



TOWN CLERK—TREASURER UPDATES!

I hope this finds you all safe and well. The office continues to be open to the public, although land records research requires an appointment. Facial coverings are required and please don't come in to the office if you are not feeling well.

TAXES: The second installment of property taxes are due on Saturday, May 1, 2021. The office will be open on Saturday from 9 AM—5 PM. Taxes may be mailed, dropped in the green box on the porch or hand delivered.

DOGS: The annual event of dog licensing continues. Officially, dog licenses are due by April 1 of EACH year. Dog licensing requires a current rabies vaccination certificate and the fee of \$9.00 for a spayed or neutered dog and \$11.00 for a dog that is not spayed or neutered. We will not be assessing any late fees this year. You may mail, drop off or hand deliver the required info and payment.

VACANCIES: Now that Town Meeting has come and gone, there are still a few vacancies for Town Officials. They include: Town Auditor, Trustee of Public Funds, Cemetery Commissioner, Two Alternate Representatives to the Addison County Regional Planning Commission, a Delegate and an alternate to the Addison County Solid Waste Management District. Please contact Sue Johnson, 462-2775 or Ben Marks, 462-3536 if you have an interest in any of these positions.

THE FUTURE: So, I spent a good amount of time thinking about and deciding whether to run for another 3 year term as Town Clerk and Treasurer prior to this past Town Meeting. I decided to run for office again because I am not quite ready to retire and I enjoy both jobs, for the most part. I do think that my decision will be different 3 years from now, so I am starting the process to find someone who is interested in ultimately taking over one or both positions, and someone who would be interested in being appointed as assistant to one or both positions. The learning curve for both of these positions is quite steep, so that is why I am putting out feelers now. Please give this some good thought if you think you might be interested in the positions. It requires excellent people skills, decent computer skills, a willingness to take on tasks that may not seem like they are your job, but....., average math skills, skills that are typically those of an administrator, and the list does go on and on. You may have a plan for the day, but the whole thing could change as soon as you walk in and look at email or talk to the first person who walks through the door. Give me a call or stop in if you want to chat about the possibilities.

DISCLAIMER

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

GREEN UP DAY

This year Green Up Day will be held on Saturday, May 1, 2021. As usual the town trucks will be parked at the school parking lot and should be there from Friday evening through Sunday night or Monday morning. Bags, supplies and the map will be available at the town hall starting on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, and because I will be collecting taxes on May 1, bags and supplies can be picked up at the town hall that day. There will also be bags and supplies located at the trucks on May 1.

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MESSAGE FROM BEN MARKS, SELECTBOARD CHAIR

Writing a Select Board update for the Cornwall Quarterly newsletter so soon after Town Meeting leaves only a little news to report.

Once again, Cornwall's elections went off without a hitch, due in large part to the preparation and hard work of our Town Clerk, Sue Johnson. Our public information session, which was held via Zoom in lieu of a public gathering due to Covid-19 this year, ran smoothly but was attended by only 43 of us. In contrast: ballots were mailed to town residents in advance of Town Meeting Day and the result was a turnout that was much higher than average. 512 votes were cast on local ballot initiatives this year; a typical off-year election with no statewide races typically draws roughly half that many votes. In recent years, Town Meeting has been attended by between 60 and 80 residents and although public debates have been few and far between, Town Meeting is a treasured tradition. The Select Board would be interested in feedback from voters about this year's voting experience and ideas to improve Town Meeting attendance in a "normal" year when we are not facing a pandemic.

As a result of our recent trip to the polls, we have welcomed a new Select Board member: Tanya Byker. Tanya, who is a recently tenured economics professor at Middlebury College, fills the seat vacated by Ben Wood. Please join me in congratulating Tanya on her recent election. The town is lucky to have her service.

