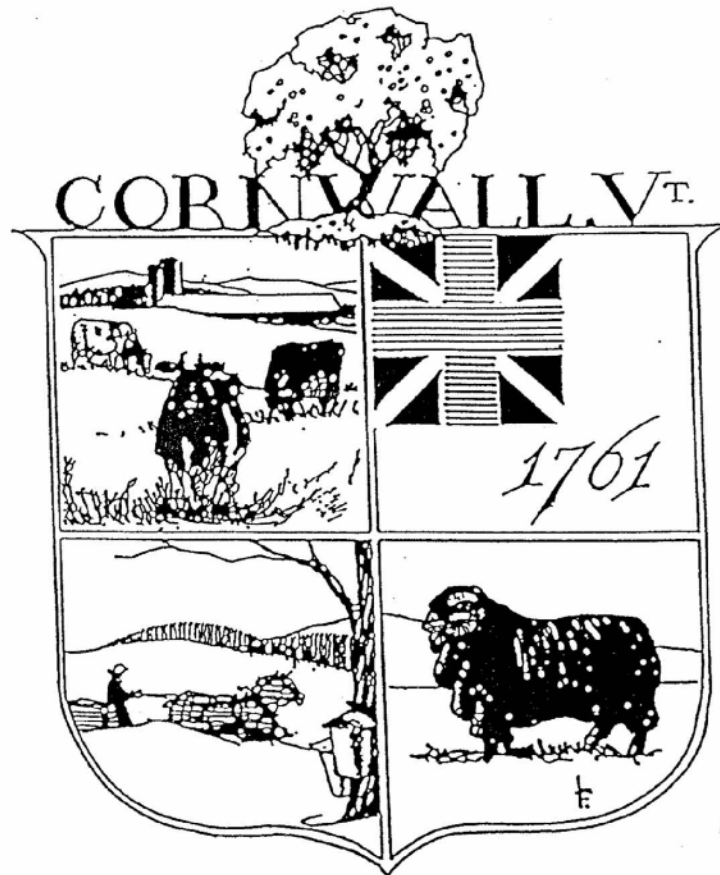


ONE HUNDRED FORTY-SIXTH  
ANNUAL REPORT  
TOWN OF  
**CORNWALL, VERMONT**



**For Year Ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

*Town Reports will be available at the Town Clerk's Office, Cornwall School and  
the Cornwall Town Garage*

*Town Reports will also be available at Town Meeting, Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024*



# Annual Report

# Town of Cornwall

## **Same Day Voter Registration**

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, the Same Day Voter Registration Law went into effect in Vermont. You may now register to vote at the polls on Town Meeting Day.

## **Absentee Ballot Voting**

**Request a ballot by 5:00 PM, Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

**Return your ballot by 7:00 PM, Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

## **Pre-Town Meeting Breakfast**

**Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 from 8:30 – 9:45 AM**

At the Cornwall School

## **Town Meeting**

**Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 at 10:00 AM**

At the Cornwall School

## **Election Day**

**Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the Cornwall Town Hall**

Polls open from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Absentee Ballots Due at Town Hall by 7:00 PM, March 5<sup>th</sup>

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**TOWN MEETING 2025:** March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, 10:00 AM

**VOTING 2025:** March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM

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*If you need a ride to the Town Meeting, please call Sue Johnson at 802-462-2775*

# Town Meeting Breakfast

*March 2, 2024 8:30-9:45am at the  
Bingham Memorial School*

**Town Meeting follows at 10am**

## Menu

Frittatas	Home Fries
Pancakes	Sausage
Fruit Salad	Oatmeal Bar

Assorted Drinks and Pastries will be served during the meal and meeting.



For the second year, the **Friends of Cornwall School (FOCS)** is offering a **Town Meeting Breakfast** fundraiser prior to Town Meeting. The profits from this meal help us to support the children and staff of Cornwall School with several in school events each year and a growing number of after school activities. This also provides a chance for the whole community to see what the school's occupants have been up to this year while catching up with neighbors and friends over a delicious meal.

**Price: \$10/adult \$5/child To-go meals available.**



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## Auditors' Report

The Town's elected Auditors assure accountability for town financial interests, and review financial statements, the Selectboard's role in financial oversight, the accounting infrastructure, and how committees and officials manage their responsibilities. Findings are reported and published prior to Town Meeting Day and discussed at Town Meeting.

The annual "Town Report Newsletter" includes statute-required Town Meeting Warning, Sample Ballots, Budgets, and Town Officials' Reports, and is mailed to all registered voters. The full Town Report, compiled by the Town Clerk/Treasurer and the Auditors, is available at the Town Hall, Garage, and School. It is also available online at [www.cornwallvt.com](http://www.cornwallvt.com), and can be mailed upon request.

This year marks a significant change in the life of our Town: Sue Johnson is retiring from her position of combined Town Clerk and Town Treasurer. The Selectboard has appointed Laura Fetterolf to the position of Town Clerk, and appointed Nicholas Gill to the position of Town Treasurer. This represents a change in Town Hall duties and precipitates changes in Town operating procedures, which are currently being developed by the appointees and Sue, with oversight from the Selectboard.

The second change is related to professional auditing for the Town's books. In years past, the Town has contracted an external audit firm to audit Town accounts on a three-year rotation. Unfortunately, that audit firm has significantly increased their rates, and will no longer conduct *periodic* full audits. As a result, the full audits planned to span the transition between Sue and our new Treasurer have not been performed. The Local Auditors, and the Selectboard are working to identify options that will provide the Town, as well as Sue and Nicholas, reassurance that the Town's books are in good order before and after the transition.

The Town's elected Auditors use the Vermont League of Cities and Town's "Financial Internal Controls Checklist" to provide structured oversight of the Town's procedures and policies regarding security and records management. In light of the 2024 transition, the Checklist was reviewed with Sue in 2023, and will be repeated in 2024 and 2025. This tool serves as an opportunity for the Auditors, Clerk, and Treasurer to discuss changes to policies and resources, and to identify areas for improvement.

Another change for the Board of Auditors is the resignation of Shawn Fetterolf, after 21 years of service on the Board. Vermont Statute prohibits a Local Auditor to serve as, or be married to, a serving Town Clerk or Treasurer. With the appointment of his spouse, Laura Fetterolf, as Town Clerk, we have regrettably accepted Shawn's resignation from the Board, effective March 6, 2024. Shawn's insight and presence will be deeply missed by the Board of Auditors, and we thank Shawn for such commitment to our Town.

And to Sue... we once again, extend our appreciation for her 21 years of diligence and good humor, and we wish her the very best of retirements. We welcome Laura and Nicholas and look forward to working with both in the coming years to ensure continuity and compliance for the Town of Cornwall.

Town Auditors—

Shawn Fetterolf, Chair; Kate Gieges, Secretary; Ian Gill

## In Memoriam

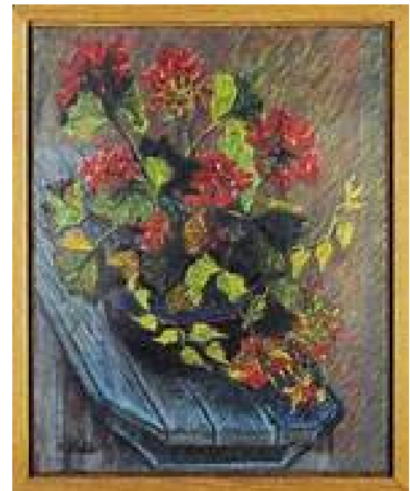


Doug Fenn was a dedicated Fire Department member, both in Cornwall and East Middlebury. Douglas Coursey Fenn was born in Middlebury in 1942 and passed on December 30, 2023. He served as a rifleman in the Vermont National Guard, and worked at Hendy Brothers. He had a passion for flying and obtained his pilot's license, enjoyed working on tractors and equipment, and riding his Harley motorcycle.

His leadership as Chief with the Cornwall Fire Department, and his contributions to the community will be missed.

## Celebrating Centenarian Cornwallians

In 2023, long-time resident Klara Calitri turned 101 years old. Klara and her husband, Junius (1917–2012), moved to Cornwall in the 1980s with their three children. Klara Feiner was born in Austria in 1922 and came to New York at the age of 17. A year later, she met Junius Calitri, and in 1943 they were married. Klara came to the US speaking limited English but ultimately graduated with Doctorate Degree and went on to teach European languages in high schools. When they “retired” to Vermont, she returned to her early passion for art, particularly painting and ceramics. Klara continues living in her family home, with her children checking in on her.



Our previous Centenarian was Francis Boardman, 1911-2013.

## Town Report Dedication

### Susan Ann Johnson

In 2001, the Town upgraded its Treasurer's software from DOS-based "One-Write" to the latest and greatest Windows operating system. That was Sue Johnson's first year as Cornwall Town Treasurer. In August of 2003, Joan Payne retired, and Sue was appointed as Town Clerk to fill the vacancy. Sue would serve as Cornwall Town Clerk/Treasurer for the next twenty years.

Sue's, and her family's, involvement with the town extends far beyond her positions at Town office. She and Stu were members of the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department and First Response in the 80's. Both have served on numerous committees, from Emergency Management to the Capital Budget Committee, as well as their individual participation in various Town activities and meetings.

The Clerk's office walls, and the Town Reports, display a chronology from her children's school art to photos of their marriages and of her grandchildren – and of course, her dogs. Sue and Stu *lived* and served Cornwall 24-hours a day in their respective roles with the Town. Except when a family emergency or celebration took them away... but she was always sure to notify us, via her Cornwall Connection email list, of her upcoming plans, and even doctor appointments.

Sue's commitment to the residents – and visitors, researchers, historians, and lost travelers – have made us a community. From Strawberry to Blueberry Festivals, from D.O.T. Matrix printers to multi-media Zoom meetings, Sue has brought people *together*. And throughout the Town Hall renovation, she did so from "the Tin Can" service trailer in the parking lot.

Every town official who serves for so many years sees such changes in a town. The Auditors are honored to have worked with Sue over these years, and to have been a part of the process that keeps the Town running. What a blessing it has been to the Town of Cornwall to have had Sue at its forefront for the last two decades. Our appreciation extends beyond words.

Thank you, Sue, and *enjoy* your retirement!

## Town Meeting Warning

The legal voters of the Town of Cornwall are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Anna Stowell Sunderland Bingham Memorial School on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 at 10:00 AM to transact the following business.

ARTICLE 1: To elect all town officials as required by law. Voting for officials will be by Australian ballot. Polls will be open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM on Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at the Cornwall Town Hall. Officials to be elected are:

**5 years:** Cemetery Commissioner

**3 years:** Selectboard; Lister; Auditor; Trustee of Public Funds; Two (2) Planning Commissioners; Cemetery Commissioner (to fill an unexpired term)

**2 years:** Selectboard; Three (3) Library Trustees; Planning Commissioner (to fill an unexpired term); Trustee of Public Funds (to fill an unexpired term)

**1 year:** Moderator; First Constable; Second Constable; Collector of Delinquent Taxes

ARTICLE 2: To see what action the voters will take regarding the town's financial surplus or deficit.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the voters will approve a General Fund budget of \$510,838.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the voters will approve a Highway budget of \$551,800. State Aid is expected to be approximately \$65,000, resulting in a budget of \$486,800.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the voters will appropriate \$73,600 to be transferred to the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department to pay its expenses from July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the voters will exempt the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department and its two properties at 1952 Route 30 and 63 North Bingham Street from property taxation.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the voters will appropriate \$4,000 to be transferred to the Cornwall Free Public Library to pay its expenses from July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the voters will appropriate the following amounts to be transferred to the listed organizations:

a.	Addison Community Action - CVOEO	\$2,000.00
b.	Addison County Economic Development Corp.	1,000.00
c.	Addison County Home Health and Hospice, Inc.	1,440.00

## **Town Meeting Warning *continued***

d.	Addison County Housing Works	750.00
e.	Addison County Parent/Child Center, Inc.	1,600.00
f.	Addison County Readers, Inc.	350.00
g.	Addison County Restorative Justice Services	350.00
h.	Addison County Riverwatch Collaborative	500.00
i.	Age Well	1,100.00
j.	Atria Collective (formerly WomenSafe)	1,250.00
k.	Charter House Coalition	2,500.00
l.	Counseling Service of Addison County, Inc.	2,300.00
m.	Elderly Services, Inc.	4,000.00
n.	Friends of Cornwall School	5,500.00
o.	Green Up Vermont, Inc.	100.00
p.	Habitat for Humanity of Addison County	1,200.00
q.	Homeward Bound, Animal Welfare Center	500.00
r.	H O P E (Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects)	4,000.00
s.	John W. Graham Emergency Shelter Service, Inc.	1,925.00
t.	Mary Johnson Children's Center, Inc.	700.00
u.	Middlebury Area Land Trust (MALT)	750.00
v.	Open Door Clinic/Community Health Services, Inc.	1,000.00
w.	Otter Creek Childcare Center	1,000.00
x.	The Retired & Senior Volunteer Program, Inc.	540.00
y.	The Teen Center	2,500.00
z.	Tri-Valley Transit	1,315.00
aa.	Turning Point Center of Addison County	1,000.00
bb.	Vermont Adult Learning, Inc.	\$500.00
TOTAL:		\$41,670.00

ARTICLE 9: To see if the voters will approve the billing date of September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 for property taxes, payment of half that amount due November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and payment of the second half due May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Taxes are to be paid to the Cornwall Town Treasurer. Any taxes that are due, but unpaid after November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, are considered late. Interest will be charged at the rate of one percent (1%) per month. Any taxes unpaid after May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 will be considered delinquent. Interest will be charged on delinquent taxes at the rate of one percent (1%) per month, plus a collector's fee of eight percent (8%).

ARTICLE 10: Any other business proper to come before this meeting.

### **CORNWALL SELECTBOARD:**

Tanya Byker, Chair

Benjamin Marks, Vice Chair

Don Burns

Brian Kemp

John Roberts



## Elected Town Officers 2023

Moderator:	Term Expires 2024	Cy Day Tall
Town Clerk:	Term Expires 2024	Susan Johnson
Town Treasurer:	Term Expires 2024	Susan Johnson
Selectboard, 3 years:	Term Expires 2024 Term Expires 2025 Term Expires 2026	John Roberts Don Burns Brian Kemp
Selectboard, 2 years:	Term Expires 2024 Term Expires 2025	Benjamin Marks Tanya Byker
First Constable:	Term Expires 2024	Gary Margolis
Second Constable:	Term Expires 2024	Luke Jerome
Delinquent Tax Collector:	Term Expires 2024	Rodney Cadoret
Listers:	Term Expires 2024 Term Expires 2025 Term Expires 2026	William Johnson Todd Kincaid Jordan Young
Addison Central S. D.:	Term Expires 2024	Ellen Whelan-Wuest
Auditors:	Term Expires 2024 Term Expires 2025 Term Expires 2026	Ian Gill Katie Gieges Shawn Fetterolf
Trustees of Public Funds:	Term Expires 2024 Term Expires 2024 Term Expires 2025	Magna Dodge Elizabeth Toder (appointed) David Anderson
Cemetery Commission:	Term Expires 2024 Term Expires 2025 Term Expires 2026 Term Expires 2027 Term Expires 2028	Jim Pugh Bruce Payne Anne Collins Janet Franklin (appointed) Roth "T" Tall

### **Elected Town Officers 2023, *continued***

Library Trustees:	Term Expires 2024	Judy English (Resigned)
	Term Expires 2024	Juliet Gerlin (Resigned)
	Term Expires 2024	Susan Johnson
	Term Expires 2025	Laura Fetterolf
	Term Expires 2025	Rich Isenberg
	Term Expires 2025	Patty McCormick
	Term Expires 2025	Kristina Simmons
Planning Commission:	Term Expires 2024	Drew Kervick (resigned)
	Term Expires 2024	Chet Van Dellen (appointed)
	Term Expires 2024	Mickey Heinecken (appointed)
	Term Expires 2025	Don Burns
	Term Expires 2025	Lauren Ringey
	Term Expires 2026	Conor Stinson
	Term Expires 2026	Katherine Branch
Justices of the Peace:	Term Expires 2024	David Anderson
	Term Expires 2024	Marjorie Drexler
	Term Expires 2024	Susan Johnson
	Term Expires 2024	Gary Margolis
	Term Expires 2024	Jordan Young
	Term Expires 2024	Vacant
	Term Expires 2024	Vacant

### **Appointed Town Officers 2023**

AC Regional Planning Commission:	Delegates:	Stan Grzyb
		Vacant
	Alternates:	Vacant
AC Solid Waste Mngt District Board:		Vacant
	Representative:	Jean Raymond
Animal Control Officer:	Alternate:	Vacant
		Stacey Freeguard
Assistant Town Clerk-Treasurer:	Term Expires 2024	Laura Fetterolf

## **Appointed Town Officers 2023, *continued***

Cemetery Sextons:	Central: Evergreen: Fair: South:	Vacant Richard Bruso Bruce Payne Richard Bruso
Conservation Commission:		Katherine Branch Don Burns Mary Dodge Andrea Landsberg Kristina Sargent Michael Sheriden
Development Review Board:	Term Expires 2024 Term Expires 2024 Term Expires 2025 Term Expires 2025 Term Expires 2026	Sharon Johnson Molly Daly Douglas Black Kymberly Breckenridge Barbara Greenwood
Alternates to DRB:	Term Expires 2024 Term Expires 2024 Term Expires 2026	Adam Eckhardt Vacant Joan Lynch
E9-1-1 Coordinator:		Katie A. Q. Gieges
Emergency Management Director:		Ben Marks
Energy Coordinator:		Gary Barnet
Fence Viewers:		Greg Dennis Michael Heinecken Annie Wilson
Fire Warden:		Luke Jerome
Assistant Fire Warden:		Vacant
Green Up Coordinator:		Susan Johnson
Health Officer:	Term Expires 2026	Bill Johnson
Assistant Health Officer:	Term Expires 2024	Susan Johnson

### **Appointed Town Officers 2023, *continued***

Recreation Committee:		Sue Barrows Paul Bougor Sharon Cram Susan Johnson Sue Sears Annie Wilson
Road Commissioner:	Term Expires 2024	Brian Kemp
Road Foreman:	Hired Employee	Steven Rheaume
Highway Department	Hired Employee	Nicholas Cram
Zoning Administrator:	Term Expires 2024	Dorsey “Lynn” Coale
Assistant Zoning Administrator:	Term Expires 2024	Vacant
Tree Warden:	Term Expires 2024	Stu Johnson
Weigher of Coal:	Term Expires 2024	Jon Isham

## Selectboard Report

It has been an active year for the Cornwall Selectboard which is composed of Tanya Byker (Chair), Ben Marks (Vice Chair), John Roberts, Don Burns, and Brian Kemp (also Road Commissioner). The Selectboard's roles include a set of regular and periodic responsibilities as well as special projects to update and improve Town infrastructure.

The Selectboard meets on the first and third Tuesdays of every month during the Winter, Spring, and Fall and only on the first Tuesday during the summer. The Selectboard Secretary, Sharon Tierra, takes thorough and accurate minutes at every meeting which are posted on the Town website. The report below summarizes the Selectboard's activities this year.

There are a set of tasks we address **every meeting**:

- Approve minutes of previous meeting(s)
- Review and sign General Fund and Highway Orders (invoices related to Town operations)
- Review the Town's reconciled Bank Statement (monthly)
- Correspondence Review
- Public Comments (hear from visitors in person or on Zoom)
- Receive reports from the Town Clerk/Treasurer, Road Commissioner and Road Foreman

Our **periodic** tasks include:

- Make appointments to open positions on Town Commissions/Boards
- Review bids and execute agreements for services including for mowing, Sheriff patrols, paving, and tree removal
- Review requests for caterer's permits
- Hold joint meetings with other Town Committees and Officers

**Annually**, we work with the Town Clerk, Treasurer, and Highway Department to develop a Budget to present to voters at Town Meeting.

This year, the Selectboard managed staffing transitions in our most vital Town roles. Our Town Clerk/Treasurer, Sue Johnson, will retire after Town Meeting this year after serving Cornwall for over 20 years. The Selectboard has appointed two Cornwall residents to fill the positions of **Clerk** – Laura Fetterolf and **Treasurer** – Nicholas Gill. We will be thrilled to have Sue Johnson serve as Assistant Town Clerk for as long as she is willing. Nicholas Cram joined our Road Foreman, Steve Rheaume, on the **Highway Department**, bringing many valuable skills. Lynn Coale is our new **Zoning Administrator**. We are grateful for the many years of service to the Town from Ken Manchester (Road Crew) and Gary Barnett (Zoning Administrator).

