

# Cornwall Newsletter

T O W N O F C O R N W A L L

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

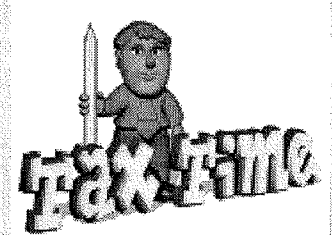
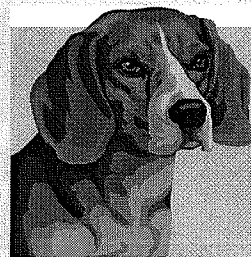
- Dogs & Taxes
- Reappraisal Update
- Planning Commission info
- Road Commissioner's Report
- Lavalley Store update
- Cornwall School News
- Green Up Day

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| State Biologist to speak<br>at Planning Commission<br>Meeting | 2 |
| Meet the Planning Commission                                  | 3 |
| Road Commissioner   | 4 |
| Conservation Commission & Lavalley Store                      | 5 |
| Green Up Day<br>Managing Hazardous<br>Waste                   | 6 |
| Cornwall School News  | 7 |
| Cornwall History<br>Continued                                 | 8 |

## DOGS & TAXES!!!!!!

So, here is my annual reminder to those dog owners who have not yet registered their dogs that the deadline was April 1. I will send out my first encouragement letter around May 1 and then the list of unlicensed dogs will be forwarded to the Select Board for action around June 1. For the month of April the dog license fees are still \$8.00 for spayed/neutered and \$12.00 for unneutered/unspayed. After May 1 the fee will increase by \$2.00. A valid rabies certificate is required to license your dog.

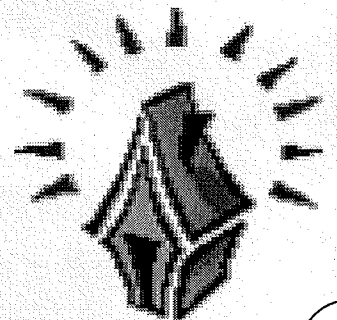


By the time you are reading this you will have received a reminder bill for the May 1 tax payment. This payment is the second installment for the 2008 tax bill. This is not the new bill for 2009. Any state payment that you were due was applied to the bill when it was originally printed in July 2008 and was spread evenly over both payments.

## REAPPRAISAL UPDATE

The Town wide property reappraisal is progressing as planned and will culminate with the 2009 Grand List published with the new values. The tentative schedule of upcoming activities are:

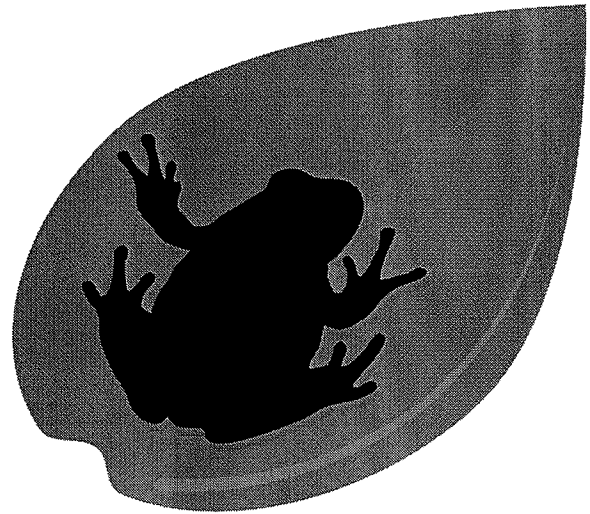
Mailing of Change of Appraisal  
Notices: Week of May 18, 09  
Pre-hearings: June 1, 09  
Formal hearings: June 7, 09



## STATE BIOLOGIST TO PRESENT CORNWALL NATURAL RESOURCE & WILDLIFE HABITAT MAPS

The Conservation Commission has invited Jens Hilke from VT Fish and Wildlife Department's Community Wildlife Program to meet with the Planning and Conservation Commissions jointly during part of the Planning Commission's April 15 meeting to begin at approximately 7:30 PM.

Hilke will make a 30-minute presentation on natural resource maps and wildlife habitat modeling that he has worked on for the town with a Q & A session following. The community is invited to attend this event at the Town Hall.



