



CORNWALL NEWSLETTER

Cornwall, Vermont

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Winter 2017

Lister Retirements Create New Budget Line Item – Select Board Seeks Town Assistance

As many of you have heard, Cornwall's two property Listers will be leaving Town service after March 2017. Sue Burdick and Liam English have done yeoman's service to Cornwall for years maintaining the Town's Grand List and property maps and the Select Board offers its hearty thanks to both of them for their diligence and hard work.

Sue and Liam's departure will leave the Town without Listers for the first time in decades (if ever). The Select Board has the responsibility of seeing that their work gets done, either by hiring a professional Appraiser and Lister Clerk to do the work that Sue and Liam have done, or by ap-

pointing three new Listers to fill the vacant spots. Therein lies our quandary. Sue and Liam have spoken to a few residents about stepping in to do the work, but so far have not found any Cornwall residents willing to take on the responsibilities of being a Lister. They have also included general calls for assistance in every Town newsletter for the past year, all to no avail.

The Select Board anticipates that moving from town Listers (who bill the Town at an hourly rate for their work – approximately 4-5 hours per week) to a professional appraiser will increase the Listers' line item in the municipal budget to \$10,000 for the

upcoming year, possibly more for subsequent years. The Select Board would like to avoid this extra expense, but can only do so if Cornwall residents willing to do the work of appraising new properties and maintaining the Town's Grand List, which does require computer literacy and skills, step forward to help. To that end, the Select Board is requesting that Cornwall residents willing to assist with this work notify Sue Johnson in the next two weeks. We look forward to your response.

Ben Marks
Cornwall Select Board
Chair

Special points of interest:

- *Looking for Listers!!!*
- *Community Values Mapping*
- *Meet the new Road Foreman*
- *Cornwall Library News*
- *Cornwall School News*
- *Gary Margolis Poems*
- *Temporary Bridge in place, the Swamp Road is open*

Winter Building by Gary Margolis

Praise to the builders in their overalls,
their ear-flapped caps, their visible breath.
Thanks for their standing, hammering
into the wind. Caulking seams. plumbing
lines. Gratitude for raising three outside
walls, standing in last night's snow fall.

The fourth left as it is. Call it what stands
in between the wind and them. To be used
again. Something saved as a go-between.
A reminding praise. By the end of the day
stars will show inside the room they're winter
building. Roof saved for raising, tomorrow,

our next day. If it isn't snowing a blizzard
of nails. If the town plow isn't sleeping in
its town shed. If the men aren't having to tune
their snow machines, wax their ski, strap on
snow shoes. In order to make it for morning
praise, thanking gratitude, arriving windows.

Sized to fit the sky. For deer, in the near field,
to feel they're seen by whomever is living
here. Looking out for them, kicking up a truck
load of insulating, snow clouds.



Town Meeting Information and Deadlines

The deadline to return nominating petitions to run for town offices is January 30, 2017 by 5:00 PM. You must pick up a petition from the Town Clerk. The petition requires you to get 9 signatures of registered Cornwall voters. The Town Clerk's office will be open from 3—5 PM on Monday, January 30, 2017 to accept petitions.

Local ballots will be available for absentee/early voting no later than February 15, 2017. The ballot can not be prepared before the January 30 deadline, so it will be available as soon as it is printed. As soon as the ballots are available, Absentee/Early voting continues until 5:00 PM on Monday, March 6, 2017, after that, you must vote in person at the polls on Tuesday, March 7th. Curbside voting is available on Tuesday, if you can get a ride to the Town Hall, two election officials will come to your vehicle with the ballots. TAKE NOTICE: I believe we will be voting in the Town Hall, but if the building is not ready for occupancy at that point, we will figure something else out. Keep your eyes and ears open for updates.

Our Town and School Meetings will be held on Monday, March 6, 2017. The Town Meeting will be held first in 2017. We are not sure what will be happening with the School District Meetings after this year when the merged Addison Central School District takes over in July 2017.