Two Selectboard subcommittees have met periodically this year. The **ARPA Subcommittee** met to consider allocation of the \$356,319 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds granted to Cornwall during the Pandemic. So far the Selectboard has spent \$207,383 on a variety of projects including mobile solar powered speed limit signs, video conference equipment at the Town Hall, Maple Broadband start-up funding, digitization 40 years of the Town's land records, new Fire Department radios, a year of funding for after-school activities organized by the Friends of Cornwall School, and a contribution to the Conservation Commission's "Inventory and Assessment of Cornwall's Habitat Connectivity Blocks and Wildlife Use." The Selectboard met extensively with the .

## Selectboard Report, *continued*

Cornwall Outdoor Recreation Area (CORA) Committee about their plans for CORA on Town land near the elementary school and pledged \$70,000 in ARPA funds towards the startup of that project. This was a particularly valuable use of the funds as our pledge unlocked additional funding from State and Federal grants. The ARPA Subcommittee is working to allocate the remaining funds to requests that are currently under consideration. The **Website Subcommittee** will gather input from Town committees and commissions as well as the Town Clerk(s) and Treasurer(s) (Sue, Laura, and Nicholas) and hope to roll out a new Town website in the coming year. Many thanks to Peter McCormick for many years of volunteer service in maintaining our website!

The Selectboard was involved in four important updates/improvements in Cornwall this year:

**New Salt Shed:** Last year's planning came to fruition this summer/fall as the old structure was removed and a hoop-and-fabric structure was constructed in its place. The new structure has greatly increased capacity for sand and salt and the project was completed on time and within the budget set forth by the Capital Committee. Special thanks to Stu Johnson for his help with the plan and implementation of this successful project.

**Solar Installation on Town Hall:** When the Town Hall was renovated several years ago, its original slate roof was replaced with a lighter standing seam roof with a possible future solar installation in mind. That vision has come to pass. I am pleased to report that solar panels installed on our Town Hall roof are now active and producing power. This net-metered array will allow Cornwall to offset most of its current electric power consumption at the Town Hall and Town Garage. Cornwall will be paying a levelized power bill each month and at the end of ten years be allowed to purchase the array for a steep discount off of its installation cost.

**Updated Town Plan:** This spring, the Planning Commission presented the Selectboard with an updated Town Plan. 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. As a final step the Plan was approved by the Addison County Regional Planning Commission in September. Following on this the Town applied for and received a Village Center Designation (VCD), which supports local revitalization efforts across the state by providing technical assistance and state funding to help designated municipalities build strong communities.

**Cornwall/Salisbury Bridge:** Last year, the Selectboard conducted a poll that showed that the top choice of Cornwall and Salisbury residents is to replace the temporary bridge with a one-lane covered bridge. This year, the two Selectboards worked with planners and engineers at the State Highway Division to move forward to design and construct the covered bridge to the approximate dimensions of the original. This plan will be eligible for the 100% Federal funds covering construction, utility line extension, fire retardant, insecticide and sprinkler system. This structure is the most cost-effective option for the Towns and aligns with the preferences of residents of both Towns.

It has been an honor to serve the Town of Cornwall this year. We look forward to seeing you around Town and at our meetings in the coming year. Finally, we are grateful to Ben Marks for his ten years of service on the Selectboard – his wisdom and experience will be missed!

## Selectboard General Fund Budget

	2022-2023	2022-2023	2023-2024	2023-2024	2023-2024	2024-2025
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Spent to Date	Balance	Proposed
<b>Fixed Appropriations</b>						
Humane Society	450.00	450.00	450.00	0.00	450.00	450.00
County Tax	12,922.00	12,801.00	13,000.00	12,724.00	276.00	15,020.00
Regional Planning	1,630.00	1,629.45	1,680.00	1,666.00	14.00	1,680.00
Otter Creek Conservation	122.00	122.00	122.00	122.00	0.00	122.00
MREMS	11,850.00	11,850.00	11,850.00	0.00	11,850.00	15,691.00
Conservation Fund	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	0.00	3,500.00	3,500.00
VLCT	2,603.00	2,603.00	2,688.00	2,688.00	0.00	2,800.00
Capital Fund Equipment	130,000.00	130,000.00	130,000.00	130,000.00	0.00	130,000.00
Capital Fund Buildings	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	10,000.00	90,000.00	100,000.00
Capital Fund Paving	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>288,077.00</b>	<b>287,955.45</b>	<b>288,290.00</b>	<b>157,200.00</b>	<b>131,090.00</b>	<b>294,263.00</b>
<b>Salaries</b>						
Auditors	600.00	0.00	600.00	0.00	600.00	600.00
Selectboard	3,400.00	4,211.00	3,400.00	0.00	3,400.00	3,400.00
Town Clerk - Treasurer	51,395.00	51,395.00	53,975.00	26,987.52	26,987.48	0.00
Town Clerk	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	35,000.00
Town Treasurer	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,800.00
Zoning Administrator	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
Listers	7,500.00	2,815.00	7,500.00	1,635.00	5,865.00	7,500.00
Custodian	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Asst. Town Clerk	2,500.00	6,550.00	20,800.00	2,281.00	18,519.00	5,000.00
Planning Commission	1,400.00	800.00	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	1,400.00
DRB	1,600.00	1,000.00	1,600.00	0.00	1,600.00	1,600.00
Town Secretary	3,000.00	2,217.00	3,000.00	926.00	2,074.00	3,000.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>71,395.00</b>	<b>68,988.00</b>	<b>92,275.00</b>	<b>31,829.52</b>	<b>60,445.48</b>	<b>73,300.00</b>
<b>Elections</b>						
Town Meeting	500.00	1,054.68	500.00	0.00	500.00	1,000.00
Other Elections	1,500.00	904.72	500.00	0.00	500.00	1,500.00
Vote Tabulator	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,000.00</b>	<b>1,959.40</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>4,500.00</b>
<b>Office Expense</b>						
Town Clerk	4,000.00	4,606.00	4,000.00	3,051.00	949.00	4,500.00
Town Treasurer	4,000.00	3,275.00	4,000.00	2,438.00	1,562.00	3,500.00
Selectboard	500.00	926.51	500.00	249.00	251.00	500.00
Tax Collector	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
Grand List	6,250.00	5,415.00	6,000.00	5,503.00	497.00	6,000.00
Zoning Administrator	200.00	448.00	200.00	43.00	157.00	200.00
Planning Commission	500.00	216.75	500.00	0.00	500.00	300.00
Conservation Commission	200.00	50.00	200.00	100.00	100.00	200.00
Development Review Board	500.00	148.50	500.00	20.00	480.00	500.00
Town Office/General	4,000.00	6,240.00	5,000.00	3,406.00	1,594.00	5,000.00
Copier/Printer/Scanner	2,400.00	2,216.00	2,400.00	1,184.00	1,216.00	2,400.00
Postage	1,500.00	2,451.00	1,800.00	594.00	1,206.00	2,000.00
Emergency Management	250.00	0.00	250.00	0.00	250.00	250.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>24,400.00</b>	<b>25,992.76</b>	<b>25,450.00</b>	<b>16,588.00</b>	<b>8,862.00</b>	<b>25,450.00</b>



### Selectboard General Fund Budget, *continued*

	2022-2023	2022-2023	2023-2024	2023-2024	2023-2024	2024-2025
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Spent to Date	Balance	Proposed
<b>General Expenses</b>						
Town Reports	750.00	680.00	750.00	0.00	750.00	750.00
Town Newsletter	1,500.00	1,448.00	1,000.00	1,229.00	-229.00	1,500.00
Social Security	5,900.00	5,983.00	7,500.00	2,540.00	4,960.00	6,350.00
Retirement	2,600.00	2,570.00	2,835.00	1,417.00	1,418.00	1,925.00
Health Promotion	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Legal Services	10,000.00	11,388.00	10,000.00	4,874.00	5,126.00	10,000.00
Sheriff's Patrol	7,500.00	10,744.00	8,000.00	5,622.00	2,378.00	10,000.00
Animal Control	1,500.00	1,200.00	1,500.00	600.00	900.00	1,500.00
Miscellaneous	2,500.00	2,620.00	2,500.00	1,195.00	1,305.00	3,000.00
Records	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Water Contamination	1,500.00	2,098.00	1,500.00	353.00	1,147.00	1,500.00
Lemon Fair Insect Control	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Financial Review/Audit	0.00	0.00	9,000.00	0.00	9,000.00	14,000.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>39,750.00</b>	<b>44,731.00</b>	<b>50,585.00</b>	<b>17,830.00</b>	<b>32,755.00</b>	<b>56,525.00</b>
<b>Town Properties</b>						
Town Hall -Heat	13,000.00	1,790.00	13,000.00	1,150.00	7,031.00	14,000.00
Town Hall - Utilities	0.00	6,910.00	0.00	3,053.00		0.00
Town Hall - Supplies	0.00	408.00	0.00	247.00		0.00
Town Hall - Repair	0.00	7,058.00	0.00	1,519.00		0.00
Town Garage - Heat	13,000.00	3,549.00	13,000.00	782.00	8,823.00	14,000.00
Town Garage - Utilities	0.00	4,898.00	0.00	2,414.00		0.00
Town Garage - Supplies	0.00	540.00	0.00	168.00		0.00
Town Garage - Repair	0.00	5,864.00	0.00	813.00		0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>26,000.00</b>	<b>31,017.00</b>	<b>26,000.00</b>	<b>10,146.00</b>	<b>15,854.00</b>	<b>28,000.00</b>
<b>Parks &amp; Cemeteries</b>						
Cemeteries Maintenance	2,000.00	423.78	2,000.00	4,169.00	-2,169.00	4,000.00
Cemeteries Mowing	2,800.00	2,875.00	3,000.00	2,835.00	165.00	4,000.00
Other Town Mowing	2,800.00	2,875.00	3,000.00	2,835.00	165.00	4,000.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7,600.00</b>	<b>6,173.78</b>	<b>8,000.00</b>	<b>9,839.00</b>	<b>-1,839.00</b>	<b>12,000.00</b>
<b>Insurance</b>						
Town Officers & Property	30,000.00	17,256.00	30,000.00	6,427.00	23,573.00	16,000.00
Worker's Compensation	550.00	227.00	500.00	242.00	258.00	500.00
Health	13,000.00	14,254.00	13,000.00	6,885.00	6,115.00	0.00
Unemployment	300.00	280.00	300.00	193.00	107.00	300.00
Dental	0.00	327.43	0.00	1,637.00	-1,637.00	0.00
ST, LT Disability	0.00	48.50	0.00	413.00	-413.00	0.00
Vision	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	-50.00	0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>43,850.00</b>	<b>32,392.93</b>	<b>43,800.00</b>	<b>15,847.00</b>	<b>27,953.00</b>	<b>16,800.00</b>
<b>Debt Service</b>						
Interest (Capital Items)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest (Tax Anticipation)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>505,072.00</b>	<b>499,210.32</b>	<b>535,400.00</b>	<b>259,279.52</b>	<b>276,120.48</b>	<b>510,838.00</b>

## **Town Clerk – Treasurer’s Report**

Thank you to all my fellow town officials, committee and board members and my constituents and their families. My 23 years as Treasurer and 21 years as Clerk have been an incredible experience. One that I will cherish forever. I appreciate all the kind words that have been shared with me over the last few years as I worked my way to retirement. I am not sure exactly what the future holds, but I do know that I will be appointed as the Assistant Clerk for at least the foreseeable future. This means you will still see me on occasion, and it allows me to make my usual reminders about those items that need to be completed each year.

**Dogs:** If you are the owner of a dog and live in Cornwall, the dog(s) must be registered each year by April 1<sup>st</sup>. This is required by law in order to keep the rabies disease at bay. In order to register your dog(s) you will need to provide a valid rabies vaccination certificate which will be kept on file at the Town Office. The fee to register a dog is \$9.00 for a spayed or neutered dog and \$11.00 for a dog that is not spayed or neutered.

**Elections:** 2024 will be a very busy election year starting with the Town Meeting and the Presidential Primary in March 2024. Absentee ballots are available at Town Hall. You can pick one up or request one to be mailed to you. You must return the ballots to Town Hall by 7 PM on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. Do not hesitate to ask questions. The State Primary will be held in August 2024 and of course the General Election will be held in November 2024. More information will be sent out as those dates approach.

Other items available at the Clerk’s office include Green Mountain Passports, Notary Services, Posting Permits (Fish & Wildlife), Sale of Fish & Wildlife licenses, Meeting minutes, Genealogy information, Land and property records, applications for zoning (building) permits including subdivision, waiver and variance permits, DMV registration renewals. You can sign up for the Cornwall Connection email messaging system. The Town has a website and also lists information on Front Porch Forum. Meeting notices are posted on boards at the Town Hall and Town Garage, plus on the website ([www.cornwallvt.com](http://www.cornwallvt.com)). Don’t hesitate to contact the Town Clerk, Laura Fetterolf, if you have any questions.

In the Treasurer realm, property taxes are now due on November 15<sup>th</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup>. The first installment for the 2023 year has come and gone. The second installment will be due on or before May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. A reminder that the second installment, if unpaid by the due date, will be sent to the Collector of Delinquent Taxes. 1% interest per month and an 8% collector’s fee will be added to the tax amount due. Don’t hesitate to be in contact with Nicholas Gill if you have any questions about your tax payment.

Trying to thank all the people who have made my job over the last 23 years amazing would be very difficult and I know I would forget some folks. Suffice it to say, I have been assisted very nicely throughout the years by many people too numerous to name here. Thank you to all for your help. I couldn’t have done the work for 23 years without you. I wish you all much success going forward. We will see you along the way!

Very sincerely and with love, Sue

## Clerk Reports

### Dog Licenses

Dog licensing is an annual event. Dogs more than 6 months of age may be licensed any time after January 1<sup>st</sup> of a calendar year but must, per state statute, be licensed no later than April 1<sup>st</sup> of the same year in order to avoid an additional 50% fee assessment. If a dog reaches 6 months of age after April 1<sup>st</sup>, the owner has 30 days to apply for a license. State statute authorizes severe penalties for failure to license one's dogs.

The fee to register a dog is \$9.00 for a spayed or neutered dog and \$11.00 for a dog that is **not** spayed or neutered. **A current rabies vaccination certificate must be presented or on file before a dog can be registered. Rabies vaccinations are good for three years for adult dogs and one year for puppies. The certificate will remain on file at the Town Clerk's office for the 3-year period.**

#### Fees Received in Calendar Year 2023

Total Number of Dogs Licensed	229	\$2,025.00
Special Permit	1	<u>35.00</u>
		<b>\$2,060.00</b>

#### Fees Paid in Calendar Year 2023

To State	\$1,115.00
To Town	<u>945.00</u>
	<b>\$2,060.00</b>



**The Maisy Dog!**

#### **Top Three Reasons to License Your Dog!**

- 1. It is the Law in Vermont!**
- 2. To reunite lost dogs with their owners**
- 3. To prevent the incidence and spread of the Rabies disease!**

## **Information and Services Available from the Town Clerk's Office**

**Green Mountain Passports** – available to anyone who is a resident of Vermont and 62 years or older **OR** is totally disabled as a result of disease or injury suffered while serving in the armed forces **OR** is a resident of the Vermont Veterans' Home in Bennington. Passport holders are eligible for free admission to state parks, museums, and fully state-sponsored events. The fee is \$2.00.

**Copies of Birth, Death, or Marriage Records on File** – used for a variety of purposes. Certified copies are \$10.00, uncertified copies \$1.00.

**Dog Licenses** – due by April 1<sup>st</sup> every year. A current rabies certificate must be presented or be on file.

**Hunting & Fishing Licenses** – All types of licenses are available.

**Copies of Zoning and Sub-Division Regulations**

**Guide to Building or Modifying a Home in Cornwall**

**Applications for Zoning Permit, Sub-division of Property & Conditional Use/Variance**

**Minutes of Meetings** – Selectboard, Planning Commission, Development Review Board, Conservation Commission

**Applications for Addition to the Voter Checklist**

**Applications for Absentee Ballots**

**Petitions and information about running for and holding town office.**

**Warnings and Notices of upcoming meetings** – Selectboard, School Board, Planning Commission, Development Review Board, Conservation Commission, etc.

**Renewal of Motor Vehicle Registrations** – renewals only. Must present DMV renewal form. There is a \$3.00 Town Clerk fee, separate from the DMV renewal fee.

**Cornwall Connection – Enrollment in Town News and Emergency Alert Email List** – for municipal and emergency information i.e.: road closures, emergency/disaster information, town notices, lost and/or found animals.



## Births, Deaths & Marriages

Below is a 6-year comparison of the number of vital records recorded in Cornwall.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Births	10	5	8	6	5	8
Deaths	11	7	6	10	7	14
Marriages	7	5	3	4	5	3



Radium Girls Memorial, Ottawa IL



A big friend in Yellowstone Natl Park



Glacier Bay, Alaska

## **Property Transfers 2023**

1. Sarah Stahl to Sarah D. Stahl Rev. Trust, house and 1 acre Cider Mill Road
2. Richard and Sherry Rheame to Bruce Meacham, single family dwelling and .50 acres Route 30
3. Anna Wilson to Anna Wilson Trust, house, barns, 72.50 acres on Route 30
4. Joel A. Fifield Revocable Trust to Rebecca O. Fifield Revocable Trust, operating farm with 104.30 acres on Route 30
5. Justus Devries Jr. to J. Denry Sato and M. Christine Chapline, Trustees of the J. Denry Sato and M. Christine Chapline Living Trusts, 3.05 acres of open land on Sperry Road
6. Randy and Susan Laframboise to The Laframboise Revocable Trust, Randy and Susan Trustees, house and 4.21 acres on Morse Road
7. Randy and Susan Laframboise to The Laframboise Revocable Trust, Randy and Susan Trustees, house and .50 acres on Morse Road
8. Randy and Susan Laframboise to The Laframboise Revocable Trust, Randy and Susan Trustees, 27.50 acres of open land on Morse Road (North)
9. Randy and Susan Laframboise to The Laframboise Revocable Trust, Randy and Susan Trustees, 20.10 acres of open land on Morse Road (South)
10. Beaver Brook Properties LLC to Catherine Lee, Trustee and Darius Nassiry, Trustee, 6.76 acres of open land on North Bingham Street.
11. Ridge Road Property LLC to W. Mark & Sarah Peluso, 6.52 acres of open land on Edgewood Road.
12. Anna Rebecca Kinkead and Robert Murphy to Anna Rebecca Kinkead and Robert Murphy, house and 159.57 acres on Abernathy Place
13. Michael & Julie Pyle to Daniel Comar & Erin McRaith, house and 11.60 acres on Route 30
14. Michael Palmer to Richard Carroll, house, barn and 5.80 acres on Route 125
15. Penny A. Larocque to Alexander Getty and Cait Laverne-Lily, house and 5.60 acres on South Bingham Street
16. Florence A Gill Trust to Florence A Gill, house and 28 acres on Wooster Road
17. Florence A Gill to Brian Gill, house and 28 acres on Wooster Road
18. Rebecca O Fifield Revocable Trust, Lise Fifield Trustee to Jeffrey and Lise Fifield, operating farm and buildings with 104.30 acres on Route 30
19. Darcy Stone Hubbard to Darcy Stone Hubbard 2022 Trust, house and 10 acres on Swamp Road
20. Bruce and Therese Wilhelm to Wilhelm Family Revocable Trust, house and 3.70 acres on Edgewood Road
21. Joyce D. Servidio to the Joyce D. Servidio Trust, house and 2.03 acres on Lemon Fair Road
22. Philip and Maureen Yauch to the Yauch Family 2023 Trust, house and 5.10 acres on North Bingham Street
23. Richard Wheeler and Barbara Hammerlind Revocable Living Trust to Andrew and Sarah Petto, house and 1.20 acres on Route 30

### **Property Transfers 2023, *continued***

24. Malcolm B. Harding III to Sean and January Stearns, 4 swamp lots on Robbins and Morse Roads, 18 acres total.
25. M. Hartley MacFadden Trust to John W. Macintyre, house and 8.88 acres on Route 30
26. M. Hartley MacFadden Trust to F. Peter and Mary Ann P. Demong, Trustees of the F. Peter and Mary Ann P. 2007 Trust, Lot 2 (4.31 acres) of the MacFadden sub-division on Bardon Drive.
27. Justin and Brandi Campbell to Alexandra Harden, house and 10.34 acres on Orchard Run.
28. Andrew Munkres and Kristin Bolton to the Bolton and Munkres Family Trust, house and 1 acre on West Street
29. John and Elizabeth Roberts to the John and Elizabeth Roberts Family Trust, house and 10 acres on South Bingham Street
30. Jason & Sarah Robart to Ashley Sampson Glass, William Whitney Glass, Christopher Wade Glass and Chloe Schaefer, house, buildings and 54.60 acres on Parkhill Road
31. Stephen C. Pratt to Kevin Pratt, house and 2.50 acres on South Bingham Street
32. Bread Loaf View Farm Realty Trust III to Churchill and Janet Franklin, house and 5.60 acres on Cider Mill Road
33. Churchill and Janet Franklin to 394 Cider Mill Road, LLC, house and 5.60 acres on Cider Mill Road
34. Marc and Cheryl Cesario to Jeremy and Kylie Chittenden, 125.10 acres on Route 74
35. Marc and Cheryl Cesario to Jeremy and Kylie Chittenden, farm buildings and 97.20 acres on Clark Road
36. Salvatore Francia to the Salvatore Francia 2021 Trust, house and 5.40 acres on Route 30
37. Bread Loaf View Farm Realty Trust V to John Dehn and Ann Boeckman, 19.86 acres on Sperry Road
38. William and Judith English to James and Elizabeth Mauch, house and 29 acres on Peet Road
39. Bridget Koontz to Koontz Family Trust, house and 2.56 acres on Samson Road
40. Anna Rebecca Kinkead Living Trust to Anna R. Kinkead, 32.56 acres of land on Bourdeau Road
41. Anna R. Kinkead to Anna R. Kinkead and Robert Murphy, 32.56 acres of land on Bourdeau Road
42. Edmond & Marguerite Bussod-Mathez to Daniel Zinn & Hillary Devlin, house and 3.96 acres on DeLong Road
43. James and Helen Wright to Dwight Griesman & Anne Murray, house and 11.92 acres on Ledgemont Lane
44. M. Hartley MacFadden to Rebecca Tiger, Lot 3 (4.14 acres) on Bardon Drive off Route 30
45. Stephen Payne to Payne Family Trust, James and Shelley Payne Trustees, 14.71 acres open land on West Street
46. Adam & Sarah Pelkey to Mary Richards, house and 5.02 acres on North Bingham Street.



