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TOWN CLERK—TREASURER UPDATES!

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

- **RETIREMENT:** Since the last newsletter was issued, I have been very fortunate to have found Carolyn Anderson, a Cornwall resident, who is interested in learning the Town Clerk and Treasurer positions. She has been shadowing me for the last month or so and is doing a fantastic job. We have 2 years to cover most of the job requirements, so I am very happy and pleased that Carolyn has come on board.
- AUGUST 9, STATE PRIMARY: The state primary will be held on Tuesday, August 9, 2022. The polls will be open that day from 7 AM—7 PM at the Cornwall Town Hall. If you do not wish to vote in person, you can request an early ballot, by phone, email or MyVoterPage through the Secretary of State's Office. The state primary is the election where you will receive ballots for each political party. This year that will be three ballots. You will decide which ballot you wish to vote on and the other two will be returned in an unvoted ballot envelope or in a separate ballot box at the polls. Your voted ballot will be processed through the vote tabulator. Please feel free to call the town clerk's office if you have questions.
- **PROPERTY TAXES:** The process is underway to create the 2022 property tax bills. The Selectboard will vote on a municipal tax rate at their August meeting. The town has received the state education tax rates and they are lower than last year's education tax rates. The Homestead rate this year is \$1.6751 as compared to \$1.7443 last year. The Non-Homestead rate this year is \$1.6285 as compared to \$1.7056 last year. Once the Selectboard has set the municipal tax rate and the Listers have done the annual roll over, I will calculate the tax bills, print and distribute them. This will happen at the beginning of September. Just a reminder, the voters approved changing the property tax due dates to November 15 and May 15. Once again feel free to call with questions.
- 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 summer!!

SELECTBOARD REPORT

In follow up to last quarter's newsletter report, the Selectboards of Cornwall and Salisbury did meet and voted to moved ahead with the bridge design that received the highest number of votes from both towns, that being the Covered Bridge. This information was passed on to the state in order for them to begin the design and engineering process. They are looking at construction to start in 2025. Any further updates will be passed on to you.

The Selectboard continues in negotiation with VSF-TOC LLC (Lessee) to enter into a long-term lease agreement for the development of a solar array to be constructed on the roof of and next to the Town Hall. The Lessee will construct, operate and maintain a net metered solar array, the production of which is expected to largely offset Cornwall's energy usage. Cornwall will have the option to purchase the array and terminate the lease after a certain period of time. If Cornwall does not exercise its option to purchase the array, the lease has a term of 35 years. The lease is expected to be signed after the notice period (30 days) has run.

Magna Dodge gave an update on Maple Broadband. Maple Broadband has received from Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB), grants of \$1.3 million and \$3.8 million for preconstruction costs, capacity building, and materials ordered after April 15. On April 18, Maple Broadband submitted a construction grant application to VCBB for 7.2 million, and has been answering all the follow up questions from VCBB about that application. At the end of this week, Maple Broadband will be sending out a Request for Proposals for construction work. Construction of the fiber network is planned to begin in August of 2022 in the Phase I area, with the first subscribers being able to sign up beginning in October.

RECREATION COMMITTEE NEWS!

Summer is here! Hurray! The Cornwall Recreation Committee has you on our minds.

Here are a few things for you to supplement your summer:

- The State Park and Historic Site Passes are available at the Town Hall, come see Sue and borrow a pass. The Echo pass provides discounts to the Echo Center. Can be borrowed at the town hall!
- If hiking is part of you outing, stop by the Lemon Fair Sculpture Garden on Rt 74. They are open from 9-5 each day.
- Summer is in full swing here in Vermont, and so are the summer events! Here is a sampling of upcoming community events you may enjoy:

<u>Festival on the Green</u> (Middlebury), July 10-16 <u>Music at the Riverbend</u> (Brandon), every Wednesday, Jul-Aug <u>Concerts in the Park</u> (Hinesburg), every Wednesday, Jul 13-Aug 10 <u>Children's Origami Box Making</u> (Middlebury), July 16 <u>Addison County Fair & Field Days</u> (New Haven), Aug 9-13 Vergennes Day, August 27

Don't forget the West Cornwall Backyard Concert Series!

