



# Cornwall Newsletter

## Select Board Report

Although the proposed natural gas pipeline through Cornwall and Shoreham continues to command much of our time and energy, we've accomplished some other work this summer, including:

- Forming a committee, headed by former Select Board chair John Roberts, to revisit our continuing and expensive pumping of water stemming from salt storage at the Town Garage more than twenty years ago;
- Addressing a serious dog "running at large" problem, which resulted in an accident with injuries. A committee has been formed, headed by Katherine Branch, to review our current dog ordinance for possible improvements;
- Supporting the Cornwall Conservation Commission's natural resources inventory project;
- Granting authority to the Road Commissioner

to close a town road for up to three hours.

We continue our efforts to deter Vermont Gas's plan to run a high-pressure gas transmission pipeline through Cornwall with the exclusive purpose of serving the International Paper mill in Ticonderoga, NY.

Please see the accompanying letter strongly encouraging EVERYONE to contact the Governor and our legislators to express your individual concerns and position - for or against - the IP pipeline project.

Meetings with our legislators led to their conveying Cornwall's concerns directly to the Governor in early August. The so-called "Phase 1" project - extending the gas pipeline from Chittenden County south to Middlebury - is the subject of intense controversy. The Public Service Board expects to rule on whether to grant a Certificate of Public Good to that proposal by early 2014.

Vermont Gas continues mute and unresponsive to our requests regarding its specific intentions in Cornwall. They apparently intend to file their PSB project proposal for the IP pipeline in November.

Finally, we expect to have an opening on the Select Board to be filled at Town Meeting. If you are interested in serving please contact any member of the Select Board or the Town Clerk for details.

We welcome your participation at Select Board meetings, the first and third Tuesdays at 7:00 at the Town Hall.

Bruce Hiland (chair)  
Judy Watts (vice chair)  
Dave Sears  
Ben Wood  
Abi Sessions

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# Letter to Cornwall Town Residents From the Select Board

October 2013

Dear Cornwall Resident:

In November of 2012 Cornwall residents, Select Board members, and Planning Commission members became aware that Vermont Gas Systems, Inc. ("VT Gas") was planning to build a natural gas pipeline through Cornwall and Shoreham and under Lake Champlain, in order to deliver gas to International Paper Company in Ticonderoga, New York.

VT Gas proposes to build TWO gas pipelines: one to serve customers as far south as Middlebury, and a second to serve International Paper in New York State through Cornwall. **THE CORNWALL SELECT BOARD IS EXCLUSIVELY CONCERNED WITH THE IP GAS PIPELINE, WHICH WILL RUN THROUGH CORNWALL** We are asking you to make your views known directly to the Governor's office, our State Senators and our Representative.

VT Gas is expected to claim that the IP pipeline will have "regional economic benefits". Here is our best understanding of the IP transmission pipeline deal at this point:

- Our calculations show that the IP pipeline will save IP more than \$15 million per year.
- IP's public statements to its investors show that the IP has no plans to close its Ticonderoga Plant, whether or not the transmission pipe is built.
- IP has viable alternatives to the use of pipeline gas.
- Even if the IP pipeline is built, IP does not appear to have any plans to:
  - ⇒ hire any additional workers;
  - ⇒ pay their existing workers higher wages;
  - ⇒ pay more to their wood pulp suppliers; or
  - ⇒ reduce noxious odors complained of by Cornwall residents.
- If the IP gas pipeline is approved, IP will pay for \$70 million of the construction costs. Including in this financing is payment for a larger pipe to Middlebury in the non-Cornwall pipeline project.
- We are concerned with inconsistencies between the statements being made in the Vermont approval process and the statements made by IP to its investors about the IP gas pipeline.

Cornwall residents from whom we have heard are overwhelmingly against building the IP gas pipeline through Cornwall. Some object to enabling the sale of "fracked" gas; some think that IP pipeline's projected payments to the Town's tax base would be insufficient; others have safety concerns. The Select Board has hosted outreach/informational efforts including the Town Forum, well-attended Select Board meetings, a VT Gas "informational meeting" and, for those reluctant to speak publicly, has solicited taxpayer letters, notes, emails and phone calls. To date only six (6) residents have expressed approval for the project. Four (4) others have reserved judgment and identified conditions which might, if met, garner their support. All others from whom we have heard are unambiguously opposed.

