

Cornwall Newsletter

BEGINNING OF THE YEAR BRINGS PREPARATION FOR TOWN MEETING!

This is the time of year to request a petition to run for office in the Town of Cornwall. Although we have incumbent candidates, any office is open to request a nominating petition and obtain the needed signatures. The deadline for returning a completed nominating petition is Monday, January 28 at 5 PM. The office will be open in the afternoon that day to accept petitions, even though I am regularly closed on Mondays. Some of the positions that I know will be open for this Town Meeting's Australian Ballot vote on Tuesday, March 5 are: two Planning Commissioners, two Trustees of Public Funds, a Library Trustee. If you have specific questions, please feel free to give me a call to discuss.

The Selectboard, Road Foreman, Treasurer and Auditors are working on the proposed budgets, the town meeting warning, and the town report. If you are interested in the process, keep checking the website for meeting dates and times.

Cornwall's Town Meeting is held on the Monday evening preceding the first Tuesday in March, so this year we will meet on Monday, March 4, 2019 at 6:30 PM at the Bingham Memorial School. As has been done the last several years, you will receive a special newsletter prior to the town meeting with warnings and sample ballots. A town report will be created, but will not be mailed to each household. They will be available for pickup at the town hall or one could be mailed upon request.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Cornwall Conservation Comm.....	2
Cornwall Free Public Library.....	3
Setting the Record Straight.....	4
Safety Tips from VEMS.....	5
Cornwall Historical Society	6
Public Hearing Warning for PC.....	7
Town Meeting Guidelines	8

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- It's Town Meeting Time
- Setting the record straight on manure spreading
- Help Wanted
- Cornwall Historical Society Updates Stuart Witherell book
- Planning Commission Public Hearing on Zoning Regulations
- Oh by the way, it's Town Meeting Time

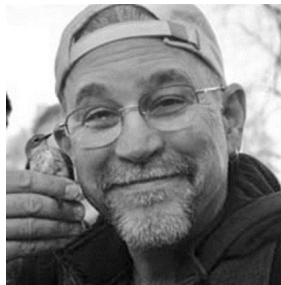
CORNWALL CONSERVATION COMMISSION NEWS

On the evening of November 14, approximately 60 people from Cornwall and surrounding towns gathered at the Bingham Memorial Elementary School to attend a presentation entitled: "Take a Walk on the Wild Side: How Animals Move In and Around Vermont." The speaker, Middlebury College Professor Steve Trombulak, explained how large connected blocks of intact forest and wetlands are essential for maintaining biological diversity. At the regional level, large carnivores, such as wolves and bears, need spaces that are large enough to find food, but also need access to other large areas to find genetically different mates and avoid inbreeding. Inbreeding can in turn lead to diminished fitness and eventual loss of entire populations. Professor Trombulak pointed out that the expansion of commercial and residential development, and their associated roads and highways, has decreased the amount of available forests, fields and waters that wildlife depends upon and thereby decreased the number of species. This needs to be addressed if connections to large undeveloped areas in the Green Mountains, and other connected habitats of the Northeast United States and eastern Canada are to be maintained or created. Although our town still has relatively large swaths of natural wildlife habitat, such as the Cornwall Swamp or the Ledges, there are barriers to wildlife movement such as roads, fences or culverts. The Conservation Commission is currently exploring approaches to address these issues through its work with Vermont Fish and Wildlife, by participating in the current Town Plan revision, and by our ongoing review of subdivision permit applications.

We have scheduled our next wildlife presentation and the town is in for a treat. From Blue-spotted Salamanders to Northern Leopard Frogs, Cornwall contains a wide diversity of sensitive and interesting amphibians. Herpetologist and UVM Professor Jim Andrews will help us with their identification and discuss where particularly uncommon species might be found. The talk will take place on Wednesday, February 27th from 7:00-8:30 pm, at the Elementary School. We have asked Jim to follow up this presentation by leading a "search and find" field trip in May when amphibians are most active. Please keep an eye out for more details in Sue's email list and in the Front Porch Forum.

As a reminder, Cornwall still has a wildlife observation project on iNaturalist.org. A link to the Cornwall Wildlife project and instructions on how to post your observations are available on the Town website. Please continue to share your sightings!