Happy Summering!

The Cornwall Recreation Committee

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF CORNWALL SCHOOL!

The spring of 2022 reminded us what the centrality of a school can mean to a town, and vice versa. The beautiful upstairs space at Town Hall, infrequently used, came to life three days a week, as groups of Cornwall School children made the short walk from Cornwall School to Town Hall for afterschool classes in both music and art.

The success of these programs has established an afterschool option for parents in our town that is likely to continue as long as Cornwall School remains open. Over time, it should help to make Cornwall an attractive choice for families with elementary-aged children, with a built-in afterschool option within walking distance of the school.

Afterschool has long been available to Cornwall School students in Middlebury, with a busing option to Mary Hogan, yet the trek of forty minutes after all other students have been dropped off has been met with a perennial lack of interest. Still, there has continued to be a persistent desire for a more workable, community-based afterschool option.

In the fall of 2021, Friends of Cornwall School (FOCS) conducted a family survey on the topic, in which half the respondents said they would definitely enroll their students in a Cornwall-centered program. FOCS responded to this need by launching three separate Cornwallbased afterschool programs on different days of the week, each in partnership with a different local nonprofit educational organization.

Having these organizations send instructors to our town, rather than requiring that all participating students travel to Middlebury, seemed to do the trick. It was heartwarming to see groups of kids gather outside the school to walk with a teacher over to Town Hall several days a week. Two different school staff members assisted with these programs, arranging for compensation directly with program partners Middlebury Studio School and the Middlebury Community Music Center. In addition, the Middlebury Area Land Trust (MALT) made arrangements with owners of a private property in Cornwall to offer an outdoor education program, accessible via a much shorter bus ride.

Both the MALT program and the Studio School program generated robust enough interest to support two separate age groupings, while the Music Center program brought students of all ages together at the instructor's request to learn West African drumming and dancing. Town Clerk Sue Johnson was a true sport, with an hour of drumming and dancing each week above her office!

All three programs have committed to offering instruction right here in Cornwall again this fall. FOCS is in discussions with the town about ways of supporting the programs to ensure equal access to students of all backgrounds in our community. We are grateful to have been able to help fill this perennial need, supporting families and bringing vibrancy to the very center of our town. We hope these programs will not only continue to strengthen bonds between the school and the community, but will also serve as an example of what can happen when a town and a school come together to support each other.

-Chris Kramer, Co-Chair Friends of Cornwall School

CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT

Cornwall Swamp Events. In 1974, the National Park Service designated Cornwall Swamp as a National Natural Landmark. Open to visitors but with no trail network, many Cornwall residents have not had an opportunity to visit this unique ecologically significant forest wetland area. On Thursday, September 8th from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., the Conservation Commission is sponsoring a Walk in the Swamp, led by a team of natural resources experts—mark your calendars! By the way, if you have passed by the Swamp Bridge parking area recently, you may have noticed some changes...good changes. This past spring, on May 7th, Green Up Day, eleven hardy Cornwallians met at the Cornwall Swamp bridge parking lot, armed with Greenup bags, gloves, boots, and rakes to clean up debris around the parking lot. The group continued the cleanup for at least another mile along Swamp Road on the Cornwall side, and about ½ mile over the bridge into Salisbury. Tires, couch cushions, and a Mylar balloon were among the items filling about 20 bags of trash and debris.