### **Property Transfers 2023, *continued***

47. George Chapline and Margaret Paine to Susan Parsons and William Amidon, house and 5.10 acres on North Bingham Street
48. Carol Wood to David and Violette Tindall, house and .84 acres on Route 30
49. Douglas & Michelle Black to Sunder & Varna Ramaswamy, house and 3.90 acres on Delong Road
50. Keith & Melissa Ellery to Suzanna Goldblatt Clark, house and 2 acres on Route 125
51. John Richmond to Richmond Family Trust, John Richmond Trustee, house and 3.10 acres on North Bingham Street.
52. Robert Murphy and Anna Rebecca Kinhead to Adam and Elissa Eckhardt, 6.54 acres on Bourdeau Road
53. Robert Murphy and Anna Rebecca Kinhead to Robert Murphy and Anna Rebecca Kinhead house, barns and 185.60 acres on Abernathy Place
54. Beaver Brook Properties, LLC to David Campbell and Emily McNamara, house and 1.39 acres on Old Church Lane
55. Janice A Whittemore Trust & Julianne Boucher Trustee to Daniel Whittemore house and 1.80 acres on Audet Road
56. Ryan Riney and Pearl Riney to Pearl Riney Trustee, Pearl Riney Trust, house and 24.39 acres on Route 74
57. William Amidon and Susan Parsons to Christopher Dragone, house and .60 acres on Cross Road
58. Jean K. Bishop to Northern Cross LLC, .91 acres on James Road
59. James and Mathilda Botz to Kurtis Gross and Jean Eisberg, 1.83 acres on Burr Oak Lane in Foote Farm Vermont
60. David and Joan Donahue to Donahue Revocable Trust, David and Joan Trustees, house and 8.40 acres on Robbins Road
61. Andrew & Bethany Menkart to Menkart Family Revocable Living Trust, house and 10.15 acres on West Street
62. Bethany Menkart to Menkart Family Revocable Living Trust, 22.77 acres on Clark Road
63. Christina Del Piero, Estate of, to Shelley Morse, house and 7.20 acres on Cider Mill Road
64. Michael P Quesnel, Sr, Estate of, to Donna Quesnel, open land 8.46 acres on Samson Road
65. Middlebury College to Joseph & Kristen Brown, 50.60 acres of open land on Route 30
66. Middlebury College to Joseph & Kristen Brown, easement on Route 30
67. Estate of Leo Gorton, Jr to Betty Lou Gorton, 69.47 acres on West Street

**Treasurer's Reports**  
**2023-2024 Voted Budget**

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>TAX RATE</b>
General Fund	\$535,400.00	
Cornwall Vol. Fire Dept.	67,950.00	
Cornwall Free Public Library	4,000.00	
Charitable Agencies	34,445.00	
Hold Harmless	(50,453.00)	
Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Surplus	(92,724.00)	
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$498,618.00</b>	
		<b>0.2196</b>
<b>HIGHWAY</b>		
Highway	\$535,150.00	
State Aid	(65,000.00)	
<b>TOTAL HIGHWAY</b>	<b>\$470,150.00</b>	
		<b>0.2071</b>
<b>LOCAL AGREEMENT RATE</b>	<b>\$2,464.00</b>	
		<b>0.0011</b>
<b>TOTAL MUNICIPAL</b>	<b>\$971,232.00</b>	
		<b>0.4278</b>
<b>HOMESTEAD RATE</b>		<b>1.6427</b>
<b>NON-HOMESTEAD RATE</b>		<b>1.6237</b>
<b>GRAND LIST 2023-2024</b>	<b>\$2,270,145.00</b>	

**Statement of Maturities**

**General Fund—June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**Tax Anticipation, Short-Term & Long-Term Debt**

As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Town of Cornwall General Fund had no short-term or long-term debt.

**Highway Department—June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**Short-Term & Long-Term Debt**

As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Town of Cornwall Highway Fund had no short-term or long-term debt.

**Balance Sheet for General Fund**  
**Fiscal Year Ended June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**ASSETS**

Checking Account	\$1,155,734.73
Act 200 Funds	16,867.22
Conservation Fund	10,593.73
Recreation Fund	695.22
Preservation Fund – Land Records	18,072.00
Grand List Maintenance Fund	71,629.40
Public Funds CDs	83,166.28
Delinquent Tax Receivable	32,549.51
Prepaid Expenses GF	7,661.00
Grants Receivable	5,679.86
Bridge Insurance Payment	<u>837,978.42</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$2,240,627.37</b>

**LIABILITIES**

Due To/Due From Other Accounts	\$366,894.76
Deferred Tax Revenue	16,115.34
Payroll Payable	257.14
Grand List Maintenance Fund	71,629.40
Accrued Wages	1,797.81
Act 200 Funds	16,867.22
Public Funds	83,166.28
Preservation Fund Land Records	18,072.00
Bridge Insurance Payment	837,978.42
Conservation Survey	10,593.73
Recreation Fund	<u>695.22</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$1,424,067.32</b>

**FUND BALANCE**

Fund Balance 6/30/2023	\$725,612.16
Prior Period Adjustment	<u>-6,007.43</u>

<b>TOTAL PRIOR YEAR FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>719,604.73</b>
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**FISCAL YEAR SURPLUS**

**96,955.32**

**TOTAL FUND BALANCE**

**\$816,560.05**

## Comparative Statement of Taxes

	<b>FISCAL 2021/2022</b>	<b>FISCAL 2022/2023</b>	<b>FISCAL 2023/2024</b>
<b>Municipal</b>			
General Fund	\$499,608	\$505,072	\$535,400
(Surplus)/Deficit	(103,623)	(61,317)	(92,724)
Hold Harmless	(54,762)	(48,172)	(50,453)
Fire Department	69,750	67,950	67,950
Library	4,000	4,000	4,000
Outside Agencies	30,520	34,070	34,445
Local Agreement	2,616	2,499	2,464
Highway	451,713	476,100	535,150
Less State Aid	(65,000)	(65,000)	(65,000)
<b>Total GF, HW &amp; Special Articles</b>	<b>\$838,822</b>	<b>\$915,202</b>	<b>\$971,232</b>
Municipal Tax Rate	0.3895	0.4129	0.4278
<b>Education</b>			
Homestead taxes to ACSD	1,710,960	1,642,400	1,689,267
Non-Homestead taxes to ACSD	1,544,117	1,605,900	1,604,834
<b>Total Estimated Education Spending</b>	<b>3,255,077</b>	<b>3,248,300</b>	<b>3,294,101</b>
Education Homestead Tax Rate	1.7443	1.6751	1.6427
Education Non-Homestead Tax Rate	1.7056	1.6285	1.6237
<b>Total Taxes to be Raised</b>	<b>\$4,093,899</b>	<b>\$4,163,502</b>	<b>\$4,265,333</b>
<b>Grand List</b>	<b>\$217,780,745</b>	<b>\$221,639,445</b>	<b>\$227,014,500</b>
<b>Total Tax Rate Homestead</b>	<b>2.1339</b>	<b>2.0880</b>	<b>2.0705</b>
<b>Total Tax Rate Non-Homestead</b>	<b>2.0952</b>	<b>2.0414</b>	<b>2.0515</b>

## Miscellaneous Accounts

### ACT 200 FUNDS ACCOUNT

<b>Balance 6/30/2022</b>	<b>\$16,863.81</b>
Interest 7/1/2022 – 6/30/2023	<u>3.41</u>
<b>Balance 6/30/2023</b>	<b>16,867.22</b>
Interest 7/1/2023 – 12/31/2023	<u>1.72</u>
<b>Balance 12/31/2023</b>	<b>\$16,868.94</b>

### MUNICIPAL EQUIPMENT ACCOUNT

<b>Balance 6/30/2022</b>	<b>\$14,307.13</b>
Interest 7/1/2022 – 6/30/2023	20.44
Grant Payment toward leaf blower	<u>5,019.06</u>
<b>Balance 6/30/2023</b>	<b>19,346.63</b>
Interest 7/1/2023 – 12/31/2023	23.37
Generator for signposts	<u>(1,000.00)</u>
<b>Balance 12/31/2023</b>	<b>\$18,370.00</b>

### GRAND LIST MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT

<b>Balance 6/30/2022</b>	<b>\$16,121.96</b>
Interest 7/1/2022 – 6/30/2023	41.94
Grand List Maintenance funds from State	5,465.50
Surplus funds for Reappraisal	<u>50,000.00</u>
<b>Balance 6/30/2023</b>	<b>71,629.40</b>
Interest 7/1/2023 – 12/31/2023	82.48
Expense 7/1/2023 – 12/31/2023	<u>(13,912.17)</u>
<b>Balance 12/31/2023</b>	<b>\$57,799.71</b>

### CAPITAL FUNDS ACCOUNT

<b>Balance 06/30/2022</b>	<b>\$486,522.27</b>
Expense 07/01/2022 – 06/30/2023	(121,702.45)
Income 07/01/2022- 06/30/2023	<u>248,201.10</u>
<b>Balance 6/30/2023</b>	<b>613,020.92</b>
Expense 7/01/2023 – 12/31/2023	<u>(352,370.15)</u>
<b>Balance 12/31/2023</b>	<b>\$260,650.77</b>

## Miscellaneous Accounts, *continued*

### CONSERVATION COMMISSION ACCOUNT

<b>Balance 06/30/2022</b>	<b>\$6,802.85</b>
Interest 7/01/2022 – 6/30/2023	10.01
Income 7/01/2022 – 6/30/2023	565.00
Voted Transfer for Conservation Fund	3,500.00
Expense 7/01/2022 – 6/30/2023	<u>(284.13)</u>
<b>Balance 06/30/2023</b>	<b>10,593.73</b>
Interest 7/01/2023 – 12/31/2023	16.07
Income 7/01/2023 – 12/31/2023	<u>11,575.00</u>
<b>Balance 12/31/2023</b>	<b>\$22,184.80</b>

### RECREATION COMMITTEE ACCOUNT

<b>Balance 06/30/2022</b>	<b><u>\$492.22</u></b>
Deposit Green Up Day Bake Sale May 2023	138.00
Deposit Little Library Donation	<u>65.00</u>
<b>Balance 06/30/2023</b>	<b>695.22</b>
Deposit CORA Fundraising	<u>5,000.00</u>
<b>Balance 12/31/2023</b>	<b>\$5,695.22</b>

### TOWN CEMETERIES FUND

<b>Account Opened 9/20/2023</b>	<b><u>\$1000.00</u></b>
Expenses 7/01/2023 – 12/31/2023	(37.17)
Interest Earned 9/20/2023 – 12/31/2023	<u>0.67</u>
<b>Balance 12/31/2023</b>	<b>\$963.50</b>

### GRAND TOTALS MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTS

<b>06/30/2023</b>	<b><u>\$732,153.12</u></b>
<b>12/31/2023</b>	<b><u>\$382,532.94</u></b>

## Trustees of Public Funds Report

Trustees of Public Funds are elected from among the legal voters at the annual meeting of the Town. The duty of the three Trustees is to manage real or personal property held by the Town in trust for any purpose. Town residents interested in serving as a Trustee are encouraged to contact one of the current Trustees for additional information about the responsibilities of a Trustee.

In 2023, the Trustees received a \$600.00 request from the Cornwall Conservation Commission for partial funding of a Habitat Connectivity Inventory. This was the only request received by the Trustees and it was approved. Other Town organizations are encouraged to apply for funds that are designed to benefit the Town. Income (interest) from the Peet Funds may only be used for the “conservation and beautification of the natural resources of the Town.” The principal must be preserved. On December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, \$30,906.48 of accrued interest was available for distribution from the Peet Funds. There are no restrictions on the use of the former CVPS stock account. Funding is usually modest, typically in the \$400 to \$600 range. An application should include:

- A brief description of the project including a timeline
- An explanation of the benefits to the town
- A budget overview
- Identification of all other funding sources

The following is an accounting of the funds currently administered by the Trustees of Public Funds. The funds are all certificates of deposit with the National Bank of Middlebury.

### **#1757 – former CVPS stock**

Balance 12/31/22	\$13,808.90
Balance 12/31/23	\$13,832.01
Interest in 2023	\$23.11

### **#1756 – Lemuel Peet Fund**

Balance 12/31/22	\$57,670.97
Balance 12/31/23	\$57,768.05
Interest in 2023	\$97.08

### **#1755 – Vera Peet Fund**

Balance 12/31/22	\$11,544.26
Balance 12/31/23	\$10,977.90
Interest in 2023	\$33.64

### **Total of Public Funds**

Balance 12/31/23	\$83,577.96
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Readers will note that the account numbers of funds changed this year. This is as a result of the Trustees moving the funds to higher yield CDs.

During the past year, Elizabeth Toder was appointed by the Selectboard to a vacant Trustee position. Her active participation has been appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Anderson  
Magna Dodge  
Elizabeth Toder



## Collector of Delinquent Taxes Report

### Taxes Collected from Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Property	\$19,785.62
Interest	1,717.02
Collector's Fee	<u>1,582.87</u>
Subtotal	<b>23,085.51</b>
Over Payments	1,455.42
<b>Total 1/1/23-6/30/23</b>	<b><u>\$24,540.93</u></b>

### Taxes Collected from July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 to Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023

Property	\$8,132.15
Interest	431.75
Collector's Fee	<u>650.58</u>
Subtotal	<b>9,214.48</b>
Over Payments	77.68
<b>Total 7/1/23-12/31/23</b>	<b><u>\$9,292.16</u></b>

**GRAND TOTAL** **\$33,833.09**

### Delinquent Taxpayers as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023

Due to a Supreme Court ruling on privacy issues, the delinquent taxpayer report will now only list those who are delinquent and the grand total of delinquencies. This includes those that are late on their November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 payment.

2137 North Bingham LLC	Belanus, Steven
Dalley, Donna	Devries, Justus
Foote, Hilton	Foote Mansion LLC
Jennings, Matthew & Catherine	Lyons/Field Margaret & Douglas
McQuillan, Patrick	Norinsberg, Jon
Rheaume, Betty & Leo	Rheaume, Leo
Ringey, Brett & Leeann	Trombley, Brian & Carrie

**Total Delinquent: \$47,703.91**

Rodney Cadoret, Collector of Delinquent Taxes

## Highway Department Report

Hello Cornwall,

I hope everyone had a great fall and winter, it's hard to believe that spring is right around the corner. I'm going to keep this short and sweet.

This past year was certainly a challenge with all the rain and washouts that occurred on some of the roads. Let's hope for less rain this next summer and hopefully fewer mosquitoes. Fingers crossed. The costs associated with the early August storm that washed out a portion of Ledgemont Lane, a James Road culvert, Snake Mountain Road, and a portion of Lemon Fair Road have all been submitted to FEMA for aid/reimbursement. The work on James Road and Lemon Fair Road has been completed. Snake Mountain and Ledgemont Lane still require some finishing touches once winter is over. The work is mostly just adding more material to the top surface and a finish grade.

This year will be business as usual. Nick and I completed two Grants In Aid projects for fiscal years 2023 and 2024. We will be doing tree work to help make it easier for us to tailgate-spread the gravel, we will also use the mower to try and push back a lot of the brush that has crept in towards the roads over the years. The tree work will be done while there are no leaves on the trees. In early spring when things dry out, we will focus on reclaiming shoulder material back onto the road on many of the gravel roads. Some areas don't need it, but other areas are in desperate need of it. The main goal is to get, and keep, water off of the road. We will also focus on top dressing the gravel roads with more material and grading it smooth to help build back up the road surface that wears down every year. We will keep after the poison parsnip during the summer mowing. We will utilize the crack sealer and continue to seal the areas that need it most. Nick and I will also be doing more ditching along the roadsides to help keep the water where it's supposed to be. There will be a paving project, but I am not sure yet where that will be. Keep an eye out for the spring newsletter. There might be an update then.

The new sand and salt building is awesome! If you haven't been by to see the new building, I encourage you to check it out. Thank you to all those involved in the planning and construction of the new building. The next capital project will be improvements to the town garage.

As always, thank you for your continued patience and understanding while we work as quickly and safely as we can to make sure the roads are in the best shape possible. I hope everyone has a great year, and safe travels. We will see you out there.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Rheaume  
Road Foreman

## Highway Budget

	2022-2023	2022-2023	2023 - 2024	2023 - 2024	2023 - 2024	2024 - 2025
EXPENSES	Budget	Actual	Budget	Spent To Date	Balance	Proposed
<b>Materials</b>						
Salt	19,000.00	31,488.47	25,000.00	19,088.56	5,911.44	25,000.00
Sand	19,000.00	15,478.02	19,000.00	18,454.08	545.92	19,000.00
Gravel	50,000.00	19,557.13	50,000.00	33,326.20	16,673.80	50,000.00
Paving	135,000.00	3,354.19	145,000.00	116,573.20	28,426.80	145,000.00
Crack Sealing	4,000.00	2,016.84	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Line Striping	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Chloride	27,000.00	29,340.00	27,000.00	26,201.95	798.05	27,000.00
Culverts	1,000.00	2,508.20	1,000.00	4,175.20	-3,175.20	4,000.00
Bridge Repair	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Covered Bridge	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Contingency Funds	20,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>279,000.00</b>	<b>103,742.85</b>	<b>278,500.00</b>	<b>217,819.19</b>	<b>60,680.81</b>	<b>281,500.00</b>
<b>Equipment</b>						
Parts/Repairs	14,000.00	27,712.40	20,000.00	30,961.52	-10,961.52	20,000.00
Equipment Rental	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fuel	15,000.00	25,903.04	20,000.00	11,521.34	8,478.66	20,000.00
Misc/Small Tools	850.00	1,000.81	850.00	1,283.87	-433.87	1,000.00
Equipment Purchase	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vegetation Mgmt.	800.00	3,006.04	800.00	246.91	553.09	800.00
Lubricants/Fluids	1,800.00	2,067.00	2,000.00	995.00	1,005.00	2,000.00
Contracted Labor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Unplanned Maintenance	5,000.00	1,705.87	5,000.00	2,870.09	2,129.91	5,000.00
Signs	1,000.00	574.36	1,000.00	2,934.12	-1,934.12	1,000.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>38,450.00</b>	<b>61,969.52</b>	<b>49,650.00</b>	<b>50,812.85</b>	<b>-1,162.85</b>	<b>49,800.00</b>
<b>Administrative</b>						
Administrative	0.00	127.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Personnel/Labor	110,000.00	134,288.26	110,000.00	54,200.13	55,799.87	113,000.00
Personnel/Soc. Sec.	8,000.00	10,279.69	8,000.00	4,146.42	3,853.58	8,500.00
Personnel/Workman's Comp.	9,000.00	5,691.25	9,000.00	4,251.00	4,749.00	9,000.00
Personnel/Retirement	6,000.00	6,606.91	6,000.00	2,819.96	3,180.04	6,000.00
Personnel/All Health Ins.	26,650.00	59,611.27	74,000.00	34,341.94	39,658.06	84,000.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>159,650.00</b>	<b>216,604.61</b>	<b>207,000.00</b>	<b>99,759.45</b>	<b>107,240.55</b>	<b>220,500.00</b>
<b>Special Projects</b>						
Storm Damage (Stearns)				5,528.26	-5,528.26	0.00
Snake Mtn Road Damage				1,463.57	-1,463.57	0.00
<b>EXPENSE TOTALS</b>	<b>477,100.00</b>	<b>382,316.98</b>	<b>535,150.00</b>	<b>375,383.32</b>	<b>159,766.68</b>	<b>551,800.00</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>						
Grants in Aid		3,072.94		20,500.00		
PACIF Grant		3,733.99				
FEMA						
Payments from Other Towns		1,965.00				
Misc./Insurance Payments		3,217.62				
<b>TOTALS WITH REVENUE</b>	<b>477,100.00</b>	<b>370,327.43</b>	<b>535,150.00</b>	<b>354,883.32</b>	<b>159,766.68</b>	<b>551,800.00</b>

## Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department

2023 was our busiest year yet (at least since we've been keeping accurate records!). We ran 110 calls, most of which were medical. We welcomed new members and continued to improve our equipment, facilities and readiness.

