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TOWN CLERK—TREASURER UP-

TOWN MEETING INFORMATION!!!

As voted by the Cornwall voters at the 2022 Town Meeting, our 2023 Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 4, 2023 at 10 AM. We will be holding a traditional town meeting this year at the Cornwall School, unless there should be some major outbreak of COVID leading up to the town meeting date. This date change was requested to attempt to increase the participation at town meeting. FOCS will be offering a breakfast instead of a dinner this year. See additional information elsewhere in the newsletter. The Australian ballot voting will take place on Tuesday, March 7 at the Town Hall from 7 AM—7 PM. We will not be sending ballots to all active voters, but you may request an early/absentee ballot starting on or after February 15, 2023.

TOWN OFFICIALS

If you are interested in running for a town office, please pick up a nominating petition from the town clerk. Eleven valid signatures are required on the petition. The deadline to return the petition is Monday, January 30, 2023 by 5 PM. Below are the positions that we will vote for on Tuesday, March 7, 2023.

5 years:	Cemetery Commissioner
4 years:	Cemetery Commissioner (to fill an unexpired term)
3 years:	Selectboard; Lister; Auditor, Trustee of Public Funds; Two (2) Planning Commissioners
2 years:	Selectboard; Four (4) Library Trustees
1 year:	Moderator; First Constable; Second Constable; Collector of Delinquent Taxes; Two (2) Planning Commissioners (to fill unexpired terms)

APPOINTED POSITIONS

The vacancies for appointed positions include: Two alternates to the Addison County Regional Planning Commission, A representative and alternate to the Solid Waste District, Two alternates to the DRB, Assistant Fire Warden. Contact the town office if you have interest.

AN EARLY SPRING REMINDER:

Dog licenses due on or by April 1, 2023. A valid rabies certificate is required and will be kept on file. The fee for the license remains the same at \$9.00 for a spayed or neutered dog and \$11.00 for a dog that is not spayed or neutered. Feel free to mail in your payment and certificate and I will return the license to you. Remember, this is a state requirement and our goal is to keep the Rabies disease at bay!!

SELECTBOARD REPORT

The first part of this Cornwall Select Board update is going to be all about American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. As many of you have heard before, Cornwall has been granted \$356,319.82 in Town and County funds. To date the Select Board has spent at total \$119,894 on the following: Digitizing 40 years of Cornwall Land Records (\$32,666); Maple Broadband (\$50,000); Town Hall Video Link (Equipment and setup for remote meetings) \$6,430; Cornwall after school programs \$23,700; and two digital speed signs (x2) \$7,098. The Select Board has also received requests from various parties, or received suggestions for other ways to spend this one-time grant of federal funds, including a subsidy of costs on our needed replacement for our salt shed. A full list of those requests and ideas under consideration may be found on the Town's website. The Select Board is seeking input from Cornwall citizens about other ideas for spending the balance of unspent ARPA funds. We are always open to your suggestions, but so that we can speak about it together, the Select Board will be holding a special meeting on January 24, 2023, to hear residents' ideas. The meeting will be hybrid -- in person at the Town Hall and via Zoom (invitation/agenda/links to be posted on the Town web site) and recorded, as is our usual practice. Proposals for town ARPA spending should come to the Select Board with an estimate of costs and timeline for their completion. Suggestions for new infrastructure should also come with an estimate of maintenance costs, and, if relevant, identification of who you propose will do that work. We are required to spend our ARPA funds by fall of 2023.

We look forward to hearing from you.

The second part of this update concerns the recent winter storm, which left Cornwall without power for around 36 hours leading up to Christmas eve (in some cases longer). The following is a summary that I am writing with my Emergency Manager hat on, and I am actively seeking input from town residents who either needed help and did not get it, or who were unaware that the Town Hall was open as a warming center for roughly the first 24 hours of the event. To recap what many of you already know: a day of warm temperatures and rain on December 22, 2022, was followed by high winds and rapidly dropping temperatures. The winds blew down many trees, some into roadways and onto power lines.

