



Your Town is Seeking to Fill a Vacancy for a Town Auditor

The Cornwall Board of Auditors is in need of a third member.

Our overall function is to assure accountability of the town's expenditures and report findings to the taxpayers through the Annual Town Report. We meet roughly weekly from December through February, discussing Clerk/Treasurer issues, the year's fiscal status, and compile the Annual Town Report with significant support from our Town Clerk/Treasurer. Thanks to the procedures she has established, our role is straight forward and not overly burdensome.

We seek a community member who is interested in the town's fiscal matters and the production of a high quality Annual Report. Resources for training and guidance are available from the State, and the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. No specific prior experience is required!

Further information on the role can be found at: <https://auditor.vermont.gov/sites/auditor/files/files/local/VLCT-auditors-presentation.pdf>

The team of auditors will hold warned open meetings starting in December. Anyone interested in observing or joining is encouraged to join us. The vacant position may be filled through Select Board Appointment or by running for election at Town Meeting in March 2022. We welcome your participation!

If you would like to discuss the role you may contact Shawn Fetterolf (shawn.p.fetterolf@gmail.com), Kate Gieges (gieges@shoreham.net), or Susan Johnson

Capital Committee News!

The Cornwall Capital Committee has signed a contract with Breadloaf Construction Company to provide a Feasibility Study and Design Services for the Cornwall Highway complex. Surveys will be completed, code issues will be assessed, permitting issues will be evaluated, several conceptual designs will be submitted for the Capital Committee and town review. The first goal will be to replace the existing sand and salt building by winter of 2022. More information to follow.

DISCLAIMER

The opinion's expressed in the newsletter are those of the citizen's writing the articles, not those of the Town of Cornwall.

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MESSAGE FROM BEN MARKS, SELECTBOARD CHAIR

My reports for Sue's newsletter usually report on the Select Board's activities for the prior quarter. Today, however, my note to you all is forward-looking. As you may have heard, Cornwall is receiving about \$350,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds from the federal government over the next two years. What makes these funds different from grant monies that we ordinarily receive is that the uses of the ARPA funds are up to the Select Board, within certain parameters. While ordinary grants must be applied (and used) for a specific, predetermined purpose (updating our Town Plan, for instance), the ARPA funds may be used for projects at the Town's discretion so long as those projects fit into a preapproved U.S. Treasury list of purposes. That list of 66 broad categories may be found here:

https://www.vlct.org/sites/default/files/ARPA_SLFRF-Compl%26Rpt_Appendix1.pdf

Included on the U.S. Treasury list are investments in broadband infrastructure, child care, and clean water infrastructure. We are prohibited, however, from using the funds to offset taxes in a general sense.

The Select Board has already authorized an initial grant of \$50,000 from our ARPA funds to Maple Broadband, which is currently in its startup phase. Maple Broadband's mission is to get affordable broadband to every customer who desires that service in its member towns, of which Cornwall is one. Select Board member Tanya Byker is also working with Planning Commission member Lauren Ringey to explore early childhood care and afterschool care opportunities, possibly in coordination with adjacent towns. However, the Select Board also needs to hear from you.

Please contact Sue, or me directly, if any of the categories on the U.S. Treasury list above suggest a project that you think would benefit our community. While the funds are being made available to us in two tranches (2021 and 2022), and we have three years to spend the funds, project planning and organization will take up much of that time. We look forward to hearing from you.

Benjamin Marks

Cornwall Select Board Chair

Bmarkscornwall@gmail.com

Planning Commission Update

The summer has been busy for the Cornwall Planning Commission. We continue to work with the support of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission on our grant funded work amending the town plan.

We'll be hosting a Public Information Meeting on a draft of a Flood Resilience section on October 27 at 7PM. A draft of the document will be available on the website and at the Town Hall. We'll include a short presentation on the topic at the meeting, but the majority of the meeting will be open for conversation, questions, and comments with townsfolk. The presentation will be Zoom-based, with an in-person option at Town Hall.

The Planning Commission has been working on several amendments to the Town Plan. The first section we have drafted is focused on Flood Resilience for Cornwall. Vermont State Statutes 24 VSA Chapter 117 §4302 and §4382 encourage and require municipalities to include a Flood Resilience Plan in municipal development plans adopted after July 1, 2014. Our intent with this project is to make Cornwall a more resilient community and to consider how future development might be impacted by flooding and storm-related erosion. We have written it to conform with the state statute. This memo highlights key elements of the draft language, but we encourage you to read and consider the entire document.

