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TOWN CLERK—TREASURER UPDATES!

Happy Spring to Everyone! A few remarks and reminders!!!

- **RETIREMENT:** I have had a number of questions about my impending retirement. Just to clarify the situation, I will be retiring, but not until 2024! When I ran in 2021, I indicated that I would not run again when my term was up in 2024. In order to help with finding someone to replace me, the selectboard included two articles on this past year's town meeting warning that changed electing the clerk and treasurer to appointing them. These articles passed which will allow the Selectboard to hire someone from outside of Cornwall if that becomes necessary. These can become elected positions in the future if the town votes to do that.
- **VACANCIES:** There are still a few vacancies for town officials. We need a representative and an alternate to the Solid Waste District. There are two openings on the DRB for Alternates. David Dodge would like to retire from the Lemon Fair Insect Control District, so we are looking for an interested person to replace him. There is also a vacancy on the Cemetery Commission.
- **SECOND INSTALLMENT OF PROPERTY TAXES:** The second installment of property taxes is due on May 1, 2022. May 1 is a Sunday, so I will be in the office on Monday, May 2, 2022 from 8:00 AM—5:00 PM. Thank you in advance for your timely payments. Just a note that the voters approved changing the date due of tax payments going forward. Starting with the 2022 bill, the due dates will be November 15 and May 15.
- **DOG LICENSES DUE:** Dog licensing is still ongoing. Dog licenses are due each year by April 1. We will maintain the penalty free fee until May 2, 2022. A current rabies certificate is required to obtain the license. I do keep the rabies certificates on file until their expiration date. The transaction can all be done by mail if that works better for you. Spayed/Neutered dogs \$9.00. Unspayed/unaltered dogs \$11.00.
- **VACATION AND TIME OFF:** Just a quick note to let you all know that I will be taking some time off over the next few months. The office will either be closed or I will have someone covering for parts of the days I am out. I will do my best to let you know as soon as the plans have been made. Have a great spring!!

SELECTBOARD REPORT

Greetings, Cornwall voters:

The most pressing issue facing your Cornwall Select Board this spring is the selection of a bridge design to replace the Swamp Road Bridge, which burned in 2016. Those of you who get our Town Clerk's emails or read Front Porch Forum will be aware that we held a joint Zoom meeting with the Salisbury Select Board on April 7, 2022. At that meeting, VTrans engineer Laura Stone presented details of the three designs being considered. They are: a replacement wooden covered bridge, a steel girder truss bridge, and a reinforced open concrete span. Each of these designs is projected to last 70 years, so we will be living with the results of this decision for many decades to come. If you missed that April 7 meeting, Sue Johnson can send you a web-link to a recording of it. There are also design and cost details available on Cornwall's website. While there are cost differences among the three designs, Cornwall's cost-matching obligation will be fully covered by insurance proceeds from the 2016 bridge fire, so the choice of design is expected to have only a minimal direct effect, if any, on our municipal tax rate.

In the next couple of weeks, each Cornwall voter will be receiving a stamped self-addressed polling post card in the mail allowing each registered voter to express a design preference from among the choices above. The Town of Salisbury will be conducting the same polling with its own voters. While the results will be non-binding, the Select Board's hope is that your responses will give us a good indication of Cornwall's collective judgment regarding replacement bridge design. Please check one box (only) on the card and mail it back to us promptly if you want your preference considered as part of this decision-making process. The Cornwall Select Board will then have to coordinate with their Salisbury counterparts to reach agreement on the design to be chosen.

I hope this Newsletter finds everyone well.

Best regards, as always,

Benjamin Marks

Select Board Chair

RECREATION COMMITTEE NEWS!

The Recreation Committee will sponsor a 30 miles in 30 days event for April and May again this year. Information will be available on the website, at the town hall and sent out to the email list. There will be additional events during the rest of 2022. We will send out information as they occur.

The Recreation Committee lost one of our very special members in March of this year. Mary Jane Broughton who was raised in Cornwall, the daughter of Charles and Frances Boardman, lost her battle with cancer. She was a teacher during her working career and was involved in many civic organizations over the years. We miss her beautiful smile and fun easygoing personality.