## Letter to Cornwall Town Residents From the Select Board “Continued”

VT Gas's CEO has asserted that pressure from the Governor initiated the "rush to Rutland." If this is so, our greatest leverage lies in Montpelier. To that end we continue to work with our State Senators and Representative to convey Cornwall's opposition to having a pipeline imposed on our town. **We maintain that the path to Rutland does NOT run through Cornwall and that, as VT Gas openly admits, the Cornwall route is a financing mechanism for VT Gas's growth plans.** Our state representatives have been most responsive and supportive but may face an uphill battle as do we. VT Gas is currently engaged in a public relations campaign to extol the benefits of the IP gas pipeline. We encourage you - IT'S YOUR CIVIC DUTY - to make your views known to your elected officials directly. Please do.

Sincerely,  
Bruce Hiland  
Select Board Chair

## Additional Information about VT Gas's Filing to the Public Service Board.

We have received word from Vermont Gas that their 45-day notice for the International Paper transmission pipeline project will be arriving at the Town Clerk's office in the next several days. These materials will describe the project in more detail than previous VT Gas presentations. Anyone who is interested in viewing the materials may do so at the Clerk's office. Anyone who wants to copy them should bring a blank CD-ROM and speak with Sue Johnson.

## How to Contact Your Legislators!

Governor Peter Shumlin  
109 State Street, Pavilion  
Montpelier, VT 05609  
Tel.: 802-828-3333  
E-mail from web-page:

<http://governor.vermont.gov/contact-us/opinion>

State Senator Christopher Bray  
829 South St.  
New Haven, VT 05472  
Tel.: 802-453-4424  
e-mail: cbray@leg.state.vt.us

State Senator Clare Ayer  
Assistant Majority Leader  
504 Thompson Hill Road  
Weybridge, VT 05753  
Tel.: 802-545-2142  
e-mail: cayer@leg.state.vt.us

State Representative  
Willem Jewett  
Majority Leader  
P.O. Box 129  
Ripton, VT 05766

Conley and Foote, P.O. Box 391,  
Middlebury, VT 05753  
Tel. 802-388-0320  
e-mail: wjewett@leg.state.vt.us

*Best Meal in Town!*

# **Cornwall Chicken Pie Supper**

**Saturday  
October 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Cornwall Elementary School  
Route 30**

**Buffet-style seating from  
5 to 7 p.m.**

**No reservations necessary**

**Takeouts from 4 to 5 p.m.  
by advance reservation**

\$10 Adults  
\$5 Kids under 12  
\$30 Families

Gluten-free available

Highchairs & booster seats too

*Special thanks to  
the Cornwall School,  
the Cornwall Congregational Church,  
local growers & suppliers, and all the  
cooks who make the biscuits, gravy, pota-  
toes, squash, quickbreads, relish, and  
pies!*

## PACE Program

As many of you know Cornwall is one of the nine towns that are eligible to participate in the PACE program. The final arrangements have been made, all the legal wrangling has been completed and the first subscription period is now open. For those of you who might need a little refresher as to what PACE provides-- it is a way of financing energy efficient home improvements and renewable energy projects by borrowing money and tying the payments to a property rather than the owner. PACE financing payments can be transferred to a new homeowner at any time, including before the assessment has been paid. What follows is the announcement from Efficiency Vermont, who will be administering the program.

"We are excited to share the news that the first subscription period for PACE has officially opened. This has been a long time in coming, and we know that many people are anxious to move forward with their projects. Thank you again for the patience and understanding you have shown as we have worked to line up critical partnerships with banking institutions and address the many legal requirements for launching PACE in Vermont.

The interest rate for this subscription period is 7.25%. This means that the cost of a PACE assessment will be \$7.90 per month per \$1,000 borrowed for 20 years.

In addition, many households will qualify for a special interest rate buy down, which will bring the interest rate down to 2.99%. In order to qualify for the interest rate buy down, your household income must be at or below the required figure. The maximum PACE assessment at the reduced rate is \$10,000, and may only be used for efficiency measures. Although we anticipate that all qualified applicants in 2013 will be able to get the reduced rate, the funding pool for the interest rate buy down is limited, so those who want to take advantage of it should get their PACE applications in as early as possible." You can get more detailed information at the Efficiency Vermont website at [www.efficiencyvermont.com](http://www.efficiencyvermont.com) or Contact Efficiency Vermont at 888-921-5990 or direct specific questions to [PACE@EfficiencyVermont.com](mailto:PACE@EfficiencyVermont.com).

I would be happy to answer questions about the program and help anyone get started with the application process. You can reach me via email at [barnyardbliss@yahoo.com](mailto:barnyardbliss@yahoo.com) or after October 15 at 462-3669.

