

Cornwall Newsletter

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY, TOWN MEETING, TOWN OFFICIALS, ETC.....

Now that we are through the holiday season, our thoughts, well at least my thoughts turn to the upcoming Town Meeting and Presidential Primary. As a reminder, Cornwall votes on everything from the floor except Town Officials at our meeting held on the first Monday evening preceding the first Tuesday in March. This year's meeting will be held on Monday, March 2 at 6:30 pm at the Cornwall Elementary School. In order to participate in the meeting, you must be a registered voter in Cornwall. Vermont now has same day voter registration, so you can register to vote any day leading up to the election and on election day itself at the Town Clerk's office. You can also register to vote through the DMV and on the Secretary of State's website at [myVoterPage](#).

Every four years the presidential primary is held on the first Tuesday in March along with Australian ballot voting for Town Officials. Although voters do not have to register a party affiliation in Vermont, the State of Vermont is required to obtain party preference information during this election. When you enter the polling place and check in at the Entrance table, you will be asked to select either a Democratic or Republican ballot. This information will be marked on the official checklist and then will be made available to the public. Political parties are the groups that are most interested in this information. If you are not willing to pick a ballot and have the information recorded, you will not be able to vote in the Presidential Primary. This procedure is written in statute. I have included the citation where it can be found on page 3 of this Newsletter. The Presidential Primary ballots will be counted by the Vote Tabulator. This has proved to be an effective and efficient method of counting ballots. I expect there to be a reasonably high turnout at the election due to the primary, so the tabulator will cut down on the time required to complete the results.

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PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY, TOWN MEETING & TOWN OFFICIALS, ETC. CONTINUED.....

In regard to the Town Meeting, there are two important deadlines in January. If you wish to have an article included in the warning for town meeting, you must petition the Selectboard to include it. The petition must include the signatures of 50 valid Cornwall voters. The petition must be turned in by 5 pm on Thursday, January 16, 2020.

The second deadline is for nominating petitions. If you are interested in running for any of the elected positions in town, you must obtain a nominating petition from the Town Clerk. The Clerk will fill out the information on the petition, which includes, name, the office that you are running for, the term of the office and the date of the election. This nominating petition must be returned by Monday, January 27, 2020 with at least 10 signatures of valid Cornwall voters. You will be included on the Town Meeting ballot. Australian ballot voting for Town Officials and the Presidential Primary will take place on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 from 7 am—7 pm at the Cornwall Town Hall. If you are interested in running for office, contact the Town Clerk to determine what positions are being voted on this year. The Town Official ballots will be counted by hand.

There will be three additional ballots to be voted on by Australian ballot on March 3. These ballots are related to the Addison Central Supervisory District (ACSD) and the Patricia Hannaford Career Center. There will be two budget ballots and a ballot for voting on School Directors for the ACSD. These ballots will be transported to the Middlebury Union High School after the polling place is closed and we have matched the number of ballots to the number of voters checked off the checklist. The ballots are commingled and counted at the high school. I will be in need of at least two people (registered Cornwall voters) to take the ballots to Middlebury and help in the counting process. If you have interest in that, please let me know.

In all, this means you will receive 5 ballots to vote on if you decide to pick a party for the Primary. As you might imagine, this can be somewhat confusing for everyone involved at the polls and the voters as well. One other issue that adds to the confusion is that new voters that are age 17, but will turn age 18 before or on November 3, 2020 are allowed to vote in the Presidential Primary, but not in the Town or School District elections.

Please bear with the election poll workers as they make every effort to mark the checklist appropriately. Please give some thought to your decision about the Presidential Primary and whether or not you are comfortable choosing a party in advance of the election. Hopefully this information is helpful in your decision making process and having to choose a ballot won't come as a surprise.

In order to help with the complicated poll worker process, I will be holding at least one training session prior to the election.