Sunrise Orchards Sees Many Benefits after Conserving Land. When Chris and Barney Hodges III look out over their orchard and the lands to east of North Bingham St, they sense a shift in their thinking about the future, knowing that now it will always be farmland and will perpetually look similar to how it does now. As the Cornwall Conservation Commission started a series of interviews with Cornwall property owners who have conserved their land, we learned that Barney's father, Barney Jr., and Dee Hodges recently conserved 171 acres of their land, some of which is farmed by Sunrise Orchards, via Vermont Land Trust. In 2011, Chris and Barney took ownership of the farm business, Sunrise Orchards, Inc. and stewardship of all 300 plus acres of the family-owned land bringing with them an eye for proactive business ideas and a desire to conserve lands if possible. Conservation planning has been a full family affair, however with the two generations thinking proactively about land stewardship. During our interview with Chris, she said that, although Chris and Barney own the farm business, they collaborate with sisters Georgia and Kate about future land uses since the conservation easement includes farm affordability protections to guarantee that the property can be farmed sustainably. Sunrise Orchards is no stranger to positive change. Long-term farmland ownership is an evolving process within the family, and the sale of the easement is part of the estate planning process which now spans three generations of Hodges'. Having begun in 1974, the Hodges, along with David and Eunice Van Vleck, purchased a 340-acre dairy farm, quickly planting 130 acres into apples. Currently, the Hodges family owns over 300 acres of orchard, woodland, and open pasture. Five decades later, Sunrise Orchards, Inc. currently farms 150 acres of apples and manages the remaining acres of forests and pasture lands some of which are used by other local farm operations. The conserved 171 acres made sense scale wise in the overall plan that blends conservation with practical business planning. Today, Sunrise Orchards offers pick-your-own apples, harvests over 100,000 bushels a year and in 2021 started an extensive farm stand with apples, cider, other local food items and locally made crafts. In 2016, the farm transitioned to solar power providing 100% of the electricity required for its farm and non-farm operations. Through a partnership with Bee the Change, the solar fields provide a bountiful habitat for pollinators which is just one of the several proactive agricultural practices carried out by the Hodges. Mark your calendars for the August 18th opening of the farm stand and stay tuned for a community event focusing on conservation in the fall. Key to the closing the deal on this conservation project were the generous anonymous donations by many Cornwall residents, as well as primary funding from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and especially from the Hodges family who sold the development rights below market value.

Spring Amphibian Crossings. Thirteen volunteers helped 190 amphibians safely cross Cornwall roadways this spring. On three separate wet or rainy nights, this intrepid cadre of conservationists rescued blue-spotted salamanders, Jefferson salamanders, wood frogs, spring peepers, American toads, and yellow-spotted salamanders. For more information or to sign up for next spring's amphibian assists, contact Mary Dodge at mdodge@middlebury.edu

CONSERVATION COMMISSION CONTINUED

Marsh Billings Rockefeller National Park Visit in October. The Conservation Commission is starting to plan a group tour of the Marsh Billings Rockefeller National Park in Woodstock. This tour is planned to be open to anyone interested, up to a total of about 25-30 people with a tentative date of Saturday, October 1st or Sunday, October 2nd. This National Park is the only national park to focus on conservation history and the evolving nature of land stewardship in America. With its lovely sugar maples and 400 -year old hemlock trees, this enchanting site tells the story of how people have shaped an enduring connection to the land in Vermont. Stay tuned for more details, which will be shared via the Town Clerk's email list, the Conservation Commission's upcoming blog, and other avenues.

Emerald Ash Borer. Conservation Commission member Andrea Landsberg, along with Mary Dodge, attended a Select Board meeting to share information about Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), after Andrea attended a Vermont Agency of Natural Resources EAB training session. Discovered in Vermont in 2018, the Emerald Ash Borer damages ash trees to the point that only 1% of ash trees survive an infestation, dying within three to five years of initial infection. Because the trees become very brittle and structurally unstable when infected, diseased trees can pose a public safety hazard if they fall into the roadway right-of-way. The Select Board, via the Town Clerk, contacted the Cornwall Tree Warden, Stu Johnson, and he and Sue Johnson have started to count the number of ash trees in Cornwall that are in the public right of way or on Town property. Thank you Stu and Sue! If you are interested in learning more about EAB, check out the Heartwood podcast, Episode 6, at https://www.ourvermontwoods.org/heartwood, or this web site from Vermont Invasives https://vtinvasives.org/land/emerald-ash-borer-vermont.