Rene Langis, for the Cornwall Conservation Commission



Steve Trombulak



CORNWALL FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

THANKS FROM THE LIBRARY

The Trustees of the Cornwall Free Public Library thank all of you who supported our 2018 Book Sale. It was a great success thanks to everyone who donated books, shoppers and volunteers who helped with setup, sale and take down. **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. Your continued support of the Cornwall Free Public Library is greatly appreciated.

SATURDAY HOURS

Don't forget that the library is now open on **Saturdays from 10AM – 12PM**. Library Trustees are volunteering their time to come on Saturdays so please stop in to say "Hi".

WHAT'S NEW AT THE LIBRARY

As you know, new materials are added to our collection every month. Please come in to see what we have or check the complete list of materials under the library section on the town website **cornwallvt.com**. See some of our new items below. Also, a special thank you to the Vermont Book Shop and Jonathan Miller for donating the first six books in the Louise Penny series. This is very much appreciated.

FICTION

The Winter of the Witch - Katherine Arden, **An Absolutely Remarkable Thing** - Hank Green, **Unsheltered** - Barbara Kingsolver, **Fire and Blood** - George R. Martin, **The Clockmaker's Daughter** - Kate Morton, **Once Upon a River** - Diane Setterfield, **Every Breath** - Nicholas Sparks

MYSTERY/SUSPENSE

Dark Sacred Night - Michael Connelly, **Long Road to Mercy** - David Baldacci, **Red War** - Vince Flynn, **The Witch Elm** - Tana French, **Wrecked** - Joe Ide, **Kingdom of the Blind** - Louise Penny, **Holy Ghost** - John Sandford

NONFICTION

Leadership - Doris Kearns Goodwin, **Almost Everything** - Anne Lamott, **The Fifth Risk** - Michael Lewis, **Becoming** - Michelle Obama, **The Library Book** - Susan Orlean

YOUNG ADULT

Dear Evan Hansen - Val Emmich, **Dry** - Neil Shusterman

CHILDREN

Elbow Grease - John Cena, **Saving Winslow** - Sharon Creech, **Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Meltdown** - Jeff Kinney, **A Big Mooncake for Little Star** - Grace Lin, **Max Einstein: The Genius Experiment** - James Patterson, **The Wonky Donkey** - Craig Smith

AUDIO

The End Game - David Baldacci, **The Hate U Give** - Angie Thomas, **Educated** - Tara Westover

DVDs

Crazy Rich Asians, **Equalizer 2**, **The Handmaid's Tale: Seasons 1 & 2**, **Mission Impossible: Fallout**

CORNWALL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH THANKS CORNWALL VOTERS!

The Cornwall Congregational Church thanks all the Cornwall voters who bought soup or chili or other goodies on election day in November. It's fun for us to share some nourishment, and we very much appreciate the continuing support of the town folks for the work of the church.

Setting the Record Straight on Manure Spreading

by Cheryl Cesario

In early December, there seemed to be widespread misunderstanding among Cornwall residents about the requirements of the state's manure spreading ban. The ban begins every year on December 15th and is lifted on April 1st. Manure cannot be spread during that time, unless the Vermont Agency of Agriculture (VAA) notifies farmers otherwise. This is outlined in the state's Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs), standards by which farmers must adhere to in order to reduce the impact of agricultural activities on water quality. The RAPs establish nutrient, manure and waste storage standards, requirements for vegetative buffer zones, and livestock exclusion from surface water. In addition, the RAPs establish standards for nutrient management planning and soil conservation. The complete standards may be found here: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/rap>

HELP WANTED

The Town is currently looking for a few folks to fill some appointed and elected positions. If you have interest in learning more about them or would like to be appointed, please be in contact with Ben Marks, Selectboard Chair by phone 462-3536 or email bmarkscornwall@gmail.com

The positions available currently are:

Alternate Representative to the Addison County Solid Waste District.

Two alternates to the Addison County Regional Planning Commission.

Two openings for Cornwall Planning Commissioners. (These are actually elected positions, so if interested you could pick up a nominating petition)

An Assistant Zoning Administrator.

One alternate for the Cornwall Development Review Board.