Same Day Voter Registration is now the law in Vermont. This means there is no cut off for voter registration. People can register to vote on the Election Day. I would appreciate it if you are willing to register to vote before the election if possible

Australian ballot voting will take place at the Town Hall on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 from 7 AM— 7 PM. Notices and sample ballots are posted at the Town Hall, Town Garage and the Elementary School.

The town will be sending out a newsletter type printing this year with the Auditor's report, Town and School Meeting Warnings and sample ballots. The full Town Report will be available by February 25, 2017 at the several locations mentioned above, Town Hall, Town Garage and Elementary School or by mail if requested.

Please feel free to call the Town Clerk's office to determine what offices are up for election this year if you have an interest in serving the community. There are two vacant seats on the Planning Commission for 3 year terms and three vacancies for Town Listers.

The office number is 462-2775.

FYI, my daughter will be having surgery on her foot and ankle on January 31, I will be away for a couple weeks helping her after the surgery. Joan Bingham will be covering for me in the office/trailer.



Swamp Road Temporary Bridge Installed - Road is Open

The Cornwall Select Board is pleased to announce that on December 28, 2016 the final safety features (guard-rails) of the temporary bridge crossing Otter Creek at Swamp Road were installed and Swamp Road was opened to cross-town traffic of less than 12,000 pounds. Vermont Agency of Transportation workers arrived the previous week with modular sections of the temporary "Bailey" bridge, which they assembled on the Salisbury side of Otter Creek and rolled across the creek to sit on the existing concrete bridge footings. The temporary bridge's \$240 per month cost will be split between Cornwall and Salisbury until it is removed and a replacement bridge erected

in its place.

Cornwall and Salisbury must now begin the process of deciding how the covered bridge, which burned in September 2016, will be replaced. As many of you know, the covered bridge that burned had been approximately 80% rebuilt about eight years ago with money from a federal grant procured with the assistance of the late Senator Jim Jeffords. The Select Board is currently looking into both design and cost estimates for a new bridge and into potential funding sources, to the extent that bridge replacement costs exceed the insurance carried by Salisbury and Cornwall. There will be several public forums in Cornwall and, the

Select Board expects, jointly with Salisbury to discuss the cost and design features of any new structure. The Select Board expects that the process of choosing a design and awarding a contract will take approximately 9-12



Hiding the Bullets by Gary Margolis

I meet a hunter on our road the last day
of muzzle loading season. And stop
to ask him, if the shot I heard was his,

the blood I saw was from his deer.
He says it was his son's, that dogs
ate
the hind quarters, before, together,

they could drag the good meat out.
Frankly I don't have the heart
to tell him I'm more interested in

the musket's parts, old-fashioned,
as they are, what order things go in
to make a small explosion. To hear

if more than one shot was needed.
Requiring his boy to begin again
fall's practiced, taking down procedure.

Can't tell him, before I heard
the shot, I was imagining the people
of Alepo, whether I wanted to or not.

How personal distant God can feel.
How undeserving they are
of feeling the sky killing them.

While I'm out walking
in my red, down jacket. Listening
to the hawk screeching, And knowing,

if I'm anything at all, I have to tell
this father what it is I'm thinking.
I'm fascinated by his hunting. The
gear.

All the tradition of the last day of the
season.
Before he has to put his guns away
for another year. Oiling them and taking them

apart. Keeping barrels and triggers in
one room.

Hiding the bullets in another. Storing
away,
I don't know him well enough to say,

any dangerous thoughts. Mine or his,
meeting here on Bourdeau road.
Beyond the rhyme, in this lifetime,

I tell myself, if not him, in the woods,
there is a dead sign. There are still
people in Alepo.



Cornwall Awarded \$15,120 State Planning Grant

[CORNWALL, Vt.] – The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) awarded \$15,120 in state Municipal Planning Grant funds to the Town of Cornwall. The funding will enable the town to update Zoning and Subdivision Bylaws. Cornwall successfully competed against 69 communities and was one of 38 funded.