Invasives: Find 'Em and Do 'Em In Workshop, Saturday August 13, sponsored by the Cornwall Conservation Commission. Presented by Travis Hart, Habitat Biologist with Vermont Fish and Wildlife, this workshop will help you identify Cornwall's invasive plants (buckthorn, honeysuckle and others) and learn why their removal is important. Potential treatment options available to landowners will be discussed. A highlight of the workshop will be an opportunity to try out tools that can be used to manually remove these plants such as the powerfully-named "The Uprooter" or the "Extractigator." Participants are also invited to bring tools that they use to share with others. Place and time to be determined, but mark your calendars for Saturday, August 13.

Conservation Commission Blog, Do you want to *Get Wild?* Would you like to learn more about the birds and wildlife that live right here in Cornwall? Do you wish you could do a better job composting? Or find out how to improve the soil in your garden? Maybe you'd really like to help out native pollinators but don't know where to start. Well, stay tuned for the launch of Cornwall's very own conservation blog, *Get Wild*. You'll get answers to your questions and can join the conversation about all things 'conservation' right in here in Cornwall!

Submitted by Katherine Branch, Cornwall Conservation Commission



SPORTING OPPORTUNITY IN WHITING

Whiting Community Church is sponsoring Upward Sports Soccer Camp! Children entering 1st grade to children completing 6th grade are welcome! Camp will run rain or shine. When? Saturday, August 13, 20, 27 from 9 AM- 12 Noon. Where? Whiting Elementary School, RT 30, Whiting, Vermont. Children need to bring their own shin guards. Cost is \$45 per player (after 7/15/2022 it's \$50) and includes a t-shirt, soccer ball, water bottle and poster. To register online and for more information visit: https://registration.upward.org/UPW81772Questions? Contact Deb Pinkerton at debpicc@aol.com. Hope to see you!

EMERALD ASH BORER INFO FROM THE TREE WARDEN!

A few town folks came to the June Selectboard meeting to ask about the possible affects of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Cornwall. The Urban and Community Forest Program has been holding training programs on EAB throughout the state. In order to ascertain how many ash trees are within the Right of Way, the Johnson's took to the road(s) to count Ash trees. Any guesses? The number of Ash trees, 4 inches in diameter at breast/chest height is 353. A relatively high percentage of these are in four locations. Those being, Parkhill Road, Peet Road, Morse Road and Robbins Road. While guite a few are in distress, I don't believe it is related to EAB, as the classic EAB symptoms aren't there. Doing the simple math, it works out to about 11 trees per mile, compared to towns in eastern Vermont where they are dealing with hundreds of trees per mile. The Urban and Community Forest Program is working with those towns and especially towns that have planted trees in their green belts and parks. The difficulty is that when the trees die from EAB, they become very brittle and a hazard to climb so bucket trucks and cranes come in to play. There's the ka-ching noise. Luckily for Cornwall and most towns, the trees affected by EAB are going to become just another dead hazard tree to cut down, and there are plenty of hazard trees of all stripes out there. An increased effort to deal with these trees will need to be prioritized. If you have a hazard tree on your property that ends up being cut down, the wood is yours if you want it. Let Steve Rheaume know if you do want the wood and how it will be taken care of.

Stu Johnson, Tree Warden

FROM OUR TOWN POET, GARY MARGOLIS

Fireworks At Reunion

My mathematician friend, Joan, says, as old as we are, the days feel as if they're speeding up and by.

Says there's an equation for this somewhere in the heart.
Sitting here, in our reunion tent,

we each remember the last day of school, college or elementary, how summer life swam out

ahead of us, felt like an infinity of cook-outs and swimming holes, fireflies filling a field's endless jar.

How we didn't think to worry, if we'd run out of time, time run out of us.

If we'd be sitting here, the youngest class in the oldest group of our college's blue and white

alumni. Watching the dinner-ending fireworks explode a hole in the nearest sky. A telescope,

of sorts, for us to gaze through to that newly found black hole, pinned to the far edge

of our galaxy. Opening like God's Infinite Eye.
For our days on the other side

of tonight. As uncountable as love is.

Even with the heart's abacus.