The last thing (I think) to mention is early and absentee ballots. I will have the Presidential Primary ballots in the office by January 17, 2020. These ballots must be ready 45 days ahead of the election so they can be received and returned in a timely fashion by members of the military and those folks living out of the country, but still on our voter list. The rest of the ballots will not be available until February 12, 2020 at the latest. You can request an early or absentee ballot at any time and your request will be processed as the ballots arrive. To request an early/absentee ballot, you can email the town clerk, stop in at the town office and fill out a request, go to myVoterPage on the Secretary of State's website and make an online request, or you can call the town office and make the request. Ballots can be requested for another person provided the requestor meets the criteria, but that person will not be able to hand deliver the ballot, it must be mailed to the voter.

I am always happy to answer questions you may have about the election process. Please do not hesitate to stop in or give a call. Should be an interesting time!!!

YOU MUST DECLARE A
POLITICAL PARTY WHEN
VOTING IN THE
PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY!

V.S.A. Title 17, Chapter 57, section 2704

“A person voting at the Primary shall be required to ask for the ballot of the party in which the voter wishes to vote and an election official shall record the voter’s choice of ballot by marking the entrance checklist with a letter code, as designated by the Secretary

Town Reports will not be mailed to each household again this year. You will receive a special newsletter edition that will include the town meeting warning, ACSD warning, Hannaford Career Center warning, sample ballots, Auditor’s report and the Town Meeting Dinner announcement. If you would like to have a town report mailed to you, please let me know and I will send one along.

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!

FIRE WARDEN'S REPORT

"The year is almost over, and 2019 was busy. 207 burn permits were issued as of 12/27, and they are still being issued. The weather is cooperating, and despite the lack of snow, the wet conditions and rainy weather allow burning to continue."

"Of all permits issued, there were no incidents of burns that developed into fires that went out of control resulting in any injuries nor involvement from the Cornwall Fire Department or any mutual aid agencies. It was pretty much a perfect burn year."

"Thank you all for making this a safe Wildland Fire Safety year. I am looking forward to helping all of you in 2020."

Tommy Frankovic

Fire Warden, Cornwall, VT

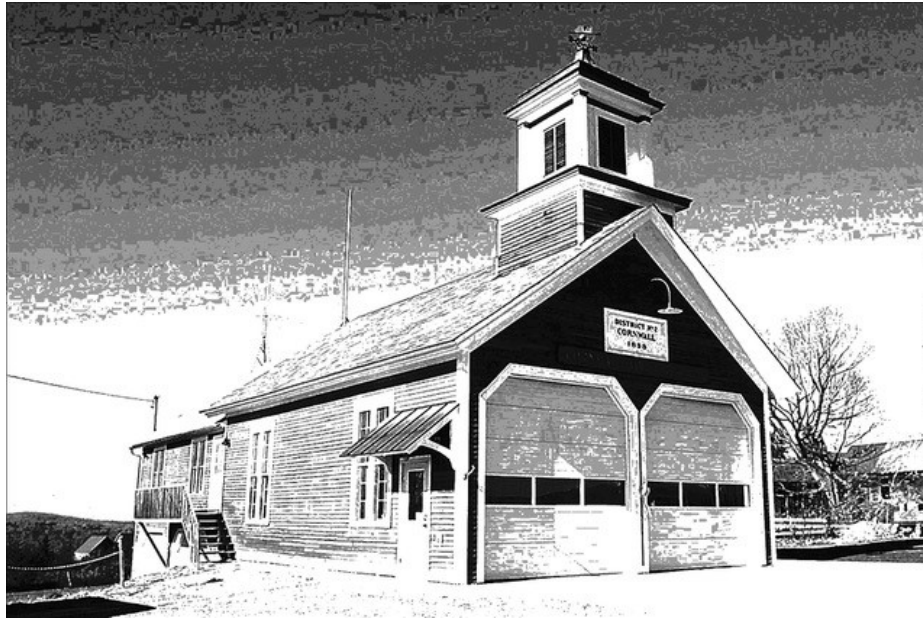
tommyfrankovic831@gmail.com / 802-989-4473 / 802-462-3137

JOB OPPORTUNITY IN CORNWALL

After serving the Town of Cornwall as Secretary for the past 13 years, Sharon Tierra has decided to retire in April of this year. Sharon takes and transcribes the minutes for the Selectboard and the Planning Commission at their meetings. Selectboard twice a month and Planning Commission, once a month. If you have interest in this position please contact Ben Marks, Conor Stinson or Sue Johnson.