Holly Noordsy, Co-Chair of the Cornwall Planning Commission (CPC), said, “The town is thrilled to receive this grant to assist with revising our zoning and subdivision bylaws. This has been a goal of the CPC for the past few years. With this funding, the CPC can avail themselves of the expertise of a consultant and explore creative solutions to help accomplish this important planning goal.” Cornwall will have a year and a half to complete this project.

“These grants support diverse, locally-driven projects that address a range of issues from housing and economic development to taking steps to reduce future flood damages,” said Josh Hanford, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Awarded annually and administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Municipal Planning Grant program supports local community revitalization and planning initiatives. Since 1998, the program has provided over \$11 million to 234 cities and towns across Vermont to help breathe new life into communities, plan for future growth and development and improve our quality of life.

Follow the below link below to learn more.

<http://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/funding-incentives/municipal-planning-grant>

Cornwall School Looking for “Girls on the Run” Volunteers

Last year, Cornwall School was a site for Girls on the Run, a terrific program for 3rd through 6th grade students that emphasizes physical and social-emotional health. We would love to continue this program but we need at least one full time coach for this year.

**Cornwall School Looking for
Girls on the Run Volunteers!!**



Meet Our Road Foreman

2016 Foreman's Report



Dear Town Residents,

My name is Mike Sunderland and I became your new highway foreman here in October 2016. I live in Shoreham with my wonderful better half Jen and our three beautiful girls Shannon, Ashley and Jalynn. I just wanted to take a minute to share some information about myself. I grew up in Bridport and attended Middlebury Union High School. I started my blue-collar career working for my father with Sunderland Lawn care before working a four-year term for Sunrise Orchards. I then decided to work a four-year term as a fruit tree specialist and tree technician for Middlebury College, which prepared me for a fifteen-year career as a tree expert removing hazardous trees over personal property and utility line clearance for various power companies. At that point a much-needed change of pace was the decision to take on the highway foreman/road commissioner position for the Town of Bridport, and then in the end applying for the daunting task of filling the shoes of Mr. Stuart Johnson. After working for Bridport, I became good friends with Stu, he was so helpful and was my greatest ally with unending knowledge. He was always there for me, to lend a hand, or give me proper documentation on anything I needed but most of all just to converse on the 150 ideas that a highway foreman has churning in their head at any given time. Thank you, Stu I, look forward to future conversations and your vast knowledge of anything and everything. At this time, I would like to thank Stu for his years of commitment and dedication to the Town of Cornwall.

Some improvements for next year:

Category A Grant for new culvert and capital road condition inventory

Category D Grant to replace and up-size some culverts under the asphalt

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Sunderland



Cornwall Conservation Commission

Since the last newsletter, your Conservation Commission focused much of its attention to the Cornwall community values mapping effort or CVM. The CVM is joint venture between the Cornwall Planning Commission, the Conservation Commission, and Cornwall School to engage in a discussion of what we most value about Cornwall as a town.

Two forums were held: one for elementary school kids on October 6 and the other on October 12 for all Cornwall residents. Jens Hilke, conservation planning biologist for the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, led both meetings. School principal Jen Kravitz and teacher Mindy Harvey hosted the children's school-wide forum. The Community Forum on October 12 was attended by more than 60 townspeople. Working in small groups and led by facilitators from our community (Katherine Branch, Marc Cesario, Ingrid Jackson, Brian Kemp, Sarah Pelkey, Joe Severy, Mike Sheridan, Cy Tall, and Annie Wilson,) each group recorded the activities and places that they cared most about on a large map of the town.

Members of the Select Board, the Planning Commission, the Development Review Board and the Conservation Commission were well represented and very involved in the activities. Add this evening to the school's CVM experience the preceding week, which was covered by John Flowers of the Addison Independent, and we can all conclude that the Cornwall CVM effort was a success!