The recent federal stimulus law passed earlier this month will have direct implications for Cornwall, in terms of grants awarded directly to the Town. While the Select Board has not yet met to discuss the issue, I expect that a portion of that money will be used for Maple Broadband pre-construction costs. Our representative to Maple Broadband, Magna Dodge, delivers status reports on Maple Broadband's progress at every Select Board meeting. Early indications are that Cornwall will be awarded \$117,894 directly and approximately \$225,000 in additional funds directed to the county and distributed to each town on a per capita basis. These funds carry the proviso that they will not be used to directly lower our tax obligations. Nevertheless, as the Select Board begins to consider how these funds might best be spent, we would love to hear from the public about suggested funding priorities. Town contact information is listed at the end of this report.

We continue in our search for an Assistant Zoning Administrator who can evaluate zoning applications for completeness when our ZA Gary Barnett is out of town on business. The position is open to Cornwall residents who are interested in understanding how our zoning rules apply to building and subdivision projects. The position is compensated by the fees collected for various town applications.

As Vermont's vaccine rollout picks up pace, Cornwall continues to do well in terms of overall Covid-19 infection rates according to the metrics available on Vermont's Covid-19 website. Keep up the good work, Cornwall! Our first responders in the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department have all had both vaccine doses made available to them. As of the date of this report, people 50 years of age and older may make an appointment to get vaccinated. Please go to www.healthvermont.gov for more details.

Suggestions/feedback regarding any of the above notes may be e-mailed to Sue Johnson at cornwallvt@shoreham.net or to the Select Board chair, Ben Marks at bmarkscornwall@gmail.com, sent via U.S. Mail to the Select Board's attention at the Town Hall, 2629 Route 30, Cornwall VT 05753, or presented at any of our regularly scheduled meetings, which are still being held via Zoom/teleconference.

Benjamin Marks

Cornwall Select Board Chair

March 29, 2021

UPDATE FROM THE DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

Virtual Meetings and Filing Requirements

All meetings of the DRB (usually held on the first Wednesday of the month) continue to be held by Zoom. An online link and a dial-in number may be found in the agenda, which is posted on the Town website at least 48 hours before the meeting.

The DRB's job is to hear subdivision and zoning applications. Application forms (updated last month) are available online, and at the Town Office from the Town Clerk, Sue Johnson. Please make sure to use the latest versions of the forms.

To be eligible to be placed on the agenda for a meeting, you must file a *complete* subdivision or zoning application with the Town Clerk at least 25 days in advance of the meeting. This includes not just the completed application form, but also any other materials specified in the relevant sections of the subdivision or zoning regulations. It is the applicant's responsibility to read the relevant sections, and then to include any required materials and/or narratives in the application. We encourage you to consult the Zoning Administrator, Gary Barnett, if you have any questions about your application.

Ten paper copies of the application, together with an electronic copy, must be filed. (Sue Johnson posts the application materials on the Town website so that interested persons may review them without having to come to the Town office.)

Additional details regarding the DRB process may be found on the Town website.

Board Membership

We are pleased to welcome a new DRB member, Ross Gregory. Ross replaces Joe Severy, who stepped down after many years of service on the Board. The other regular members of the DRB are David Anderson (Vice Chair), Magna Dodge, Barbara Greenwood (Chair), and Shari Johnson. The alternate members are Cheryl Cesario and Joan Lynch.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT

At the recent Town Meeting 86% of the voters approved the appropriation of \$3,500 for the Cornwall Conservation Fund. We are deeply appreciative of this support. The CC anticipates that most of the amount will remain unspent in the coming year, leaving a reserve that we hope will grow through private donations and yearly town contributions. The Fund's purpose is an important one, to have monies available to help keep the town's most valuable natural resources intact and free from development.

We are working with representatives from the Select Board and the Planning Commission to revise Conservation Fund guidelines that were approved in 2016 by the Select Board to include more detailed processes, criteria and approval mechanisms for determining the eligibility of a project for funding. In many cases, a project will involve the conservation of land and necessitate additional funding sources beyond our town.

We welcome the support of townspeople in growing the Conservation Fund.

The Conservation Commission is hoping to create a "Friends of Conservation" support group that will assist the Commission in raising additional funds. Private donations to the Fund may be tax deductible for the person making them as a charitable contribution under section 170 (c) (1) of the IRS code. Please let us know if you would like to be a part of making this happen.