## 'TIPS' IF PLANNING FOR A CORNWALL SUBDIVISION

The Planning Commission meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00PM in the Town Hall. Every division of a property, including boundary line adjustments, must be taken to the Planning Commission for review and possible public hearing. Copies of the Planning Commission's procedures are available from the Town Clerk and these give detailed instructions relating to how one goes about getting a subdivision on the Planning Commission's agenda and what the process entails. We encourage you to pick up a copy of the Town Plan, Subdivisions Regulations and Zoning By-Laws located at the Town Hall.

### TOWN OF CORNWALL PLAN- NING COMMISSION PROC- EDURES

1. The Planning Commission consists of seven (7) voting members who vote if present, on each and every application received. Meetings are held at the Town Hall on the third Wednesday of each month, starting at 7:00 P.M.

2. Before being placed on the agenda, an application must be completed in full and be accompanied by several other items, stated below.

Initial Meeting (DISCUSSION PHASE). The applicant contacts either Co-Chairs of the Planning Commission, James Bolton, by phone (462-3950) and/or Tracy Himmel Isham, by phone (462-2028) and requests to be placed on the Agenda. Once advised of the next available date, the applicant shall submit, not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the

meeting date (ALWAYS THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH) to the Town Clerk, the following items (per Section 310 of the Cornwall Subdivision Regulations)

### Public Meeting

For Minor Subdivisions: Not less than Twenty five (25) days prior to the scheduled Public Hearing, you must submit the following to the Cornwall Town Clerk (if not received 25 days prior to the scheduled meeting you will not be heard until another later date)

Full text of the Planning Commission Procedures is available at the Town Clerk's office.

## MEET YOUR PLANNING COMMISSION

The Cornwall Planning Commission has welcomed some new members to its ranks as we bid farewell to our longtime dedicated past Chair, **Bruce Byers**. As such we thought the community might like to get to know each person on the commission better by knowing why they got involved with the Planning Commission and what they envision for our community:

**Jim Bolton (2008-Present), Co-Chair:** My wife and I have had a home in Addison County since the mid-1970's and have witnessed a lot of change over this period. We consider ourselves very fortunate to live in a state and town that take seriously the implications of growth while preserving our landscape and supporting a sustainable agricultural economy. The "Cornwall Town Plan", adopted in 2005, took a big step towards setting the vision for our growth. As we move towards development of a successor plan next year, I hope that we can count on wide participation by Cornwall's citizens.

**Michael Brinkman (2001-Present)** We....Jennie and I...have lived in Cornwall for 43 years and raised two daughters. Together we owned and operated Edgewood Orchard. I worked and managed Cornwall Orchards, which was the largest orchard in the state of Vermont at one time. I have been involved in agriculture all my life (so far!) and presently still am. For 30 yrs. I was a member of the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department. I have been the Zoning Administrator for the past 2 yrs. I joined the CPC to help develop a new town plan and update the zoning regulations to protect our natural resources and preserve our agriculture land. I feel (the CPC) and many other Cornwallians have done a good job. We have to update again next year and we will need everyone's help to do this. One of my visions is to create affordable housing around the village centers thus keeping the young families in town, that cannot afford to live here now.

**Geoff Demong (2008-Present).** My wife Val and I came to Middlebury College in 1962, and have lived in Vermont ever since. We moved to neighboring Shoreham in 1972, and then to Cornwall five years ago. Being a Builder in Addison County, as well as having been an Orchardist in Shoreham for about thirty years, I am very aware and fully supportive of the goal, as written in the Town Plan, "to accommodate residential growth that will preserve the town's rural character and protect prime agricultural land."

**Tracy Himmel Isham (2004-Present), Co-Chair:** I have been living here in Cornwall since 1999 with my husband and our three daughters. I lamented the day, not long after we moved here, when the Cornwall General Store closed its doors. Much of the attraction to Cornwall, VT for us was the small New England village feel to it— a church, a school, a Town Hall, and a general store. Sometimes it takes living outside a 'community' to understand how important one really is and its fragility. My vision of Cornwall is one that is multi-generational and takes into account the changing fabric of our landscape, population and resources (notwithstanding bringing back some sort of Cornwall General Store!) I'm reminded everyday that my own three kids who will all attend the Cornwall Elementary School will some day be the stewards of our community just like many of you have been and continue to be today.

**Holly Noordsy (2006-Present)** Holly has been living in Vermont for over 20 years where her interests in attending tag sales and estate auctions led to her professional career as an antiques dealer. With an eye on antique earthenware and early glass, she and her husband Jeff have a shared and professional interest in early American history and the many relics that defined those eras.