First Vermont Rodeo

So different being here in person.
Gumball of a fireball setting in
the Adirondacks.
Sitting on a wooden bleacher seat.
Above the ring of perfect dust,
Cowboys and cowgirls,
a few small as children, warming up,
riding around, showing off
Their hats and belts.
One beautiful rider after another.
Until the bulls begin rearing in their
gates, The bucking horses, anxious to
break out, snort and whinny.

Like the Remington bronze of the same scene. Sitting on the president's desk. Every so often he looks at. Runs his hand over the lariat. Wishing, I'm imagining, he was sitting with us, on the eve of our Fourth of July. Waiting for the dust to settle.

A rider to circle the ring with a billowing flag. Before hell breaks loose. Bodies flying in the air, jettisoned it seems.

For the sake of the crowd. For one of these juvenile riders, to stick the announcer calls it. Not have to ride home in the National Guard's ambulance.

CORNWALL FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

We hope you are all enjoying the beautiful summer we're having. We know there are many activities to enjoy outside but we hope you will make time to read as well. To encourage summer reading for readers of all ages, we have a good collection of fiction and nonfiction books for adults and children. We have books that will take you or your child to another world, broaden your horizons or deepen your understanding of favorite topics. We hope to see you and your children at the library this summer.

Can't find the book you're looking for at our library? Interlibrary loans make it possible for us to get a book for you from another library when we don't have it ourselves. Contact Sue Johnson at 462-2775, cornwallvt@shoreham.net, or stop by Town Hall with the title and author, and we'll let you know when it arrives.

Even though the book sale won't be held until November, we are accepting donations for our annual book sale. 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**, **mildewy or broken/warped items**. It will save us lots of time when sorting through the materials we receive. **THANKS!**

You can find all the new materials at the library on our website – www.cornwallvt.com. You can find them by using the Our Town drop down box on the website and then just "hit" Library. This is updated as new materials arrive.

New books, audiobooks, and DVDs have arrived! Come on over and see the new materials or check the list online. Here are some of the new additions.

FICTION

The Lioness – Chris Bohjalian, Horse – Geraldine Brooks, Trust – Hernan Diaz, Lessons in Chemistry – Bonnie Garmus, Vigil Harbor – Julia Glass*. The Foundling – Ann Leary*, Sea of Tranquility – Emily St. John Mandel, Take My Hand – Dolen Perkins-Valdez, The Shore – Katie Runde*, This Time Tomorrow – Emma Straub, The Good Left Undone – Adrianna Trigiani, The Lost Summers of Newport – Beatriz Williams

LIBRARY CONTINUED.....

MYSTERY/THRILLER

Dream Town – David Baldacci, **The Hacienda** – Isabel Caras, **In the Blood** – Jack Carr, **Sleep Walk** – Dan Chaon, **Sparring Partners** – John Grisham, **The Children on the Hill** – Jennifer McMahon, **My Wife is Missing** – D.J.Palmer, **Run Rose Run** – Dolly Parton and James Patterson, **Two Nights in Lisbon** – Chris Pavone, **The Cartographers** – Peng Shepherd, **The Diamond Eye** – Kate Quinn, **City on Fire** – Don Winslow

LARGE PRINT FICTION

The Personal Librarian – Marie Benedict, **Dream Team** – David Baldacci, **The Hotel Nantucket** – Elin Hilderbrand

NONFICTION

In Love – Amy Bloom*, The Palace Papers – Tina Brown, The First Populist – David S. Brown*, Also A Poet – Ada Calhoun*, Finding Me – Viola Davis, How to Avoid a Climate Disaster – Bill Gates*, Unmasked – Paul Holes*, River of the Gods – Candice Miller, Hello Molly – Molly Shannon

YOUNG ADULT

Family of Liars – E. Lockhart, **Gallant -** V.E. Schubb, **Hotel Magnifique** – Emily J. Taylor*