One Trustee of Public Funds. (Also an elected position)

This fall was a particularly challenging time for any field activity, as prolonged wet weather made fields too saturated and soft to get equipment on. Farmers must balance getting the job done with minimizing compaction created from driving on fields that are too wet. Doing so not only causes unsightly ruts, but also causes lasting soil compaction which can negatively impact crop yields and soil health. In light of the wet fall followed by early November snowfall, VAA granted an exemption to the rule that says manure cannot be spread on snow covered ground, as time was running out before the ban came into effect. Farmers who needed to do this practice were required to notify the Agency and ensure they were spreading in locations that would minimize any potential runoff. VAA may grant exemptions like this on a seasonal or even case-by-case basis. It is important for the general public to understand these nuances before filing a complaint against a farmer that may not be warranted.

People see a manure spreader heading down the road and for many, the first thought is 'pollution'. But really, manure is a valuable resource, providing fertility to soils, enabling crops to grow and building soil health. Farmers develop nutrient management plans per state regulations that account for every gallon (liquid) or ton (solid) of manure spread on every field. Farmers test the soil, test the manure, figure out how much a given crop needs to grow and makes sure it balances out - much like a checking account. Spreading manure requires thought and decision making, but the perception can be otherwise.

We need to put a face on farming again. Farms are run by people who live and work in our communities. Farmers are no longer *just* dealing with the issues of running a business. We are in a new era of heightened regulations and extreme public pressure. Rather than filing a complaint with the state or town, let's have a dialog. If you have a question about what a farmer is doing - ask them! You might be pleasantly surprised by what you find out.

WINTER SAFETY TIPS FROM VERMONT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Heavy snow conditions could cause power outages and make driving conditions hazardous. Vermont Emergency Management urges residents to prepare for any storm and use caution during this and other snow events.

- If while traveling you get stuck in deep snow, do NOT let your engine idle if your exhaust pipe is buried. Idling with a buried exhaust pipe also risks carbon monoxide poisoning.

- Other tips for the road

Check road and weather conditions before leaving; visit www.511vt.com or call 511 for this information.

Avoid traveling unless necessary and always allow yourself extra time to get to your destination.

Make sure your vehicle is in good mechanical condition with snow tires and winter windshield wiper blades.

Watch for and expect changing road conditions, black ice, blowing snow, high winds or whiteout conditions can appear when you least expect them to.

The single most important rule is to drive at a speed that matches the prevailing visibility, traffic and road conditions. The posted speed limits are for dry, clear conditions only.

Be sure to leave yourself plenty of extra room, extend the following distance from other vehicles ahead.

Residents should use caution when digging out from any snow storm. Excessive snow shoveling can cause a range of health problems, from back injuries to heart attack, if not done in moderation. Take frequent breaks from shoveling.

Check snow pack on roofs and remove snow if necessary and if it can be done safely to avoid a possible collapse.

Vermonters who are able to help elderly neighbors and others who need assistance in removing snow are encouraged to do so.

The elderly and those with special needs should contact their local power company and local community officials prior to the storm to alert them of those needs in the event of a power outage.

As always, it is advisable to have an emergency preparedness kit on hand with some or all of the following items:

Flashlights and batteries in your home and car;

A battery-powered radio or NOAA weather radio to listen for advisories;

Bottled water; 1 gallon per person, per day is advised;

- If snow piles up ensure all outside heating vents are clear of snow. A blocked vent can lead to carbon monoxide (CO) buildup in the home and CO poisoning. Initial symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to flu, but without the fever and may include headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea, and dizziness. If you suspect that you are experiencing CO poisoning, get fresh air immediately and call your local fire department for assistance from a safe location. It is advisable to have CO detectors on all levels of your home.

- If power is lost and you run a generator, it is important that the generator is outdoors; an improperly operated generator can lead to CO poisoning; check your owner's manual before operating a generator.

Also ensure your generator is installed according to manufacturers' standards; an improperly installed generator can feed back onto power lines, creating a hazard to line workers.

For road conditions call 511 or visit 511vt.com. For personal assistance, like shelter or other information, call 211.

CAPITAL COMMITTEE WILL MEET IN JANUARY.