Thank you, the Recreation Committee

MESSAGE FROM OUR FIRE WARDEN, TOMMY FRANKOVIC

Hello to all.....

Spring has arrived and the 2022 outdoor burn season is underway. 28 permits thus far, with an additional 14 burns conducted while snow was on the ground when actual permits are not required. A sincere thanks to all of you who reached out to me advising of your burns when we were under the cover of snow.

Conditions thus far have been generally favorable, and with the additional late winter accumulating snow events, all burns were successful without fire suppression intervention.

Daily, I receive wildland fire threat level ratings from the Vt. Department of Parks/ Recreation. Every spring, despite the mud, flooded swamps, and swollen streams, the top layer fuels covering our fields, lawns, and wooded areas, (also known as the duff layer), is EXTREMELY dry and susceptible to ignition from any source at any time.

The determination of whether or not to issue your permit this spring will be based upon several factors including the fire threat level, wind conditions, precipitation, relative humidity, etc.

My goal, as it has been every year as Fire Warden, is to ensure a fair and productive spring burn season, with safety being a primary concern and mitigating factor on the issuing of permits.

Once again, I thank you all for your support, questions, comments, and concerns. Be safe.

Tommy Frankovic

Cornwall Forest Fire Warden

Captain, Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department

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

CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT

How did the salamander cross the road??

At a CCC sponsored event on Tuesday, March 15th, Pete Kerby-Miller, teacher-naturalist at North Branch Nature Center held an audience of more than a dozen people spell-bound with an online presentation about the amazing annual trek that frogs and salamanders take from their winter hibernating areas to their feeding and breeding areas. These intrepid creatures travel significant distances on rainy nights as the temperatures rise above freezing.

Here are some fascinating facts about them:

Did you know that amphibians actually lead two lives? One full life is led in water, such as vernal pools, and the other life is lived on earth. During their water life as juveniles, amphibians use gills, as fish do, to breathe. But on land, as adults, frogs develop these gills into lungs and use them to breathe.

Some salamanders shed their tails when frightened The four-toed salamander has a gorgeous black and white speckled belly. Even more amazing though, is that even though their tail is as long as their body, they can survive without their tail. If the four-toed salamander gets scared or surprised, they can drop their tail right off their body. The tail, separated from the body, squirms around to distract the animal that wants to eat the salamander, so the salamander can escape. So be super-gentle and don't grab these salamanders by the tail so they don't drop their tail out of fright..

Unfortunately, people have made these evening travels treacherous by placing roads in their path; roads with monster cars driving on them! But a growing number of people are becoming aware of the plight of these wonderful amphibians and are coming out to help them cross the road. Over the last 4 years, Cornwall volunteers have monitored two stretches of road on West Street. On rainy evenings when temperatures stayed above 40 degrees, we have been out slowing traffic and ensuring the safe passage of hundreds of salamanders and frogs. By the time this newsletter reaches Cornwall homes, the peak window for their migration (mid-March to mid-April) will be over for this year. But, if you are inspired to learn more about the escort teams and possibly help here in Cornwall in coming years, contact Mary Dodge at mdodge@middlebury.edu.



Photo: Chris Slesar

Cornwall Rocks!

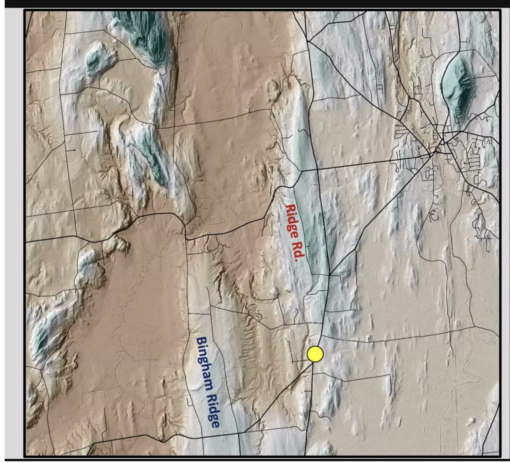
On Tuesday, March 22, 2022, we were treated to a virtual exploration of the ground beneath our feet led by Will Amidon, Associate Professor of Geology at Middlebury College. The topic was a very popular one with over 80 "computers" signing in with a number of them likely being watched by more than one person!