Our updates at the West Cornwall Station continue. As many of you may know, two years ago we installed a new 100 ft antenna. It has been quite helpful in improving our communication across town and into neighboring communities. We recently installed a 3,000-gallon tank, donated by Dingee Machine Company who has built several of our apparatus, at that location. This provides a backup fill for our tankers as well as allowing us to wash trucks at that station.

While some of our social events were rained out, we managed to have a great annual Chicken Barbeque and a Reunion Social at David Berno's home, where Vaughn once again displayed the prowess of our (still) new pumper and managed to drain Dave's pool in a matter of minutes.

While we have up-to-date fire/rescue apparatus, equipment and well-trained firefighters, we are most often needed for medical calls. As noted below, we responded to 71 medical/EMS calls this past year. That's 65% of our calls. In the near future, we feel that this number will continue to rise. We remain grateful for our six, soon to be seven, EMTs.

Calls this year exceeded last year by 15, for a total of 110:

Medical & MREMS assist calls	71	Structure, Electric or Vehicle Fires	8
Motor Vehicle Incidents	9	Grass, Brush & Agricultural Fires	7
Fire/Smoke/CO Investigations	14	Fallen Wires, Trees, etc.	2
Mutual Aid Given	3	Other	5

\*Total exceeds the number of calls because some (MVA, Other) involve Fire/Rescue as well as Medical.

Of note concerning our mutual aid calls, we responded to a shed fire in Middlebury during the cold snap of late January, early February. On that day, the same as the college winter graduates skied down the slope on campus, the temperature hovered around 20-below zero. The fire scene was an icy mess, as one might imagine. True to form, the Cornwall team responded with good numbers and a full complement of 4 trucks.

Also, we responded to Middlebury on a soggy Tuesday night in August, which saw 10 feet of rainwater filling under the railroad next to County Tire. We drove through deep water to set up around town to clear storm drains and direct traffic to safety until the storm subsided and the drains could catch up.

As mentioned, we continue to be well-staffed in the medical side of the department with 6 EMTs on board: Gail and Rich Isenberg, Megan Frankovic, Sue Johnson, Ben Marks and Assistant Chief Lew Castle. Additionally, we are: Chief David Berno, Asst Chief Sean Stearns, Captains Raph Worrick, Tommy Frankovic and Chris Dayton, Lieutenant Luke Jerome and Firefighter/First Responders Ken Manchester, Ed Peet, Vaughn Berno, Peter Conlon, Blair Peterson, Charlie Bearor, Haley Stearns, Josh Stearns, Conor Stinson and Josiah Benoit, as well as our new cadet, Aven Frankovic.

## **Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department, *continued***

We gained three new members last year: firefighters Lauren Ringey and Bruce Koontz as well as medic Mike Magluilo. All three are deep into their training to complete Firefighter 1 and EMT courses.

We welcome anyone interested in joining the department to reach out to any fire department member. We particularly need additional people interested in EMS positions who are available in town for calls during the day. Chief Berno can be reached at 802-989-3331 and [dberno@shoreham.net](mailto:dberno@shoreham.net).

Also, we encourage each and every member of our community to utilize our E911 signage. It makes it so much easier for us to find you in an emergency. Contact the town clerk or any CVFD member for more information.

Lastly, as spring approaches and cleanup begins, townspeople are reminded to contact Cornwall's Fire Warden, Lieutenant Luke Jerome for burning permits.

## **Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department Budget**

Category Sub-category	7/1/22– 6/30/23 Budget		7/1/23– 6/30/24 Budget		7/1/24– 6/30/25 Proposed
<b>Utilities</b>					
Heat	\$3,000		\$4,500		\$3,500
Electric	2,100		2,400		2,400
Telephone	2,500		3,000		2,400
<b>Insurance</b>					
Insurance Premiums	17,000		20,000		20,000
<b>Vehicles</b>					
Vehicle Fuel	1,000		1,250		2,000
Vehicle Maintenance	5,000		4,000		5,000
<b>Equipment</b>					
Communications Equipment	4,500		3,000		3,000
Medical	4,000		2,500		4,000
Personal Equipment	8,000		8,000		10,000
Fire Equipment	4,000		5,250		5,250
<b>Training</b>					
Medical	1,600		1,000		1,000
Fire Prevention	250		250		250
Fire Training	6,000		4,000		4,000
<b>Operations</b>					
Association Dues	1,200		1,000		1,000
Buildings & Grounds	3,500		3,500		3,500
Professional Services	0		0		1,000
Department Office Equipment	300		300		300
Food and Beverages	1,000		1,000		1,000
Dispatch Services	3,000		3,000		4,000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>67,950</b>		<b>67,950</b>		<b>73,600</b>
<b>Grand Total with Income</b>	<b>\$67,750</b>		<b>\$67,950</b>		<b>\$73,600</b>

## **Energy Coordinator's Report**

### **RENEWED EFFORTS TO CREATE ENERGY COMMITTEE**

I was recently contacted by Don Burns regarding the Town's desire to create an Energy Committee. When speaking with Don I mentioned that Weybridge has a very active and successful Energy Committee and suggested that maybe we could somehow work with them to generate activity in Cornwall. Perhaps we could piggyback on activities such as Button up Vermont, Energy Fairs, and workshops on specific topics such as heat pumps, PV systems and electric vehicles that Weybridge is already sponsoring. We already share a Front Porch Forum with Weybridge, why not share an Energy Committee?

With the Selectboard's blessing to pursue the possibility I contacted a member of the Weybridge Energy Committee, told them what I was proposing, and requested to attend their next meeting to talk about the idea. Consequently, I was present at the next meeting to discuss my proposal. The Committee consented to a one-year trial period in which representatives of Cornwall attend their meetings and participate in their activities, after which we would reevaluate the situation and decide what the next steps might be.

I will be at the Town Meeting to distribute information, discussing this opportunity and hopefully recruiting some folks who would like to participate. If you have any questions or are interested in being a part of this, please give me a call or text me at 802-377-0331.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gary Barnett  
802-462-3669

## **Forest Fire Warden Report**

Greetings Cornwall Residents

My name is Luke Jerome, and I am the newly appointed Forest Fire Warden. In my position as Fire Warden, I will come and inspect burn piles when you call me for a permit. I will issue the permit after inspection.

A total of 117 burn permits were issued in 2023.

My contact information is: 802-349-2985 (cell phone), 802-462-2375 (home phone), and [lcjerome@shoreham.net](mailto:lcjerome@shoreham.net) (email address). During my working hours, I am out of Cornwall and do not have good cell coverage in some areas. Please leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Luke Jerome  
Cornwall Fire Warden

## **Cemetery Commission Report**

Much of Cornwall's history is recorded on the stones in our burying grounds. Your Cemetery Commission is charged with the preservation of that history through the care and maintenance of two of the Town's cemeteries: South Cemetery on DeLong Road and West Cemetery on 74. Four other cemeteries: Central, Evergreen, Fair, and Pleasant Hill, are under the purview of cemetery associations; the Ringey family, whose ancestress was the last of the Hamblins, looks after the old Hamblin Cemetery. We are a five-member commission consisting of Anne Collins, Janet Franklin, Bruce Payne, Jim Pugh, and "T" Tall. (Thank you, Janet, for volunteering to fill a position that's been vacant for many years.)

Like many Cemetery Commissions, we face a challenging combination of funding and the high cost of headstone repair and replacement, together with a shortage of skilled masons to perform the work. In response to that challenge, we held another community workday. (We'd intended to have a second one in September, but the mosquitoes decided otherwise.)

Tremendous thanks to the 13 volunteers who turned out on a Saturday morning in May to clean the stones in West Cemetery, to Marge Drexler for letting us use her driveway, and to Matthew Severy for delivering a tank of water for us to use in the cleaning. Our volunteers were able to clean nearly all of the stones, and as you drive past the cemetery on a sunny day, the stones gleaming white in the sunlight are a testament to their dedication.

We'll schedule more of these workdays this year. No experience necessary, all hands are welcome.

Working from a variety of sources, and in conjunction with the Cornwall Historical Society, we are also in the process of creating a digital record of the burials in Cornwall, both marked and unmarked. Find-a-Grave, the archives of the Cornwall Cemetery Commission, and the work of Buster Brush have been a tremendous help. A treasure trove of material was found in the Cornwall Daughters of the American Revolution Chapter House, when the newly rejuvenated DAR Chapter took an inventory of the building's contents.

For the Cornwall History Day on September 17<sup>th</sup>, we had an exhibit and talk in the Congregational Church on the cemeteries of Cornwall.

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, the family of Elizabeth and Silas Stone held the dedication of a memorial marker for Silas in South Cemetery. Silas was a soldier of the 2<sup>nd</sup> NH Continental Regiment. He died following the Second Battle of Saratoga, at the age of 49, and is buried in an unmarked grave near the Army's Flying Hospital. Elizabeth and her children settled in Addison County after the Revolutionary War, and Elizabeth and their son Eli are buried in South Cemetery. Descendants of the Stones contacted us to enquire about the possibility of placing a marker for Silas near Elizabeth. The space beside her was empty, and Silas' memorial stone has been placed there.

In an earlier year's Cemetery Commission report, we told the story of Alvin Scovel's tombstone. It was found in the attic of the house built in the 1790s by his parents, Ezra Scovel and Tryphena Tyrell. Alvin was the second son of Tryphena and Ezra, and he died in 1802, aged 1. As to how his marker ended up in the attic, our best guess is that Alvin was buried in sight of the house,



## Cemetery Commission Report, *continued*

following the custom of the day, and that a later owner pulled up the marker when adding on to the house. Tryphena and Ezra are buried in South Cemetery, one row over from Silas Stone's family. When Silas Stone's memorial marker was being installed, the stone setter erected Alvin's tombstone as well.

Center right is Silas Stone's marker, next to his wife Elizabeth. The little dark one in the middle background is Alvin Scovel's, next to his mother.





## **Recreation Committee Report**

The Cornwall Recreation Committee meets three times a year on the first Thursday of April, August and December. We invite anyone who is interested to attend the meetings. They are at the Town Hall at 7PM. Our minutes of the meetings can be found at the Town Hall.

We provide activities that will interest the town residents of Cornwall, but not exclusive to just Cornwall residents. We welcome everyone from any town to come join in.

This past year, 2023, these are the activities that were available: Hydration Challenge; Snow Sculptures; Plank Challenge; Couch to 5K; Tie Dye Day, sadly was canceled due to constant rain; Kids' Camp; Pumpkin Carving, in collaboration with Trunk or Treat; Mary Jane Broughton Reading Challenge; Lights and Trains, places to go for viewing; along with The Park and Historic Passes availability at the Town Hall.

The Recreation Committee has a bank account for the money it raises throughout the year. Our funding is not provided by the Town, it comes from our bake sale and from donations.

Upcoming plans for 2024:

Winter—X-C Ski and Snowshoe Trails

Jan—Tuesday Morning Exercise, Wildlife Tracking in collaboration with the Conservation Committee, a night X-C Ski/Snowshoe (weather/snow dependent), Come Alive Outside Challenge (TBA)

Feb—Snow Sculptures, Come Alive Outside Challenge (TBA)

March—Plank Challenge, Come Alive Outside Challenge (TBA)

March/April—Couch to 5K

May—Book Challenge

June—Tie Dye Day

Aug—Back to School Fun Camp

Oct—The Great Pumpkin Carving in collaboration with Trunk or Treat

Nov—The Mary Jane Broughton Reading Challenge

Dec—Lights and Trains viewing sites

We will send out emails and post upcoming events to the Town. We welcome community participation and ideas that you may have that you would like us to consider for the fall and winter.

We have been in the process of raising funds for a Little Free Library to honor Mary Jane Broughton. Donations can be sent or brought to the Town Hall. Please write Little Free Library c/o Rec. Committee on your check.

We look forward to a year full of fun activities and programs for the residents of Cornwall. Please come join in!

Respectfully, The Cornwall Recreation Committee

## Conservation Commission Report

The primary focus of the Cornwall Conservation Commission is to engage in activities which assist the Town of Cornwall in identifying, understanding and protecting its significant natural resources: its forest communities, wildlife and wildlife habitat, wetlands, streams, and riparian areas as well as agricultural, recreational and scenic areas. We offer public outreach programs and provide advice and guidance to the Planning Commission, the Development Review Board, and to town residents. Conservation Commission members serve in an advisory role and are appointed by the Cornwall Selectboard.

Our work this year included supporting the efforts of the Planning Commission in updating the Nature and Environment section of the Town Plan and our launching of a multi-year project to document the town's wildlife habitat. Last spring, we once again led teams of monitors to assist amphibians in safely crossing West Street during their migration. Green Up Day had us providing information about invasive plants and insects at the drop-off area and clearing debris from the Swamp Road parking lot. And more....!

We have been cheered by the positive responses to CC-sponsored events. Here is a partial listing of last year's activities.

March: "Where did all the big mammals go? Ice Age extinctions in the Americas" was the title of a well-attended, family-friendly presentation by Middlebury Professor Alexis Mychajliw at the Cornwall School.

March/April: The annual trek of amphibians from their winter hibernating areas to feeding and breeding ponds on rainy, warm, spring nights was again assisted on West Street by volunteers slowing traffic and ensuring the animals safely crossed this busy road. Over several weeks, on rainy warm evenings, we monitored 250 peepers, Blue-spotted and Jefferson salamanders, and other amphibians in their crossing of a one half-mile section of West Street.

May: For the second year in a row, the Conservation Commission led a Green Up Day clean-up of the Swamp Road parking lot, fueled by the promise of cookies and cake. And, at the drop-off area, we had a tableful of information to share about the Emerald Ash Borer and other invasive species. Also on display were the new hand tools residents can borrow from the Cornwall Library to manually remove invasive plants.

June: June marked the end of the Trail Camera Project that clocked-in three years of pictures from 30+ sites across our town. The Project has provided a look at the town's reclusive wildlife population, including larger predators (bobcat, coyote, and bear) that travel long distances each day in search of food. Usually hidden by protective cover and often moving at night, we rarely see them, but the cameras did. Photos from the project have been featured in our Town Newsletters.

July: Middlebury College Biologist Greg Pask provided his own "illumination" in an early-evening rendezvous with fireflies, sharing with attendees his expertise on how they find food, communicate with others, and find mates.

## Conservation Commission Report, *continued*

November: Initiated by Cornwall CC, with support from Salisbury and Middlebury CCs, a half-day summit of Addison County conservation commissions prompted interesting discussions about each town's work. The featured event was the keynote speaker, Vermont House Representative and conservationist Amy Sheldon. More than forty people attended, with all but one county conservation commission represented.

December: The CC kicked off its 2-year wildlife connectivity study, "Where the Wild Things Are," with a presentation by project consultant, Sophie Mazowita. An enthusiastic crowd learned how large-ranging mammals like bobcats, otters, and coyote roam across the Cornwall landscape, and how to recognize their tracks and sign. Sophie invited attendees to share their observations with her and consider helping with project data-collection: winter tracking and trail camera monitoring.

Looking ahead to 2024: We are planning some things "old" and some "new." The Wildlife Connectivity study will have several tracking and trail camera workshops and we will be working with volunteers in the field to collect project data. CC hopes to have a crew out on West Street again this spring safely crossing our amphibian neighbors. In April, Alicia Daniels, Director of UVM's Master Naturalist Program, will lead a walk, "Reading the Landscape of Cornwall." And, last year's Green-Up Day heavy hitters are promising a repeat attack on the Swamp Road parking area and new recruits are always welcome.

Are you interested in helping with conservation activities in Cornwall? Please let us know if you'd like to join us in our work.

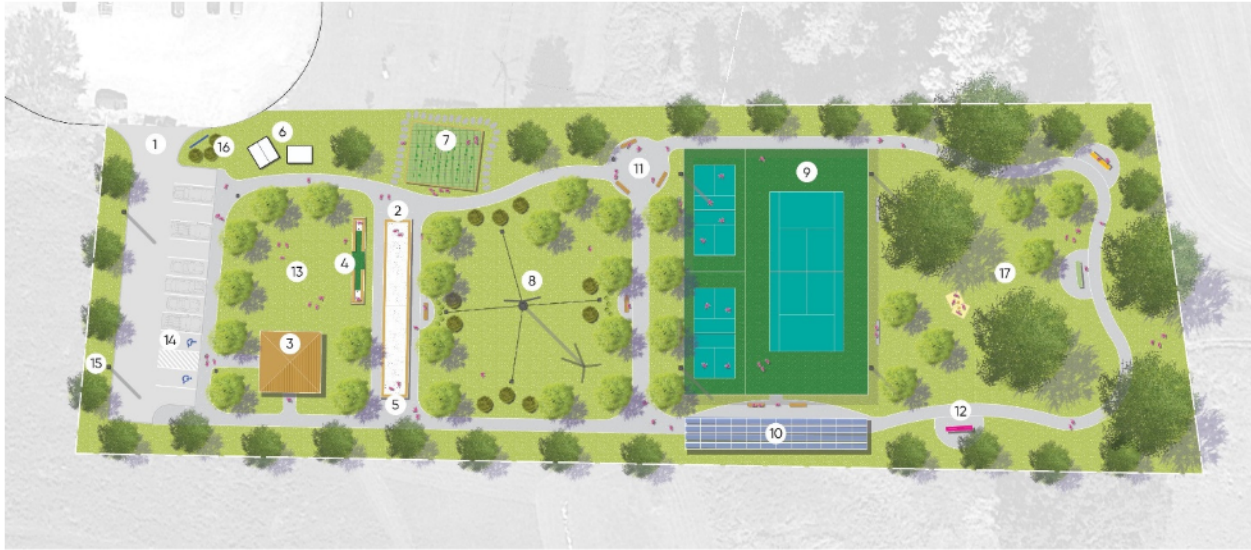
Conservation Commission members are Don Burns, Mary Dodge (co-chair), Andrea Landsberg, Kristina Sargent (co-chair), and Mike Sheridan.





## CORA (Cornwall Outdoor Recreation Area) Committee Report

We hope many of you read the recent article about CORA in the February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, edition of the *Addison Independent*. CORA is the proposed recreation area on the 2-acre parcel of town land just south of the Bingham Memorial School. It will include an ADA-compliant walking path, a picnic area and shelter, pollinator gardens, a horseshoe/cornhole pitch, a bocce ball court, a tennis court, and pickleball courts.



The CORA Committee is currently gathering all necessary permits for the project and has started fundraising.

We applied for a Community Grant from the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) funded through the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, and we hope to launch a *crowdfunding campaign* this spring as part of the Better Places matching grant funded by the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development. The Cornwall Selectboard has also approved allocating some of the Town's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for CORA.

The CORA Committee has pledged not to seek any funding for the construction of the recreation area through local taxes.

Drop us an email at [CORA.vermont@gmail.com](mailto:CORA.vermont@gmail.com), subscribe to the CORA mailing list via the CORA website at <http://CORAvt.org>, or talk to one of the CORA Committee members to learn more!

Gail Isenberg, Chair  
Stan Grzyb  
Marge Drexler  
Meg Harris

Woody Jackson  
Liz Marino  
Andrea Landsberg

## Listers' Report

The primary responsibility of the Cornwall Town Listers is to maintain the Town's Grand List — the appraised value of all real estate property in the town. We use State-mandated valuation tables using computer assisted mass appraisal (CAMA) software based on data collected from Cornwall sales history for the three years prior to the last Town-wide reappraisal, which was in 2009.

