

Selectboard .....	2
Recreation Committee.....	2
FOCS Report.....	3
Conservation Commission .....	4-5
Cornwall EAB Update.....	6
Poems by Gary Margolis .....	7
Library News.....	8-9
Road Foreman's Report.....	10-11
Chicken BBQ Photos.....	11
Green Up Day.....	12

## TOWN CLERK—TREASURER UPDATES!

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

- **RETIREMENT:** As of this writing, I am well into my last year as your Town Clerk-Treasurer. I will continue in my elected role until Town Meeting 2024. At that time, Carolyn Anderson will have been appointed and will take over the duties of Town Clerk-Treasurer as of March 8, 2024. I have let Carolyn know that I would be pleased to continue as the Assistant Clerk-Treasurer. I appreciate all the kind words that have been shared with me during these final months of my tenure here. Have a wonderful summer.
- **PROPERTY TAXES:** The process is underway to create the 2023 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 \$1.6427 as compared to \$1.6751 last year. The Non-Homestead rate this year is \$1.6237 as compared to \$1.6285 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:** I will be taking a few days here and there during the summer months. The office may be closed or Carolyn will be covering. I will send out notices along the way.  
I want to give advance notice that I will be out of the office for the month of October 2023. Our family will be traveling to Seattle and going on a cruise to see parts of Alaska during that month. Carolyn will cover for me during that time. We will put together a schedule for October and get it out to you all well in advance.
- **DOGS:** You can be looking for a letter in the next few weeks if your dog still needs to be registered. It will be a reminder letting you know the dog(s) are not registered and whether or not I need an updated rabies certificate. Dog registration is a state law, not a town request. I appreciate your cooperation.

# RECREATION COMMITTEE NEWS!

Happy Summer!

We hope you are dodging the raindrops and able to get activity into your lives. It's been a busy few months for the Cornwall Recreation Committee. We hope you have been able to enjoy the activities/events and ideas we posted out to the community.

In March we hope you enjoyed the 30 Day Plank Challenge and that your core is strong and ready for the summer ahead. April followed with the 30/30 Challenge. 30 miles in 30 days, lots of tread worn off those sneakers we hope! Ready to walk, jog, run a 5K?

May brought spring and the annual Bake Sale on Green Up Day. Thank you to all who contributed baked goods for this fundraiser. Thank you to all who stopped by and bought some of the delicious yummys.

With Summer coming in, so did the rain and sadly our annual Tie Dye Day was forced to cancel. We are looking forward to next year already with some added surprises that we are hoping you will love.

Don't forget that the State Park and Historic Site Passes are available at the Town Hall. A great way to spend the day, at one of the Vermont Parks or exploring the rich history of Cornwall and our state. Coming up in August is the Addison County Field Days. Check out their website for all the great activities happening at Field Days this year.

Also in August is the Cornwall Recreation Committee Meeting to plan out what fall events and activities we will offer to the community. That meeting will be on Thursday, Aug. 3rd at 7pm at the Town Hall. All are welcome to attend.

We have not forgotten Bone Builders. We are waiting for the next class to train instructors and then we will offer that to you here in Cornwall at the Town Hall. We will keep you notified as to when that will happen. For right now you can participate at the Bone Builders being held at Middlebury Recreation Center Complex on Tuesday and Thursday at 1:15 pm., Whiting Community Church on Monday and Thursday at 9:00 am., and at the East Middlebury Community House on Tuesday and Thursday at 9:00 am.

If you are not on the email list for the latest updates on Cornwall Recreation, contact Sue Johnson to be added to the list!

Happy Summering!

The Cornwall Recreation Committee

## **CONCERT FOR FLUTE AND ORGAN**

***Sunday, July 23 @ 2pm***

*Ellen Hinkle, flutist from Boston, and Charles Callahan, resident organist and composer, will present a Free concert at the Cornwall Church. Donations gratefully accepted for the Cornwall Concert Series.*

# **NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF CORNWALL SCHOOL!**

## **TRUNK OR TREAT 2023**

Do you remember that fun event we had for kids of all ages two days before Halloween last October? Well, we are hoping to make it happen again this year. Planning will start in the coming months. If you would like to be part of the fun this year, feel free to reach out. We will obviously be seeking decorated trunks. Other activities/ideas are welcome too. We would even welcome more planning and preparation help.

We would also like to take this opportunity to again reach out to attendees of last year's event and ask what worked, what didn't and what you would have liked to have seen that we didn't have. Did the day and time of 1—3:30 PM work (originally planned to be 3—5:30) or would you have preferred another time?