And watching was well worth it. Will started way back in time when the bedrock was forming and the land that would become Vermont was at the equator around 500 million years ago. He also talked about the glacier that moved back and forth over the Champlain Valley with Vermont sometimes under 3km of ice. And as the glacier receded it first formed Lake Vermont when Cornwall was under ~150 ft of water; then later, as it moved further north, salt water rushed in from the ocean to form the Champlain Sea.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION CONTINUED

There are many more marvels of geology to learn about so check out the recording at: https://youtu.be/PUs_TDUmXvA

Topographical Features of Cornwall



This was one of the amazing "views" Will shared when explaining why Cornwall look like it does

Wildlife Camera Update

We have created a special site on iNaturalist to archive photos of the town's fur-bearing predators from the CC's Trail Camera Project. To sample the diversity of animals that live in our town, go to <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/cornwall-vermont-selected-wildlife-observations>. We are inviting residents to add their photos to this collection. If you have pictures you would like to share, contact mdodge@middlebury.edu.



Cornwall Bobcat on a morning hunt in mid-January.

New CCC Member Kristina Sargent

The Conservation Commission is pleased to welcome Kristina Sargent as our newest member.

Kristina moved to Cornwall in 2020 and is an Assistant Professor of Economics at Middlebury College. She is an avid skier and hiker and loves exploring the outdoors with her husband, Alex, and their dog, Zero. Kristina is looking forward to meeting more of the Cornwall community through her participation in local conservation and environmental projects. She also looks forward to learning more about the local flora and fauna in the Cornwall area and sharing her discoveries with others.

Submitted by Andrea Landsberg, CCC member

LEMON FAIR INSECT CONTROL DISTRICT REPORT

Spring 2022 ~ Lemon Fair Insect Control District (“LFICD”) Newsletter

Field Conditions: Every year I get asked, “What kind of mosquito year are we going to have?” There is no crystal ball, genie or mystic that can answer that question. Addison County has mosquito species, that when they lay their eggs, the eggs can lay dormant and viable from 3 to 7 years! It’s not altogether clear what triggers the perfect storm for a colossal hatch to take place. Just know there are mosquito eggs sitting out there like a Poison Parsnip seed bank. Having said that, there are also mosquitoes that hatch just once in a season (univoltine) and lay eggs once, then die. Others mosquitoes can lay multiple sets of eggs and live several weeks as adults. A bloodmeal (protein) is required for each time a female mosquito lays a set of eggs. Male mosquitoes don’t take blood. They feed on nectar from flowers and fertilize females.

The Lemon Fair River has reached its first high water flood stage while it was still cold enough for the whole floodplain to freeze. Bill Hegman, Geography Instructor for Middlebury College recently flew a drone over the lower watershed to help document these high-water lines. The contrast of ice and bare ground offers us data we could never obtain just hiking into these areas. The drone imagery also shows us anomalous features in the landscape prone to mosquito habitat. This data is proving invaluable for mapping and identifying potential treatment areas. In addition, Bill will also use this data with a Middlebury College student during a GIS-Lidar Mapping Internship this coming season. We’ve already benefited greatly from last year’s Middlebury intern, Sam Chester.

The LFICD is also receiving applicants for our Field Technician Internship Program. This “boots on the ground” field biology experience is proving invaluable for college students. And it’s truly a pleasure to work with them as they bring enthusiasm and apply technical tools such as spreadsheet development, graphs, charts, and ideas to better mosquito abatement practices.

One of the challenges we face is that mosquito hatches don’t all take place at once. Field surveillance proves that we get concentrations of hatches from 100 square feet to maybe 30 acres that light up at once. Some of this can be treated by hand. But rarely do we get 1,250 acres of wetland to light up at once, which is the minimum required amount to bring in a helicopter service to treat aerially. Therefore, in combination with improved mapping and surveillance, we are planning on purchasing a backpack sprayer that will afford us better efficiency in stamping out smaller hatch sites.

The beauty of this time of year is not only the spring floods, but also the thousands of waterfowl that rest and feed on the Lemon Fair River floodplain. The early “snowmelt” mosquito larvae hardly stand a chance of much survival when bird migration is taking place in the spring. So, though the Lemon Fair River can be the bane of summer mosquitoes, it serves a critical role in our global ecosystem for these annual cycles. Some of the waterfowl species you might see are Black Ducks, Mallards, Green-winged Teal, Pintail Ducks, Wood Ducks, Lesser Scaup, Canada Geese and also Snow Geese and one year Tundra Swans stopped over.