Cornwall Watershed Summary

A brief overview and history of the three watersheds in town, as they relate to flooding and erosion hazards

Special Flood Hazard Area / FEMA / River Corridor

A discussion of resources the town will use as reference for these areas of concern

A Review of Existing Standards in Cornwall

Cornwall has already completed a number of these, and they count towards being a more flood resilient community and qualifying for additional disaster relief should it be required.

Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund

This is an umbrella program in which tiered levels of actions allow the town a larger amount of state and federal funding in the event of a federally declared disaster.

National Flood Insurance Plan

Cornwall has participated since 1985. Currently there is only one structure in the FEMA-defined Special Flood Hazard Area.

Town Road and Bridge Standards

State-produced road standards which Cornwall reviews and adopts annually.

Local Emergency Management Plan

An annually reviewed plan for a continuity of government structure for the town and lists resources available for emergencies.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

This plan, currently expired, is a community produced document which reviews and identifies hazards which might affect Cornwall and prioritizes next steps. It will be updated over the next year.

River Corridor Protection Regulations & Special Flood Hazard Area

This section discusses and reviews the state-defined River Corridors for waterways in the town. Buffer zones and setbacks for future development are recommended.

Goals, Policies, and Tasks

Discusses the results of the research and considers the next steps for our community.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT

Fall is definitely in the air, and it's time to get out those wool socks that you put away last spring.

The Conservation Commission has been working on organization and outreach. We prepared a document outlining how the Conservation Reserve Fund works and how anyone with a conservation-related project in Cornwall can apply. Guidelines and application forms are on the town website at <https://cornwallvt.com/cornwall-conservation-commission/town-of-cornwall-conservation-reserve-fund/>. And if you'd like to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Fund, the answer is "yes please!" Make out your check to "Town of Cornwall," write "Conservation Reserve Fund" on the memo line, and give it to Sue in Town Hall.

When you go to the CCC website at <https://cornwallvt.com/cornwall-conservation-commission/>, look around – we've refreshed it with some great photos and useful information. We also updated the Conservation Commission brochure and mailed them, along with welcome letters, to new people in town (Hi, new Cornwallians!).

We're also buzzing about a sweet upcoming event. On Saturday, October 16 from 10 am to 11:30 am, Laura Johnson, the Pollinator Support Specialist at UVM Extension, will be giving a presentation on how to "Get Pollinated." She will talk about how to attract and keep pollinators active on your own property. The presentation will be at Sharon DeHaven's place at 2011 North Bingham Street. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers and this will be an entirely outdoor event. Bring a chair if you would like to sit. All current recommended Covid protocols will be followed. No pets please. Rain or shine.

Our Wildlife Trail Camera project is still producing great photos, but no catamount yet. We're looking for some new locations, so if you have a trail on your property and you're interested in finding out who's using it, contact Mary Dodge at mdodge@middlebury.edu or 462-2899.

Finally, we're looking for new Conservation Commission members. Do you love our woods, fields, and creeks? Are you interested in conserving Cornwall's natural resources? Then join us! Contact Mary Dodge for more information.



LEAVES BY GARY MARGOLIS

Nothing better to do
than rake you,
this late September
afternoon, into
my arms. Light

the fire
between us.

Glowing, embering
our love.

Let the wind take us
where it will.

Half-way across the field.

All the way to
our doorsill.

Nothing better
than your burning
perfume.

The yellow jackets
drilling

the apple drops.

Leaving their stingers
inside

the cores.

Flying back
lighter.

Filled. Like us.

A pair of wind-blown,
empty trees.

Yellow and orange.

Maple and maple.

GAME DAY

BY GARY MARGOLIS

Packing the cooler.

Arriving early.

Setting a table
in the A lot.

Starting

the grill.

Starting the grill
again.

Grilling the dogs
and burgers.

Tapping a keg.

Pouring a beer
sans any head.

Toasting the half-
raised flag.

Loading your plate
with chips

and condiments.

Sitting in

a folding chair.

Listening

to the transistor
radio.

For the cheers

rising over

there

in the stadium.

LOCAL E9-1-1 SITE VISITS

As the E911 Coordinator for the Town of Cornwall, I send new addresses and updated information to the VT E9-1-1 Board, which processes the data for use by the Enhanced 9-1-1 Call Centers. While most of my work is done with computer GIS and Mapping programs, I periodically need to make a tour of new and existing 911 Addresses to verify the information on the State's maps.

This is just to let you know that, during October and November, I will be driving around—gazing at houses and outbuildings, exploring driveways, and making notes from my vehicle. *Do not be alarmed!* Please do not call 911 to report a suspicious vehicle! I simply need to compare the physical layout against the information on the maps, record data on my GPS (which may involve walking to the front of a building), and make notes of any needed corrections. If my site visit generates any questions, I will follow-up by email or phone.