All related communication can be addressed to Ian Ross at:

[addison.department.store@gmail.com](mailto:addison.department.store@gmail.com)

Thank you!

## **CORNWALL CEMETERY COMMISSION UPDATES**

Thank you to the thirteen volunteers who turned out on May 13<sup>th</sup> to clean the gravestones in West Cemetery. West is along RT 74 just west of its junction with North and South Bingham. And thank you to Matthew Severy for delivering a tank of water for us to use in the cleaning. The process was straightforward – scrub off most of the lichen with a soft brush, spray the stone with D2 cleaner, then rinse. Names and dates and inscriptions that were obscured by time reappeared. The Cemetery Commission is working towards having a digital record of the locations of stones for each of our cemeteries and burying grounds; Marge Drexler has kindly agreed to do the work for West. More cleaning remains to be done and the Commission will hold another workday on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. All hands are welcome, no experience necessary.

Andrew and Ed Peet have taken on recording the locations of headstones in the Central Cemetery, next to the Congregational Church. Since that huge cemetery has more than 600 markers, we're sure they'd welcome anyone willing to help them with the project.

Later this summer, the Commission plans to have the broken stones in the South Cemetery repaired by professionals. And in October, a soldier of the American Revolution will have a memorial marker placed next to his wife's stone in South.

# SELECTBOARD NEWS!

Summer greetings from your new Selectboard Chair! I want to start by thanking Ben Marks for his 8 years of service as Chair and for staying on as Vice-chair to share his expertise and help me learn the ropes. This summer, several important Town updates that have long been in the works are coming to fruition:

**New Salt Shed:** As I write, a much-needed overhaul to the Town's salt and sand storage facility is in progress! Cornwall business, S&J Stearns, Inc. won the bid to do the site preparation. The old structure has been removed and construction of the new building is imminent! Our road crew is looking forward to a safe efficient new facility as we head into the next winter season.

**Solar installation on Town Hall:** When you drive past the Town Hall from the South, you will see the roof is newly covered with solar panels. This solar array (including a set of panels on the roof of the addition at the back of the building) will offset the vast majority of the Town Hall and Town Garage's electric consumption with no upfront cost to the town. We are thrilled to start powering the Town with renewable energy!

**Updated Town Plan:** This spring, the Planning Commission presented the Selectboard with an updated Town Plan. The previous plan was adopted 10 years ago. In addition to updating the data describing our town based on the most recent US Census, the new plan addresses flood resiliency and forest integrity as required by the State of Vermont. Representatives of the Selectboard, the Planning Commission, and the Conservation Commission held a special meeting to discuss the changes and we hosted a public meeting soliciting comments before voting to approve the updated Plan. The Town Plan is a living document (including lots of cool maps) that incorporates the efforts and aspirations of a dedicated group of your neighbors – please check it out on the Town Website!

It is exciting to see the cooperation and hard work of so many Cornwallians coming together in these projects that will serve our Town for many years to come.

Yours, Tanya Byker (Selectboard Chair)







The new sand and salt structure is well under way at the highway complex. Planned completion is September 1.







## CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT

### **Check out tools to remove invasive weeds from the Cornwall Library!**

Featuring the Parsnip Predator shovel, the Uprooter, the Weed Wrench and two sizes of Extractigators, the Cornwall Library now has these powerful hand tools to remove nasty invasive plants like poisonous parsnip and buckthorn and you can borrow them free. Stop into the library, check out one for a week and see what a difference an expert tool can make in your fight against invasive plants.



The Extractigator Junior (in photo) weighs in at 9+ lbs. and removes saplings and small trees up to 1" diameter.

### **Nature's Own Fireworks--Fireflies, July 1<sup>st</sup> with Greg Pask.**

Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup> was the scheduled date for learning about how and why fireflies put on a light show during summer evenings. Greg Pask, an entomologist at Middlebury College, explained how insects use their sense of smell to find food, communicate with others and find mates.

### **Reading the Landscape Walk with Alicia Daniels.**

Come and learn about the 'layer cake' approach to understanding the natural communities of Cornwall with the founder of the Vermont Master Naturalist (VMN) program. Alicia will help us understand how the glacial past reveals itself in the lay of the land, the soils, the vegetation, and other life forms that are here with us today. We will experience a varied landscape of woodlands and grasslands in several stages of transition from past agricultural use, similar to many areas in Cornwall. Alicia is an enthusiastic sharer of knowledge and a walk with her is a great treat! And, yes, the Cornwall Conservation Commission will be providing a tasty slice of a layer cake to all attendees! **Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> 1PM – 3PM. 517 Snake Mountain Rd, Cornwall.**

To learn more about the VMN approach, you can read Alicia's chapter in *Our Better Nature: Hopeful Excursions in Saving Biodiversity*. The Conservation Commission has donated two copies of the book to the Cornwall Library. The book, written by Vermont conservationists and educators, is about efforts by Vermonters to protect and restore biodiversity. It includes **Stories** of creative citizens whose successes with restoring nature can be applied anywhere; **Essays** by regional experts who help us understand the power of resilient ecosystems; and **Resources** for guiding action to protect biodiversity.



## CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT CONTINUED

### **Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Information Table at Green-Up Day Dropoff.**

CCC member Andrea Landsberg had a table full of information about the threat of the Emerald Ash Borer to ash trees. Adult emerald ash borers have already emerged this year—they are metallic in color, are bullet-shaped about  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long and have purple/red metallic abdomen parts under their wing covers. They attack all species of elm trees, and have the potential to kill all the non-inoculated ash trees in Vermont. In Cornwall, Sue and Stu Johnson did an inventory of all elm trees along town properties and public right-of-ways within the past six months so that the Town has a better sense of the potential future damage EAB might cause. An excellent resource for people wanting more information is at the Vermont Invasives web page: <https://vtinvasives.org/land/emerald-ash-borer-vermont>

### **Swamp Road parking lot cleanup successful.**

For the second year, the Conservation Commission organized a Green-Up Day cleanup of the Swamp Road parking lot. Fortunately, the parking lot benefited from last year's mega-cleanup, so that the seven volunteers made short work of the various tires, trash and debris and were also able to clean up about a half-mile total of Swamp Road.



# LEMON FAIR INSECT CONTROL DISTRICT REPORT

## Summer Salutations!!

**Field Conditions.** The mosquito season started with a lengthy period of dry weather. However, recent rains have increased the woodland mosquito population. Floodplain mosquitoes are still relatively scarce. We have trapped 3,500+ mosquitoes between the last week in May and the end of June compared to 22,881 mosquitoes trapped for the same period in 2022.

Early season light traps results have primarily been *Oc. excrucians*, “snowmelt mosquitoes”. These are the first mosquitoes of the season and are typically univoltine, meaning females require one blood meal to lay one batch of eggs, then die. Many of these mosquitoes come from upland forests and field habitats away from the floodplain and swamp. More recently *Cq. perturbans*, the “Cattail Mosquito” is increasingly common in light traps. This is a difficult mosquito larva to track down since they live underneath wetland plants and cannot be collected in a traditional “dipper cup.”

In Weybridge, we treated large concentrations of larvae in puddles on the Lemon Fair River floodplain. The treatment was 100% successful on two levels. One, the product was effective in knocking down the larvae. Two, we had help from Mother Nature. The puddles dried up and any surviving larvae died as a result.

In Cornwall, we have distributed 170 “Sustained Release 45 Day Microbial Briquettes” (Bti\*) over 3.5 acres of the Cornwall Swamp in anticipation of increased water and mosquito larva. The advantage of treating prophylactically is, that when the swamp becomes wet with standing water again, the briquettes will release *Bti* immediately. This approach allows us to treat areas like tree crypts where *Cs. melanura* (potential EEE mosquito vector) depends on these unique habitats.

**LFICD Interns.** The LFICD has hired two Summer Interns. Audrey Maxwell from Middlebury College and Ramsey Anis from UVM. Both interns just finished their sophomore years. They bring with them a wealth of data entry skills which they put to use recording field work results. They participated in the Weybridge and Cornwall mosquito abatement.

**LFICD Open House.** Please stop by the Lab/Office on July 22 from 9:00 AM to 2:00PM, for an update on the 2023 mosquito season. You can also meet Audrey and Ramsey. We will have microscopes set up, posters of research conducted by past interns, and this year “Story Telling” about the significance of mosquitoes and how they’ve shaped the Civil War and tales of the Gallinipper. The Vermont Agency of Agriculture will also be showcasing their new Tire Sidewall Cutter. Farmers, come check this out and learn how you can reduce mosquito habitat by modifying your tire piles.

**LFICD Board.** We are very pleased to have Bob Cluss join the LFICD board as a Cornwall representative. Bob is a professor of biochemistry at Middlebury College. Bob is replacing Wendy Lynch. We are very appreciative of Wendy’s contributions, and we wish her well. We are still looking for new board members for Bridport, Cornwall and Weybridge. David Dodge will be resigning from the LFICD board in October after 11 years as board chair.

**Contact:** LFICD Mosquito Hotline: 802-349-5407, Email [info@lficd.org](mailto:info@lficd.org), Website [www.lficd.org](http://www.lficd.org)

\**Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *israelensis* (Bti) bacteria is found in soil. Bti is used as a larvicide to kill larvae before they can grow into adults that can bite people. Bti has been used for mosquito control for more than 30 years.