The Trail Camera photos recorded a long and very cold, January and February with deep snow, harsh conditions especially for the larger carnivores. Sometimes temperatures were so cold that the cameras stopped working. Bobcats and coyote that had usually been out only at night were hunting throughout the day. Apart from the occasional rabbit and difficult-to-catch squirrel, the pickings were slim no matter when they were hunting. The pictures show first an unsuccessful coyote and then, a day later, a successful barred owl going after what was possibly the same vole.

After almost two decades of service, Brian Howlett is stepping down from the Conservation Commission. Brian brought his love of "hands-on" conservation to the CC: leading several fieldtrips in the Swamp where his stories made its history come alive and helping organize the Ecological Inventory project and the Cornwall Values Mapping Workshop. We thank him for his work and wish him well. And, we are very pleased to welcome two new members to the Conservation Commission. Don Burns is a geologist by training and has been a member of the Cornwall Planning Commission for the past two years. Don will continue with his CPC membership and this dual role will help both groups better support each other's work. Sharon DeHaven is our second new member. She moved with her husband from Michigan to Cornwall in late 2017. Years ago Sharon helped to preserve a wetland near her home in Southport, CT and then participated in the development of an award-winning wetland educational program for children in grades 4-6. Thank you both for joining the CC.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION CONTINUED



CORNWALL SCHOOL NEWS

Hello Cornwall community,

As we move forward toward the end of the year, we have a lot to be grateful for. We have been holding in-person learning since October, the abundance of snow during the winter encouraged outdoor activities and exploration, and more and more Vermonters are able to get vaccinated each day, allowing for social interactions to gradually occur.

In the past couple of months at Cornwall School, we have been focusing on creating connections and on finding joy. Fifth and Sixth grade classes are taking turns leading virtual All School Meetings, teachers have developed projects with connection as the focus, and movement and activity continues to involve spending time outdoors. Although Cornwall School was not able to host Town Meeting this year, Chef Dan and our Administrative Assistant Laurie prepared take out meals on voting day. It was a lot of fun to see so many people from the community come to school to pick up meals! Also, before April break we will be hosting a virtual Family Fun Night, which will hopefully both create connection AND bring joy!

Cornwall School is now registering Kindergarten for the 2021-2022 school year.

Your child must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2021. For more information, or to make sure your child is on our incoming list, please reach out to Laurie Ballantine either by phone 802-462-2463 or through email lballantine@acsdvt.org. Please share this information with anyone you know who has a kindergarten age student at home!

This coming year, we will also be transitioning both the current 5th grade and the current 6th grade to MUMS. There have been communications from MUMS with 5th and 6th grade families, there will be virtual meetings led by MUMS, and our counselor will also help students and families with questions as they arise. Within the health and safety guidelines, we will be planning to celebrate students in both grades as they finish their years here at Cornwall School.

We do not yet know what next school year will bring, and will be awaiting health and safety guidance. In the meantime, I am part of a district team focusing on recovery planning. We will be asking ourselves, among other things, what do we need to prioritize and what supports will we need to have in place as all students in all grades transition back to in-person learning. We look forward to the possibility of returning to some of our usual daily structure and the return of some special events while also potentially making some changes based on what we have learned through the challenges of the pandemic.

Thank you to the whole community for supporting the students and families of Cornwall School.

Sincerely,

Heather Raabe, Principal

FRIENDS OF CORNWALL SCHOOL UPDATE

The Friends of Cornwall School (FOCS) would like to thank our community for all of the support we received this school year. In addition to all the volunteer efforts and material donations, we have had two very successful fundraisers this year.

At the start of the school year we sent letters out to Cornwall town residents, and got school families to share the letter with their extended families. To date this effort has raised more than \$6,000. In addition to allowing us to continue having annual events like Harvest Festival and Gifts for Giving in a COVID-altered way, this money allowed us to purchase a second heavy duty tent similar to the tent the ACSD bought for the school. In addition, as a moral booster, we were able to provide some nice new Beanie winter hats for all the students and staff.

