday mornings from 10:00 – 12:00**. Hopefully this will enable more of you to come to the library and look over our collection of books, audiobooks and DVDs. Library trustees are volunteering their time to come in on Saturdays so stop in and say "hello".

**PLEASE** remember to return materials taken out of the library in a timely fashion – in particular **new release** books and DVDs. Other patrons of the library would like to enjoy reading or watching them too so please be mindful of the due date. Thanks.

### New Books, Audiobooks, DVDs

Come stop by the library to see our new materials or check the complete list of materials under the library section of the town website **cornwallvt.com**. Below is a sampling of the new materials.

#### FICTION

**The Weight of a Piano** – Chris Candor, **The Night Tiger** – Yangze Choo, **The Last Romantics** – Tara Conklin, **Washington Black** – Esi Edugyan, **Lost Children Archive** – Valeria Luisella, **The Red Address Book** – Sofia Lundberg, **The Water Cure** – Sophie Mackintosh, **The Huntress** – Kate Quinn, **Daisy Jones and the Six** – Taylor Jenkins Reid, **The Island of Sea Women** – Lisa See, **The Dreamers** – Karen Thompson Walker

#### MYSTERY/SUSPENSE

**The Suspect** – Fiona Barton, **Past Tense** – Lee Child, **The Paragon Hotel** – Lindsay Faye, **The Vanishing Man** – Charlie Finch, **An Anonymous Girl** – Greer Hendricks, **Watching You** – Lisa Jewell, **Unto Us a Son Is Given** – Donna Leon, **The Rule of Law** – John Lescourt, **Verses for the Dead** – Preston & Child, **The Black Ascot** – Charles Todd, **The Hiding Place** – C. J. Tudor

#### NONFICTION

**Frederick Douglas** – David W. Blight, **Thanks A Lot Mr. Kibblewhite: My Story** – Roger Daltrey, **21 Lessons for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century** – Yuval Noah Harari, **Midnight in Chernobyl** – Adam Higginbotham, **Say Nothing** – Patrick Radden Keefe, **Maid** – Stephanie Lamb, **The Restless Wave** – John McCain, **Classic Diners of Vermont** – Erin K. McCormick, **Becoming** – Michelle Obama, **The Mastermind** – Evan Ratliff, **Inheritance** – Dani Shapiro

#### YOUNG ADULT

**A Curse So Dark & Lonely** – Brigid Kemmerer, **Two Can Keep A Secret** – Karen M. McManus, **On the Come Up** – Angie Thomas, **The Bridge of Clay** – Markus Zusak

#### CHILDREN

**Small Spaces** – Katherine Arden, **The Storm Runner** – J. C. Cervantes, **Sweet Pea and Friends: The Easter Surprise** – John and Jennifer Churchman, **Run Wild** – David Covell, **Huggie & Stick** – Drew Daywalt, **The Storm Keeper's Island** – Catherine Doyle, **Time for Bed, Miyuki** – Rosane Marie Galliez, **The Secrets of Winterhouse** – Ben Guterson, **Dragon Night** – J. R. Krause, **My Heart** – Corinna Luyken, **Mary Wears What She Wants** – Keith Negley, **How High the Moon** – Karyn Parsons, **Dog Man: Brawl of the Wild** and **Dog Man Lord of the Fleas** – Dav Pilkey

#### AUDIOBOOKS

**The Haunting of Hill House** – Shirley Jackson, **A Killer's Mind** – Mike Omer, **The Book of Joy** – Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu

#### DVDs

**Bohemian Rhapsody**, **Children Act**, **The Favourite**, **First Man**, **Free Solo**, **Green Book**, **The Hate U Give**, **A Private War**, **Tea with the Dames**, **What They Had**, **Widows**, **The Wife**

## PLANNING COMMISSION SPRING UPDATE

As of this writing, the Planning Commission is still short a few members. We are looking for folks to join the commission. The ideal candidate lives in Cornwall! DeLong Rd? Route 30? Somewhere on Sperry or South Bingham? Wooster Rd? You're out there, somewhere. If you ever find yourself thinking about what the town might be like in ten or fifteen years time, this might be for you. We meet for a few hours each month and likely have a bit of work to do between meetings. There's a need for fresh eyes and ears to help bring the community together to plan for our town. No prior experience necessary. Please contact Conor Stinson ([stinsoncpc@gmail.com](mailto:stinsoncpc@gmail.com)) if you are interested.

It was a busy winter for the Planning Commission. After some modifications to the hearing draft of the Land Use and Development regulations, we voted to pass the document to the Selectboard for their review process. This caps a more than two year process of working on the document for Cornwall. The Planning Commission encourages townspeople to continue to take part in the process with the Selectboard. Copies of the latest draft are available at town hall.