**Jean Terwilliger (2009-present):** My family moved to Cornwall in 1998 when my daughter was in Kindergarten- the Cornwall School quickly became the center of our community life. As an architect focused on designing sustainable "green" homes, I'm interested in working on what "sustainable development" means in a town as small as ours and how can we create a viable town center for everyone in this community.

**Annie Wilson (2007-Present).** As a life-long resident of Cornwall for 51 years and a local farmer owning the family dairy farm (now raising Morgan horses with strong bloodlines that go back to Kingston) that has been passed down through generations from my grandfather, Loyal Towle, it saddens me to see the dairy farms becoming extinct in our town. I have a strong sense of community and have seen a lot of changes in Cornwall over the past 50 years. Being on the Planning Commission allows me the opportunity to be the voice of the residents and help preserve the traditional values while fostering progress in our town and community. When not out tending to my Morgans, I'm a PE teacher at Ferrisburgh Central and a JV girl's soccer coach at Vergennes Union.

## ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

So all things considered it was an uneventful winter. The equipment all held together for the most part. We had one truck throw a minor fit which was fairly easily fixed once we got the part. It again highlighted the advantage of having a back up truck. It was during one of the bigger storm's, on a weekend, yet we were able to keep going.

(Paragraph 2 March 26) I hesitate to say its been a very good spring, just yet, but it was a good thaw. Other than a few culvert cuts sinking, there hasn't been much mud and the roads have firmed up well. In the next few weeks we'll be out with the shoulder disks and then start scraping in earnest.

Revised Paragraph 2 (April 7) See, I wrote too soon. It turned into an unusual thaw and the mud came. Road guys are talking about spring holes showing up in untypical places and some of the regular spots are fine, go figure. The frost must be about gone so if the rain lets up they'll dry up and they'll be graded over.

Cornwall has been asked again this year to scrape Weybridge's roads. While details haven't been worked out, that will be worked into the spring schedule as well.

We won't be hauling much gravel this spring as that budget line is shot. We'll be pecking away pruning and cutting brush on the roadsides until the poison ivy starts showing signs of life. I would also hope we may get a jump on mowing roadsides to see if we can get ahead of the poison parsnip going to seed. I'd love to be able to spray the problem spots but alas we can't, however, I do believe the landowners can, Hint, Hint, Hint!!

A recent article in the last Vermont Local Roads Newsletter regarding mailboxes has sparked a lot of chatter amongst road managers around the state, so it's not just me that has issues with mailboxes. There are some real cob-jobs out there folks. The way I figure it, you've got 6 months coming now to get them straightened up, new posts, move'em back, whatever. Be sure to call DIG SAFE before digging a new post hole. The post office has some criteria that I bet Roger will get for you. I'll meet with you if you want. I have names of folks who will do it for hire. What ever, it is a relatively simple fix to a lot of hassles.

As most are aware, the state held back 15% of the January installment for highways. It looks like they will do the same with the April payment. The House Transportation Committee intends to pay that up in July as part of the \$.05 increase in gas and diesel tax. All of which is part of a bigger plan with bonding and stimulus crap, the kind of stuff that keeps bureaucrats employed. If the full house and senate can get together and the Governor can come to grips with the \$.05 tax then there's a plan, if not, who knows!! Meanwhile the state roads in town are going to hell faster each year. If you're about fed up with it, here are some names and phone numbers you might like to know.

Mike Fowler, Pavement Management Engineer 828-0160

Kevin Marshia, Program Manager for Roadway Traffic & Safety 828-2664

Rich Tetrault, Director of Program Development 828-2663

## CORNWALL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Cornwall Conservation Commission is working with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department to produce natural resource maps showing many features of importance to the town. Jens Hilke, Conservation Planning Biologist of the Community Wildlife Program, will be meeting with the Conservation and Planning commissions to present the maps that have resulted from his analyses. We also have been contacted by the biologists who work in the Wetlands Protection and Restoration Program and the Landowner Incentive Program. The commission will meet with them to learn about pro-

grams that Cornwall landowners can participate in to help clean up water quality in the Lake Champlain Basin and to maintain or improve important wildlife habitat. We'll update you on what we learn in the next town newsletter. As we reported at Town Meeting, we were disappointed that we did not receive funds from the Municipal Planning Grants program to conduct on-the-ground natural resource inventory as called for in the Town Plan. So, we're working on other ways and other sources of funding to acquire that information. There are many conservation programs implemented by

state and federal agencies, as well as non-governmental conservation organizations. The programs that we are learning about are based on landowner willingness and voluntary agreements to manage lands for certain conservation objectives. Financial incentives are included in many of these programs. If you are interested in learning more about the details, please contact Marc Lapin, Conservation Commission chair, [lapin@middlebury.edu](mailto:lapin@middlebury.edu).