As seen elsewhere in the newsletter, Cornwall is looking for involvement from its townspeople. The capital committee is comprised of seven people, most of whom have been on the committee since its inception in 2007. If you have any interest in becoming a member of this committee, which does not meet often, but does have the important job of evaluating the town's equipment, buildings and eventually the infrastructure needs. After reviewing the equipment and building spreadsheets, the committee puts forth the budget numbers for the capital equipment and building line items in the General Fund budget, which are presented at a hearing each January to receive approval from the Selectboard. Please contact Ben Marks, Selectboard Chair or any of the Selectboard members to discuss the possibilities.

CORNWALL HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

The Cornwall Historical Society (CHS) is making a come back and has met 3 times in the last six months. As with all the other requests within this newsletter, the CHS would love additional members to participate in our meetings and projects.

Talking about projects, the group has decided to make our first project the updating of the March, 1989 book written by Stuart Witherell titled "A History of Cornwall Houses and Their Inhabitants. The first part of the project was to type the book into a google document, which can be easily added to and can be made accessible on the town's website and/or other web applications. The book was divided up amongst the members of the CHS and each person typed their part of the book.

The next phase of the project will be to update the information on the houses that existed in 1989 and to add those houses that are new to town. We would love the assistance of our residents in doing this update. Who better than the current owner to provide information about the house from 1989 forward.

There will be more information coming from the CHS about when and how you can help with the project. The CHS will be talking more about it at Town Meeting during the other business article. If you would like more information about any part of this project or the CHS, please feel free to contact Sue Johnson at the Town Hall or T and Cy Tall at 463-2003.

Another historical point of interest in town now, thanks mostly to T Tall, is the plaque dedicated to William Slade that is located at the north end of the Town Hall parking lot. Please stop in and take a look at it.

Looking forward to a great 2019.

LINGERING BY GARY MARGOLIS

Lower than they should
be,
closer to the trees,
they're nearer to us

than we are to ourselves.
December's, lingering
guests. There's no use

comparing them
to the space we make,
sometimes a vast

distance, sometimes
not. When one of us
thinks it wouldn't take

much to sit in the pine's'
blind, to touch one,
flapping her great wings

as she goes by.
As if it's okay to feel
as if you're touching

God, closing the space,
some mornings,
between you and I.

The geese would never
sense that's why
they're still supposed

to be here, slightly
overhead. Overhearing us.
Guessing, as if they were

close to being human,
who will be the first one,
between us, to apologize.

To come down from
the tree's sky.
The star's field.

I WAS LIVING IN A POEM BY GARY MARGOLIS

My friend thought to turn his horse
into a therapy horse. Certify her.
Trailer her to Addison County's
Porter Hospital, aka the University

of Vermont Porter Medical Center.
A new conglomerate.
And lead her in. As if into the
winner's
circle at the Kentucky Derby.

Wearing her blanket of champion-
ship
roses. A bouquet of perfume
so strong, I'd feel I could rise
from my death bed. Unplug my
breathing

tube. Eat anything I wanted to
again.
I thought I was imagining things.
Hearing my nurse whinny.
Feeling her wet nose under my
pierced

hand. The needles feeding me.
Until I realized it didn't matter
what anyone else thought.
If she was nosing my arm,

nearest to the door. In this case,
my left arm. Left being the side
the poet, James Wright, in his poem,
"A Blessing" (my favorite verse

of all time) wrote in the lines
*For she has walked over to me
and nuzzled my left hand*".
He might have been remembering

the night in Minnesota,
he received his diagnosis.
And told his friend, Robert

Bly, who he had been out
walking with
Just off the highway to Rochester, Minnesota.
Lines so plain I didn't know, at first,

I was living in a poem.
Where a horse could have his shoes
wrapped in blue, surgical paper.
To be walked into a private room.

So as not to damage the waxed floor.
Or slip and break a leg.
And no one would have to think
to put her down.

CORNWALL PLANNING COMMISSION PREPARES FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Town of Cornwall – Notice of Public Hearing

Zoning and Subdivision Regulations

The Cornwall Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 16, 2019, at 7pm, at the Cornwall Town Hall to consider the adoption of a substantive revision of the 2008 Zoning Bylaw and the 2008 Subdivision Regulations. This hearing is held pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 4441. This notice is issued pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 4444(b).