A related electrical event at GMP's Salisbury substation feeding much of the town resulted in a power outage to much of Cornwall, just as temperatures were dipping into the single digits. The Cornwall Road Crew and the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department did what they could to keep the roads clear; however, for safety reasons neither workers will touch a tree that is in contact with a downed power line. I made the decision on the afternoon of December 23rd to keep the Town Hall open as a warming center. A "warming center" designation means that the Town Hall has a generator resulting in heat, light and power for that building; however, we have no cots or bedding readily available, and we keep no food supplies at the Town Hall. Sue Johnson was able to get word out via our Town email list that the Town Hall was open, and I communicated our "open" status to the state Emergency Management folks and those who run the state's "211" information service. That said, there are many Cornwall residents who are not on Sue's email list, and email communications became problematic later in the event (discussed below). Members of the Select Board and our own Sue Johnson volunteered to staff the Town Hall all night on December 23rd and several residents availed themselves of the services available there.

At roughly 10:00 pm on the night of December 23rd, we lost internet service at the Town Hall. Presumably (speculation on my part), this was the result of a loss of service by GoNetSpeed (formerly Otelco) due to the batteries in its switching stations running out of power. From this point forward, email communications between the Town and its residents was a real challenge. At around 8:00 the morning of December 24th, the generator threw a fault and quit and we closed the warming center at that point. Sue and Stu

SELECTBOARD REPORT CONTINUED

spoke to Chris from Taylor Rentals and were given instructions on how to restart the generator, but I decided to keep the warming center closed for the remainder of the day, as GMP's estimates of a return of electrical service were for 6:30 p.m. that evening. GMP restored electricity service for much of the town by 2:30 p.m. or so on Christmas eve, although I have heard from individual town residents that power was not restored until much later at certain locations.

It would be helpful to hear from town residents about their own experiences during this storm event. My sense is that we did OK, but there were aspects of our planning that could have been better. The Select Board will be discussing whether and how our emergency response as a town could be improved. We have a long tradition of neighbors looking in on one another in times like these, but it would be helpful to know if any of you have suggestions for things we could have done better given your particular circumstances. Please email me any responses to bmarkscornwall@gmail.com or to Sue Johnson at her town email address.

Ben Marks
Select Board Chair
December 30, 2022

FIRE WARDEN'S REPORT

To all the residents of Cornwall, once again it is my pleasure to reach out to you. 2022 was a safe and relatively quiet wildland fire season in Cornwall, and in fact the entire County of Addison only saw three wildland fires resulting in a total of 2.35 acres being damaged. A far cry from the previous two years that averaged 51.5 acres per year. I can only contribute this to increased awareness of the inherent dangers of outdoor burning, wind and drought conditions, and simple common sense. As of 12/25/22, 246 permits were issued within our town.

Permitted burns are always a source of questions that I field. According to the State of Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, an actual permit is NOT required for any fire three feet in diameter or less, (average campfire size), or any contained outdoor 'fire-ring' that are popular on patios. Additionally, when snow is covering the ground surrounding your burn sight, permitting is not required. However, I would strongly urge all of you to please let me know of any unpermitted allowable burns, as my awareness of your burn makes fielding phone calls easier when I'm being told of smoke conditions in the town.

Lastly, whenever a complete outdoor burn ban is enacted by me, ANY and ALL outdoor burning is prohibited until further notice and subject to fine. This only usually happens in the spring after the snowmelt has passed, and ground cover becomes exposed and very very dry. The last thing we ever want to see is an illegal burn requiring Fire Department intervention that puts us in harm's way unnecessarily.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding. And as always, I look forward to your questions, comments, and concerns. If you see something, please say something.

Yours in service.....

Thomas Frankovic, Jr. Cornwall Forest Fire Warden
Captain, Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department
802.989.4473 / 802.462.3137 / tommyfrankovic831@gmail.com

CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT

It “Pays” to Conserve Your Land.

A clear theme has emerged from the recent Conservation Commission interviews with Cornwall townspeople who have conserved their land: it pays to conserve your land. Those interviewed all mentioned financial reasons as one motivation for moving ahead with its conservation; for some people, this meant payment from the conserving agency for the conservation easement agreement, for others it meant a one-time tax reduction. However, other reasons were equally important to those who took the step to conserve—some wanted to preserve their property as a forever-wild area, while others wanted to make sure it would remain as working land. Farmers in particular wanted to make sure that they and their children and grandchildren could retain ownership of the land, without the land being sold and developed by others.