I will be driving a green S-10 pick-up, with yellow light on top and “Cornwall Emergency Management/E911” signs on the door. I will also notify Sue at the Town Hall when I am “making rounds.”

If you have questions about E9-1-1, you may contact me (though I can't always respond immediately) at: 462-2182 or gieges@shorehm.net. Maps and other info can be found on the State's E911 Board website: <https://e911.vermont.gov/>, side-menus: *Enhanced 911 Maps and GIS Data*, and *Municipalities*.

Thank you,

Kate Gieges
West St

Cornwall Recreation Committee Information

The Recreation Committee met on August 5, 2021. All of our activities have been put on hold for the past two years. We hope to be able to hold our traditional activities in 2022 such as the Tie Dye Day, 30 miles in 30 days, the pumpkin carving event, etc. We are hoping to have a snow sculpture event this winter. Of course, we need snow to make sculptures so we will see how Mother Nature treats us. We are also putting a reading challenge together, more information to come.

If you have an interest in joining our group, please contact Annie Wilson or Sue Johnson.



Cow Snow Sculpture!!

Town Clerk and Treasurer News

Happy Fall to you all! The beginning stages of fall have been a bit wet, but hopefully we will see a few more warm sunny days.

The highlights for the Town Clerk-Treasurer office over the next few months are as follows:

You should have received your tax bill at the beginning of September. I am still processing Homestead Declarations and Property Tax Adjustment payments as they come in from the state. If I do receive an updated notification for your property, you will receive a revised tax bill. Please destroy the original bill and pay your tax installments from the revised bill. The final deadline to file a Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Adjustment is October 15. After that, I believe they still process them, but there will be no more downloads to the town.

The due dates for tax payments are November 1, 2021, which is a Monday. The office will be open on Monday, November 1, 2021 from 8 AM—5 PM. Postmarks are accepted for on time payments. You can drop your payments into the green drop box on the front porch of the town hall. **The office will be closed on Tuesday, November 2, 2021.**

There is not a General Election this year, so we will see you at Town Meeting.

Speaking of Town Meeting. We would like to anticipate that Town Meeting will be in person this year, but we honestly don't know at this point in time. Our Town Meeting or the Informational Meeting (if that is the way we end up going) will be held on February 28, 2022 and the Australian Ballot voting will be held at the Town Hall on Tuesday, March 1, 2022. There will be a Zoom option no matter what way we end up proceeding.

If you have an interest in running for a town office, please stop by and pick up a nominating petition. You will need to get 10 signatures on the petition. Signers need to be registered Cornwall voters.

The current vacancies for elected officials include: Town Auditor, Trustee of Public Funds, Cemetery Commissioner. The current vacancies for appointed officials include: Alternate delegates to the Regional Planning Commission, Representative and Alternate Representative to the Addison County Solid Waste District, Conservation Commission members, Alternates to the Development Review Board, Assistant Fire Warden, Assistant Zoning Administrator.

Applications are currently be accepted to fill the Road Foreman's position for the town as well. Applications can be picked up at the town hall or found on the town website, cornwallvt.com.

The Town Clerk-Treasurer's office will be closed November 24, 25 and 26 for the Thanksgiving holiday. The office will be open on Tuesday, November 23.

The Town Clerk-Treasurer's office will be closed the week between Christmas and New Year's Day and will reopen on January 4, 2022.

Have a great fall! Sue

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

The Book Sale is Coming

It's that time of year again – time for the Cornwall Library Book Sale so mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 13th**. We have a **large** collection of gently used books, DVDS and audio books that you won't want to miss. **AND** Amanda Payne will be holding a craft sale upstairs in the Town Hall at the same time. The money that she makes at the craft sale is going to be donated to the library.

This is the perfect time to stock up on books for winter reading when the days are cold, long and dark plus reading is a perfect way to wait out winter. You can climb under that fleece blanket or cozy up to the fireplace and read away to sunnier and warmer days.

The Cornwall Library Book Sale will be open from **9AM to 3PM at the Town Hall**. Once again, we will have a **Take What You Want/Pay What You Think is Fair or What You Can!** Proceeds from the sale go directly to stock the library shelves with new releases purchased from the Vermont Book Shop in downtown Middlebury, as well as DVDs. Come check out the book sale on **Saturday, November 13th**. Please wear a mask if you have not been vaccinated. You are also welcome and encouraged to wear a mask if you are more comfortable.