Craig Zondag

LFICD Field Coordinator/Biologist

FROM THE TOWN POET, GARY MARGOLIS

Lighting The Barn

Before we flip on the new switch,
let's remember the cows
and heifers once stored
here.
The hay thrown into the
hay loft.

The love made there.
Cigarettes my children
smoked.
When they said they were
graining
their horse.

The one they named
Old Dope. At this point
in the poem,
I think of as myself.

Even when I know
what they were sneaking
off to do.
When I could hear the old
post
and beam joints creaking.

The doors screeching
on their rusted rails.
When they were wandering
around
in the dark,

lighting up.
Making horse sounds,
to make me think I could-
n't feel what they were up
to. Not that I didn't trust
them.
Or the darkness
inside those stalls

and stanchions.

Ghosts of themselves.
Memories rising, in a
kind
of sugarhouse smoke.
If you lived here, you'd
know sticks to every-
thing.

Someday my grand-
daughters will remem-
ber the night we
walked to the barn

(I could still walk then)
to flip on the switch
for the first time.
To see what I told them

were shadows
of calves and their
mothers. Even if they
thought
they looked like some-
thing else--

shovels, rakes, an old
lawnmower.
And weren't afraid to
tell me what they saw.
When the lights
flashed on.

National Champions

In between the end
of regulation,
whatever could have
been

the end of overtime.

Whatever could have
been
the start of disappoint-
ment.
the beginning of regret.

Whatever it is you
found
inside yourself,

yourselves,
can be found one time
again.

Call it taking a one-
timer.

A shot beyond the blue
line.

Call it what it is.

Tonight's game ender.

Perfection's perfect
rebound.

CORNWALL FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

Many Thanks

Many thanks to the Vermont Book Shop and Becky Dayton for donating books to the library and for extending a generous discount on our monthly order of books for which we are VERY appreciative! Their support of our library helps keep our selection of books current for all our library patrons. Thank you!

Wanted

Even though the book sale won't be held until November, we are accepting donations for our annual book sale. Here's your chance to go through the books on your bookshelves, night table or anywhere else you keep them so you can make room for those new books you've been planning to read. The library accepts "gently used" books, audiobooks and DVDs (no magazines, outdated travel books and manuals, textbooks or encyclopedias please). These items will be sold at our book sale or added to our collection. We also ask that you recycle (instead of donating) **musty, smelly, damaged, midewy or broken/warped items. THANKS!**

New Materials

You can find all the new materials at the library on our website – cornwallvt.com. You can find them by using the library drop down box on the Cornwall Town website. This is updated as new materials arrive. You will find all our current materials there.

A sampling of new materials include:

FICTION

Violeta – Isabel Allende, **The Last House on the Street** – Diane Chamberlain, **Booth** – Karen Joy Fowler, **Olga Dies Dreaming** – Xochiti Gonzalez, **A Ballad of Love and Glory** – Reyna Grande, **The Paris Bookseller** – Kerri Maher, **The Golden Couple** – Greer Hendricks and Sarah Pekkanen, **Intimacies** – Katie Kitamura, **Hell of a Book** – Jason Mott, **Swimmers** – Julie Otsuka, **Sisters of Night and Fog** – Erika Robuck, **The Unsinkable Greta James** – Jennifer E. Smith, **Honor** – Thrity Unrigar, **Black Cake** – Charmaine Wilkerson

MYSTERY/THRILLER

Find Me – Alafair Burke, **Woman on Fire** – Lisa Barr, **The Family Chao** – Lan Samantha Chang, **The Match** – Harlan Coben, **Devil House** – John Darnielle, **The Silent Sisters** – Robert Dugoni, **Greenwich Park** – Katherine Faulker, **The Paris Apartment** – Lucy Foley, **One Stop Too**

LIBRARY CONTINUED.....