The State Department of Property Valuation and Review (PVR) does a yearly sales study comparing a history of the three prior years' property sales in each town to the appraisals derived from our Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal (CAMA) valuation tables. The ratio between the properties' actual selling price and the Town's appraisals for those properties sets the "Common Level of Appraisal" (CLA). The State uses a town's CLA to adjust property values to reach what it considers to be each town's fair share of the total property tax burden. A low CLA means the State considers a town's properties to be undervalued. As recently as 2017, Cornwall's CLA was 100.0 — meaning that, on average, the prior three years' sales accurately reflected the properties' assessed values. However, over the past few years of increased demand for Cornwall properties, Cornwall's CLA has been rapidly slipping to the point that our current CLA is 70.6 (down from last year's 85.6), and it means the State is now adjusting Cornwall's tax burden to reflect their opinion that every Cornwall property is currently assessed at only 70% of its true market value. While that might be true as a town-wide average, a property-by-property reassessment is now required to accurately bring our assessed values into line with current market prices.

The need for reassessment did not catch us by surprise, as we set out two years ago to find the right firm to do the job. The Town has signed a contract for a 2024-25 reappraisal with New England Municipal Resource Center (NEMRC), an appraisal firm with extensive background in town-wide reappraisals in Vermont. At the time of the signing over a year ago, NEMRC already had a three-year backlog of reappraisal work. Recent articles in the media have reported that more than two-thirds of the towns in Vermont will now be required to reappraise because of increased property values and CLA levels close to Cornwall's. We are fortunate that we have a reappraisal process that is already underway:

- July, 2023 to April, 2025 — Data collection and data entry
- April and May, 2025 — Field review
- May, 2025 — Final review
- May, 2025 — Pre-hearings
- June, 2025 — Grievance Hearings
- June, 2025 — Lodge Grand List

Cornwall listers will continue to use the 2009 database in our property inspections for the coming 2024-25 tax year. At the same time, every Cornwall property owner can expect a visit from a NEMRC representative during the next year as they build a new database that will go into effect beginning Fall of 2025. Please contact us if you have any questions about the reappraisal process or property visits.

## **Listers' Report, *continued***

Your listers are also responsible for maintaining lists of State Current Use Program enrollment, homestead declarations, house-site values, statutory and town-voted tax exemptions and town maps with property IDs and boundaries. This year, we processed 70 property transfers from among Cornwall's 636 taxable parcels. Many of these were transfers from individuals to trusts, rather than new ownership.

We are back to our regular Thursday afternoon, 4:00 to 6:00, office hours at the Town Hall, but calling ahead for an appointment is the best way to meet with us in person. We are also happy to meet with you at another time or via Zoom conference if that better meets your needs.

Each year we've done this report we've ended with a very heartfelt thanks to Sue Johnson for all the help she has given us over the prior year — and now we have to say that we will greatly miss her presence in the office going forward. We're sure that we speak for the many listers who have gone before us when we wish Sue the happiest of retirements. (We are also hoping that Sue will leave us her home phone number for those questions for which no one else has the answers.)

The Listers may be contacted by e-mail at [Cornwall.Listers@gmail.com](mailto:Cornwall.Listers@gmail.com), or by phone at 462-3386.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Kincaid, Jordan Young, Bill Johnson.

The Listers would like to remind everyone that if you own and occupy your Vermont residence as your primary dwelling on April 1, 2024, you must file your Homestead Declaration, Form HS-122, with the Vermont Department of Taxes on or before April 15<sup>th</sup> to ensure that the correct tax rate is billed.

## **Planning Commission Report**

In 2023, the Cornwall Planning Commission completed an update of the Town Plan. This work began in the fall of 2020 and represents many hours of volunteer labor from across the town government. If you have not had a chance to review some of the new sections, please do! As the Town Plan passed into the Selectboard's domain and eventually the Addison County Regional Planning Commission, the members of the Planning Commission exerted every effort to assist each group in its own efforts to guide the Plan to approval.

The collaborative spirit that brought that big project to completion has continued to guide the Planning Commission throughout the last year. Guided by the new Plan Implementation section of the Town Plan, the Planning Commission set out to work on issues related to housing, official Village Center Designation, and cementing ties with other Town public boards to improve our collective working relationship and to support exciting on-going projects, like the Cornwall Outdoor Recreation Area.

Our most recent efforts have resulted in a new working group focusing additional volunteer effort on the issue of housing affordability in Cornwall. Still in its early days, the working group is wrestling with the topic of housing affordability and how a community like Cornwall could approach this topic in a meaningful way. While the working group will have had its origins in Planning Commission meetings, we are hoping that the group might stand on its own, driven by the efforts of new volunteers. If the issue of housing excites you, please reach out to a Commission member to talk about how you might be involved.

Further back in our municipal year, the Planning Commission found itself in a supportive role to two exciting projects for our community. The excitement and energy generated by the folks behind the project to build a Cornwall Outdoor Recreation Area has been inspiring. This led directly to the completion of one of the new implementation items for the town: Village Center Designation. This program sponsored by the State of Vermont is meant to bolster the historic core of Vermont towns, with additional planning support and grants to help the folks in those areas maintain and update existing buildings. Led by a Planning Commission alum, Marge Drexler, the town applied for and was granted a Village Center Designation. This work led to some additional efforts that are directed at the creation of an outdoor recreation area in the vicinity of the school.

Additionally, the CPC has set aside time to develop a working relationship with several boards throughout the year. Though we frequently collaborate with the Development Review Board, the Selectboard, and the Conservation Commission, we have met with each in the past year to discuss in broad strokes our work together. This also included some recent efforts to reinvigorate an Energy Committee in town, with the assistance of a new working relationship with the Weybridge Energy Committee. This kind of coordinated early, pre-project discussion has helped to get neighbors to know each other as they work for the betterment of our town.

And as we close out our report, we would like to recognize the efforts of Marge Drexler and Drew Kervick. Though Marge cycled off the Planning Commission at the end of her term last March, she continued her efforts in community planning by assisting in the Village Center Designation. Her efforts, both on and off the Planning Commission were critical in our completion of the Town Plan and the VCD. Drew Kervick left the Planning Commission mid-summer, but only after several years of great commitment and excellent contributions to the Town Plan, both in crafting the document and helping to shepherd the project through to completion. Thank you both!

## **Planning Commission Report, *continued***

The Planning Commission is always interested in hearing from Cornwallians about their town and especially if they'd like to dedicate some time to help. We currently have one vacancy on the Board. Looking ahead to the next year, we are going to continue our efforts to deepen our connections to other public Boards and Town Officers. We are also hoping to review and consider some updates to the Town Zoning and Subdivision Regulations.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Branch, Don Burns (Vice Chair), Mickey Heinecken, Lauren Ringey, Conor Stinson (Chair), Chet Van Dellen



## **Development Review Board**

The Cornwall Development Review Board is a quasi-judicial board responsible for reviewing proposals for land use and development in Cornwall, under the Town's Zoning and Subdivision Regulations and the Town Plan. In making our decisions, we work together to consider how the proposals may affect and improve our town, taking into account such things as impacts on our roads, our schools, our natural resources, and our community.

There are currently seven members of the DRB: Regular Members Barbara Greenwood (Chair), Shari Johnson (Vice Chair), Douglas Black, Kymberly Breckenridge, and Molly Daly, and Alternate Members Joan Lynch and Adam Eckhardt. Our Secretary is Robin Conway. Members serve staggered three-year terms and are appointed by the Selectboard.

The DRB usually meets at 7PM on the first Wednesday of each month, at the Town Hall. Its meetings are open to the public. The agendas are posted at the Town Hall and the Town Garage, and on the Town website. The current Zoning Regulations and Subdivision Regulations, the Board's Rules of Procedure, and current application forms (along with summaries of the application process and requirements) are available at the Town Hall and on the Town website. Applications must be filed with Town Clerk. The Town's Zoning Administrator, Lynn Coale, is available to answer questions about preparing applications, and is responsible for reviewing applications for completeness before passing them along to the DRB. A complete application must be filed at least 25 days prior to the next DRB regular meeting in order to be eligible to be considered at that meeting.

All DRB meetings and hearings in 2023 were hybrid – conducted in person at the Town Hall, and by Zoom. In addition to the usual paper copies (10), applicants are now required to file electronic copies of their application materials, which are posted on the Town's website. This enables members of the public to review the applications without having to come into the Town Hall.

During the past year, fewer applications than in pre-pandemic times were filed. As a result, only five regular DRB meetings were held. The matters considered by the Board in 2023 included:

- Sketch Plan Review Meeting, Michael L. and Julie L. Pyle – Proposed subdivision of 12.8 acre property located at 2846 VT Route 30 into 2 lots
- Hearing – Application for final subdivision approval by Rose Torrey, Trustee of the M. Hartley MacFadden Trust, to subdivide 17.33 acres located at 625 Vermont Route 30, in Cornwall, Vermont, into 3 lots
- Hearing – Application by Town of Cornwall for a waiver from lot coverage maximum of 3%, and site plan review, in connection with a new sand and salt storage shed at the Town's highway facility located at 1469 South Bingham Street
- Hearing – Appeal brought by Randy Martin and Mary Martin from a decision of the Cornwall Zoning Administrator (ZA) dated March 8, 2023, in which the ZA declined to confirm that the Appellants' property, located at 1967 Route 74 in Cornwall, exists as two lawfully subdivided parcels

The DRB issued decisions in the MacFadden, Salt Shed, and Martin matters, which are available on the Town website.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Cornwall Development Review Board

## **Zoning Administrator's Report**

This is my first report as the Cornwall Zoning Administrator. I assumed this position August 1, 2023 and it has been my pleasure to serve. I would like to thank the Development Review Board and the Town Selectboard for the confidence they showed in hiring me.

Between the former Zoning Administrator and me, a total of 25 zoning permits were issued. Four of those were single family residences. In addition, 10 Certificates of Compliance were issued and 6 Certificates of Occupancy. There were no warnings of zoning violations issued.

### **Zoning Permits Issued**

3/29/23	Elizabeth Herrmann	722 Snake Mtn Rd	Single Family Residence
4/18/23	Katie Gieges	2698 West St	Garage
4/18/23	Gabriel Hamilton	292 Delong Rd	Addition to SFD
4/27/23	Joseph & Anne Severy	3129 Rt 30	Porch Addition SFD
4/28/23	Eric Blair	North Bingham St	Single Family Residence
5/3/23	Town of Cornwall	1469 S. Bingham St	Storage Shed
8/21/23	Blue Barn LLC	382 Robbins Rd	Garage
8/24/23	John Richmond	769 N. Bingham St	Storage Shed
9/7/23	Joyce Stephens	84 Sperry Rd	Shed
9/7/23	Alan Hamel	2120 N. Bingham St	Shed
9/25/23	Rebecca Tiger	Bardon Drive Lot 3	Single Family Residence
10/17/23	Anna Wilson	4633 Rt 30	Porch Addition
10/23/23	Eric Raymond	810 Park Hill Rd	Covered Deck
11/1/23	Elissa and Adam Eckhart	Bourdeau Rd	Single Family Residence
12/12/23	Chloe Schaefer	341 Parkhill Rd	Additions to SFR
12/20/23	Randy & Jean Quesnel	N. Bingham/Cross Rd	Boundary adjustment

### **Certificates of Compliance Issued**

1/27/23	Michael Palmer	2209 Rt 125
1/31/23	Michael and Julie Pyle	2846 Rt 30
3/17/23	Donna and George Brewer	75 S. Bingham
4/4/23	M. Hartley MacFadden Trust	625 Rt 30
4/12/23	Justin and Brandi Campbell	567 Orchard Run
4/25/23	Jason Robart	339 Parkhill Rd
9/1/23	Beaver Brook Properties LLC	86 Old Church Ln
10/17/23	William Amidon and Susan Parsons	351 Cross Rd
11/3/23	Estate of Christina Del Piero	1332 Cider Mill Rd
11/8/23	Joyce Stephens	84 Sperry Rd

## **Zoning Administrator's Report, *continued***

### **Certificates of Occupancy**

9/5/23	Charles Jackson	740 West St
9/7/23	Elizabeth Stahl/David Zarowin	1501 Rt 74
9/22/23	Peter and Tracy Longchamp	2174 Rt 74
10/17/23	Stephen Mahoney	1683 Cider Mill Rd
11/28/23	Theodore & Stephanie Cotton	1443 Ridge Rd
12/12/23	Theodore & Stephanie Cotton	1443 Ridge Rd

I would like to let all residents that might be operating a short-term rental business, such as an Airbnb, know that they are required to get a Conditional Use Permit approved. This is also true of other businesses that might be operating from a principal residence within the Town of Cornwall. Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding home occupations as well as all other matters regarding zoning.

Submitted by  
D. Lynn Coale  
Zoning Administrator  
[dorseycoale@gmail.com](mailto:dorseycoale@gmail.com)

## **Cornwall Free Public Library**

The Cornwall Library continued with business as usual in 2023. Patron activity was essentially back to normal, and the Trustees are very pleased by that. Although the Library is open regular hours, we are still offering Web OPAC services and also the ability to download audio books with the Libby app through the Green Mountain Library Consortium. To utilize the Web OPAC online catalog, you will need a Username and PIN. Call Sue and/or Laura at the Town Hall and one of them can help you with that information. The website URL is: <https://19585.rmwebopac.com>. You will need a library card number and PIN to utilize the Libby app as well. Please give a call or stop by with questions. 802-462-2775.

We once again received a generous donation from the Holmes Advised Fund in the amount of \$1,000. We sincerely appreciate this donation as it allows us to expand our collection well beyond what would normally be possible on our modest budget. The library also received several additional donations which we appreciate. We thank Becky Dayton at the Vermont Book Shop for their donations to the library and for working with us to keep our collection current and exciting.

In 2002 the Library purchased a bookcase with ARPA funds, but our insurance company was concerned about the bookcase's structure and the possibility that they may fall over. Last year, Trustee Rich Isenberg used the original bookcase as a model to build two new bookcases, with improved stabilization, for the children's room. We appreciate Rich's contribution of time and energy to this project.

Our annual book sale was held on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Our book sales continue to benefit from the wonderful book donations we receive during the year from our residents and are enhanced by the craft tables upstairs. The craft table fees were once again donated to the library. We thank Amanda Payne for organizing that and to all the crafters for their generosity. Our 2023 book sale was very successful. The total made from the book sale and the table fees was \$1,641.00. Thank you to everyone for their support of the library. These funds go directly to the purchase of new books, movies, and audio books. We will take gently used books in donation for the 2024 book sale. Please no books that are musty, mildewy, moldy, etc. We can't use those in the sale and have to find a way to get rid of them ourselves.

The library will be open on Saturday mornings in 2024. We have decided that we have had enough patron visits on Saturdays to continue being open on Saturdays indefinitely. The hours will be 10:00 AM – Noon.

The Library Trustees wish to thank two of our retiring Trustees for their many years of service to the library. Judy English and Juliet Gerlin will not be running for a Library Trustee position in 2024. Judy has moved out of Cornwall and we appreciate her many years of service. Juliet decided to retire in 2024 after being an integral part of the library services here in Cornwall. A sincere thank you to both of these wonderful people. Best to you both.

*Respectfully submitted by your Library Trustees:*

Judy English, Laura Fetterolf, Juliet Gerlin, Rich Isenberg, Sue Johnson, Patty McCormick, and Kristina Simmons

## Cornwall Free Public Library, *continued*

### Library Treasurer's Report

Checking Balance, 01/01/2023

\$8,539.63

**INCOME:**

Town Appropriation 2023	\$4,000.00
Book Sale	1,677.00
Donations	1,480.00
Miscellaneous Income	1,736.00
<b>Sub-Total Income:</b>	<b><u>\$8,893.00</u></b>

**EXPENSES:**

Supplies/Advertising	\$46.53
Membership Dues	1,279.83
Book Cases	265.48
Books/Media	6,140.12
Phone Service	<u>1,114.84</u>
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b><u>\$8,846.80</u></b>

Less Expenses: (8,846.80)

**Balance 12/31/2023** **\$8,585.83**

**Fund Balances 12-31-23**

Foot, Morse & Ringey Combined CD (NBM)	\$4,772.41
Interest earned 2023	<u>15.14</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>4,787.55</u></b>
Drexler & Allison Combined CD (NBM)	2,319.99
Interest earned 2023	<u>6.94</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>2,326.93</u></b>
<b>Grand Total CD's</b>	<b><u>\$7,114.48</u></b>

## Tree Warden's Report

The Town had to remove several large trees from the Town Green that were dead or nearly so and were beginning to shed branches in a dangerous way. These were all on the western edge of the green so most probably you haven't noticed they're gone. The tree removal has left a good-sized void in the green. The thought is to replace the trees with some that are more durable, and site suited. The decision that remains is whether to remove several more prior to planting new trees.

This spring there will be a request for proposal put out to replace the trees. While the Trustees of Public Funds don't know it yet, the thought is to request some of the funds set aside for beautification projects in Town. If that isn't a viable option, then more discussion will need to be had.

I have had a few questions about dead roadside trees. I have not gotten too involved at this time as historically the Road Crew has dealt with these trees. Should these trees continue to deteriorate and become a safety concern, we'll have to come up with a plan to deal with them.

There are several new invasive insects in or around our state that we will want to be looking for. Some are pretty snazzy and some not so much, but they are all a problem. If you're interested in seeing what they look like you can search Vermont Invasive insects ([anr.vermont.gov/special-topics/invasive-species](https://anr.vermont.gov/special-topics/invasive-species)).

Stu Johnson  
Tree Warden

## Capital Budget Committee Report

Cornwall is completing its fifteenth year of managing capital spending under a formally adopted Capital Budget and Program. The first Capital Budget and Program proposed that the Town Budget include a line item for \$120,000 in the fiscal year beginning in July 2009 (and subsequent years) to cover the orderly replacement of Highway and Fire Department equipment as it wears out. Starting in fiscal year 2012, the Committee proposed that the amount budgeted be increased to \$130,000. This number seems to be working well for the current equipment Budget and Plan. Starting in fiscal year 2014, the Capital Program proposed that the Town Budget include a line item of \$100,000 to cover the maintenance, repair, and replacement of the Town buildings, including the Town Hall, Town Garage, salt and sand buildings, etc. In fiscal year 2019, the Capital Program proposed that the Town Budget include a line item of \$25,000 a year to cover new paving of roads.

This report explains the Capital Budget and Planning Committee's Capital Budget proposal for the fiscal year beginning in July 2024 and the Capital Plan (Program) for the five fiscal years beginning in July 2025.

After accounting for the current year's expenditures and reviewing the five-year plan from the 2023 report, the Committee is recommending that the Capital Equipment line on the General Fund Budget remain at \$130,000. As of January 31, 2024, the Capital Equipment Fund balance is \$5,435.05. The Equipment Fund completed the purchase of the Highway Department's John Deere Grader; the 2004 Volvo Grader was traded to United Construction and Forestry. The cost of the Grader was \$330,300. The equipment fund will be saving up money for the next few years before the next purchase is scheduled.

The Committee is recommending that the Capital Building line on the General Fund Budget remain at \$100,000. As of January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, the Capital Building Fund balance is \$155,215.72. The Building Fund completed the demolition of the old sand and salt building and the construction of the new building. Construction was completed in September 2023. The cost for demolition and construction was \$231,215. The increased size of the building has allowed for a much larger storage area for both sand and salt. The next project will be renovation and additions to the Town Garage. The Capital Committee is in the process of putting together a Scope of Work and sending out requests for proposals for upgrades to the building.

The Committee is recommending the continuation of a Capital Paving line in the General Fund budget in the amount of \$25,000 to prepare for future paving of gravel roads. The Committee discussed the benefits of paved roads over gravel roads and believes that winter maintenance is more efficient when treating pavement with salt. The current balance in the Capital Paving Fund is \$100,000.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Ben Wood, Mary Conlon, Steve Rheaume, Stu Johnson, Sue Johnson, David Berno, Brian Kemp

## Cornwall Emergency Management Network

We have all been aware of the changing weather patterns in Vermont, some of which have had minor effects on Cornwall, compared to the rest of the state. While heavy rains this summer and early winter have had severe flooding effects in Middlebury and in Vermont's mountainous areas, Cornwall's swamp has spared us most of the effects associated with large volumes of moving surface water. During extraordinary rain events, the swamp acts as a sponge and diffuser, spreading out the surface area of large quantities of water, slowing down its flow distributing excess water over a large area. These protective effects are similar to the swamp's function during our regular spring thaws.