A sincere THANK YOU to Sharon for her hard work and dedication to Cornwall!

Cornwall
Volunteer
Fire
Department's
Station #2 on
Route 30.



Selectboard & Planning Commission Report on the status of the Draft Land Use and Development Regulations (Zoning)

The Select Board continues its review of the draft Land Use and Development Regulations promulgated by the Planning Commission last March. The Planning Commission and Select Board met in joint session on October 16, 2019 to discuss how to proceed with the draft regulations. At that time, the Planning Commission asked the Select Board to draft a list of its concerns related to the document. Accordingly, the Select Board worked through Sections 2, 3, and 4 of the current draft, and produced a brief preliminary list of concerns.

The Select Board and the Planning Commission met again on December 17, and agreed to focus first on Section 2 of the draft, which deals with Zoning District Regulations. The two boards have put together a working group composed of Benjamin Marks, John Roberts, Don Burns, and Conor Stinson to produce a working list of questions about that section to submit to both boards for further review.

The Select Board and Planning Commission have scheduled for the first week of February to come together again as a group to review the Section 2 discussion. Our intent is that this serve as a test case for how the two boards will work together and what kind of document would emerge from this additional process. It is unlikely the process will be complete before Town Meeting.

In addition, the Select Board plans to create a new section of Cornwall's website, devoted exclusively to the Town's ongoing work on its zoning regulations. This website section will host the current regulations, the draft regulations, and marked drafts produced by any working groups who are revising particular sections. As always, meetings of both boards are open to the public.

In a Rural Landscape, What Defines ‘A Real Job’?

By Cheryl Cesario, Meeting Place Pastures

Earlier this summer, I was making my weekly stop at a nearby vegetable farm picking up a few bags of produce. While I was at the stand choosing what I would take home that week, the farm’s long-time manager, Kathy, pulled up in the farm truck and started unloading plastic bins of squash and greens to replenish the already abundant and fresh display. At the same time, another couple walked up to the farm shop, bags in hand and said hello to her. After some small talk, they asked her what had happened to Dave, one of the other employees who had worked on the farm for the past two seasons. She cheerfully replied that he had taken a job at another local company. The man chuckled and said, “So he finally went and got a real job, eh?”

Kathy smiled politely and went back to her work. Asking her about this comment after the couple had left, she rolled her eyes and said, “Unfortunately, I’m used to it”. It’s a pretty pervasive opinion in our modern American culture that farming is ‘not a real job’, or certainly not a viable career path for the young people of our communities. It is perplexing to me why as a society we undervalue the folks who work the land and grow the fresh food that helps sustain us all.

Perhaps you think I might be over-reacting or taking his words too seriously. However, just two short weeks after this incident, I was faced with this opinion once again. My family and I were at the Cornwall Fire Department annual chicken barbeque and brought our farm employee. He is a bright-eyed 26-year-old young man with polite Southern manners. We were sitting with some folks who were enamored with his charming accent and peppering him with questions about his work with us and his background. Not long after telling them that he was a graduate of Virginia Tech (very good school), this couple mentioned another farmer in town’s kids and said that they were going to Ivy League schools, so they would not be coming back to the farm. He said they were “far too smart for that!” Thankfully at that point, my five-year-old found a friend so I was pulled away from the table. I had had enough, mostly due to the fact that some people stick their foot so far in their own mouths they don’t even know they are choking on it.