Far – Lisa Gardner, **The Berlin Exchange** – Joseph Kanon, **Quick Silver** – Dean Koontz, **The Maid** – Nita Prose, **The Book of Cold Cases** – Simone St. James, **The Violin Conspiracy** – Brendan Slocumb, **A Sunlit Weapon** – Jacqueline Winspear

LARGE PRINT

Beautiful Little Fools – Jillian Cantor, **The Last House on the Street** – Diane Chamberlain, **Sooley** – John Grisham, **Silverview** – John LeCarre', **The Thursday Murder Club** – Richard Osman, **A Gentleman in Moscow** – Amor Towles

NONFICTION

Chasing History - Carl Bernstein, **In Love** – Amy Bloom, **All About Me** – Mel Brooks, **Invisible Child** - Andrea Elliot, **The Storyteller** – David Grohl, **Braiding Sweetgrass** – Robin Wall Kimmerer, **The Nineties** – Chuck Klusterman, **Crying in H Mart** – Michelle Zauner

YOUNG ADULT

The Gilded Cage – Lynette Loni, **Gallant** – V. E. Schubb, **I Must Betray You** – Ruth Sepetys, **The Bone Spindle** – Leslie Vedder

CHILDREN

The Ogress and the Orphans – Kelly Barnhill, **The Swallowtail Legacy: Wreck at Ada's Reef** – Michael D. Beil, **Cornbread and Poppy** – Matthew Cordell, **Knight Owl** – Christopher Denise, **Oona** – Kelly DiPaccio, **Wishing Upon the Same Stars** – Jacquetta Nammar Feldman, **Apple and Magnolia** -Laura Gehl, **Investigators: Braver and Boulder** – John Patrick Green, **Those Kids from Dawn Creek** – Erin Entrada Kelly, **Operation Do-Over** – Fran Korman, **Dragon Pearl** – Yoon Ha Lee, **Wayward Creatures** – Danya Lorentz, **Chester Van Chime Who Forgot How to Rhyme** – Avery Monsen, **Watercress** – Andrea Wang, **The Year We Learned to Fly** – Jacqueline Woodson

AUDIO

To Set a Watchman – Harper Lee, **The Rose Code** – Kate Quinn, **Bye Bye Baby** – Robert B. Parker

DVDs

Belfast, **The Hating Game**, **King Richard**, **Matrix Resurrections**, **Quantum of Solace**, **Spiderman: No Way Home**, **Yellowstone: Season 4**

Zoning Administrator's Report

The Zoning Administrator's Report was unavailable for the Town Report. The report is being printed here for your review.

The total number of Zoning permits issued in 2021 was eighteen up from seventeen last year. Nine of these were for new construction, up from three last year and nine for additions.

The number of Certificates of Zoning Compliance was twenty compared to twenty- five for 2020.

Requests for Certificates of Occupancy for completed projects continues to be a problem. There were three requests compared to one for 2020.

Zoning Permits Issued

2/25/21-Christopher & Amy Carey, 998 Ridge Road, New Residence
2/25/21-Charles M. Jackson, 740 West Street, New Residence
3/17/21-Jake Burnham, 872 Parkhill Road, Addition
3/26/21-Anna Rebecca Kinkead, 1680 West Street, Garage
3/26/21-Churchill & Janet Franklin, 486 Cider Mill Road, Storage Shed
4/21/21-Woody & Ingrid Jackson, 82 Sperry Road, New Residence
4/21/21-Blair & Hillary Peterson, 1571 Sperry Road, ADU & Barn
6/15/21-Mark Bellinger & Emily Bridges, 1484 Route 30, Addition
6/19/21-Alex Carver, NTC, 470 Foote Farm Road, Garage and Apartment
7/6/21- Cas Chlodnicki, 812 Wooster Road, Carport
7/15/21-Chester Bickley Van Dellen, Lot 11 Foote Farm Road, New Residence
8/18/21-Bruce & Tobi Andrews, Lot 19 Foote Farm Road, New Residence
8/18/21- Daniel Foley, 294 West Street, Storage Barn
8/18/21-Seth & Pearl Riney, 2100 Route 74, Kitchen Addition
8/30/21-Rebecca Kinkead & Robert Murphy, 83 Abernathy Place, Art Studio/ADU
10/26/21- Rebecca Kinkead & Robert Murphy, 83 Abernathy Place, Machine Shed
12/3/21-Theodore R. & Stephanie H. Cotton, 1443 Ridge Road, New Residence
12/3/21-Caroline Mellish, 2438 S. Bingham Street, Convert SFD to Duplex