New Additions to the Library Collection

Come on in and check out the materials that we've added to our collection at the library. If you prefer to see what's new from your home, you can see the complete list of materials under the library section on the town website **cornwallvt.com**. Below is a **sampling** of the new items in our collection.

FICTION

The Reading List – Sara Nisha Adams, ***Damnation Spring*** – Ash Davidson, ***The World Played Chess*** – Robert Dugoni, ***Rock Paper Scissors*** – Alice Feeney, ***The Forest of Vanishing Stars*** – Kristin Harmel, ***The Sweetness of Water*** – Nathan Harris, ***The Paper Palace*** – Miranda Cowley Heller, ***Guide*** – Peter Heller, ***Under the Whispering Door*** – TJ Klune, ***We Are the Brennans*** – Tracey Lange, ***Once There Were Wolves*** – Charlotte McConaghy, ***The Personal Librarian*** – Heather Terrell and Victoria Christopher Murray, ***The Book of Form and Emptiness*** – Ruth Ozeki, ***Bewilderment*** – Richard Powers

MYSTERY/SUSPENSE

The Heron's Cry – Ann Cleeves, ***Razorblade Tears*** – S. A. Cosby, ***The Night She Disappeared*** – Lisa Jewell, ***Billy Summers*** – Stephen King, ***Lightning Strike*** – William Kent Krueger, ***Not A Happy Family*** – Shari Lapena, ***Apples Never Fall*** – Karen Moriarty, ***Falling*** – T.J. Newman, ***The Madness of Crowds*** – Louise Penney, ***The Cellist*** – Daniel Silva, ***The Book of Accidents*** – Chuck Wendig, ***Harlem Shuffle*** – Colson Whitehead

LIBRARY CONTINUED.....

NONFICTION

Unbound – Tarana Burke, ***The Anthropocene Review*** – John Green, ***Fox and I*** – Catherine Raven, ***Beautiful Country*** – Qian Julie Wang

YOUNG ADULT

The Box in the Woods – Maureen Johnson, ***Dark and Shallow Lies*** – Ginny Myers Sain

CHILDREN

Semi Magical Witch – Julie Abe, ***Willodeen*** – Katherine Applegate, ***Dark Waters*** – Katherine Arden, ***Rez Dogs*** – Joseph Bruchac, ***Fox and Rabbit*** – Beth Ferry, ***Darwin's Dragons*** – Lindsay Gavin, ***The Vandeeekers Make a Wish*** – Karina Yan Glaser, ***Norman Didn't Do It (Yes He Did)*** – Ryan T. Higgins, ***Cat Problems*** – Jory Johns, ***The Islanders*** – Mary Alice Monroe, ***Pax, Journey Home*** – Sara Pennypacker, ***The Wind May Blow*** – Sasha Quinton, ***Hardly Haunted*** – Jessie Sima, ***Bear Is a Bear*** – Jonathan Stutzman, ***Egg Marks the Spot*** – Amy Timberlake, ***How to Help a Pumpkin Grow*** – Ashley Wolff

AUDIOBOOKS

Braiding Sweet Grass – Robin Wall Kimmerer, ***The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*** – Taylor Jenkins Reed, ***False Witness*** – Karen Slaughter

DVDS

12 Mighty Orphans, Defending Jacob, Dream Horse, The Hitman's Wife Bodyguard, The Marksman, Nobody, Queen Bees, The Vault

The Development Review Board is Seeking an Alternate Member!

The Cornwall Development Review Board (DRB) continues to seek a new alternate member.

The DRB is a quasi-judicial board that hears applications for waivers, conditional use approvals, subdivisions, and other matters relating to land use in Cornwall. Alternate members attend all meetings and hearings. They “step into the shoes” of regular members when the regular member is unable to participate in a hearing (e.g., because of illness, absence, or conflict of interest).

If you think you might be interested in becoming an alternate member of the board and/or would like to discuss what is involved, please call either Barbara Greenwood (Chair) at 462-3183, or David Anderson (Vice-Chair) at 462-3254.

Lemon Fair Insect Control District News

2021 Season Summary: The 2021 season started out dry. April, May, and June had below average rain fall, and the mosquito season was off to a slow start. However, late July rain created flooding by the first week in August. While field surveillance for larval activity in both the Lemon Fair and Cornwall Swamp yielded below average larval thresholds for aerial treatment, complaint calls began coming in from areas away from the floodplains. Adult mosquito traps revealed that *Ochlerotatus trivittatus*, an aggressive biting mosquito species that breeds in temporary woodland puddles and upland grassy meadows was causing a significant amount of mosquito problems for area residents. Additional rain events continuously reactivated these woodland/upland mosquito breeding puddles.