Notwithstanding this, Cornwall did experience some local road damage from rains this summer. The most recent fall storms produced a sufficient volume of moving water to damage the traveled surface of several local roads, which were repaired by the Cornwall Highway Department and local contractors (thank you, Sean Stearns).

The Town's experience this summer argues for a certain level of awareness and resiliency planning by our residents. We have always had a strong tradition of Cornwall residents checking in on their friends and neighbors, but it pays to be prepared. Vermont's Emergency Management website has recommendations for building a home preparedness: [vem.vermont.gov/preparedness/kit](http://vem.vermont.gov/preparedness/kit). It notes that a basic emergency supply kit could include the following recommended items:

- Water: one gallon of per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food: at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand-cranked radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Prescription and over-the-counter medications
- First Aid Kit
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Comfort items for children like stuffed animals or games
- Manual can opener for food
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter, or solar charger

Residents should also consider purchasing backup electric generators and/or battery systems that can keep basic home electric functions running for a day or two. Installation by a competent electrician, and regular testing of your system, can help blunt the effects of short service interruptions by keeping water pumps, sump pumps, septic pumps, refrigerators, freezers, and necessary medical equipment running through periods of electrical service disruption.

Benjamin Marks  
Cornwall Emergency Management Coordinator  
January 2024



## **Town Meeting Minutes Saturday, March 4, 2023**

The legal voters of the Town of Cornwall met at the Anna Stowell Sunderland Bingham Memorial School on Saturday, March 4, 2023 at 10:00 AM. There were 72 people in attendance. Cy Tall reviewed the Rules of Order for the Town Meeting. Cy also thanked the FOCS for the breakfast they provided. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Pre meeting speakers included Barbara Greenwood and Conor Stinson, who reported that both the Planning Commission and the Development Review Board are looking for additional members to help fill out their rosters. Ben Marks spoke for the Selectboard. He thanked the Road Crew for keeping the roads clear during this current storm. He also indicated that it was delightful to be holding the meeting in person once again.

*ARTICLE 1: To elect all town officials as required by law. Voting for officials will be by Australian ballot. Polls will be open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at the Cornwall Town Hall. Officials to be elected are:*

*5 years: Cemetery Commissioner*

*4 years: Cemetery Commissioner (to fill an unexpired term)*

*3 years: Selectboard; Lister; Auditor, Trustee of Public Funds; Three (3) Planning Commissioners*

*2 years: Selectboard; Four (4) Library Trustees; Planning Commissioner (to fill an unexpired term).*

*1 year: Moderator; First Constable; Second Constable; Collector of Delinquent Taxes; Planning Commissioner (to fill an unexpired term)*

Article 1 will be voted on by Australian Ballot on Tuesday, March 7 from 7 AM to 7 PM at the Cornwall Town Hall.

*ARTICLE 2: To see what action the voters will take regarding the town's financial surplus or deficit.*

Susan Johnson moved to use the surplus from the 2022-2023 FY, in the amount of \$92,723.58 to lower taxes when calculating the tax rate for tax year 2023 -2024. Seconded by Jordan Young. Discussion: Chet Van Dellen asked how often surpluses occurred. Sue Johnson indicated that we do have a surplus fairly regularly. Barney Hodges asked what had been done with the surplus in previous years. Sue Johnson indicated that on several occasions part of the surplus was used for a specific purpose. Last year, \$50,000 was earmarked for the upcoming Town wide reappraisal. Ellen Whelan-Wuest asked if any thought had been given to using some of the surplus for additional after school programs. Ben Marks indicated that no thought had been given to using any

of the surplus for after school programs. The Selectboard had given ARPA funds to support the after-school programs. The motion carried on voice vote.

*ARTICLE 3: To see if the voters will approve a General Fund budget of \$535,400.*

John Roberts moved, and Margy Young seconded to approve the General Fund budget of \$535,400 as presented. Discussion: Sue Johnson pointed out that the fixed appropriation section had been incorrectly formatted in the Town Report. The motion carried on voice vote.

*ARTICLE 4: To see if the voters will approve a Highway budget of \$535,150. State Aid is expected to be approximately \$65,000, resulting in a budget of \$470,150.*

Sue Johnson moved, and Ingrid Jackson seconded to approve the Highway Department budget of \$535,150 with state aid expected to be \$65,000 resulting in a final budget of \$470,150. Discussion: There was none. The motion carried on voice vote.

*ARTICLE 5: To see if the voters will appropriate \$67,950 to be transferred to the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department to pay its expenses from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.*

Liz Marino moved, and Jordan Young seconded to appropriate \$67,950 as requested. Discussion: Ben Marks pointed out that the fire department budget this year is less than the budget from two years ago. He gave the fire department kudos for effective budgeting. T Tall asked how membership was for the department. Raph Worrick indicated that department membership is in pretty good shape. Although he did indicate that the department is always looking for members. Gail Isenberg spoke in regard to the medical team and explained that the team will need younger members going forward. Anyone interested was asked to contact a fire department member. The motion carried on voice vote.

*ARTICLE 6: To see if the voters will appropriate \$4,000 to be transferred to the Cornwall Free Public Library to pay its expenses from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.*

Kate Gieges moved, and Stan Grzyb seconded to appropriate \$4,000 to the Cornwall Free Public Library as requested. Discussion: Sue Johnson, Library Trustee thanked the voters for their continued support of the library. The motion carried on voice vote.

*ARTICLE 7: To see if the voters will appropriate the following amounts to be transferred to the listed organizations:*

<i>a. Addison Central Teens, Inc.</i>	<i>\$2,500.00</i>
<i>b. Addison County Home Health and Hospice, Inc.</i>	<i>1,440.00</i>
<i>c. Addison County Parent/Child Center, Inc.</i>	<i>1,600.00</i>
<i>d. Addison County Readers, Inc.</i>	<i>350.00</i>
<i>e. Addison County Restorative Justice Services</i>	<i>350.00</i>
<i>f. Addison County Riverwatch Collaborative</i>	<i>500.00</i>
<i>g. Age Well</i>	<i>1,100.00</i>
<i>h. Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO)</i>	<i>2,000.00</i>

i. Charter House Coalition	2,500.00
j. Counseling Service of Addison County, Inc.	2,300.00
k. Elderly Services, Inc.	4,000.00
l. Green Up Vermont, Inc.	100.00
m. Habitat for Humanity of Addison County	1,200.00
n. Homeward Bound, Animal Welfare Center	500.00
o. H O P E (Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects)	4,000.00
p. John W. Graham Emergency Shelter Service, Inc.	1,950.00
q. Mary Johnson Children's Center, Inc.	700.00
r. Middlebury Area Land Trust (MALT)	750.00
s. Open Door Clinic/Community Health Services, Inc.	1,000.00
t. Otter Creek Child Care Center	1,000.00
u. The Retired & Senior Volunteer Program, Inc.	540.00
v. Tri-Valley Transit	1,315.00
w. Turning Point Center of Addison County	1,000.00
x. Vermont Adult Learning, Inc.	500.00
y. WomenSafe, Inc.	<u>\$1,250.00</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$34,445.00</b>

Stan Grzyb moved, and Kate Gieges seconded to appropriate the listed amounts to the various charitable organizations. Discussion: James Cryan asked how the amounts are determined. Sue Johnson explained that individual organizations request a specific amount each year. Rich Isenberg explained that the amount is based on usage by Cornwall residents. Ellen Whelan-Wuest indicated that through her work with WomenSafe, the amount is very useful. Chet Van Dellen asked if there was a cap on the amount and can we set the amount as a town. There is no cap, and amendments to the amounts can be made by the voters. Kate Gieges indicated that copies of the paperwork related to the charitable organization requests were available at town meeting. The motion carried on voice vote.

*ARTICLE 8: To see if the voters will approve the billing date of September 1, 2023 for property taxes, payment of half that amount due November 15, 2023, and payment of the second half due May 15, 2024. Taxes are to be paid to the Cornwall Town Treasurer. Any taxes that are due, but unpaid after November 15, 2023, are considered late. Interest will be charged at the rate of one percent (1%) per month. Any taxes unpaid after May 15, 2024 will be considered delinquent. Interest will be charged on delinquent taxes at the rate of one percent (1%) per month, plus a collector's fee of eight percent (8%).*

Ann Collins moved, and Kate Gieges seconded to set the billing date of September 1, 2023 and tax due dates of November 15, 2023 and May 15, 2023. Also, to set the interest rate on late tax payments at 1% and the collector's fee at 8%. Discussion: Lise Anderson asked if the town's delinquent tax amount was unusually high. Ben Marks responded that it is lower than usual currently. Elizabeth Toder felt that the 8% Collector's fee was too high. The fee is statutory and provides a range of percentages. The town votes the percentage number. Ben explained that although some folks have specific reasons why they cannot pay their taxes on time;

others are chronic, and the fee provides an incentive to encourage payment. The motion carried on voice vote.

*ARTICLE 9: Any other business proper to come before this meeting.*

T Tall mentioned the great turn out for town meeting. He also wanted to thank those who helped and organized during and after the major storm around Christmas.

Representative Peter Conlon gave an update on the happenings in Montpelier. Those happenings included the Affordable Heat Act. A bill to shield medical folks when performing abortions. An expanded bottle bill to include plastic and wine bottles. The state budget is carrying a surplus of over \$200,000,000. They are looking for one-time spending uses for these funds. The paid family and medical leave bill is back, the bill had been vetoed by the Governor previously.

Stan Grzyb, Gail Isenberg and Liz Marino spoke about the group that is attempting to get a pickleball court installed on the town's land adjacent to the elementary school. The group is also looking into a walking path, picnic area and other types of recreation. Stan Grzyb is Cornwall's representative to the Addison County Regional Planning Commission and has access to knowledge about grant opportunities. One of the opportunities was to submit an application to a national organization that could provide technical assistance with the project. That organization has created a survey for Cornwall residents to complete in order to help move the project forward. The survey is subsidized by the Vermont Department of Health. The group has received assistance from John Derick and Conor Stinson. The town will be able to apply for a Better Places grant once we have a designated village center. ACRPC will help with that application. James Cryan reported that the State Pickleball champion lives in Cornwall. Katherine DeLorenzo mentioned bike safety and the possibility of an off-road bike path. Ben Marks indicated that a Cornwall group looked into a bike path many years ago and found it was not possible to create one due to the number of easements that would be required.

Ben Marks mentioned that the FOCS, West Cornwall Backyard Concert Series and the Cornwall Congregational Church have teamed up to put on Cornwall's Community Coffee House events on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month. There are two events left.

Ben Marks also reported on items that the Selectboard will be attending to in the coming year. They include replacing the salt/sand building at the highway garage property, have solar panels installed on the south and east facing town hall roofs. The Selectboard also continues to monitor the progress of the Swamp Road bridge replacement.

Mickey Heinecken asked if any coal had been weighed in town during the last year. No coal has been weighed. It is a ceremonial position.

Barney Hodges III reported that their bunk house had been burglarized and \$18,000 had been stolen. The Hodges created a Go Fund Me campaign and raised more than the amount lost in just 36 hours. They will use the extra funds to update security at the bunk house. They wanted to say Thank You to all for their support.

Katie Gieges introduced herself and indicated that she is the E9-1-1 Coordinator and a local Auditor. Kate mentioned that Sue Johnson will not be running for Town Clerk and Treasurer next year and wanted to thank her for her years of service to the town. Sue J. received a standing ovation.

Will Jackson asked if there was an update on any improvements to Route 125 from Middlebury College to Ridge Road in Cornwall. Ben Marks explained that the State of Vermont planners met with residents of the Town of Cornwall and did a site visit from Middlebury College down through the ledges to ascertain the state of the roadway. This was in response to a bad accident with a fatality that occurred at the “humps” just west of the college. Studies are in progress at this time and some mitigation has happened, such as rumble strips on the center line. There is great concern about the situation and the urgent need for action. Willard Jackson moved that the residents of the Town of Cornwall wish to make clear to the Cornwall Selectboard their concern about the status of Route 125 from Middlebury College at Hillcrest Lane to the intersection with Ridge Road in Cornwall. The residents appreciate the work that has been done to mitigate some of the traffic issues but would ask the Selectboard to express their dissatisfaction with the speed at which the dangerous issues are being addressed and corrected by the State of Vermont. The motion was seconded and carried on voice vote. There was additional brief discussion about state highways and the lack of local control over them.

Questions were asked about Maple Broadband and where that service might be provided in Cornwall. Magna Dodge is the Cornwall delegate to the Maple Broadband board and can be contacted to get additional information about the service. Maple Broadband cannot serve anyone who is considered well served by Go Net Speed. Raph Worrick also pointed out that if you can get Star Link, you are considered well served. Maple Broadband had a soft opening and now have opened up service beyond that.

Mike Sheridan gave an overview of Conservation Commission happenings. The CCC now has a blog called Get Wild. The CCC will once again clean up at the Swamp Road bridge area this year on Green Up Day, May 6. The CCC now has invasive tools available at the library to be borrowed. A program on extinct mammals will take place on Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 6:30 PM at the Cornwall School.

Kate Gieges announce that the 2022 Town Reports are available on the website, [cornwallvt.com](http://cornwallvt.com).

Patty Nichols a member of the Mary Baker Allen and Ethan Allen Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution came to speak about the exciting plans to rejuvenate the local chapter and chapter house. The Sisters of the DAR would like to be of service to the residents of Cornwall. Due to the low enrollment of the local chapter the National Chapter was going to take over the building which would then have been sold. Several members of other chapters transferred their membership to Cornwall and thus kept the chapter functioning. They have done a building evaluation, and the building remains in good condition. They encourage anyone with interest to look into joining the DAR, pamphlets were available. There is a registrar available to help with applications. The DAR members are looking for ideas about the use of the building. A survey will be sent out in the future. On May 21, there will be a concert at Cornwall Church and then an open house at the DAR building after. A reminder that the town's mound system is located on the DAR property.

After a motion and second, the meeting was adjourned at 11:54 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Johnson,  
Town Clerk

## **Lemon Fair Insect Control District Report**

Despite active surveillance and targeted treatments in the Lemon Fair Insect Control District, this was a difficult mosquito season, not just in our district and Vermont, but all over the Northeast. Some of the most sustained flood conditions we've seen on the Lemon Fair River made tracking and identifying new hatches of mosquito larvae difficult. The valley sustained the longest period of floodwater since the LFICD has been keeping records. Repeated rain events generated sustained hatches everywhere—in upland puddles, lawns, woods, gardens, woodpiles, tire bunkers—not just limited to the Lemon Fair floodplain and Cornwall Swamp. Aerial treatments using larvicide are only effective in wetland areas within the floodplains.

Unfortunately, mosquitoes don't hatch all at the same time. Only selective acreages (1 to 30 acres) in the Lemon Fair floodplain had large larval counts and many areas didn't yield any larval activity. Given these small and scattered areas of larva in standing water, helicopter treatment could not be justified, since our helicopter provider requires a minimum of 1,000 acres for aerial treatment. However, we undertook eight ground treatments of up to 13+ acres each. Post treatment surveillance proved these treatments were 90% effective. We also deployed 8 fixed-location mosquito traps for surveying adult mosquitoes, which were set up on a weekly basis. We surpassed 2021's highest trap year for counting and identifying 64,827 mosquitoes. In 2023 we counted and identified 128,473 mosquitoes.

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAA) provides a grant up to a maximum of \$70,000 to support aerial and ground larvicide treatment (the LFICD does not treat adult mosquitoes) and Integrated Pest Management work to survey, count and identify mosquito larva and adults. The State "Permit to Conduct Larvicide Treatment", under which LFICD operates, specifies that all treatment must be approved by the VAA, based on biological assessments for mosquito larva, but the permit also states that "larval threshold requirements may be waived upon implementation of an IMM program, submitted to and accepted by the State." Because of previous years of Integrated Pest Management work and field data collection conducted by our field coordinator and summer interns, LFICD believes the VAA is willing to relax the thresholds for treatment in the future.

Because of the large numbers of mosquitoes experienced in 2023, we believe that we are likely to see another boom in mosquitoes in 2024. We will need aggressive surveillance and treatment when weather and field conditions warrant. We look forward to partnering with the VAA to tackle mosquito control in the Lemon Fair District next season. With \$70,000 in funding from the State and \$6,000 contributed by each of our three towns, the LFICD will have the ability to conduct 2 aerial floodplain treatments next season if the conditions warrant.

The LFICD employed two college interns as field/lab technicians, as it has for the last three years, Audrey Maxwell from Middlebury College and Ramsey Anis from UVM. The district benefited, not only from conducting "boots on the ground" field and lab work, but also in applying their data collection skills. They also represented the LFICD at a table set up in the Home and Garden Pavilion at the Addison County Fair & Field Days. A total of 237 people stopped by the exhibit.

The general public have a role to play in mosquito management, which is why we maintain an outreach program to help address mosquito abatement on private property. In 2023, the LFICD Hotline registered 33 complaint calls. We responded either in person or by phone and email, with

## **Lemon Fair Insect Control District, *continued***

the goal of helping property owners mitigate mosquito habitat on their properties and empower them to treat areas as appropriate using larvicides or barrier sprays for adult mosquitoes.

Moving forward, we need the ability to treat small areas (up to 100/200 acres) in a day. At best, our backpack sprayer can treat only 15-25 acres a day. The ideal solution is a drone capable of carrying 40 lbs. of granular larvicide at a time and treating up to 200 acres in a day. The Vermont Agency of Agriculture (“VAA”), the LFICD’s Grant Administrator, has expressed support for using a drone for larvicide treatment. However, before a treatment drone can be used, there are several hurdles that need to be addressed, including VAA funding, establishing applicable regulations, pilot identification, training, and licensing. We look forward to working with the VAA to make this a reality. In 2023, the VAA also purchased a sidewall tire cutter to help reduce the mosquito habitat from farm tire bunkers. The VAA is working out how and where the tire cutter will be deployed, but we anticipate it will be available for use in the district soon.

**LFICD Board:** Our current board members are: Bridport: Dinah Bain and Judd Markowski; Cornwall: Chris Chapline, Bob Cluss and David Zarowin; Weybridge: Gary Rodes. We need one additional board member in Bridport and two additional board members in Weybridge. Our Field Coordinator/Biologist is Craig Zondag. We thank outgoing board members Alissa Shethar and Wendy Lynch and outgoing chair David Dodge for their service ending in 2023.



## **Lemon Fair Insect Control District, *continued***

### **Lemon Fair Insect Control District (“LFICD”) 2024 Budget Notes**

**Background:** The LFICD provides mosquito larval survey and treatment services in the Lemon Fair River Valley for Bridport, Cornwall, and Weybridge. Larvicide treatment is provided on the ground or aurally following an analysis of conditions with reimbursement from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture (“VAA”). Additional information is available on our website (<https://www.lficd.org/>).

**Fiscal Year:** The VAA fiscal year (“FY”) is 7/1 to 6/30. The LFICD FY is 1/1 to 12/31.

**Treatment Acreage:** The LFICD’s 2024 budget assumes two full aerial treatments for the Lemon Fair Valley (1,000 acres) in Cornwall, Bridport, and Weybridge. 2023 had significant mosquito activity and we expect that we will have an early treatment and perhaps a second one. Previous years’ actual aerial treatment acreage: none from 2018 to 2023; 1,128 in 2017; none in 2016, 2015, 2014, and 2013; 2,689 in 2012; 5,256 in 2011; 1,784 in 2010; 5,096 in 2009.

**Larviciding:** We will continue to use third-party helicopter services for aerial larviciding including North Fork Helicopter of Long Island, NY. We will also conduct treatment on the ground when and where necessary.

**Grant Agreement:** We operate under a 12-month VAA Grant Agreement which is renewed annually effective July 1 of each year. The current Grant Agreement expires June 30, 2024. While we have received no formal commitments from the VAA, we anticipate that our Grant Agreement will be renewed effective July 1, 2024. All VAA reimbursements are subject to a 25% in kind or cash matching from the LFICD.

**Revenue:** Our revenue comes from two sources: the VAA Grant Agreement and the towns of Bridport, Cornwall, and Weybridge. We are requesting \$6,000 each from Bridport, Cornwall, and Weybridge. VAA revenue is a function of the amount available from the VAA under our annual Grant agreement (\$70,000) and how much we incur in reimbursable expenses, e.g., cost of aerial larviciding, larvicide purchases, field surveying, adult trapping and species identification and capital expenditures.

**Expenses:** Because of the increase in mosquitoes in the 2023 season, the FY 2024 budget assumes two 1,000-acre aerial treatments at a cost of \$60,000 with replacement larvicide purchases of \$40,000. Payroll is budgeted for \$60,000 compared to 2023’s (estimated) actual of \$57,231.83.