It reminds me of a story from Virginia farmer and author, Joel Salatin. In it, he recounts a story about a tour he gave to some visitors on his farm several years ago. After wrapping up the tour, one of the visitors said, “You are so articulate, why would you want to be a farmer?” If you haven’t read Joel’s book ‘The Sheer Ecstasy of Being a Lunatic Farmer’, please do. You may enjoy his musings on this topic among others. One of my favorite quotes from the book is this:

“We’ve squandered now a couple generations by not cultivating a farming can-do spirit. Those best and brightest minds have developed video games, fiber optics, and heart stents. Would we not be a richer culture if more of those minds had been encouraged and applauded into farming? It’s a national disgrace and economic/ecologic travesty that we’ve denied ourselves these minds because we taught, embraced and assumed the notion that farming is beneath the dignity and mentality of the best and brightest.”

A subtle change may be on the horizon, showing up in unexpected places. Recently my daughter received one of the new ‘Barbie Career Dolls’. In recent years, Barbie has not only undergone a more modest bodily transformation; she has also found more interesting endeavors than driving around in a pink Corvette. All the expected careers are on display in this new series - astronaut, biologist, chef, etc. Well, would you have guessed there is also a farmer Barbie? The back of the box says it all, “Farmers are **experts** in agriculture. They produce crops, livestock and materials like cotton and wool. Farmers have a strong understanding of **nature**, but also use **technology, science and business skills** to run a successful farm. Do you like caring for plants and animals? You can be a farmer like Barbie.” Thank you Mattel, I’ll take it. Toys are useful tools in imaginative play, and perhaps in our house farmer Barbie can help encourage one little girl that farming is in fact a viable career option, even though she will undoubtedly hear time and time again evidence to the contrary.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT

November 2nd Nature Walk

On a glorious, early November afternoon, field biologist Craig Zondag led a group of more than 30 people on a walk through the Cornwall Orchards B&B property, highlighting how farming and natural events affected this land over the last two centuries (see attached pictures). Lise Anderson, B&B innkeeper, provided the history of the property, whose original house was built in 1793. Craig and Lise are gifted storytellers and kept us all involved and entertained. Afterward, the group walked over to Windfall Orchards, where cider-maker and orchardist Brad Koehler served cider tastings and talked about the two dozen or so heirloom apple varieties grown on the property.



About 30 people attended the November 2 nature walk.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT CONTINUED



Wasp nest observed at the November 2 nature

Conserving Your Land

During recent discussions held over reclassifying the Otter Creek Wetland Complex, the commission has considered ways to address the expressed landowner concern over restrictions being imposed on their use of the land without being compensated. In response to that concern, the commission plans to organize public presentations and panel discussions with organizations such as the Middlebury Area Land Trust (MALT), the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) on the value and benefits of conserving land. Interested landowners will have their questions answered directly. Announcements regarding this initiative will be communicated within the next month or two.

Conservation Commission Membership

On a different note, the commission would like to express its appreciation to our former member, Marc Cesario, who has served on the commission for the last 5 years. As a practicing and innovative farmer, Marc has brought much appreciated perspectives to our activities and discussions.

The commission is looking for new members. Please reach out to Mary Dodge, chair, if you are interested in joining our group.

Rene Langis, Cornwall Conservation Commission

CORNWALL FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY REPORT

THANKS FROM THE LIBRARY

The Trustees of the Cornwall Free Public Library thank all of you who supported our 2019 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.** Thank you so much for your continued support of the Cornwall Free Public Library.

And thanks to **Becky and Jenny from The Vermont Book Shop** for the donated books that help make our collection so interesting and up to date!

The library also received a donation in memory of Steven Edwards, whose parents Steven & Nancy Edwards live in Cornwall. The Edwards asked that the donation be used to purchase some children's books on photography. We now have a very nice collection and display in memory of Steven.

ONLINE ACCESS IS COMING!

We are working with our library software provider, ResourceMate, to allow our patrons access to our collection online. We have most of the steps in place, but need to do some fine tuning. Stay tuned for more information about this in the near future.