The LFICD responded to over 40 complaint calls, conducting site visits, and setting up adult mosquito traps to verify mosquito species and their source. We also offered information to homeowners about what they could do to reduce the impact of mosquitoes on their properties. We did not pursue aerial treatment since it is largely ineffective in woods and fields.

The Future of Mosquito Control: While most of this year's mosquito problems did not come out of the Lemon Fair, the floodplain continues to be a potential source of mosquito problems. The last time the entire 800 + acres of the Lemon Fair floodplain contained mosquito larva that required broad aerial treatment was in 2017. Over the last 4 years, we've found that smaller sections of the Lemon Fair (10 to 50 acres) will generate sufficient larva needing treatment. These sections are frequently too large for hand treatment and too small for a helicopter with 1,000-acre treatment minimums. Drone technologies may bridge the gap. Drones can treat up to two acres per minute and 200 acres a day. A two-acre hand treatment could take up to 1-2 hours. At the present time, the State of Vermont has not established a drone larvicide licensing protocol. Furthermore, we will need to carefully analyze the economics and operational requirements of owning and/or using a drone. We look forward to working with the State to further evaluate drone technology for mosquito control.

We have also been working with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture in evaluating their purchase of a tire sidewall cutter. The sidewall cutter removes both sidewalls off a silage bunker tire and eliminates the collection of water and mosquito breeding habitat. The removal of this mosquito breeding habitat protects both farm workers, the dairy herd, and nearby residents.

Considerable work still must take place with respect to both drones and the sidewall cutter. We look forward to working with the VAA on both initiatives.

Legislative Report by Peter Conlon

The Vermont Legislature generally operates from June to mid-May, but there are various task forces, committees and commissions created by the Legislature that meet in the off-season to make recommendations to the Legislature to address specific issues. I thought I would write about two that include two of us from Cornwall.

I serve on a task force of four House and four Senate members charged with recommending legislation that could significantly change how Vermont divides its tax dollars for public schools. In Vermont, the state funds all K-12 education from the Education Fund (made up of sales tax, education property taxes, some of the rooms and meals tax, and other smaller revenue). As part of the very complex and unique formula the state uses are “weights” – a value assigned to classes of students reflecting the cost of educating them. While an elementary school student may be counted as 1, a high school student is assigned a weight of 1.2 to reflect the higher cost of education (smaller classes, more offerings, expensive equipment like labs).

In 2019, a peer-reviewed study showed that the weights we assign in Vermont are way out of whack, should be updated, should better recognize the higher costs of operating rural schools and the recognize the significant correlation between higher costs and a student’s economic background. This study reinforced the concerns of some school districts and their representatives who threatened a Brigham-style lawsuit if the weights were not addressed (the Supreme Court Brigham Decision led to our current state funded system for public schools).

Our task force, which also includes Addison County Sen. Ruth Hardy, is looking how to best incorporate the weights recommended in the study into a byzantine funding system, and perhaps how to change that system to make it more progressive and easier to understand.

Retired dairy farmer and executive director of the Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition John Roberts has perhaps a more daunting task. He sits on a panel of industry experts and legislators to recommend legislation to “revitalize” Vermont’s dairy industry.

This task force has met regularly since the summer, learning the many challenges of dairy farms of all sizes in Vermont – from a sluggish market causing low prices to an increasing reluctance of buyers to travel to especially rural farms, among others.

John’s group is also looking at what programs are effective in keeping a strong dairy industry – such as preserving farmland for agriculture and helping young farmers get set up on farms of their own. Ultimately, the group will target specific areas where Vermont can change laws and put resources to maintain a healthy farm economy.

Town of Cornwall
2629 Route 30
Cornwall, VT 05753

Fire Safety Reminders
from the
Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department

E911 Signage - In an emergency, clearly marked house numbers are *critically important* to First Responders. If you need assistance in obtaining and installing a standard green and white E911 sign at your home, do not hesitate to contact the CVFD for assistance. Captain Ken Manchester can help! Give him a call at 462-2136 or talk to any member of the department!

Alarm Systems - Do you have an alarm system at your house? If you do, please consider investing in a Knox Box to ensure timely access to your home. This device, which can only be opened by the CVFD & you, holds keys and important information about accessing your home in an emergency.

Brush Burning - If you have questions about burning brush or obtaining a burn permit, please contact Forest Fire Warden Tom Frankovic at 802-462-3137 or 989-4473.

Alarm batteries - Do your smoke and CO detectors need fresh batteries? If so, please change them twice a year. Consider doing so on solstices or time changes, it's an easy way to remember!