## FROM OUR TOWN POET, GARY MARGOLIS

### Yellow Moth

Little heartbeat  
flitting clover  
to clover.  
Erratic moonbeam.  
No one tells you  
I wanted to paint  
in the style  
of Monet.  
Have a steady, sketching  
hand. Brush-stroking  
dragonflies  
on lily pads. And  
lifting off  
again. Taking  
what they can  
from flowers  
opening flowers.  
Oh, their immaculate  
tongues. their see-through  
wings! Their soft  
landings. Like their cousins,  
the light bulb,

candle-clover-seeking  
moths.

My mind's yellow  
pulses. Even water-  
colors spreading  
on washed paper.  
Out to where the paper  
ends.

Oh, endless  
border. My mind's

### *If I Told You the Mountain Ash is Blossoming*

For Robert Pack (1929-  
2023)

You wouldn't be surprised if  
I told you the mountain ash  
is blossoming its berries outside  
your window.

The birches, below, stripping  
themselves of a notebook of  
paper. For the fox to write on  
what she can.

The fox you found with the  
missing leg. And brought into  
your house, to heal. Become as  
wild as it could again.

Although, if it was up to you,  
you would have kept it under  
your wing. Long enough to get  
used to listening to music with  
you. Most likely Mozart. His  
Don Giovanni. Earlier in your  
life, you asked your surgeon to  
play on his speaker. So, opening  
your eyes, you couldn't tell if you  
were in heaven or back here with  
us. With more trees to plant.  
Stones to move. Scores to read  
in the sports pages. As if they  
were another form of poetry.  
Those numbers of wins and losses.  
A few ties, counting for something.  
We need those, too, you  
said. Like rests between notes.  
Shovels and rakes. For the long  
run. Enough time to see which  
words need to be revised. Kept  
and erased. Even if some words  
can't be taken back. And the fox  
appears at your door. With her  
limp. A phrase, pianissimo, that  
could be sung together.

# CORNWALL FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

We hope you are all enjoying summer. We know there are many activities to enjoy outside but we hope you are still making 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 both 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. And remember – we are open on Saturdays from 10:00 – 12:00.

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](mailto: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 site – [cornwallvt.com](http://cornwallvt.com). You can find them by using the Our Town down box on the Cornwall Town 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 see **the new materials or check the list online. Here are some of the new additions.**

## FICTION

**The Wind Knows My Name** – Isabel Allende, **The Postcard** – Anne Berest, **The Guest** – Emma Cline, **The Spectacular** – Fiona Davis, **Happy Place** – Emma Henry, **The Secret Book of Flora Lee** – Patty Callahan Henry, **Loot** – Tana James, **Yellow Face** – R. F. Kuang, **Lady Tan's Circle of Woman** – Lisa See, **Romantic Comedy** – Curtis Sittenfeld, **The Covenant of Water** – Abraham Verghese

## MYSTERY/SUSPENSE

**The Whispers** – Ashley Audrain, **Simply Lies** – David Baldacci, **Central Park West** – James Comey, **All the Sinners Bleed** – S. A. Cosby, **Her Deadly Game** – Robert Dugoni, **A Killer Moon** – Joe Nesbo, **Cross Out** – James Patterson, **The Only One Left** – Riley Sager, **Zero Days** – Ruth Ware, **City of Dreams** – Don Winslow

## LIBRARY CONTINUED.....

### NONFICTION

**Outlive** – Peter Attia, **The Wager** – David Grann, **Rough Sleepers** – Tracy Kidder, **My Friend Anne Frank** – Hannah Pick-Koslar

### YOUNG ADULT

**Warrior Girl Unleashed** – Angeline Boully

### CHILDREN

**The Night Tent** – Landis Blair, **School Trip** – Jerry Craft, **Cape** – Kevin Johnson, **Dumbledore** – Irvin Khaytman, **The Firefly Summer** – Morgan Matson, **Once There Was** – Kiyash Monsef, **The Together Tree** – Aisha Saeed, **The Search for the Giant Artic Jellyfish** – Chloe Savage, **Big Tree** – Brian Selznick, **Grandad's Camper** – Harry Woodgate

### AUDIO

**The Wager** – David Grann, **The Wind Knows My Name** – Lisa See, **Hang the Moon** – Jeanette Wells

### DVDs

**80 for Brady**, **The Man from Toronto**, **The Quiet Girl**

## PLANNING COMMISSION NEWS

After recently completing and approving an update to the Cornwall Town Plan, the Planning Commission has assisted the Select Board as they conducted their own review, hearing, and adoption of the plan. The statutory review process includes an additional hearing convened by the Local Government Committee of the Regional Planning Commission which will take place at the monthly meeting of the Cornwall Planning Commission at 7PM on July 19.