More recently we held our annual Town Meeting Dinner in a way that it hasn't been in recent memory. Despite it being the coldest day of the week, every meal that was ordered was claimed by those who ordered them. After a series of additional donations on the evening of March 2nd, this event brought in nearly \$1,200 (more than any of the last 4 years at least.) The net profit of nearly \$650 will help us to continue our mission of supporting the Cornwall school student body and faculty both during and after school hours.

So on behalf of the Cornwall School students, faculty, and families, thank you to everyone who has supported us through this very unusual year.

FOCS Merchandise

If you are looking for other ways to support our efforts, FOCS merchandise can be purchased at the Cornwall Town office or by reaching out to Ian Ross at [**addison.department.store@gmail.com**](mailto:addison.department.store@gmail.com) Items available are as follows:

2019 Cookbook	\$12.00
Magnet	\$ 5.00
EURO Stickers	\$ 3.00



NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

THANK YOU! The trustees of the Cornwall Free Public Library want to thank all of you for donating to our recent appeal for monetary donations to help fund the library. These generous donations will ensure the continued success of our library during this time of Covid-19. Your support is greatly appreciated, and we thank you for your investment in our community.

The Trustees of the library know that many of you are anxious for the library to reopen. We discussed it at our recent meeting and with Covid-19 numbers rising again, we decided to keep the library closed for now. We will continue to monitor the situation and will reopen when we feel it is safe for our Cornwall community – hopefully in June or July. To meet your reading needs, we are continuing to offer curbside pickup (THANK YOU SUE) through the Web OPAC system. You can also borrow ebooks and audiobooks through the Libby App. All you need is your library card. If you need any help, Sue is always willing to help you. Just stop in Town Hall or give her a call.

Also, we are unable to make a decision about having our annual book sale this fall, and we are still unable to take donated books right now. We're hoping that you have space to store them until we're able to take them "off your hands". Thank you for your patience.

We are continuing to buy new books, audiobooks and DVDs to keep our collection of materials at the library current. You can see all of these new items on the Library Section of the town website. You will find a sampling of the new materials here.

FICTION

Surviving Savannah – Patti Callahan, **The Paris Library** – Janet Skeslien Charles, **The Four Winds** – Kristin Hannah, **Klara and the Sun** – Kazuo Ishiguro, **The Kindest Lie** – Nancy Johnson, **The Last Garden in England** – Julia Kelly, **How Beautiful We Were** – Imbolo Mbue, **The Committed** – Viet Thanh Nguyen, **The Lost Apothecary** – Sarah Penner, **The Kitchen Front** – Jennnifer Ryan, **A Million Reasons Why** – Jessica Strawser, **Band of Sisters** – Lauren Willig

LIBRARY CONTINUED.....

MYSTERY/SUSPENSE

Who is Maud Dixon – Alexandra Andrews, **Win** – Harlan Coben, **The Survivors** – Jane Harper, **The Red Widow** – Anna Katsu, **Transient Desires** – Donna Leon, **Blood Grove** – Walter Mosley, **Deadly Cross** – James Patterson, **The Consequences of Fear** – Jacqueline Winspear

NONFICTION

How to Avoid a Climate Disaster – Bill Gates, **The Code Breaker** – Walter Isaacson, **Between Two Kingdoms** – Suleika Jaouad, **Four Hundred Souls** – Ibram X. Kendi, **The Rat Line** – Phillipe Sands, **End Papers** – Alexander Wolff

YOUNG ADULT

Firekeeper's Daughter – Angeline Boulley, **The Gilded Ones** – Namina Forna, **The Desolation of Devil's Acre** – Ransom Rigg