Gary Barnett, Energy Coordinator

## Home Energy Challenge

In addition to the PACE program, Cornwall is also participating in the Vermont Home Energy Challenge, which has a target of weatherizing 3% of the homes within our community in a one-year period. The Challenge will help Vermont reach its state-wide goal of 25% energy savings in 80,000 homes by the year 2020. This translates into a goal

of 13 projects and 44 pledges and as of now there have been 2 projects and 12 pledges completed. The PACE program can help to finance these energy efficiency projects as well as renewable projects. If you're thinking about having some weatherization work done and would like to explore the possi-

bilities I would be happy to help you in getting started.

Gary Barnett

## Conservation Commission Report

The long-awaited Cornwall natural resources inventory has been the focus of activity for the Conservation Commission during the summer and continues into the autumn. As an important part of this process, please come to the public meeting on Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> (7:30 pm at the Town Hall) to view and critique the results so far, and to contribute your own details about the special places in our town.

At the Forum, our consulting ecologist, Brett Engstrom, will display preliminary maps which show what he has learned about the Cornwall landscape from his study of public documents. You will be amazed at the flashy maps he and his intern from Middlebury College have been able to assemble using modern GIS technology. But there is no substitute for real-world experience. We, as Cornwall residents, will have covered more ground in our town than a consultant ever could. We are asking for your help to proof-read these maps; add details of what he may have missed and tell us where he has gone wrong. We are interested in any unique features including wildlife areas, interesting geology, unusual plants, and really, anything else you feel is worth mentioning. If you are unable to attend, please contact one of the members of the Conservation Commission to tell us about your special places, and we will make sure that information is included. We are counting on you,

the Cornwall resident, to scrutinize the areas on the maps with which you are personally familiar and to add intimate details of what they may have missed. If Vermont Gas decides to go ahead with an application to route a pipeline through Cornwall, they will have their ecologist explore the impact of the proposed route; with this in mind, the Selectboard has asked us to have our unbiased ecologist closely examine the same area for comparison. Again, please bring your knowledge of Cornwall to the public forum so we can be sure that the final maps are as accurate as possible.

The Cornwall natural resources inventory will assemble a wealth of information in a single place. Though publically available, much of the information used has been scattered through other, less-accessible government databases. The Planning Commission is looking forward to having this information much more easily available for their work in developing and managing the town plan. The Zoning Commission is looking forward to having this information readily accessible as they examine proposals for the use of properties in the town. Overall, the end result should be to streamline simple sub-division and variance requests.

We have you, the Cornwall tax-payer to thank for the opportunity to perform this inventory. The money allocated at town meeting to begin this process sig-

naled that the town was supportive of the concept, and we have been able to leverage additional funding from the Vermont Community Foundation, the Davis Foundation, Ben and Jerry's Foundation, and the New England Grassroots Foundation. Middlebury College, itself a major land-owner in Cornwall, provided us with a summer Intern and loaned the use of its' GIS Laboratory.

Because the new town plan has finally been officially approved by all the proper channels, Cornwall is now eligible for a Vermont State Municipal Planning grant. We hope to receive this grant and thus secure the remaining funding needed to complete the inventory. For this part, Brett will visit selected sites of potential interest, pending permission of the landowner, and compare the real world with the information in the government databases, some of which was compiled in the 1930's. When finished, the updated maps with GIS layers and a written report with recommendations will be turned over to the Select-board, Planning and Zoning Commissions, and will be available to the public.

Please attend the public forum on Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, jointly sponsored by the Planning Commission and the Conservation Commission, and bring your knowledge of Cornwall so we can be sure that our inventory is as complete and accurate as possible.



## The Book Sale is Coming...The Book Sale is Coming!!!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 19th! It's the Cornwall Library Book Sale! Don't miss this collection of gently used books and audiovisual materials - all at bargain prices! This is the perfect time to stock up on winter reading books. What's better than settling in with a good book during those cold

winter days! The Cornwall Library Book Sale will be open from 9AM to 3PM at the Town Hall. A wide variety of donated books across all genres will be available. Prices range from \$.50 to \$2.00.

Proceeds from the sale go directly to stock the Library shelves with new

releases purchased from the [Vermont Book Shop](#) in downtown Middlebury. Come early for the best selection, but for those who wait, once the clock strikes ONE the **BAG SALE** begins! Fill a bag with books for only \$4.00. Come check it out!