**Otter Creek Watershed Mosquito Control District (“OCW”):** Whenever possible, we attempt to coordinate same aerial day treatments with the OCW (formerly known as the Brandon, Leicester, Salisbury Goshen Insect Control District, “BLSG”).





Maple Broadband is one of ten Communications Union Districts in Vermont. Our mission is to enhance the economic, educational, and medical well-being of our 20 Addison County member towns, by ensuring that EVERY on-grid address has access to affordable, high-speed, fiber-optic, broadband. Maple Broadband has partnered with Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom (WCVT) whereby both organizations are building fiber-optic networks concurrently, ensuring that all member towns receive service as rapidly as possible. As a local not-for-profit, unlike the big, commercial internet providers, we don't have shareholders; we have stakeholders: the residents and businesses of Addison County. All members of the Maple Broadband Governing Board are appointed annually by their respective member towns: Addison, Bridport, Bristol, Cornwall, Ferrisburgh, Leicester, Lincoln, Middlebury, Monkton, New Haven, Orwell, Panton, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham, Starksboro, Vergennes, Waltham, Weybridge, and Whiting.

#### 2023 Accomplishments and Plans for 2024

- After several years of planning, and since breaking ground in October 2022, we officially launched service in February 2023.
- Demand for Maple Broadband's services is strong with early subscriptions exceeding the estimates in the business plan.
- The Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) approved a total of \$3.39 million in new grant funding for Maple Broadband this year.
- Maple Broadband is on target to offer services across over 125 miles by early 2024, finishing our Phase 1 build.
- As a result of Maple Broadband's support of its application to the VCBB, partner WCVT is on target to offer services across 225 new miles by the end of 2023, following its 2022 construction grant award.
- WCVT has funding in place for its 2024 build, including underserved portions of Bristol, Monkton, New Haven and Starksboro.
- Maple Broadband has funding in place to bring service to portions of Vergennes, Ferrisburgh, Waltham, Monkton, New Haven, and additional portions of Orwell in 2024, and is seeking up to \$3M in funding to bring service to additional areas.

The rollout of service to every home and business in Maple Broadband's service area takes time and money. We know that reliable access to the internet is key to meeting the current and future needs of all our communities. We SO appreciate the support, encouragement, and donations we've received from towns and individual community members across Addison County. Additional contributions are always welcome.

For additional information, including a map of current and future build plans; information on availability by specific address, internet package options, and more, please visit our website: [maplebroadband.net](http://maplebroadband.net) or call 877-49-MAPLE (877-496-2753).

## VSNIP Time to Spay & Neuter Cats & Dogs and License

The VT Spay Neuter Incentive Program (VSNIP), under VT Economic Services, is administered by VT Volunteer Services for Animals Humane Society (VVSA). Funded by a \$4.00 fee added to the licensing of dogs, resources are limited by the number of dogs licensed as required by law by 6 months of age. A rabies vaccination is required to license. The first vaccination can be given at 12 weeks of age. If unable to schedule an appointment with a vet office, Community Animal Aid (free to those on public assistance: 734-0259 at the E. Barre Fire Station) and Tractor Supply Company sites host monthly clinics. After vaccinating, contact your Town Clerk to license your dog. By statute, unlicensed dogs can be seized. Rabies is in Vermont, and it is deadly.

Licensing identifies your dog and is proof of vaccination if the dog bites another animal or a person. A dog may still be quarantined if it has bitten a person, but if it is not licensed and has no proof of current vaccination, the animal may be euthanized in order to test the brain for rabies.

For an Application for VSNIP send a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope to: VSNIP, PO Box 104, Bridgewater, VT 05034. Note if it is for a cat, dog, or both. To print out, go to: [VSNIP.Vermont.Gov](http://VSNIP.Vermont.Gov). VSNIP helps income challenged Vermonters with pet neutering and vaccinations. If approved, you'll receive a Voucher and instructions. If not, a list of low-cost resources will be sent. Several humane societies host spay neuter clinics open to the public. Your cost for a VSNIP surgery is \$27.00, if without complications. The balance is paid by fellow Vermonters with their \$4.00 fee collected at licensing. **Veterinarians and their staff are the backbone of this important program. Thanks to their generosity and altruistic vision, Vermont no longer uses routine euthanasia as a means of population control. Sincerely thank your veterinarian for their participation in VSNIP. If not currently a participating office, please ask them to join and help make a difference in your community. They are very needed.**

**Facts:** Female cats as young as 4 months can become pregnant. The “mom” cat can/will become pregnant when nursing is finished. Males travel for miles to find a female in heat, often not returning. Cats and dogs (naturally) mark their territory if not neutered. Resolve Carpet Cleaner and a single moth ball in its place will help deter from repeat markings. (Do not use moth balls with young children in the house.) 70% of cats and 15% of dogs using VSNIP are reported as strays or abandoned, which is cruel and illegal. Please do promote VSNIP, helping those that cannot afford to neuter, that will otherwise reproduce over and over. Repeat litters can cause uterine infection, mammary tumors, kidney failure, etc., leading to death. “Farm” cats are especially at risk. Be wary of any seller of animals that won't allow you to see how they are kept before acquiring and want to meet in a parking lot. Animals are often used as a means of making money, and their life may be the inside a room or cage. Please be the voice for those that cannot speak. Purchasing does not ‘save’ one, it ‘enables’ those to continue to misuse animals for money. Thank you for promoting this time proven program.

Thanks to now retired Lynn Murrell, DVM, who first agreed to extend reduced rates for animals in need, and all the Veterinarians and Clinics that served for the last forty years plus. A sincere thank you to Bernard “Snook” Downing for helping support many animals in need over the years with his hard work, contributions, and the donors we are unable to thank in print – but you know who you are! ***Together We Truly Do Make a Difference!*** 800 HI VSNIP (1-800-448-7647)

Sue Skaskiw, Administrator: VSNIP Executive Director: VVSA



## ADDISON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

### 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The Addison County Solid Waste Management District is a union municipal district formed in 1988 to cooperatively and comprehensively address the solid waste management interests of its 21 member municipalities: Addison, Bridport, Bristol, Cornwall, Ferrisburgh, Goshen, Leicester, Lincoln, Middlebury, Monkton, New Haven, Orwell, Panton, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham, Starksboro, Vergennes, Waltham, Weybridge and Whiting. The District is governed by a Board of Supervisors (Board) comprised of one representative and one alternate appointed by each of the member municipalities. The Board holds hybrid meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7 PM, and the Executive Board meets monthly eight days prior to the Board at 4:30 PM. All meetings are open to the public.

#### District Mission

To seek environmentally sound & cost effective solutions for: (1) Promoting **waste reduction**; (2) Promoting **pollution prevention**; (3) Maximizing **diversion** of waste through reuse, recycling and composting; and (4) Providing for **disposal** of remaining wastes.

#### District Office and Transfer Station

**Telephone:** (802) 388-2333 **Fax:** (802) 388-0271 **Website:** [www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org](http://www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org)

**E-mail:** [acswmd@acswmd.org](mailto:acswmd@acswmd.org) **Transfer Station Hours:** M-F 7 AM–3 PM & Sat, 8 AM–1 PM

**Office Hours:** M-F 8 AM–4 PM **HazWaste Center Hours:** M-F 8 AM–2 PM & Sat 8 AM–1 PM

The District Office, Transfer Station and HazWaste Center are co-located at 1223 Rt. 7 South in Middlebury. The Transfer Station accepts large loads of waste and single stream recyclables for transfer to out-of-District facilities. District residents and businesses may drop off a variety of other materials for reuse, recycling and composting. A complete list of acceptable items and prices can be found on the District's website.

#### 2023 Highlights

**New Regional Residential Drop-off.** The ACSWMD is developing a new regional residential solid waste transfer station at 65 Campground Road in New Haven, Addison County, VT. This regional facility will serve all 21 member towns of the District. District surveys and experience over the past 30 years have demonstrated that the hub and spoke system of town drop-offs feeding into the District Transfer Station in Middlebury, VT lacks a substantive depot, open some weekdays and on Saturdays, that can accept a variety of recyclables along with residential bagged Municipal Solid Waste (MSW). This new facility, while not intended to replace the small-town drop-offs, is intended to offer a sustainable system to provide more comprehensive and accessible service for residents. All relevant environmental and solid waste permits have been obtained by the District. The District contracted with Champlain Construction for Phase 1 construction. The scope of the work in Phase I, to be completed in early 2024, includes some site work: erosion control, concrete pads, paving, storm drain, buried retaining wall, driveway, landscaping, gate, and two concrete bunkers. The District will arrange for a private vehicle to park during Phase 1. In Phase 2, with a goal toward CY2025 construction, the new regional residential transfer station will be constructed and fully staffed, and will accept residential single stream recyclables, food scraps,

## Addison County Solid Waste District Report, *continued*

leaf & yard debris, scrap metal, electronics (E-Waste), MSW, fluorescent light bulbs, tires, books, plastic film/bags, and confidential documents for shredding/recycling. A new regional HazWaste (HHW) Center is planned for Phase 3 in CY2026.

**HHW Extended Producer Responsibility Law.** In 2023, Vermont enacted the first-in-the nation Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Extended Producer Responsibility Law. H.67 requires producers of hazardous household products to safely collect and dispose of them. It is the eighth Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) law enacted in Vermont, second only to California with its number of successful EPR programs. EPR is a legislative tool that extends a manufacturer's responsibility for its product throughout all lifecycle stages. Under an EPR program, financial and management responsibility for products is shifted away from local governments and back to the manufacturer. The District has been participating in numerous planning sessions to obtain an EPR law for HHW since 2017 and will continue these efforts in the coming years along with the VT Department of Environmental Conservation and other solid waste planning entities to ensure successful implementation of this critical program. The program goals include a reduction in public sector costs for managing HHW, increased education and outreach about safe management and reduction in generation of HHW, and incentives for producers to design products that are less toxic in the future.

### **2024 Annual Budget**

The ACSWMD Board of Supervisors adopted its 2024 Annual Budget, including the Rate Schedule for CY2024, on Nov. 16, 2023. The new rates will take effect on Jan. 1, 2024. As with prior years, the 2024 Annual Budget will be funded by a combination of: (1) tip fees collected at the Transfer Station; (2) a per-ton District Fee on all waste generated within the District and destined for disposal; (3) donations or fees at special events sponsored by the District; (4) the sale of items such as compost bins; (5) grants, if available; (6) profit sharing of scrap metal; and (7) manufacturer EPR reimbursements. **There will be no assessments to member municipalities in CY2024.** The new tip fee for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) & Construction/Demo Debris (C&D) at the District Transfer Station in Middlebury will be \$148/ton, a \$3/ton increase. Rates on a few other items will have nominal changes. For a copy of the 2023 Annual Report and/or adopted CY2024 Rate Sheet, please call the District at 802-388-2333, or e-mail the office at [acswmd@acswmd.org](mailto:acswmd@acswmd.org). Both are also available on the District's website at [www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org](http://www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org).



# Addison County Regional Planning Commission

## Annual Report –Year End June 30, 2023

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) provided the following technical assistance and planning to the Region during its 2023 fiscal year:

### Regional and Municipal Planning and Mapping

- Worked with Orwell, Waltham, Ferrisburgh and Vergennes on Municipal Planning Grants.
- Worked with Bristol, Lincoln and Shoreham on Bylaw Modernization projects focused on housing.
- Represented the Region in Act 250 and Section 248 hearings.
- Assisted municipalities in applying for Village Center Designation: Cornwall, Ferrisburgh.
- Designed and conducted a Regional Housing Survey.

### Educational Meetings and Grants

- Hosted educational workshops on planning topics, including housing, planning essentials and flood resiliency bylaws..
- Wrote or provided information and support to communities and organizations to secure grant funding.

### Emergency Planning

- Worked with Addison County’s Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC) and Vermont Emergency Management staff to assist with municipal emergency planning and training.
- Helped communities create Local Emergency Management Plans (LEMPs) & Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMPs)
- Updated Mutual Aid agreements for Public Works Departments.
- Administered two Flood Resilient Communities Fund (FRCF) grants.
- Administered one Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant.
- Assisted Vermont Emergency Management and FEMA with summer flooding response.

### Energy Planning:

- Helped all towns access capacity grants and energy assessments through the Municipal Energy Resilience Program.
- Worked with Efficiency Vermont and municipalities to implement enhanced energy plans.
- Provided energy scorecards for municipalities to track progress on state and local energy efficiency goals.
- Developed an online map of renewable energy resources and siting.

### Transportation Planning

- Supported the Addison County Transportation Advisory Committee’s regional priorities and studies.
- Supported Tri-Valley Transit by providing leadership and technical support.
- Worked with municipalities to reduce road erosion from local roads.
- Assisted Towns with bike and pedestrian, Better Roads and stormwater grants.
- Served as a Municipal Project Manager for projects in Middlebury, Vergennes and New Haven.
- Sponsored town transportation planning studies.
- Conducted traffic and pedestrian studies and hosted the regional Walk/bike council meetings.
- Provided local oversight for a Planning and Environmental Linkages Study for Vergennes and surrounding communities

### Natural Resources Planning

- Actively supported the efforts of the Addison County River Watch Collaborative.
- Worked with municipalities to support conservation commissions.
- Served as the Clean Water Service Provider for the Otter Creek Basin
- Provided educational outreach supporting the Otter Creek Tactical Basin Plan update.
- Assisted in stormwater planning projects and Ecosystem Restoration Program grants.

### Brownfields Planning

- Administered EPA-funded Community Wide Assessment grant for brownfield sites

## **Charitable and Service Organization Information — 2023**

**Booklets containing all of the information provided by the various agencies will be available at the Cornwall Town Hall. The information provided here is merely a synopsis.**

### **Addison Community Action – CVOEO**

Through a variety of programs, CVOEO provides individuals and families with the basic needs of food, fuel and housing support in times of crisis, and helps them acquire the necessary education, financial skills and assets to build a stable future in which they thrive. 44 individuals from Cornwall received services from Addison Community Action in 2023. Our request for \$2,000 from your town boils down to about \$45.45 for each person served. The generosity of people throughout Addison County helps us make the leap from a numerical transaction to a human relationship. We are grateful for whatever you are able to contribute to our work. And for all you do that helps to retain the dignity of our neighbors in need. Thank you.

Addison Community Action/CVOEO is requesting funding in the amount of \$2,000.00, no change from last year.

### **Addison County Economic Development Corporation**

The Addison County Economic Development Corporation (ACEDC) is Cornwall's economic development resource, serving the community for over 25 years. We appreciate that the voters of Cornwall have supported our petition to be added to the 2024 Town Meeting ballot for consideration for a \$1,000 contribution from the Town of Cornwall for fiscal year 2025. We offer expertise and resources to businesses throughout Addison County. We not only serve businesses located in your community, we also serve the businesses in neighboring communities where your citizens work or may own a business. Our mission is to create an entrepreneurial and innovative environment, nurturing businesses to launch, grow and thrive. We do this through direct assistance and through our networks of partners and collaborators locally and at the state and federal levels.

Addison County Economic Development Corporation is requesting funding in the amount of \$1,000.00. This is their first time requesting.

### **Addison County Home Health and Hospice**

Addison County Home Health & Hospice is a community focused non-profit home health care and hospice care agency that has been providing care for Addison County residents for fifty-five years. We provide an array of services that help our neighbors receive care in their own home – where they are most comfortable and where they often experience the best quality of life. Our services are offered to all Addison County residents who need them, regardless of their ability to pay. To ensure the future of these vital programs, we turn to our community for support. We appreciate the long-time support from the towns of Addison County. Your financial support makes it possible for our expert team to provide high quality compassionate care to all of our patients and families. We are your local, independent non-profit Visiting Nurse Association and it is our privilege to care for you.

Addison County Home Health and Hospice is requesting funding in the amount of \$1,440.00, no change from last year.

### **Addison Housing Works**

Addison Housing Works strives to enrich the lives of low- and moderate-income people of Addison County by ensuring the development, management and maintenance of safe, quality, affordable homes and related supports for families, seniors and individuals. AHW has developed affordable housing in Addison County since 1989. AHW owns and manages over 750 units of affordable housing spread across 15 multi-family properties and 9 mobile home parks in Addison County. AHW also offers down payment grants through our shared equity program to assist buyers in the purchase of a new home. Purchasers can receive up to 20% of the purchase price of a home in return for sharing appreciation with future buyers through a housing subsidy covenant or ground lease signed with AHW.

Addison Housing Works is requesting funding in the amount of \$750.00. This is their first time requesting.

### **Addison County Parent/Child Center**

Since 1980, the Parent/Child Center has been committed to providing services to support all families in our community in getting off to a healthy start. While the PCC is probably best known for our work with adolescent families and young children, services are intended for any family who wants or needs them. The PCC helps families to assess their children's physical and cognitive development and provides support services if needed. We also offer consultation and support to families and childcare providers around young children's social, emotional and behavioral development.

The Addison County Parent/Child Center is requesting funding in the amount of \$1,600.00, no change from last year.

### **Addison County Readers, Inc.**

Addison County Readers, Inc is a not-for-profit Vermont corporation formed in 2007 to support literacy in Addison County through activities such as distributing books, providing educational opportunities, and raising literacy awareness. ACR has affiliated with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to provide a free gift of a book each month, mailed to the homes of all registered children in Addison County. All children below 5 years of age in Addison County are eligible to register with the Imagination Library program. In Cornwall, 26 children were served in 2023 and 265 free books have been delivered to them during that calendar year; 23 children are currently enrolled.

Addison County Readers, Inc. is requesting funding in the amount of \$350.00, no change from last year.

### **Addison County Restorative Justice Services, Inc.**

ACRJS provides community restorative justice responses focusing on the "balanced approach" in meeting the needs of the victim, the community, and the program participant. The goal is to help the program participant develop empathy and accept responsibility while providing compensation of loss for the victims, and compensation of resources for the community. Anyone given the opportunity to participate in our programs is supported to take responsibility for their actions, connect with the community in a positive way, and learn from their experience so as not to reoffend and cause harm to yet another person.

Addison County Restorative Justice Services, Inc. is requesting funding in the amount of \$350.00, no change from last year.

### **Addison County River Watch Collaborative – ACRWC**

The mission of the Addison County River Watch Collaborative (ACRWC) is to monitor and assess the condition and uses of our rivers over the long term, raise public awareness of the values and functions of our watersheds, and support stewardship that improves water quality. The rivers we collect samples from are: Middlebury River, Otter Creek, New Haven River, Little Otter Creek, Lemon Fair, and Dead Creek. About 30 volunteers take water samples at about 30 stations around the county during spring and summer months. Our water quality measurements include: bacteria (E.coli), phosphorus, nitrogen, and chloride (salt). In 2023 we actively engaged with landowners in the Lemon Fair watershed to access their land to monitor tributaries to the Lemon Fair and to discuss conservation practices that are designed in part to enhance water quality. In 2024 we plan to continue focusing on areas of the Lemon Fair watershed that have not complied with water quality standards for E. coli and phosphorus.

Addison County River Watch Collaborative is requesting funding in the amount of \$500.00, no change from last year.

### **Age Well**

For nearly 50 years, Age Well has provided services and support that allow aging Vermonters to stay independent, and remain healthy at home, where they want to be. We excel at integrating community resources, health services, and wellness programs to enhance and improve the quality of life for Cornwall residents. Over the past few years, there has been a significant increase in demand for our services, and that will continue to increase as our population ages

Vermont is ranked as one of the three "oldest" states in the country and our aging population is only expected to grow, nearly doubling in the next fifteen years. Older adults living in rural areas have less access to healthcare, including specialized healthcare, and the services tend to be more costly than those provided in metropolitan areas. Overwhelmingly, Vermonters want to grow old in their own homes, Age Well provides the services and support to ensure that is a possibility.

Age Well is requesting funding in the amount of \$1,100.00, no change from last year.



### **Atria Collective, formerly WomenSafe**

Atria Collective, formerly WomenSafe, has been dedicated to providing services to victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence and their children since 1980. In Cornwall, WomenSafe provided advocacy services to at least four Cornwall residents including adults and children; 36 prevention programming presentations to 77 students and 12 adults at Cornwall School; 99 prevention programming presentations to 585 students and 35 adults at MUMS and MUHS serving Cornwall students.

Atria Collective, formerly WomenSafe, is requesting funding in the amount of \$1,250.00, no change from last year.