Certificates of Compliance

1/8/21-Coe, Whitney & Shirley Hargraves, 1209 Cider Mill Road
1/14/21-Marti J. McCaleb, 1273 Route 125
1/29/21-Adam & Stephanie Powers, 143 S. Bingham Street

Zoning Administrator's Report Continued

2/12/21-William E. & Jane A. Mandigo, 144 Ledge Lane
2/19/21-Breadloaf Mountain Monastery, Inc., 3958 Route 30
4/13/21-Valerie Demong, 2014 Route 30
5/14/21-William A. Garrett for Snake Mtn. LLC, 67 Snake Mountain Road
6/8/21-Martha S. Fritz, 83 Abernathy Place
6/9/21-Estate of Nancy Edson, 2271 Route 74
6/19/21-Breadloaf View Farm Trust 1, 1645 Cider Mill Road
7/14/21-Breadloaf View Realty Trust, 346 Sperry Road
7/27/21-David B. VanVleck, Revocable Trust, 1104 North Bingham Street
7/28/21-Anna Rebecca Kinkead, 1680 West Street
8/3/21- Rebecca Kinkead, West Street Properties Lot 2
8/17/21-Joan & David Donahue, 380 Robbins Road
10/26/21-Edgewood Property Holdings, LLC, 388 Route 30
11/19/21-Thomas Vanacore & Co LLC, 4171 Route 125
11/30/21-770 Co, LLC, 881 Route 30
11/30/21-Brian & Sigrid Howlett, 5680 Route 30
12/3/21-Amy Oxford, 4174 Route 30

Certificates of Occupancy

7/28/21-Anna Rebecca Kinkead, 1680 West Street
6/14/21-Glen & Elizabeth Wyer, 1155 Cider Mill Road
8/31/21-Janie Simmons & Eric Metcalf, 470 Foote Farm Road, Lot 3

Other Decisions

8/17/21-Christiana & James B. Hodges III, 1335 North Bingham Street, PYO Tent
2/19/21-Demong/MacFadden, 27 Andrus Pitch , Boundary Line Adjustment
5/28/21-Micheal P. Quesnel, 148 Samson Road, Boundary Line Adjustment
8/9/21-Woody & Ingrid Jackson/Joyce Stephens, Sperry Rd., Boundary Line Adjustment
9/1/21-Thomas & Patricia Morrow/Jake & Amanda Burnham,
South Bingham Street/Parkhill Road, Boundary Line Adjustment

Town of Cornwall
2629 Route 30
Cornwall, VT 05753

BINGHAM MEMORIAL SCHOOL NEWS!

Time is flying by! With the advent of spring comes an increase of energy and a return to planning events. I just left an FOCS meeting where excitement was high as we discussed community involvement with cleaning up the playground, ideas for teacher appreciation, plans for All Out Day during the last week of school, and plans for family and community events in the fall.

Upcoming school activities and events include a visit from Littleton School District in New Hampshire who is coming to observe and learn more about what inquiry based learning looks like. Our garden committee is developing plans for each class to be involved with preparing and planting the garden. As a school we are celebrating Friday Fun Days each week, classes continue to meet and collaborate with their buddy classrooms, and the 5th graders are looking forward to going to Kee-waydin Environmental Education Center (KEEC) once again this year.

FOCS has also worked with the school and the town to organize after school activities for students including partnering with MALT, Middlebury Music Community Center, and the Middlebury Studio School. We really appreciate all of the work and collaboration that has gone into making these activities possible! A focus next year will be to provide greater access to all after school activities.

And, lastly, Cornwall School is now accepting registration forms for students entering the Kindergarten class 2022-2023 school year. Your child must turn 5 on or before September 1st. Please call the school at **802-462-2463** to see if your child is already on our incoming list, or email lballantine@acsdvt.org. We will be sending home information to families through both mails, postal and email about upcoming events and important due dates.

You may also find [more information about K transitions at our Addison County UPreK website](#).

Thank you, and happy Spring!
Heather Raabe, Principal