## What's New At The Library!

New additions to the library shelves await Cornwall residents for your reading pleasure! If you haven't stopped in the library lately, drop by and check our always changing selection of books, audio books, and DVDs. Or, look over the complete list of new materials on our website - [cornwallvt.com](#) under the library drop down box. This is updated on a regular basis so you will find all of our current materials there.

A sampling of recent additions include:

### FICTION

**MaddAddam** - Margaret Atwood, **The Light in the Ruins** -- Chris Bohjalian, **Light of the World** - James Lee Burke, **Never Go Back** - Lee Child, **On Sal Mal Lane** - Ru Freeman, **Songs of Willow Frost** - Jamie Ford, **The Cuckoo's Calling** - Robert Galbraith, **The Curiosity** - Stephen Kiernan, **Crazy Rich Asians** - Kevin Kwan, **The Returned** - Jason Mott, **Second Honeymoon** and **Mistress** - James Patterson, **How the Light Gets In** - Louise Penny, **Night Film** - Marisha Pessl, and **The English Girl** - Daniel Silva

### NON FICTION

**Zealot** - Reza Aslan, **The Outsider** - Jimmy Connors, **Lifesaving Lessons** - Linda Greenlaw, **This Town** - Mark Leibovich, **Cooked** - Michael Pollan, **Happy, Happy, Happy** - Phil Robertson, **Salinger** - David Shields, and **Sum It Up** - Pat Summitt

### YOUNG ADULT

**Thin Space** - Jody Casella, **The Perks of Being a Wallflower** - Stephen Chbosky, **The Rithmatist** - Brandon Sanderson, and **Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea** - April Genevieve Tucholke

### CHILDREN

**The Land of Stories**, **The Enchantress Returns** - Chris Colfer, **The Day the Crayons Quit** - Drew Daywalt, **Pete the Cat: The Wheels on the Bus** - James Dean, **LEGO Ninjago: Character Encyclopedia** - DK Publishing, **Garden Princess** - Kristin Kladstrup, **A Long Walk to Water** - Linda Sue Park, **Dinosaur Kisses** - David Ezra Stein, **Hello My Name Is Ruby** - Philip C. Stead, and **If I Built a House** - Chris Van Dusen

### AUDIO BOOKS

**Nothing to Lose** - Lee Child, **Bombshell** - Catherine Coulter, **The Heist** - Janet Evanovich, and **W IS for Wasted** - Sue Grafton

### DVDs

**42**, **Epic**, **The Great Gatsby**, **Hotel Transylvania**, **Hyde Park on Hudson**, **The Impossible**, **The Intouchables**, **Jack the Giant Slayer**, **Les Miserables**, **Mr. Selfridge** - Season 1, **Oblivion**, **Oz The Great and Powerful**, **Quartet**, **Star Trek Into Darkness**, **Thomas and Friends: King of the Railway**, and **Up**

## Road Commissioner's Report

So it's been a busy summer, but it's been mostly routine stuff. I think I mentioned in the last newsletter that the Clark Road culvert project was done though VTrans hasn't signed off on it yet. They can't find the paperwork in Montpelier, so we're waiting on that for the 12.5% money from them.

We did replace the one lane bridge on Peet Road and will upgrade the big culvert on Galvin Road with the tubes we pulled out of Clark Road. We have also upgraded several other culverts and ditches where there has been some damage in recent heavy rain events.

We have had help from several neighboring towns for some of these projects and have helped them with some of their bigger projects. Projects that would've taken much longer or would've had to be hired out at greater expense.

At this writing, we're still waiting on the pavers, but hopefully by the time you read this Cross Street and several short aprons on various roads will be done.

Looking ahead to next year, we should be back on top of the list for a paving

grant. The intent is to use it to resurface Parkhill Road and the north portion of South Bingham Street.

Prior to that, the idea of changing the intersection of the two roads into a Tee is being considered by the Select Board. This item will be on the agenda of the November 19, 2013 Select Board meeting. They will be seeking input from townspeople. This is part of a safety evaluation that was done due to the number of anecdotal and police reports of accidents at both ends of Parkhill Road over the last few years.

The other thing prior to this paving is that we will be replacing most of the culverts on these two roads. Some this fall, hopefully, and the rest in the spring. We'll put up signs ahead of time as best we can and post notices on the Cornwall Connection and Front Porch Forum.