SATURDAY HOURS

Don't forget that the library is open from **10AM – 12PM on Saturdays**. Come on in and relax for a while looking through the books, audiobooks and DVDs before you're off and running doing your errands. The Library Trustees are donating their time so stop by and say hello!

NEW MATERIALS

Have you been to the library in the last six months? Looked over the new fiction and nonfiction books, classics, children's books, audiobooks, DVDs? **THEN** come on in and look them over. If you prefer to see what is new at the library from home, you can see the complete list of materials under the library section on the town website, cornwallvt.com. **COME CHECK US OUT!**

Here is a sampling of the new books, audiobooks, and DVDs.

FICTION

The Bromance Book Club - Lyssa Kay Adams, **The Testaments** - Margaret Atwood, **Ninth House** - Leigh Bardugo*, **The Water Dancer** - Ta-Nehisi Coates, **Girl Woman Other** - Bernardine Evaristo, **This Tender Land** - William Kent Krueger, **Bert Isla** - Javiar Marias*, **The Starless Sea** - Erin Morganstern, **Chilka's Journey** - Heather Morris, **The Giver of Stars** - Jojo Moyes, **The Dutch House** - Anne Pachett. **Grand Union** - Zadie Smith*, **Let It Snow** - Nancy Thayer, **Nothing to See Here** - Kevin Wilson, **Red at the Bone** - Jacqueline Woodson

MYSTERY/SUSPENSE

Nothing Ventured - Jeffrey Archer, **Blue Moon** - Lee Child, **The Night Fire** - Michael Connelly, **The Andromeda Revolution** - Michael Crichton*, **The Deserter** - Nelson DeMille, **The Guardians** - John Grisham, **The Family Upstairs** - Lisa Jewell, **Institute** - Stephen King, **Agent Running in the Field** - John LeCarre, **Bomber's Moon** - Archer Mayor, **The Whisper Man** - Alex North, **A Christmas Gathering** - Anne Perry, **The Secrets We Kept** - Lara Prescott, **Vendetta in Death** - J. D. Robb

NONFICTION

Dreams of El Dorado - H. W. Brands*, **The Body** - Bill Bryson, **Me Elton John** - Elton John*, **How To Be An Antiracist** - Ibram X. Kendi, **Good Husbandry** - Kristin Kimball*, **Blowout** - Rachel Maddow*, **Know My Name** - Chanel Miller, **Edison** - Edmund Morris*, **The Outlaw Ocean** - Ian Urbina

CORNWALL FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY COTINUED...

YOUNG ADULT

Suggested Reading - Dave Connis*, **Pumpkinheads** - Rainbow Rowell, **The Fountains of Silence** - Ruta Sepetys, **Frankly in Love** - David Yoon, **The Seven Torments of Amy and Craig** - Don Zolidis*

CHILDREN

The Crossover (Graphic Novel) - Kwame Alexander, **Dead Voices** - Katherine Arden, **The Rhythm of the Rain** - Grahame Baker*, **Sophie Valdez Future Prez** - Andrea Beaty, **The Tale of the Tiger Slippers** - Jan Brett*, **A Tale of Magic** - Chris Colfer, **Beverly Right Here** - Kate DiCamillo, **Three Cheers for Kid McGear!** - Sherri Duskey, **The Tree and Me** - Bea Garcia*, **The Vanderbeekers to the Rescue** - Yan Glaser, **Stormy** - Guojing, **Best Friends** - Shannon Hale*, **Bear is Awake** - Hannah E. Harrison, **Top Elf** - Caleb Zane Huett*, **Wrecking Ball (Diary of a Wimpy Kid)** - Jeff Kinney, **Compass South and Knife's Edge** - Hope Larson*, **A Big Bed for Little Snow** - Grace Lin*, **Miss Piggle-Wiggle and the Won't-Walk-the-Dog-Cure** - Ann M. Martin*, **Hey Granddude** - Paul McCartney, **Max Einstein: Rebels with a Cause** - James Patterson, **A Wolf Called Wander** - Rosann Perry, **Guts** - Raina Telgemeier, **One Snowy Morning** - Kevin Tseng, **The Tree That's Meant to Be** - Yuval Zommer