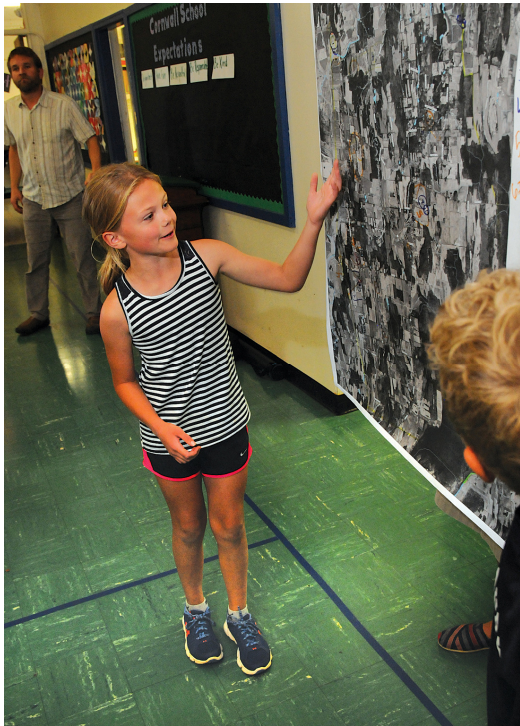
Jens Hilke is currently condensing all this onto a summary map, which will be posted to the town web site for all to examine. The information collected will help inform future land planning decisions involving both the Planning Commission and the Conservation Commission.

In other news, the Conservation Commission has been working with the Addison County River Watch Collaborative to increase the number of water sampling stations in our town. The data collected from new stations will provide a unique opportunity to document the anticipated improvements in water quality, including reductions of phosphorus loadings that would occur with the implementation of required agricultural practices as well as with individual conservation efforts within the Lemon Fair River watershed. In 2018, when the Lemon Fair is once again a focus river, we will have a chance to review and widen our efforts.

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



Community Values Mapping at the Cornwall School



Cornwall Free Public Library

THANKS FROM THE LIBRARY

The Trustees of the Cornwall Free Public Library thank all of you who supported our 2015 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.

WANTED

Even though the library is closed and will be for a few more months, we would still welcome donations of books, audio books, and DVDs and VHS tapes, new or used. If you could hold onto them until the library reopens, we would really appreciate it. (Hopefully, you have some room to store them until then.) These items will be entered into the collection or sold as part of our annual library book sale. **BUT PLEASE**, no musty, smelly, damaged, mildewed or broken/warped books. Also, no encyclopedias, magazines or textbooks. **THANKS!**

NEW MATERIALS

As you know, the library is closed but we have been buying books and DVDs to have available to you when it reopens. You will need to come in – not only to check out the new library – but to look over the latest materials that we'll have to offer. A list of these materials will be put up on the website (under the library drop down box) as well as in the next newsletter.

Cornwall, Vermont

2629 Route 30
Cornwall, VT 05753



We're on the web!
Cornwallvt.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CORNWALL SCHOOL

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

FAMILIES WITH SMALL CHILDREN

If your family has small children who are not yet school age, we would love to hear from you. You are welcome to come visit the school to see what students are learning in class. If you are interested in visiting, please contact us at 462.2463 or jkravitz@acsu.org. We can also add you to the school newsletter, so you know what is happening at school on a weekly basis.

PLAYGROUND UPDATES

The Playground Committee - of staff, parents, and students - is hard at work on a capital campaign to raise funds to reinvigorate the playground at school. This community resource has not been updated in a number of years and the committee has developed a vision for the playground that will incorporate structures, landscaping, and loose parts. If you are interested in learning more or contributing towards the changes, you can speak with committee members: Jen Kravitz, Lisa Beck, Holmes Jacobs, Bjarki Sears, Al Thalen, Carter Lee, and Silas Taylor.

The 6th grade has also been working to improve the playground. Their work was featured on VPR in late December. The story is available at: <http://bit.ly/6thgradeloosepartsplayground>.

FARM TO SCHOOL

Cornwall School was recently the recipient of a \$10,000 Farm to School grant from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture to support our ongoing Farm to School efforts. We will be working to connect and embed Farm to School ideas and concepts into our curriculum in a sustainable way, improve our local sourcing of foods, and engage the community in our Farm to School work. Be on the look out for ways to learn more about our work and connect with the school around food!