Beyond that not much. The loader is working out well. It is so nice to have power and road speed. We're anxious to see how it does pushing sand. We'll be borrowing Bridport's pusher attachment, which should make it go much faster and easier. We will be looking around for pieces and parts to put together a plow

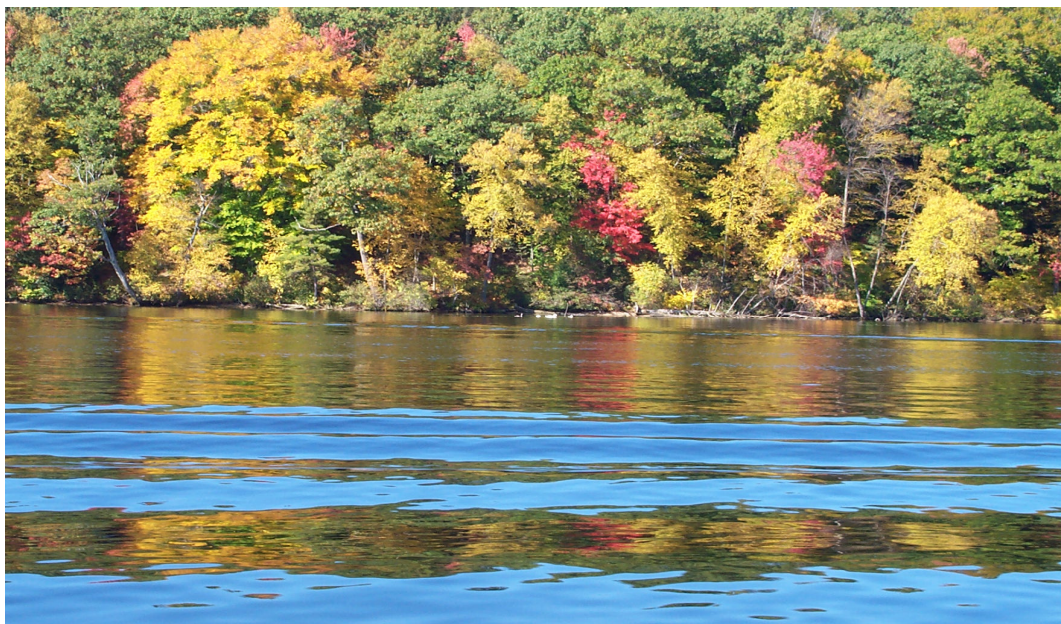
hook up which several towns report work great in drift conditions as you can plow and pile. All these attachments are possible with the quick attach systems most towns now have on the new loaders.

We still plan to order a truck this fall to beat the next round of new emission reducing technology. We will also get a bit of a break by having the body and equipment installed in their 'off' season.

The Cornwall School Biking for Books program has asked to have South Bingham Street closed again this year from 1–3 pm on Sunday, October 20, 2013. This is just a heads up that the north end of South Bingham Street will be closed for that event.

And for old time sake, let me remind you all, this is the time to toughen up your mail boxes before the ground freezes. Cedar posts, those tintips you drive and even pressure treated and pipe won't last forever. Check 'em out before that heavy wet snow coming off the plow does it for you. Here's hoping for a long fall.

Stu





## First Frost by Gary Margolis

I came upon two men, brothers  
in a ditch, heads down, ears muffled,  
whacking weeds to keep the fence

posts clean of rotting. I heard your  
voice in my other head, not to say  
anything they wouldn't look up

to hear. Some *Good morning*.  
Something about how good  
the fence line looks, as if they were

here for beauty's sake, to make  
things beautiful for someone out  
walking. And not to keep the cows

in. To keep the frost from clinging  
to a weed and leaning up against  
a post, in spring, they'd have to climb

down into the ditch to dig out.

Or hitch a chain to a calf's leg,  
who wandered in. Who didn't

know what she was about.

Didn't know what I was hearing.  
How those men spoke without

speaking. How they heard each other's  
blades whirring and knew when not  
to walk. To feel instead how close they were

to finishing having the hay-tangled line  
a walking line again. How they could nod  
and wave to a walker without looking.



## Moose Beyond the Snow Bowl by Gary Margolis

How many times have I warned you,  
driving home on the mountain road,

to look for eyes—red bulbs—and shadows  
shadowing themselves, blind to a  
piercing

light? Meant to say, again and again,  
even in daylight they can wander into

the road, they're nearly that blind.

Into a car, or a skier nearby who's  
skied

off a trail and doesn't see that shadow,  
taller than a car, making a mountain  
of

itself in the late afternoon dark.