With the passing of Town Meeting Day, the PC has a new-ish roster. Our newest member, Josh Stearns, recently took his oath to join long time veteran Jim Duclos and two relative newcomers Al Thalen and Conor Stinson.

As much as we are excited about the new team, we would be remiss if we did not recognize the service of two long term members of the commission who ended their tenures this March. Holly Noordsy served on the commission as a member for number of years and served as Co-chair as well. Her long term service to the town included several drafting's of the Town Plan and at least two rounds of regulatory updates. Sarah Pelkey also stepped down this spring. Her knowledge, thoughtfulness, and work ethic were an inspiration to us all. Thank you both so much.

Looking forward to the next few months, the Planning Commission hopes to tackle a lingering project. Since the last full drafting of the Town Plan in 2013, the state has added two additional requirements to the list of items each town must address in their plan if they wish to be eligible for municipal planning grants. These sections are forest fragmentation and flood resiliency. Over the next few months the Commission will be learning more about these topics as we begin the process of amending the plan. We will be looking for plenty of community input during this process, so please keep your eyes peeled for further announcements.



## NEWS FROM THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Hi, all and happy spring at last! The Cornwall Conservation Commission has been waiting for spring peepers and working on wildlife issues in our town:

On February 27, herpetologist Jim Andrews gave a talk at the school about 'slippery creatures' like salamanders and frogs. About 40 people learned about the amphibians that live in Cornwall, as well as others that are probably here but have not yet been documented with a photo. If you see a Jefferson salamander in Cornwall, (<https://www.vtherpatlas.org/herp-species-in-vermont/ambystoma-jeffersonianum/>) please take a picture and send it to <https://www.vtherpatlas.org/>! Photos of other species are welcome, too. Jim is coming back to Cornwall on May 18<sup>th</sup> to lead a guided walk, so watch for an announcement with details in the Addison Independent, on Front Porch Forum, etc. in early May.

Following Jim's February presentation, naturalist Zac Cota from North Branch Nature Center was at Town Hall on March 21<sup>st</sup> to describe the migration of salamanders and frogs to an audience of 20 enthusiastic, amateur herpetologists. Their migration happens in the same way every year. On the first warm, wet nights of early spring, amphibians by the hundreds emerge from winter homes on high ground and head with single-minded determination toward wetlands to mate and deposit their eggs. In some cases when the route crosses a busy road, the mortality rate is high. Zac discussed road rescue procedures used at North Branch to help amphibians make the journey safely. He also shared North Branch's Amphibian Road Crossing Citizen Science Project which records road crossing data from all over Vermont and welcomed our participation.

After Zac's presentation, several of us wanted to do road rescue work this spring along two sections of Cornwall's West Street. We welcome the help of others. If you would like to assist as a "crossing escort" on West Street or, equally important, if you observe other places in Cornwall where amphibians are moving across busy roads, please let us know. Email [mdodge@middlebury.edu](mailto:mdodge@middlebury.edu).

We would like to thank Marc Lapin who is leaving the CC after many years of loyal service in order to devote more time to other conservation activities. We are deeply appreciative of his years of hard work to establish a foundation for the Commission in the Town Plan, recruit members, facilitate our Biodiversity Inventory, and function as the CC liaison with the Development Review Board. Marc's contributions to making Cornwall a better and more beautiful place cannot be overstated. We wish him well in his new conservation projects.

Best wishes,  
Mike Sheridan and the Cornwall Conservation Commission





## NEWS FROM THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION



Marc Lapin (front right, looking up) leading Cornwallians on a tour of our town's very rare Clayplain Forest habitat

Preparations are underway for the 2020 taking of the United States Census. They are looking for a few good people to help.

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[www.gpo.gov/fedrelay](https://www.gpo.gov/fedrelay)

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## FROM THE MANAGER OF THE VERMONT LOCAL ROADS PROGRAM STU JOHNSON

### An Iconic Vermont Mud Season

So, you think you got mud and potholes? Hah! Let me tell you, why, back when I was a boy, my best friend drowned in a pothole! And my grandfather lost a team of horses in a mudhole trying to get milk out to the creamery. Yep, heard some good stories traveling the state these last couple years.

So, used to be, spring break-up was dealt with, knowing full well it was an accepted rite of passage that came with the sap, leading up to turning the cows out and pullin' asparagus. In some parts of the state, due to choices made, it still is. Buses don't bus, fuel trucks don't fuel, plows don't plow.... But people get it, they expect it, prepare for it and deal with it, well, at least most do.

There's not a gravel grunt out there that isn't expecting a humdinger of a mud season this year. Everybody is squawking about potholes being worse than they can ever remember in both pavement and gravel roads.

Be that as it is, this winter has been a road guy's nightmare. Rain, then snow, then rain, then thaw, then freeze, yada yada yada. It is and/or will be bad everywhere this year. Spouge holes are popping up where they haven't before, and the perennial ones are worse than usual.