## LAVALLEY STORE UPDATE

For too many years the Lavalley house, adjacent to the Town Hall, has sat empty and forlorn. In the course of the past year, the Historical Society has been involved in ongoing research regarding opportunities for renovating and using the house. As you can imagine, many people have expressed their desire to see a small store there (as there once was), and many have offered creative ideas about using the building, in its ideal spot in the center of town, as place for small, informal gatherings or after-school activities. As a first step in the revitalization of the Lavalley property, we are hoping that a small produce market will operate on the site during

the summer (and maybe into the fall) of 2009. There are, of course, details to be managed, so keep your fingers crossed!

In the meantime, the Historical Society is planning an exterior clean-up and painting day for Saturday, May 16 (rain date: May 17) from 10:00 a.m.- 1 p.m. The paint and supplies have been donated, and we hope you'll help provide labor! Please bring wire brushes, scrapers and/or paint brushes for latex paint, stepladders, a rag or two, drop cloth, a jug of water, and protective clothing. For additional information or to let us know you will join us, please contact Beth Karnes Keefe at 462-3281. Or just show up!



## GREEN UP DAY 2009

Mark your calendar for Green Up Day on Saturday, May 2nd. Garbage bags and gloves should be available at the Cornwall Town Hall by the last week in April. Bags and gloves will also be dropped off at the Cornwall elementary school for kids to bring home. Please try to stop by the Town Hall (around the last week of April!) to mark on the map your preferred patch of Cornwall—this way we make sure all of the

town gets spruced up! Trucks will be in the town hall parking lot all of Saturday, May 2nd for garbage bag drop off. (Thank you Stu and Ken!) I will be there in the morning with small prizes for kids who participate.

If you encounter containers of potentially hazardous waste, please call the State of Vermont's hazardous materials response team : 1-800-641-5005. Remember you may

come across items so huge or dangerous to move that they're best left where they are—common sense applies. Thank you in advance for everyone's help and participation. See you along the side of the road or at the truck!

Vanessa Wolff  
Green Up Day Coordinator  
462-3138

For more information check out: [www.greenupvermont.org/](http://www.greenupvermont.org/)

## "MANAGING HAZARDOUS WASTE IN YOUR HOME"

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation has prepared a publication entitled, "Managing Hazardous Waste in Your Home ... a guide to safe disposal and less toxic alternatives." As the title implies, the guide explains how common household items contain poisonous, toxic and otherwise hazardous materials

that require careful and appropriate disposal. Additionally, less toxic alternatives for household use are described. The guide concludes with a listing of several Web sites that provide further information. A limited number of copies of "Managing Hazardous Waste in Your Home" are available at the Town Hall.

The guide should be of interest to all Cornwall residents and especially those with small children in the home.

**David L. Anderson**  
**Health Officer,**  
**Town of Cornwall**

## ANOTHER HELP WANTED

The Select Board is looking for two folks who have an interest in the Addison County Regional Planning Commission and would like to serve as alternates to the commission from

Cornwall. The current delegates to the ACRPC from Cornwall are Ralph Teitscheid and Mary Dodge. The alternates could attend all regularly scheduled meetings, but would not be

able to vote unless they were there to replace the delegate. If you have an interest and would like more information, please feel free to call any of the Select Board members or the

current ACRPC delegates.



## CORNWALL SCHOOL NEWS

**10,000 Step Club**

On Monday April 27<sup>th</sup> we will kick off the 10,000 Step Club. Fran Paquette has offered to conduct a 10,000 Step Club after school on Monday and Thursday afternoons through May 21<sup>st</sup>. Students in the club will have pedometers that they will be wearing for the month. Activities after school will include: walking, running, tag and movement games. Students will be recording and graphing their steps on a bulletin board

in the Multipurpose Room. Due to supervision requirements this program will take only the first 30 students to sign up. Students also need to commit to all eight after school sessions (April 27, 30, May 4, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21 from 2:30-3:30). Pickup after school needs to be promptly at 3:30. Permission/sign up slips are available in the office from Donna.