The revision of the Town's zoning bylaw and subdivision regulations has been in progress since 2017. The general purposes of the revision, as described in the VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development Municipal Planning Grant application (which provided partial funding for the update), are to:

- Create a unified zoning and subdivision bylaw that recognizes the responsibilities of the Planning Commission and the newly created Development Review Board and incorporates any required statutory updates;
- Find creative solutions to guide new development in the Rural District;
- Protect and promote agricultural operations, natural and historical resources;
- Thoroughly review land use planning districts, standards and definitions;
- Update energy siting requirements;
- Address recent development trends and their impacts on the town including major sub-divisions and new uses;
- Promote affordability and its impact on the town's population;

Enhance the Town's Village Centers, bolster the Town's identity and establish a more connected community throughout all planning projects.

The proposed regulations include the following new provisions which the Planning Commission feels are noteworthy:

- Creating a unified bylaw with consistent processes, regulatory updates and updated definitions;
 - Combining the Cornwall and West Cornwall village zoning districts into one Village zoning district that supports traditional uses and settlement pattern; clarifying village specific standards to promote identity and sense of place;
- Maintaining the rural character of the town by revising major subdivision standards to allow for flexibility of development and siting to best suit the topography and character of the surrounding area ;
- Establishing new overlay districts, to allow for consistent development regulations town wide under certain criteria and to protect notable natural resources. These districts include a Special Features Overlay and Wellhead Protection Overlay, and replacement of the Conservation District with the Flood Hazard Overlay District;
 - Clearly delineating the statutorily defined application and review process and allowing for Combined Review;
 - Clarifying the Allowed Uses within the town and also the standards for Conditional Use;

Encouraging accessory apartments, adaptive reuse and density bonuses to promote affordability in housing.

The above is a summary of the principal change provisions. The proposed regulations affect all of the Town of Cornwall. Copies of the unified planning document, entitled Town of Cornwall Land Use and Development Regulations may be obtained or viewed at the Cornwall Town Offices, 2629 Route 30, Cornwall, VT during regular business hours and on the town web site <http://cornwallvt.com/>.

Following is the Table of Contents:

ZONING

Article I - Authority and Purpose -
Article II – Zoning Districts Regulations
Article III – General Requirements Applicable to all Land Development
Article IV – Requirements Applicable to Specific Land Uses
Article V – Requirements Applicable to Subdivisions
Article VI – Administration and Enforcement
Article VII - Zoning Permits and Land Development Review
Article VIII - Subdivision Review
Article IX – Definitions
Article X - Appendices

For further information please call Sue Johnson, the Town Clerk at (802) 462-2775. Copies of the draft document are available at the Town Hall.

Cornwall Planning Commission

BY: Holly Noordsy, Chair

Town of Cornwall
2629 Route 30
Cornwall, VT 05753

TOWN MEETING GUIDELINES

Just a few thoughts on the process of all things Town Meeting.

If you wish to petition the Selectboard to include an article in the Town Meeting Warning, you must present it to them by or on January 17, 2019. It must include the request in the form of a question and must include a minimum of 49 signatures from registered Cornwall voters.

If you wish to run for office, you must obtain a nominating petition from the Town Clerk for the position. You must return the nominating petition by Monday, January 28 at 5 PM. You are required to get a minimum of 10 signatures from registered Cornwall voters. The town office will be open from 3—5 PM on this Monday.

Early/Absentee ballots will be available on Wednesday, February 13, 2019. You can request a ballot in person, by phone, by email or online. Early/Absentee ballots may be obtained and returned through Friday, March 1 at the Town Clerk's office. They may be returned again on Tuesday, March 5 from 7 am—7 pm. The office will not be open on Monday, March 4, 2019

The special newsletter with sample ballots and warnings will be sent by February 22, 2019.

The town floor meeting will be held on Monday, March 4, 2019 at 6:30 PM at the Cornwall School. The Australian Ballot voting will be held on Tuesday, March 5 from 7 am—7 pm at the Cornwall Town Hall.

Feel free to call or email Sue Johnson with any specific questions. 462-2775 or cornwallvt@shoreham.net or townofcornwall1761@gmail.com