If you are considering conserving your land, there are resources on the **Conservation Commission website** (<https://cornwallvt.com/cornwall-conservation-commission/>) to help you determine whether your land will qualify. The **Land Conservation FAQ** is easily found on the first page of the website and the **Conserving Land Panel** videorecording features a land appraiser who specializes in appraising land for conservation, the executive director of a conserving agency, and a regional director of the Vermont Land Trust.

Trail Camera Project

What makes a successful camera placement? Having started this project in spring of 2020, we have noticed some things that matter. These were front and center when we recently moved one of the trail cameras about 200 feet from its original location and were happily surprised by the result. We checked a month into the new placement and found a diversity of animals, large and small, herbivores and predators, had been photographed, sometimes several times. In order of their first appearance: bear, raccoon, deer, bobcat, opossum, rabbit, and weasel.

The old placement was less than 200 feet away, but it was nearer the home and driveway. The new placement feels remote with a wet drainage area between it and the house. Invasive honeysuckle and buckthorn predominated in the old placement, whereas the new spot has a mix of native and non-native shrubs and trees. It has a “wild” feeling, quiet and unvisited by people and their dogs.



Bobcat wandering away from the camera

CONSERVATION COMMISSION CONTINUED

So, a good camera placement is a spot with native trees and shrubs, near to water, and little or no overlap with people and their pets....and, importantly, it is connected to a larger wooded area which shares these features. If you are curious about your wildlife visitors, let us know and we will try to get one of the five project cameras set up at your house before the project ends this spring. Contact mdodge@middlebury.edu

Forests Matter!

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) has launched a “Forests Matter” video series that explains how we can work together to preserve the integrity of our all-important forests. We know that forests and connections between them are needed by wildlife. And we have been hearing much lately about how pollinators need ‘pathways’ of vegetation and habitat to survive. Now conservation movements are also highlighting the need for preservation of forests and other natural landscapes to help plants weather the impacts of climate change – plants need connections to be able to ‘move’ (via their offspring) to areas of higher latitudes or elevation as the world heats up. AND, forests (and even un-mowed grasslands) can help mitigate climate change by storing significant amounts carbon and keeping it out of our atmosphere.

While the videos are intended to support planning and conservation commission efforts for protecting forest integrity, they’re really informative and interesting for anyone who wants to understand why it is important for towns like Cornwall to focus on – and how we can work together to successfully maintain, and maybe even improve, our natural landscapes. Here’s a link and QR code if you want to view the videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WuMgN-49WkI>



Submitted by Andrea Landsberg, Conservation Commission



Mary Dodge using one of the tools available at the Cornwall library for use by library patrons!

CORNWALL RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Cornwall Recreation Committee held their end of the year planning meeting on December 1, 2022. We have some exciting activities planned for the coming months.

The first was the World Cup bracket that we sent out during the month of December. We hoped that all who were following the games would enjoy having the brackets to keep track through to Messi and Argentina winning the prize.

Here are the activities and challenges we have planned for the winter through summer. We hope you will enjoy them and join us.

In January, we will kick off the year with a Hydration Challenge. Information will be sent out in your emails about this challenge.

In February, if we have snow, we will invite the community to come build Snow Sculptures on the property around the Town Hall and throughout Cornwall. We will also have X-Country trails available at the softball field on Peet Road. Let's cross our fingers and hope for some good snow for packing and skiing.

In March, we will be sending out information for a Plank Challenge. Let's work on strengthening our core muscles!

In March/April, we will plan to send out information to gear up for the Couch to 5K.

In April, we will send out the 30/30 Challenge, 30 miles in 30 days.

In May, we will be raising money at our annual Green Up Day Bake Sale. We enjoy seeing so many people stopping by for the goodies on sale. We also appreciate all who bake goodies and donate them to the Cornwall Recreation Committee. This is our major money raiser. We raise all our funds, we very much appreciate all the support you give us.

In June, we will plan Tie Dye Day once again. This has been well attended and we love bringing this activity to you. It is one of our favorites.

In the Summer, The Park and Historic Passes will be available to Cornwall residents at the Town Hall.

In August, we will send out information supporting and promoting the Addison County Field Days.

We send out information through emails. If you are not receiving these activities and challenges, please contact us. We hope that you will join us.