**Save the Date**

*Monday, April 13 @ 8:30 the  
Grand Opening of the Cornwall  
School Bindery*

**More Save the Dates**

*May 9<sup>th</sup> Cornwall School Flea  
Market*

*June 11<sup>th</sup> All School Outing  
June 12<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Commence-  
ment 12:30*

**2009-10 School Year**

As day 131 is upon us it may seem a little premature to be thinking about next year but we want to keep you informed about decisions that have been made and events/activities that are happening. In that light, classroom teaching assignments for the 2009-10 school year have been determined and we would like to

take this opportunity to share that information with you. Linda Brown will be teaching kindergarten next year right next door to Lisa Beck who will be teaching first grade. Sue Sears is going back to second grade next year. Dawn Mayer will be looping her second grade class to third grade and remaining in the same classroom. Classroom teachers in grades 4, 5, and 6 will all remain

with their present teaching assignment. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask your child's classroom teacher.

**Shoreham Apple Blossom Derby**  
The annual Apple Blossom Derby (5k, 10k, 5k walk & Family Fun Run) is just around the corner! Once again the Shoreham Elementary School Parents, Teachers & Friends invite you to come have fun, enjoy the beautiful scenery and delicious food, and support a great cause. There will be prizes for all the children, face painting, and music. The first 100 registrants receive a full-color, free t-shirt! (only 75

left!) All proceeds benefit the school's Kitchen Fund. Strollers and pets are welcome!

**Date:** Saturday, May 9

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. (Family Fun run starts at 10:30 a.m.)

**Registration:** Begins at 9:00 a.m.

**Race fees adult/child:** *Earlybird* (by April 15): \$15/\$8; *Regular:* \$20/\$10

**Family Fun Run Fee:** \$5/person

Visit [www.shorehamschool.org/derby](http://www.shorehamschool.org/derby) to download a registration

form and see more race information.

## TOWN OF CORNWALL

2629 Route 30  
Cornwall, VT 05753

### THE HISTORY OF CORNWALL HOUSES AND THEIR INHABITANTS (MARCH 1989) BY STUART WITHERELL

We continue on Route 30 with the Beaney's house. Please note that copies of this book are available at the Town Hall for \$6.00 per copy.

"Walter Wood also owned the property farther south on the west side and sold it to Henry and Beatrice Whitney, and to Mrs. Hope Ryan. The Whitney's built a brick ranch house on the brow of a knoll and renovated the old red sheep barn. They tore down the 30 X 40 hay barn and the long young cattle barn north of it. The pasture land was equally divided between the Whitney's and Ryan. Bea Whitney attended grades 1 - 8 at No. 4 school in Cornwall with Miss Flora Ringey, and later taught grades 1-8 in Cornwall and Middlebury schools. She has been active in D.A.R., the church, Colonial Dames, garden club, and on the school board. Henry was a retired banker and vice president of Chittenden Trust.

South of the Whitney house, on a knoll, is the ranch home of Maurice and Esther Bingham. Their daughter Anna married Edward Bougar and lived with her mother after the death of her father in 1975. She

died recently after a kidney transplant, leaving a son, Jim. Maurice, a farmer, resided most of his life on Mapleshade Farm in West Cornwall, the fourth generation of Bingham's to live there, and served his town as selectman, member of the legislature, and later years, as assistant secretary of the Co-op fire Insurance Company of Vermont. Across the road, on part of the old ministerial lot, is the Lane homestead, owned at one point by Stuart and Jessie Witherell. It was originally a log cabin built by Job Lane, which burned in 1835 and was rebuilt, then purchased by Seeley Reynolds, who built two apartments to rent. Later John and Mary Kinghorn purchased the place. Mary is a retired teacher and active in community affairs. John is a retired electrical engineer. The home is currently owned by Dave & Diane Guertin. The Lane-Kinghorn farm was the original Daniel

Foot pitch sold to James Lane and son Job. It was owned and operated by Henry Lane on his marriage in 1849. Lane built the large section and on his death in 1887, carried on by his widow and their sons until sold to Sanford Lane Sr. after Arthur Lane's death in 1917. Henry was an enterprising farmer, cattle and Merino sheep raiser, and seed grower, who occupied many offices of trust in Cornwall. He served also as an Assistant Judge of the county Court, and member of the State Board of Agriculture. As chairman of the board of selectmen during the Civil War, he had full charge of enlistments, pensions, and army records for the town. He was also librarian of the town "Lane Library", started by Gilbert Cooke Lane.