CHILDREN

A Place to Hang the Moon – Kate Albus, **All the Ways to be Smart** – Davina Bell, **Charlie Thorne and the Last Equation** – Stuart Gibbs, **Charlie Thorne and the Lost City** – Stuart Gibbs, **We Are Water Protectors** – Carole Lindstrom, **A New Day** – Brad Meltzer, **Dog Man: Mothering Heights** - Dav Pilkey, **The Elephant in the Room** – Holly Goldberg Sloan, **I'll Meet You in My Dreams** – Jessica Young

AUDIO

What's Mine and Yours – Naima Coster, **Red, White & Blue** – Casy McQuistan

DVDs

A Call to Spy, **Don't Ask Me Where I'm From**, **Dreamland**, **Greenland**, **Honest Thief**, **Let Him Go**, **News of the World**

GARY MARGOLIS POEMS

UNSPOKEN CONTRACT

Such a joy to meet a new dog
on the beach, digging in the
sand,
splashing in the waves.

As if he's vacationing, unleashed
from his daily chores.
Back home, say in Minnesota.

which hasn't unthawed yet.
Or Vermont, still shoveling out
from the recent Nor'easter.

Hasn't he earned taking a break
from lying in front of dying em-
bers.

Running to the door to greet

a frosty mailman.
Later barking, jumping,
the way he's supposed to.

Part of an unspoken contract.
Between a man and his dog
and a woman. And the judge

who didn't look twice at him,
his owner tells me, the two of us
barking at each other over the
thrum

of the waves. The judge
who never thought to pin a rib-
bon on his scruffy collar.

Never saw him, as we do, frolicking. Released from filling
out his canine taxes. Worrying
whether

his vaccinations are up to
date. Enough to meet any
variant, flying a kite on the
breezy beach.

With the face of a happy
demon. Words that read.
Could have been
Best in Show.

WHEN THE KREEMEE STAND OPENS

In Vermont, you can tell March
is almost over.
A local owner throws open
her take-out window.

Even when everyone around here knows
April's snow will be enough
to fill a thousand, village cones.
And some of us waited all winter

for a swirled chocolate and vanilla
one. Dipped in a cloud
of colored sprinkles.
Even when none of us are

counting yet how many e's it takes
to spell Kreemee. And if K
looks better backwards, Russian-style.
If we Vermonters aren't afraid

to hold down a computer key.
To see how many m's it takes
to make a word feel special.
Five or ten. A number

not invented yet.
Like a flavor, half-maple,
(remember the state we're in)
half-venison.

RECREATION COMMITTEE NEWS

The Recreation Committee met on April 8, 2021 to discuss possible events for the 2021 season. It would seem that most of our typical events will need to be cancelled for 2021. We will not be doing a Green Up Day bake sale, nor will we have our Tie-Dye Day in June. There will be some monthly challenges coming along the way. The State of Vermont 2021 Venture Challenge starts on April 15—October 15. Go to this website to access information about the challenge:
[Vermont State Parks - Venture Vermont \(vtstateparks.com\)](http://vtstateparks.com)

Currently the Thirty Miles in Thirty Days Challenge is taking place. This started on April 1 and will end on April 30. Here is the information about the challenge:

Every day do a mile

- By walking
- By jogging
- By riding a bike
- By whatever activity you choose, swimming, skiing, skating, acrobatics....kidding, or am I?

You can set goals to accomplish, but that is totally up to you

- Keep it simple or
- Make it challenging

We will meet again in August, so perhaps by then we will be making progress toward normalcy and maybe there will be some pumpkin carving going on in October. In the meantime, keep your eyes peeled for the monthly challenges that will be coming your way.

The Recreation Committee took over the responsibility for placing American Flags at the cemeteries last year since the school children were not able to. We believe we will be doing it again this year, but are waiting to hear what the school decides as it gets closer to May.

Annie Wilson, Mary Jane Broughton, Sue Sears, Sue Barrows, Paul Bougor, Shauna Riley, Loyal Broughton, Sue Johnson

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!

Town of Cornwall
2629 Route 30
Cornwall, VT 05753



NEW CORNWALL TOWN TRUCK, DODGE 5500 1 1/2 TON WITH CHLORIDE TANK SET UP.