We are also raising money for a "Little Free Library" as a memorial to Mary Jane Broughton. When we have the money to construct the box, we will be setting it up in the triangle at the junction of Parkhill Rd and S. Bingham St. Please contact us if you would like to donate to this fund raising.

Lastly, Pickleball! We are excited at the prospects of this happening in Cornwall. This was brought to the committee's attention at the December meeting. A Pickleball Committee has been established. We will keep you in the loop on what their work brings.

Stay tuned for more fun to come in the fall!

Annie Wilson, Chair

Cornwall Recreation Committee

PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE

Make Your Voice Heard! Town Plan Public Hearing January 18, 2023

Tune in on Zoom or come in person to the Town Hall at 7:00 pm, Wednesday January 18th for the Planning Commission's public hearing on proposed updates to the Cornwall Town Plan. The Planning Commission wants to hear your thoughts and ideas about the plan that will guide Town decision-making for the next eight years. Over the past year or so, the Planning Commission has held three public information meetings to hear input about flood resilience (meeting held October 27, 2021); population, housing and forest integrity (March 23, 2022); and education, economy and plan implementation (July 27, 2022). This input has helped us shape the draft plan to reflect Cornwall's priorities.

Some of the parts of the Plan that have been updated include sections on education, housing, economy, forest integrity and natural resources, population and flood resilience. Specific implementation actions that have been revised or added include affordable housing, childcare opportunities, renewable and local energy, home-based businesses, land-use patterns, the working landscape, recreation opportunities and land conservation efforts. Before attending the meeting, you can take a look at the entire draft plan on the Town web site: <https://cornwallvt.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Cornwall-Town-Plan-Final-2022-CPC.docx.pdf>. Or if you are short of time, you can read a three-page memo summarizing the changes at: <https://cornwallvt.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Draft-Town-Plan-Update-Memo-db10-2-22.docx.pdf>

To join the meeting via Zoom, use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86715530273?pwd=R1NuWjVyZHJRNjdZV2RBazhkQy9SUT09> Meeting ID: 867 1553 0273 Passcode: 968361

If you don't have access to a computer, you can pick up a copy of the draft Plan at the Town Hall.

And make your voice heard throughout the year as well. Once the Planning Commission and Select Board approve the new Town Plan, we will turn our attention to implementing its goals. The Planning Commission will need help with this, whether it is in the form of input at a Planning Commission meeting, membership on a particular committee such as an Energy Committee or working on a specialized task force on an issue like affordable housing. For more information or to discuss the possibilities, contact Conor Stinson at stinsoncpc@gmail.com.

CORNWALL FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

THANKS FROM THE LIBRARY

The Trustees of the Cornwall Free Public Library thank all of you who supported our 2022 Book Sale. It was a great success thanks to everyone who donated books, shoppers and volunteers who helped with setup, sale and take down. AND we are pleased to acknowledge a grant of \$1000 that was received from the *Holmes Advised Fund at the Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes, Inc.* Thank you for your continued support of the Cornwall Free Public Library. Our thanks also go to Becky Dayton and the Vermont Book Shop who continue to help us build our library collection with donating books, as well as giving us a discount on the books purchased for the library.

OPENING SATURDAYS FROM 10 AM—NOON

The library will be open on Saturdays from 10 AM—Noon starting January 28 and continuing through April.

WANTED

The library always welcomes donations of books, audio books and DVDs, new or used. (NO magazines, textbooks, or encyclopedias.) These items will be entered into the collection or sold as part of our annual library book sale. **PLEASE - no musty, smelly, damaged, mildewy or broken/warped, or water-damaged books. Recycle them instead of passing them on to us.** THANK YOU!

COME AND CHECK OUT THE LIBRARY

Winter is one of the best seasons to settle back and read especially when it's dark, cold and snowy out there. Snuggle up with a cup of coffee, tea or hot chocolate and let your book "take you away". Come in and look over the new fiction and nonfiction books, classics, large print books, children and young adult books, audio books and DVDS.

Check out a sampling of some of our new materials.