AUDIOBOOKS

The Burning Room - Michael Connelly, **The Giver of Stars** - JoJo Moyes, **The Dutch House** - Ann Pachett, **The Last Widow** - Karin Slaughter

DVDs

Angel Has Fallen, **The Biggest Little Farm**, **Deadwood (Movie)**, **Downton Abbey (Movie)**, **Official Secrets**, **The Peanut Butter Falcon**, **Rocketman**, **Spider Man: Far From Home**, **Yellowstone: Seasons One and Two**

**Donated by the Vermont Book Store*



Coin of the Realm by Gary Margolis

You said you'd pay me
what it was worth.
To stand up to my knees
in snowdrift. The snow still

falling around me.
Not knowing I was worth
anything. It was my father
who left for work.

Who came home at the end
of the afternoon.
Ice caked on his boots.
A flurry filling his beard.

He looked in my jar
to count the coins
and bills, to see
if you paid me

what it was worth.
Neighbor. Shut-in.
Tight with your purse.
You wanted a path out

and in. For the mailman.
The dog. Any boy
that would knock
on your shivering door.

Who lived next door.
Who'd come over
on a snow day.
With a shovel,

a pail of salt
and sand. A jar
you'd fill
with ice and snow,

coin of the realm
in our neighborhood.
Where, my father said,
do what you can for her

or anyone. It will save you
from feeling worthless.
When no one else is around.
To see what it is you have done.

Car Ride Update By Gary Margolis

Stop kicking each other
in the back seat. Screaming
for an early morning snack.
You just ate, I shout.

What's the matter with you
two. Look out your windows
at the sunrise, the cornstalks
flying by. Say something nice

to each other. Imagine the baby
stuffed elephant you'll grab
with those tongs
at the rest stop. Here take

my tent-full of quarters.
Stop being so impossible this early
in the morning. Spell Illinois.
Indiana. Then Michigan.

Ask your father for something.
Anything. And for God's sake
behave at the toll booth.
Or, God forgive me,

I'll leave both of you
there, as easily as using
my EZ-Pass.
I can tell it doesn't matter

how many times I tell you
I love you. When you're back
there, sister-to-sister, shoulder-
to shoulder. So far out of reach.

I have to wake your father
to look into the snack pack.
To see if anything's left.
Have to remind myself

what it was like. Being shaken
out of bed in the middle
of the night. Carried
in a blanket. Waking up,

with no sister beside me
yet. Trying to pretend
those cornstalks were my kind
of family.

Town of Cornwall
2629 Route 30
Cornwall, VT 05753

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

NOTABLE RETIREMENT FROM SERVICE. JIM DUCLOS RETIRES FROM HIS POSITION AS ZONING ADMINISTRATOR AFTER 10 YEARS.

After serving the Cornwall Community for nearly 10 years as our Zoning Administrator, Jim Duclos has decided to retire from that position as of January 1, 2020.

The Selectboard is looking for someone who would be interested in filling this role for the town. Currently, the position is less than full time and is compensated through the fees received for the various permits and certificates issued by the Zoning Administrator. The Select Board expects that the job will occupy an average of 7 hours per month, although the work varies with the number of applications submitted to the Town's Development Review Board. The position requires good interpersonal skills and the ability to work with applicants who have a broad spectrum of familiarity with Cornwall's zoning and land use regulations. Basic building skills and knowledge of land development would be a benefit to any applicant. In addition, Jim has indicated that he will be available to help with the transition to a new Zoning Administrator.

Please contact Benjamin Marks, Selectboard Chair, if you are interested in the position or have questions about it.

Ben's contact information is:

Phone: 462-3536

Email: bmarkscornwall@gmail.com

The Select Board wishes to express its appreciation to Jim Duclos for his work on behalf of the Town for the last decade.