It's all about water.....or draining it if you're going to fix the problem(s). I've been on some of our roads this weekend and there are some sections that are breaking up as bad or worse than I've ever seen them. No one's fault but Ole Man Winter and Mother Nature. The weather looks to be dry this week, some wind and cold so the bad spots should set up. Adjust your drive time and your route if you can to avoid the mudholes. Otherwise, just grab a gear and don't stop 'er for nothin'.

On the bright side, the blackbirds are back.....

## FROM CORNWALL'S ROAD COMMISSIONER BRIAN KEMP

Fellow Cornwall Residents,

I would like to take this time to add some information on our road conditions. As we welcome spring, we have to endure the dreaded "mud" season. This winter with its major temperature swings has been particularly hard on our roads. For those of you that live or travel on our dirt roads, you know this all too well. The road crew is trying to repair and fill in the worst areas with gravel and we have been hauling in material to do these repairs. This is just a band aid approach until the frost totally thaws, so we can resume grading and maintenance. We, along with other towns, are experiencing some extremely soft areas because the clay sub-surface is rising to the surface; this is another challenge that we are trying to deal with.

I ask for your patience and understanding while we attempt to correct these issues. We can all do our part by slowing down and taking extra caution while traveling on our back roads.

Brian Kemp,

Cornwall Road Commissioner/Selectman



## EXPLAINING THE 2017 DEFICIT NUMBER!!

I wanted to further explain the town's deficit of \$108,032, as reported at Town Meeting. Municipal accounting is quite different from basic business accounting as we use fund accounting and several of the funds do not close at the end of each fiscal year, they encumber any remaining funds and roll them over from year to year. The General Fund is the only one that closes at the end of the fiscal year, and that balance, whether positive or negative becomes the surplus or deficit. As I briefly explained at Town Meeting, the simple explanation in the case of a deficit is that our expenditures were higher than our revenue. At the beginning of the fiscal year, there are two known revenue sources, they are property taxes and the hold harmless funding that is paid by the state. The hold harmless funding is intended to make the town's municipal taxes whole based on current use exemptions. That number has been running anywhere from \$35,000 - \$46,000 each year. Property taxes make up the rest of our income which we calculate when we set the tax rate. We do receive other revenue, for example, town clerk fees, permit fees, town hall rent, interest, miscellaneous, grant money, etc. None of these are known commodities and may or may not be a revenue source. Likewise, when we are budgeting for our yearly expenditures, the numbers that we vote on are estimates of what we think we may spend, so can easily be underspent or overspent. I looked at the fiscal year's 2015, 2016 and 2017 to compare the bottom line for those years.

2015: Revenue: \$3,362,377.54, Expenditures: \$3,157,686.56, so our surplus that year was \$204,691 which we used to lower the tax rate. The actual number when comparing the budget to the actual expenditures is a positive \$113,500, so you can see there were clearly revenues that enhanced the surplus.

2016: Revenue: \$3,475,831.58, Expenditures: \$3,400,073.06, so our surplus that year was \$75,759, which we used to lower the tax rate. The actual number when comparing the budget to the actual expenditures is \$36,743, so once again the revenues enhanced the surplus.

2017: Revenue \$3,221,778.25, Expenditures: \$3,329,809.93, this was last year, so as you know we ended up with the deficit of \$108,032 despite the fact that the General Fund actual number when comparing budget to actual expenditures was a positive \$32,240.

In the case of 2017, it appears to have much to do with the fact that we had less "extra" revenue coming in and the expenses were close to even. In 2016, although we were fairly close on expenditures, we had more revenue coming in and 2015, we had both, a large surplus on expenditures and extra revenue.

Trying to explain this process is a bit difficult unless you are working with it on a regular basis, I wanted to take a stab at giving you all a better explanation than I gave at Town Meeting.

Thanks, Sue

Town of Cornwall  
2629 Route 30  
Cornwall, VT 05753

## DON'T FORGET TO GREEN UP ON SATURDAY, MAY 4!!

Spring is the time for greening up everywhere, but very importantly on our roadsides. As in year's past, the town trucks will be parked up at the school for the day on Saturday, May 4 and will probably remain there on Sunday as well. Starting on April 16, there will be a map to sign up on and bags will be available at the Town Hall. If you are going to Green Up early, please be prepared to hang on to the bags at home until you can deposit them in the town truck on Saturday. Sue Johnson will be up in the school parking lot near the trucks with extra bags, etc. on May 4th. You are welcome to do the state highways, but the state highway department will eventually come along and do those roadsides. Please be very careful as you are out there along the roadside. Wear something bright so that you can be easily spotted. Lastly, please only bring garbage that you find on the roadside. Thanks!!!!