FICTION

The Winners – Fredrik Backman, **The Light Pirate** – Lily Brooks-Dalton, **Demon Copperhead** - Barbara Kingsolver, **Babel** – R. F. Kuang, **Stella Maris** – Cormac McCarthy, **Dinosaurs** – Lydia Millet, **Our Missing Hearts** – Celeste Ng, **The Marriage Portrait** – Maggie O'Farrell, **Mad Money** – Jodi Picoult, **Carrie Soto Is Dead** – Taylor Jenkins Reid, **Lucy by the Sea** – Elizabeth Strout, **Now Is Not the Time to Panic** – Kevin Wilson

MYSTERY/THRILLER

No Plan B – Lee Child, **Desert Star** – Michael Connelly, **Boys from Biloxi** – John Grisham, **The Twist of a Knife** – Anthony Horowitz, **Fairy Tale** – Stephen King, **Fox Creek** – William Kent Kruger, **Fall Guy** – Archer Mayor, **Triple Cross** – James Patterson, **A World of Curiosities** – Louise Penny, **The Bullet That Missed** – Richard Osman

LARGE PRINT

The Homewreckers – Mary Kay Andrews, **The Magnolia Place** – Fiona Davis, **Dreamland** – Nicholas Sparks

LIBRARY CONTINUED.....

NONFICTION

Life on the Mississippi – Rinker Buck, **Also A Poet** – Ada Calhoun, **Finding Me** – Viola Davis, **Path Lit by Lightning** – David Maraniss, **I'm Glad My Mom Died** – Jennette McCurdy, **And There Was Light** – Jon Meacham, **The Light We Carry** – Michelle Obama, **Solito** - Javier Zamora

YOUNG ADULT

Lightlark – Alex Aster, **The Inheritance Games** – Jennifer Lynn Barnes

CHILDREN

Amari and the Great Game – B. B. Alston, **Odder** – Katherine Applegate, **A Bear, A Bee, and A Honey Tree** – Daniel Bernstrom, **Farmhouse** – Sophie Blackall, **Flight of the Puffin** – Ann Braden, **The Midnight Children** – Dan Gemeinhart, **Spy School: Project X** – Stuart Gibbs, **The Sour Grape** – Jory Jon, **Collaborations (Cat Kid Comic Club)** – Dav Pilkey, **The Tryout** – Christina Soontornvat, **The Sun is Late and So is the Farmer** – Philip C. Stead

AUDIOBOOKS

On Mystic Lake – Kristen Hannah, **Have I Told You This Already** – Lauren Graham. **The Bullet That Missed** – Richard Osman

DVDs

Top Gun: Maverick, **Where the Crawdads Sing**

For Winter by Gary Margolis

Let's let the hay lie in windrows,
let Danny Rowe decide whether
to rake or chop it. Or let
the wind turn it over. So later
he can rake it, let the wind

make its meaning of it.
Today drive his baler
back over the puffed, dried
rows. Wind-blown. Billowing
almost. So the mouth

of the baler can eat it, ball it
is another way of saying it,
in a round-about way.
Not square or rectangular.
Frost might say giant enough

for Giants to play with.
These grass boulders.
It doesn't take much wind
to get rolling, Matt the field
back into a blanket.

For winter. For Danny's
tractor to plow into
the snow to uncover
the bales, these ghosts,
wrapped in their plastic jackets.

Maple Broadband Service is Launching!

What's the latest with Maple Broadband?

As you may already know, Maple Broadband is building a fiber optic network that will provide reliable high-speed internet to Cornwall residents. And you have may have seen work crews out stringing cable this fall on and around Route 125, Route 30, Route 74, Morse Road, Cider Mill Road, and James Road – our initial build area in town.

As a result, we are delighted to announce that the first phase of the network is now complete! We will be testing it in early January with a few soft launch customers, to assure that everything is working properly, and then launch our service in that area around the end of January.

Our next phase of construction in Cornwall will start in early spring and includes Sperry Road, Ledge Lane, Robbins Road, Route 30 as far south as Clark Road, Clark Road, Route 74, Audet Road, and a portion of South Bingham Street. Other areas are planned for later in the year.

Currently, Maple Broadband's network is paid for exclusively through grant funds. These funds require that we prioritize building to addresses considered underserved, and requires us to avoid building areas where another provider has indicated addresses are already served with speeds of 25Mbps down/3 Mbps up or greater. As a result, there are certain sections of Cornwall that we are not able to build until a later time.

Want to Learn More?

Visit get.maplebroadband.net

Enter your address

Fill out the questionnaire to register your interest in service

We will contact you when service is available at your address

If your home or business is in one of our Cornwall build areas, you'll receive more information as we progress through the project.