Aside from the business of town plan updates, the Planning Commission has initiated a study of housing in Cornwall with a specific focus on issues of affordability. We have been researching and developing a basic understanding of the options available to towns. With that in mind, we'll be chatting with local experts.

The Planning Commission is also working on Village Center Designation for Cornwall. While this has been a point of interest in town for some time, recently the CORA group in Cornwall have indicated it would be helpful in their pursuit of grant funding for a recreation project in town.

The Planning Commission has two new members - Mickey Heinecken and Chet Van Dellen.

Finally, we'd like to recognize Drew Kervick for his service to the Town and the Planning Commission over the last three years, which comes to a close this summer. Drew's contribution to the Town Plan amendment process and the work of the Commission has been invaluable. Thanks, Drew!



# **ETHAN AND MARY BAKER ALLEN**

## **DAR CHAPTER**

Our Open House in May was a huge success! So many people visited the Chapter House both to see our beautiful building and the new Ann Story information board provided by the Friends of Ann Story. The board has been installed by the Friends at the site where Ann Story hid her family in a cave during the Revolutionary War. The information board is clearly visible from the water. The site is located on Otter Creek about 1 mile north of the Swamp Rd access/bridge. Location can be found on Google maps. Ann Story was a very brave lady under difficult circumstances and aided the Green Mountain Boys. Did you know there is an Ann Story statue in Rutland? Her story needs to be honored and remembered.

The Chapter will be cataloging the books in our library this summer. We are looking forward to working with the Cornwall Historical Society and local librarians on this project. Many books were published in the 1800's and were part of the Lane Library collection when for seventeen years, until 1875, the town library was in the home of Mr. Gilbert Cook Lane. Some books are really in poor condition, but who knows what treasures await us!

October 4, 2023: There will be a ceremony in the South Cemetery to place a Veteran Administration memorial stone for Silas Stone next to his wife Elizabeth. Silas served in the Revolutionary War with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment and fought at the battle of Hubbardton as well as both battles of Saratoga. This has been arranged by Silas' fifth great grandson, Steve Lord. The Chapter House will be holding a reception following the ceremony at South Cemetery.

The local Scout troop took on the project of cleaning and painting our flag pole. Soon you will be seeing the flag proudly displayed at the front of our lot thanks to the troop's hard work. The Chapter wishes to extend their grateful appreciation to Al Thalen and his Scouts.

If you like history and genealogy and think you may be descended from a Revolutionary War Patriot, please consider joining our EMBA Chapter. Contact our Chapter Registrar, Cynthia Stacey if you need help with ancestor research- email: [cstaceyvtdar@gmail.com](mailto:cstaceyvtdar@gmail.com) or visit [www.dar.org/membership](http://www.dar.org/membership).

June 30, 2023

Nancy Morgan, Regent, Ethan and Mary Baker Allen Chapter

### **Historic Family Bible Research Begins at DAR Samson Memorial Cornwall Vermont**

In 1915 the Samson Memorial Chapter House was dedicated to serve the community as a library, local museum, and meeting house. This year maps, samplers, books, and other artifacts are being identified, cataloged, and digitalized for safe keeping. It is a pleasure to announce that three local family bibles are presently being documented and entered into historic records. Cornwall is the only location in Vermont where 3 family bibles have been located. It is important to emphasize that family bibles contain valuable records of births, marriages, deaths, and often include records of family and community life. Our thanks go to Sherry Marcoux, the DAR's new 2023 state genealogist/registrar and Nancy Morgan, Ethan and Mary Baker Allen Regent, for spear heading this important work. The DAR looks forward to having a presentation on the research project soon.

# CORNWALL FIRE DEPARTMENT HOLDS CHICKEN BARBEQUE

## SAVE THE DATES!

CORNWALL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT Open House, September 17, 10 - 1. An all-ages event to learn about the department, meet members, see the trucks, try some firefighting activities and watch the rescue helicopter land and take off (weather permitting). Donuts and cider provided.

CORNWALL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT Alumni and Member Reunion, October 22, 2 - 5 PM at the home of Chief David Berno. An afternoon of connections, conversations and memories. Members, new and old are invited to share food, drinks and watch the trucks and members in action. Anybody with any connection to the department is welcome.



Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department's Annual Chicken Bar-B-Que!





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.



RECREATION COMMITTEE GREEN UP DAY BAKE SALE!!!!