I have to admit (warn myself), I'm not  
paying

as much attention as I should, skating  
over the top of this frost-glazed hill,

thinking of meeting you, hours away,  
later tonight. And not if that's a cow

and her calf, without her bull, another  
kind  
of cattle. Here browsing the left-  
over

buds and not a field of hay. Here, stand-  
ing  
motionless, in a brook next to the  
road,

looking up, about to move. Not in any way  
I have any say over. Like ice under a  
boot.

Or if she loves or fears anything that  
moves.

Who's trying to stop to get a  
closer look,

at something this big, up to her hooves  
in weeds.

Who's clicking a shutter she doesn't  
know isn't

a gun, a silent eyelid. Someone who can't  
stop to save his own life or hers.

Who's remembering what he's told you  
too many times about whose woods  
these are.

Not that I'm wanting you to think of  
Frost

and not keep your eyes on the road.

See those bulbs are really flashing  
eyes, that head is really is a head.

## Cornwall School Harvest Festival! Calling All Scarecrows.

To celebrate the harvest, children will be making scarecrows at the Harvest Festival on October 10th. We are looking for any and all scarecrow making materials to help us in our efforts. We will leave a box outside the school, by the bench outside the kitchen door, for any old clothes or hats you are willing to donate. We could also use hay for our stuffing and twine. Please contact Lilly

at 207-841-6250 if you have stuffing or twine to donate. Thank you! The children are so excited for this special harvest celebration!

**Remember: Buses home are cancelled for October 10, because of the harvest Fest! Please arrange for afternoon transportation for your child on this special Day.**



## Having to Stop in Hancock, Vermont by Gary Margolis

Oh, not to be at the mercy  
of these good mechanics.  
These brake-fixing, rotor-  
grinding  
men. Not sitting here gazing  
at the wonderful, grease-stained  
pin-upped wall. Thinking of  
that  
other place I'm supposed to,  
part-of-me-would rather be.  
Isn't here where I'm sighing.  
Glad there's a garage with

an open door next to the road.  
And two men, father and son,  
oily rags and all, welcoming me,  
mercifully. Knowing to lift my  
car,  
if not me, onto their lift.  
So, eventually, I can be on my  
way.  
Although, as far as this goes,  
I'm not sure I want to leave  
this

grace. Just to be on time some-  
place  
else. Tonight, in Fenway,  
watching  
a ball clearing a wall. Remem-  
bering  
where I came to stop, unex-  
pectedly.  
Where I could ooh and ah and  
oh.

## What Your Dream Doesn't Mean by Gary Margolis

Some dreams have no way of knowing  
for whom or what they are meant.  
How the wind is supposed to interpret  
a hat, a scarf left on a step.  
Think of the last dream you dreamt.  
Rowing a boat of sleep.  
Riding across the body's steppes.  
Walking in no one else's shoes,

save the leaves', which suffer  
more than their trees know.  
Know that the maple dreams of you.  
So you can stay asleep.  
And not have to make anything  
more of those knives in the wind,  
those hooves in your chest.  
Some things are better said and left

inside, where you don't have  
to care, as much as you do  
on the other side of sleep.  
Where your heart, that leaf,  
means what it is and everything  
you need to make from its page  
of burning leaves.

## Friends of Cornwall School

FOCS will meet on Tuesday,  
October 1 @8:00 a.m. The  
usual meeting time will be  
the first Tuesday of each  
month at 8:00 a.m. Please  
note this is different from  
the calendar on the website.

We are having technical dif-  
ficulties making calendar  
corrections. Thank you for  
your patience.



**Town of Cornwall,  
Vermont**

2629 Route 30  
Cornwall, VT 05753

**We're on the Web:**  
**cornwallvt.com**

*We all know that Cornwall is a beautiful place...but do we really know what we have? Residents are invited to a public forum to discuss:*

## **Cornwall's Natural Resources Inventory**

**Speaker: Brett Engstrom, ecologist and conservation biologist**

**Wednesday, October 16, 2013**

**7:30 pm Town Hall**

Join Brett Engstrom, the town's consultant for the Inventory, in a discussion of Cornwall's natural resources. There will be maps and GIS information to look at and talk about. You are invited to add things missing: unique features such as wildlife areas, interesting geology, unusual plants, and anything else you feel is important. Your comments will help Brett prioritize his fieldwork in the coming year.

**Come, share your knowledge of Cornwall, and learn about our town!**

The Forum is sponsored by the Cornwall Planning Commission and the Cornwall Conservation Commission.