If you want to check if your address is in one of the areas we are not currently able to build, please put this question in the comments section and we will get back to you.

Visit our web site, maplebroadband.net, to find out more information or sign up for our newsletter.



Construction crew installing the first network hub on a very chilly day!

About Maple Broadband

Maple Broadband is a Communications Union District (CUD) based in Addison County. Maple Broadband's mission is to enhance the economic, educational, and medical well-being of the communities it serves by providing a reliable and affordable high-speed fiber internet network, supported by premium-grade customer service, to the households and businesses in its member towns. CUDs are non-profit, municipal entities formed with the single goal of delivering high-speed fiber broadband service to every unserved and underserved address in their member towns. CUDs cannot tax their member towns or the residents of those towns. A CUD must fund its operations by grants, debt, and donations.

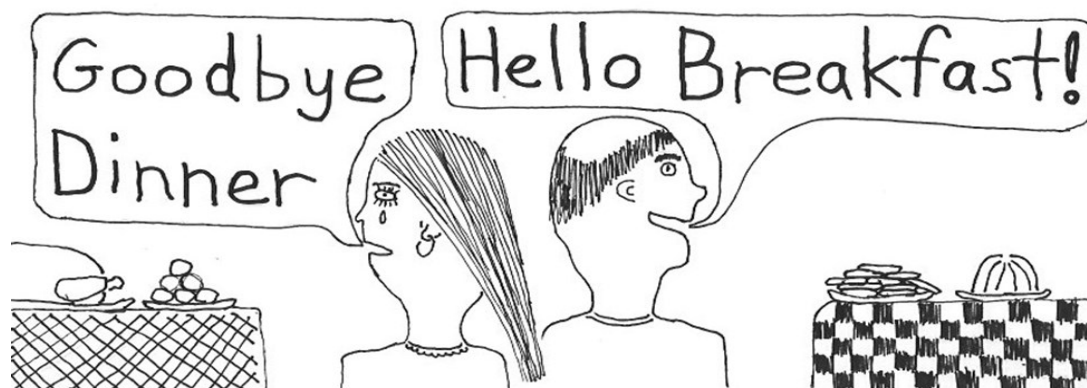
EXCITING NEWS FROM THE DAR'S ETHAN AND MARY BAKER ALLEN CHAPTER HOUSE!!

The local Ethan and Mary Baker Allen Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is working to revitalize the Chapter and secure the building for utilization long into the future. This beautiful building sits at the heart of the Cornwall community and our goal is to create a space to hold community gatherings for art or education while honoring the historic treasures donated over the years by nearby families.

An engineering assessment of the building was completed in September that did not reveal any serious defects. Yes, we had to fix a leaky slate roof and there are several areas we plan to tackle over the next couple of years with the help of grant funding.

Membership in the Ethan and Mary Baker Allen Chapter had dwindled over the years. The State DAR organization sounded the alarm and recruited DAR members from other Chapters to put their energies into the Cornwall Chapter and Samson Building. These transfers came from Essex, Poultney, Sudbury, Addison, Panton, Vergennes, etc. A critical necessity for our success is recruiting new members. The mission of DAR is promoting historic preservation, education, patriotism and honoring veterans. Please consider joining us, the possibilities and rewards are endless! Contact: Barbara Foote-Hennessy, bfoote-hennessy@hotmail.com, Vice Regent; Cynthia Stacey, cstaceyvtdar@gmail.com, Registrar; or Nancy Morgan, nmorgan@gmavt.net, Regent.

You will see lots of work being done next summer that will include an open house and fund raising events. Stop by and say hello! Wish us luck and watch for further information!



As the Cornwall electorate has chosen to move Town Meeting from Monday evenings to Saturday mornings, so shall the FOCS fundraiser meal.

The first Town Meeting Breakfast will be served on Saturday, March 4th 8:30-9:45am, with Town Meeting following at 10am.

It is the hope of FOCS that we can offer this meal in person as we did pre-pandemic. In the event that this will not be possible, we plan to offer a to-go option like we did two years ago. Menu and more details will follow in the meeting warning.

Town of Cornwall
2629 Route 30
Cornwall, VT 05753

DISCLAIMER

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



Students from Cornwall Elementary Doing Community Service!