CHILDREN

The King of Kindergarten and The Queen of Kindergarten – Derrick Barnes*, The Ogress and the Orphans – Kelly Barnhill, I Love You Blue – Barroux, Consider the Octopus – Nora Raleigh Baskin, The First Cat in Space Ate Pizza – Mac Burnett, The Great Peach Experiment and The Peach Pit – Erin Soderberg Downing, Singing with Elephants – Margarita Engle, Be A Tree – Maria Gianferrari *, Noodle and the No Bones Day – Jonathan Graziano, Super Troop – Bruce Hale, We Are Better Together – Bill McGibben, Perfectly Pegasus – Jessie Sims, Skander and the Unicorn Thief – A.F. Steadman

AUDIOBOOKS

The Book of Lost Names – Kristen Harmel, **The Rose Code** – Kate Quinn, **City on Fire** – Don Winslow

DVDs

The Batman, Death on the Nile, Dexter – New Blood, Dog, Downton Abbey: A New Era, King Richard, Matrix Resurrections, Quantum of Solace, Terminal List, Uncharted, Yellowstone: Season 4

^{*}Donated by the Vermont Book Shop.

ROAD FOREMAN'S REPORT

Happy summer Cornwall, I just wanted to give a quick update on how things are going including some projects we have completed or have left to complete. I hope everyone had a great winter and spring. I know I am certainly glad that it is no longer snowing. Thank you everyone who expressed their gratitude to Ken and I this winter, it means a lot to us that our hard work and long hours keeping the roads open doesn't go unnoticed.

During the early spring and summer months Ken and I spent some time filling in pot holes until the ground was thawed enough for Stu to get the grader into action. His help this summer with grading roads and also offering helpful tips and advice for me has been amazing. I am grateful to have such a vast amount of knowledge just a phone call away. Thank you, Stu and Sue, for all you help so far.

In early June, Ken and I got the first round of roadside mowing completed. There is still much work that needs to be done, particularly with the Poison parsnip, but we plan to go out for round two of mowing here in the next couple of weeks to help combat that nasty stuff, my arm being covered in a parsnip rash as I type this summer report. It is truly nasty stuff to come in contact with. During the rounds of mowing, probably closer to fall, we will also be addressing the vegetation that has grown into the road. We will be cutting back and trying to keep the road way as open as possible. In some places in town, it feels like you are driving down a tunnel because it has grown in so much.

The Town of Cornwall went in with 6 other (Addison County) towns to purchase a crack sealing machine. The machine was purchased during the winter. Each town schedules use of the machine as needed, so there is no overlap. All the towns involved have helped each other out when using the machine. The towns of Weybridge and Addison helped Cornwall during the two days that we crack sealed. You may have seen us out there, we sealed West Street, the apron on Audet Road, Cider Mill Rd and James Rd. Cornwall returned the favor when Weybridge crack sealed. The roads we completed used up the one pallet of the material that I ordered earlier this year. Now that we are in the new fiscal year, I plan to order another pallet. We plan on completing some of the other black top roads later this fall when it has cooled down a little.

Some of you may have noticed that fresh pavement went down last month on the Snake Mountain Rd apron and also on West Street. Ken and I, with help from Weybridge, finished up the shoulder and driveway work on those roads the first week of July.

With the help and guidance from Shoreham's Foreman Jason Paquette, we replaced a culvert

FOREMAN'S REPORT CONTINUED...

on the dirt portion of South Bingham St., just before the intersection of Cutting Hill Road. Jason was there to help me with the culvert replacement and to show me his tricks and strategies. Cornwall's Grants in Aid project for this year is going to be some ditching work and a new culvert on Cutting Hill Road. That project must be completed before September 30, 2022. The Grants in Aid are accessed through the Addison County Regional Planning Commission. Once the work has been completed Cornwall will receive a % of the cost as reimbursement.

In addition to the projects I have mentioned and anything else mother nature decides to throw at us; we will continue to grade and add gravel to those roads in need. Thank you for you continued support and patience as we try our best to make and keep Cornwall's roads in good shape. I hope everyone has a great rest of the summer.

Steve Rheaume, Road Foreman

CORNWALL FIRE DEPARTMENT HOLDS CHICKEN BARBEQUE







Town of Cornwall 2629 Route 30 Cornwall, VT 05753

DISCLAIMER

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



Green Up Day Workers at the Boat Launch on Swamp Road! Thank you all.