### **Charter House Coalition**

Charter House Coalition (CHC) has provided a consistent resource for neighbors in need since 2005. Our emergency shelter is open year-round with onsite staff 24-hours per day. In addition to our 25-cot temporary shelter, we offer a nightly warming shelter serving 5 - 7 individuals, on a first come first served basis. CHC provided more than 8,200 bed nights to persons in need between 7/1/22 through 6/30/23. We expect this number to continue to increase as we build capacity and provide a safe haven between homelessness and affordable stable housing. More than 23,000 meals are provided annually through our meal program. Our social services meet the needs of individuals and families throughout the County as we help to identify and overcome barriers to affordable housing and other services that better lives. Our community outreach program includes street outreach that covers all of Addison County.

The Charter House Coalition is requesting funding in the amount of \$2,500.00, no change from last year.

### **Counseling Service of Addison County, Inc.**

The Counseling Service of Addison County provides mental health, substance use recovery, and developmental disability services to people living in Addison County. Our skilled and dedicated staff members help individuals and families deal with the challenges they face. CSAC envisions a compassionate and resilient community that honors everyone's full potential for clients, staff and our community. CSAC is a trauma-informed organization nurturing healthy, supported work environments that emphasize self-awareness and self-care so that its employees bring their best selves to their work. CSAC helps nurture communities where individuals and families thrive by offering comprehensive services and support for social and emotional well-being.

CSAC is requesting funding in the amount of \$2,300.00, no change from last year or since 2007.

### **Elderly Services, Inc.**

Elderly Services thanks all Cornwall residents for 40 years of support on Town Meeting Day. Located at 112 Exchange Street in Middlebury, Elderly Services offers you eldercare and aging support including: Project Independence medical/social adult day center providing a closely supervised therapeutic environment for people living with stroke, chronic illness, advance age, dementia, or social isolation. Eldercare consultations, advice and counseling for family members who care for a loved one. ESI College Lifelong Learning classes. Caregiver support and education. Social isolation and loneliness have a devastating impact on mental and physical health, as we learned during the pandemic. People feel happier when they are with other people and their health improves in a positive social setting. Over and over, we see our elders' health stabilize in this positive community setting and moods of the elders and their family members improve.

Elderly Services is requesting funding in the amount of \$4,000.00. No change from last year.

### **Friends of Cornwall School (FOCS)**

Friends of Cornwall School (FOCS) is a registered 501(c)(3) Non-profit based in Cornwall, VT, dedicated to supporting educational, co-curricular, and extra-curricular initiatives that benefit Cornwall Elementary School and community. In addition to offering school events, FOCS has been working to develop a stable afterschool program for Cornwall children. In the last two years, afterschool programming has included: TaeKwonDo, drumming and dancing in partnership with the Middlebury Community Music Center; outdoor education in partnership with the Middlebury Area Land Trust; painting and crafts, acting, singing, yoga, sewing and card games. Most classes are held at the Town Hall and last one or two hours. FOCS charges sliding scale and offers scholarships, funded by FOCS fundraising and one-time grant we received from the Cornwall Selectboard. FOCS is requesting \$5,500 to run after-school programs.

Friends of Cornwall School are requesting funding in the amount of \$5,500.00. This is their first time requesting.

### **Green Up Vermont—Green Up Day, May 4, 2024**

Green Up Day on May 6, 2023 was a wonderful success thanks to 23,500 volunteers statewide who participated on Green Up Day. 348 tons of trash and 15,000 tires were picked up and removed from our roadsides. As one of Vermont's favorite unofficial holidays, it is imperative for today and future generations to build pride, awareness, and stewardship for a clean Vermont environment, as well as keep residents civically engaged. Support from your municipality is essential to our program. Funds help pay for Green Up Day supplies, promotional outreach, and educational resources including activity books, contests for kids, and a \$1,000 scholarship.

Green Up Vermont is requesting funding in the amount of \$100.00, no change from last year.

### **Habitat for Humanity**

Habitat for Humanity of Addison County was founded in 1999. There is a critical need for affordable housing in Addison County and Habitat for Humanity of Addison County makes home ownership a reality for deserving families living or working in the county. There are currently four HfHAC homes in Cornwall on 13 acres of land on Carothers' Lane. These four houses and families contribute to Cornwall's tax base, thereby supporting the local schools and services provided by the town. These families currently have nine students in the ACSD with one still to enter the system and three graduated.

Habitat for Humanity of Addison County is requesting \$1200.00, no change from last year.

### **Homeward Bound, Addison County's Humane Society**

Homeward Bound, Addison County's Humane Society, was founded in 1975. We are a private open-admission animal shelter with a mission to be a community-centered shelter that supports the human-animal bond through compassionate care, adoption, education, and advocacy. Homeward Bound serves an average of 1,200 animals per year, including those who enter the shelter and those who receive services in the community. Our community services are designed to combat pet overpopulation, provide support to low-income pet owners, and enhance the human-animal bond through education and outreach.

The Shelter is requesting funding in the amount of \$500.00, no change from last year.

### **Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects (HOPE)**

HOPE seeks to assist individuals and families in identifying and obtaining the resources that will help them meet their own basic needs. HOPE provides significant goods and services to people in need, including food, clothing, housing and heating fuel, medical items, job-related needs and more. We work to assist people in accessing information and developing new skills in order to become more empowered and have healthier and more stable lives. HOPE operates one of the largest food shelves in the state and has a thriving partnership with area farmers that allows us to salvage excess or unsaleable produce which is then available at HOPE and shared with dozens of other charitable food sites around the region.

HOPE respectfully requests \$4,000.00 to help defray costs, no change from last year.

### **John W. Graham Emergency Shelter Services, Inc.**

John Graham Housing & Services (JGHS) has provided emergency shelter, affordable housing, and essential services to individuals and families in Addison County for 42 years. The JGHS mission is strengthened by intensive service coordination at three critical access points – homeless prevention, eviction prevention, and rapid rehousing. With seven properties spread across the county the people we serve include those impacted by domestic violence, substance use and mental health disorders, economic hardship, and disability. It is our hope that the Town of Cornwall will partner with JGHS again in our effort to end homelessness in Addison County.

The John Graham Emergency Shelter is requesting funding in the amount of \$1,925.00, no change from last year.

### **Mary Johnson Children's Center**

Mary Johnson Children's Center would first like to thank you for your support of our programming over the years. It is through streams of funding such as this that enables us to offer the best possible childcare for the county and community as a whole. As a non-profit, we rely heavily on donations and funding sources such as support from towns that we serve in order to lessen the financial blow of childcare for families as well as to pay our dedicated teachers a

respectful amount. Mary Johnson prides ourselves on being one of the few therapeutic childcare centers in the state. In collaboration with the counseling services, we are able to offer support services for children with significant social, emotional, and mental health needs. This past year we served eleven Cornwall families within our programming. We pride ourselves on offering the best and most affordable care and programming to Addison County families.

MJCC is requesting funding in the amount of \$700.00, a decrease of \$50 from last year.

### **Middlebury Area Land Trust (MALT)**

Since 1987, the Middlebury Area Land Trust (MALT) has conserved over 3900 acres of important, scenic land in Addison County, including four properties in Cornwall that total 658 acres. MALT continually monitors these properties to ensure the conditions of the conservation easements are being met. We also partner with the Cornwall Conservation Commission to educate the community on conservation principles, procedures, and values. MALT manages and maintains nearly 30 miles of recreation trails in Addison County, many of which are just a short drive from Cornwall. The Trail Around Middlebury passes through the town of Cornwall with access from Route 125. With support from Cornwall in 2023, MALT expanded youth education programs to provide Bingham Memorial students weekly afterschool programming that was nature-based and 100% outdoors.

MALT is requesting funding in the amount of \$750.00, no change from last year.

### **Open Door Clinic**

The Open Door Clinic provides access to free quality health care services, to those who are uninsured or under-insured in a compassionate, respectful and culturally sensitive manner until a permanent healthcare provider can be established. The Open Door clinic is volunteer based. We offer help with Health Insurance. Through our outreach program this fall, we provided health screenings, vaccines, and a number of medical visits to 43 farms and orchards throughout the county. In addition, we continue to offer 7-10 in-person medical and dental clinics each month through which patients receive comprehensive chronic and acute care and referrals to a variety of specialists when needed.

The Open Door Clinic is requesting funding in the amount of \$1,000.00, no change from last year.

### **Otter Creek Child Center – OCCC**

The Otter Creek Child Center is one of a few children's centers in all of Addison County that serves birth through preschool aged children and families, and we have increasingly found ways to make the center affordable for families with a wide variety of income levels. Ultimately, we want all families in Addison County to have safe and reliable early care and education for their children as doing so has positive ripple effects for the larger community. Providing a safe and stable children's center for people who might have otherwise been left without this option, allows parents to be employed and contribute to the economic and social community in ways that are impossible if they are at home.

The Otter Creek Child Center is requesting funding in the amount of \$1,000.00, no change from last year.

### **Retired Senior Volunteer Program – RSVP**

In FY'23, Cornwall residents volunteered 1362 hours to support the community. Cornwall residents were able to receive free health classes and income tax services. In Addison County, 261 residents benefited from attending Bone Builders classes and 394 residents received income tax services. During the winter months, more than 300 warm clothing items were given to Addison County community members in need. In Cornwall, these items were distributed through Cornwall Elementary School. In addition, many Cornwall residents who received assistance from a local service organization benefited from the work RSVP volunteers do, such as community members at risk of hunger who receive free nutritious meals from RSVP volunteers.

Retired Senior Volunteer Program is requesting funding in the amount of \$540.00, no change from last year.

### **The Teen Center**

The Teen Center, Inc. is located at 77 Mary Hogan Drive in the Middlebury recreational park, we are open every day after school from 3-6 pm. We house a substance-free drop-in space and supportive programming. Partnering with more than a dozen different organizations, businesses, and schools, we show teens that the whole community supports them. On any given school day, we will see up to 20+ teens. They can enjoy a healthy snack, chat with friends, play basketball, tennis, or other sports, or utilize our computers for games and homework. In addition, our summer camp is

popular year after year, offering teens an opportunity to explore Addison County and beyond. With programming throughout the year, we seek to offer something for every teen.

ACT is requesting funding in the amount of \$2,500.00, same as last year.

### **Tri-Valley Transit**

All of Tri-Valley Transit's transportation programs enable community members to maintain their independence, gain and keep employment and access critical healthcare services. Cornwall residents can utilize TVT's Dial-a-Ride Program for seniors, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations to access a variety of destinations including trips to medical appointments, pharmacies, grocery markets, legal assistance and to support other vital quality-of-life needs. Cornwall residents coming into Middlebury have access to an extensive shuttle bus system that can take them around the county, north to Burlington and south to Rutland. Support from the towns we serve is critical to the successful operation of our programs.

Tri-Valley Transit is requesting in the amount of \$1,315.00, no change from last year.

### **Turning Point Center of Addison County**

The Turning Point Center of Addison County (TPCAC) is peer-lead and offers a safe and substance-free environment to support our mission: We provide peer-based recovery support to all including friends, families, and allies. We seek to enhance the spiritual, mental, and physical growth as well as foster social connection of our community members in Addison County affected by substance use disorders and addictive behaviors. As we have all seen in the news this year the opioid epidemic in Vermont is far from over and we continue to serve those with the greatest need. TPCAC continues to respond to this crisis by expanding our outreach to community partners, continuing our commitment to 24/7 access to recovery coaching, and offering in-person peer lead support groups. We distribute Narcan, Fentanyl test strips and harm reduction bags to individuals and community partners. All of our services are free of charge.

The Turning Point Center is requesting funding in the amount of \$1,000.00, no change from last year.

### **Vermont Adult Learning – VAL**

Vermont Adult Learning offers a variety of learning opportunities to help adults achieve their educational goals and enhance their quality of life. We work with each student to develop an individualized learning plan that includes a transition to further education or employment. We offer GED testing, programs for completing a high school diploma, basic skills instruction in reading, writing and math and classes for English Language Learners. Instruction is also available to students who need skill preparation for college or employment purposes.

Vermont Adult Learning is requesting funding in the amount of \$500.00, no change from last year.

## **Annual Meeting Notice for February 27, 2024**

### **WARNING ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

#### **ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 27, 2024**

**Member Districts are Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham, Weybridge**

The legal voters of the Addison Central School District are hereby warned to meet at the Middlebury Union High School in Middlebury, Vermont on Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 7:00 PM, to transact the following business:

**ARTICLE 1:** To elect the following officers: a) A Moderator b) A Treasurer c) A Clerk

**ARTICLE 2:** To elect a new ACSD at large member for the Patricia Hannaford Career Center.

**ARTICLE 3:** To hear and act upon the reports of the school district officers.

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the voters of the Addison Central School District will vote to authorize its Board of Directors, under 16 VSA 562 (9), to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the school year.

**ARTICLE 5:** To do any other business proper to come before said meeting.

### **PUBLIC INFORMATION HEARING**

#### **FEBRUARY 27, 2024**

The legal voters of the Addison Central School District are hereby warned to meet at the Middlebury Union High School in Middlebury, Vermont on Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 7:00 PM, for a Public Information meeting to discuss Australian Ballot articles warned for vote on Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

Hearing will take place immediately following adjournment of the Annual Meeting of said Addison Central School District.

Linda J. Barrett, Clerk   Barbara Wilson, Chair  
Addison Central School District Addison Central School District

**The Addison Central School District Annual Report will be available in the following manner:**  
<https://www.acsdvt.org/district-link/annual-report-and-budget/annual-report-and-budget> or call 802-382-1274 to request a copy.

## Special Meeting Notice for March 5, 2024

### WARNING ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL MEETING – MARCH 5, 2024

*Member Districts are Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham and Weybridge*

The legal voters of the Addison Central School District are hereby warned to meet at the following polling places on March 5, 2024 to vote by Australian Ballot on the following article(s) of business:

Town	Location	Polling Hours
Bridport	Bridport Community/Masonic Hall	7:00 AM-7:00 PM
Cornwall	Cornwall Town Hall	7:00 AM-7:00 PM
Middlebury	Middlebury Recreation Center/Gym, 154 Creek Road	7:00 AM-7:00 PM
Ripton	Ripton Community House	8:00 AM-7:00 PM
Salisbury	Salisbury Town Office	8:00 AM-7:00 PM
Shoreham	Shoreham Town Office	7:00 AM-7:00 PM
Weybridge	Weybridge Town Clerk's Office	7:00 AM-7:00 PM

**ARTICLE 1:** Shall the voters of the Addison Central School District vote to authorize the ACSD school board to expend \$50,604,080, which represents a 6.5% increase in Total Spending and is the amount the ACSD school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year?

**ARTICLE 2:** Shall the voters of the Addison Central School District vote to authorize the ACSD school board to appropriate \$2,033,842 of the FY 2023 Unassigned Fund Balance to the ACSD Capital Reserve Fund?

**ARTICLE 3:** To elect four (4) school directors from the nominees to serve on the Addison Central School District Board for the following terms:

- One (1) who is a resident of Cornwall for a three-year term.
- Two (2) who are residents of Middlebury for a three-year term.
- One (1) who is a resident of Shoreham for a three-year term.

Ballots shall be commingled and counted at Middlebury Union High School by representatives of the Boards of Civil Authority of the member town school districts under the supervision of the District Clerk of Addison Central School District.

Linda J. Barrett, Clerk  
Addison Central School District

Barbara Wilson, Chair  
Addison Central School District



# Cornwall Elementary School

112 School Road  
Cornwall, VT 05753  
802-462-2463  
[cornwall.acsdvt.org](http://cornwall.acsdvt.org)



**Cornwall Elementary School** serves students in K-5th grade and follows the Primary Years Program (PYP) curriculum. Cornwall was built in 1959 and is 13,700sf.

Cornwall students are served by one full-time principal. The staffing below represents the minimum staff allocation based on enrollment. Additional FTE allocations are found in the Student Services cost center (p.55) or supplemental grant funding (p.26) based on student need. All student enrollment numbers are projected. Depending on enrollment, grades may be combined.

## 2024-2025 Projected Enrollment + Staffing

### Students

K: 8 students  
1st: 12 students  
2nd: 15 students  
3rd: 18 students  
4th: 16 students  
5th: 9 students

**Total K-5 enrollment: 78**

### Staff

1.0 Administrator  
1.0 Admin Assistant  
6.0 Classroom Teachers  
0.3 Counselor  
2.0 Paraprofessionals  
0.3 Spanish Teacher  
0.4 PE Teacher  
0.3 Music Teacher  
0.2 Art Teacher  
0.4 Librarian  
0.2 Nurse



### Share of FY25 District Expenses

Transportation	\$77,702
Board + Central Office	\$125,518
PD + Curriculum	\$57,201
Facilities	\$168,265
Technology	\$83,312

### FY 2025 TOTALS

Share of District Expenses	\$407,264
School Budget	\$1,146,632
<b>Total Operational Cost</b>	<b>\$1,553,897</b>

Learn more  
about Cornwall:



[cornwall.acsdvt.org/our-school/school-newsletters](http://cornwall.acsdvt.org/our-school/school-newsletters)



[@cornwallschoolvt](https://www.instagram.com/cornwallschoolvt)



# Middlebury Union Middle School

48 Deerfield Lane  
Middlebury, VT 05753  
(802) 382-1600  
[mums.acsdvt.org](http://mums.acsdvt.org)



**Middlebury Union Middle School (MUMS)** serves students in 6th-8th grade and follows the Middle Years Program (MYP) curriculum. MUMS was built in 1998 and is 65,000sf.

MUMS students are served by one full-time principal, one full-time assistant principal, and one full time activities director. The staffing below represents the minimum staff allocation based on enrollment. Additional FTE allocations are found in the Student Services cost center (p.55) or supplemental grant funding (p.26) based on student need. All student enrollment numbers are projected.

## 2024-2025 Projected Enrollment + Staffing

### Students

6th: **118** students  
7th: **127** students  
8th: **126** students

**Total enrollment: 371**

This includes an estimated 23 students who tuition from districts without a middle school.

### Staff

2.0 Administrator  
4.0 Admin Assistant  
18 Classroom Teachers  
2.0 Counselors  
4.0 Paraprofessionals  
3.0 Language Teachers  
3.0 PE/Health Teachers  
2.0 Music Teacher  
1.0 Art Teacher  
1.0 Librarian  
0.8 Nurse



## Share of FY25 District Expenses

Transportation	\$330,446
Board + Central Office	\$533,795
PD + Curriculum	\$243,263
Facilities	\$888,047
Technology	\$ 334,140

## FY 2025 TOTALS

Share of District Expenses	<b>\$1,904,451</b>
School Budget	<b>\$ 5,092,271</b>
<b>Total Operational Cost</b>	<b>\$ 6,996,722</b>

Learn more about  
MUMS:



[mums.acsdvt.org/our-school/newsletters](http://mums.acsdvt.org/our-school/newsletters)



@middleburyunionmiddle



@mumsvt

# Middlebury Union High School

73 Charles Ave  
Middlebury, VT 05753  
(802) 382-1500  
[muhs.acsdvt.org](http://muhs.acsdvt.org)



**Middlebury Union High School (MUHS)** serves students in 9th-12th grade and follows the Middle Years Program (MYP) curriculum through 10th grade. In 11th-12th grade students have flexible pathways which include courses at the Hannaford Career Center and the Diploma Program (DP). MUHS was built in 1956 and is 142,000sf.

MUHS students are served by one principal, one assistant principal, and one activities director. The staffing below represents the minimum staff allocation based on enrollment. Additional FTE allocations are found in the Student Services cost center (p.55) or supplemental grant funding (p.26) based on student need. Student enrollment is projected.

## 2024-2025 Projected Enrollment + Staffing

### Students

9th: **136** students  
10th: **119** students  
11th: **128** students  
12th: **143** students

**Total enrollment: 526**

This includes an estimated 17 students who tuition from districts without a high school.

### Staff

2.0 Administrator  
5.0 Admin Assistant  
27 Classroom Teachers  
2.0 Counselors  
4.0 Paraprofessionals  
6.0 Language Teachers  
3.0 PE/Health Teachers  
2.0 Music Teachers  
2.0 Art Teachers  
2.0 Librarian  
1.0 Nurse



### Share of FY25 District Expenses

Transportation	\$420,956
Board + Central Office	\$680,003
PD + Curriculum	\$309,893
Facilities	\$1,772,664
Technology	\$3,067,463

### FY 2025 TOTALS

Share of District Expenses	<b>\$3,067,463</b>
School Budget	<b>\$ 8,162,546</b>
<b>Total Operational Cost</b>	<b>\$11,230,010</b>

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## Message from the Superintendent

Schools everywhere are contending with budget challenges, mostly brought on by the end of ESSER funding. In Vermont, those challenges are even more pronounced with the state's new funding mechanism – Act 127. Addison Central is not alone in grappling with Act 127's new funding formula, which provides less funding for ACSD while providing more funding for other schools. ACSD's decrease in state funding, the cessation of ESSER funds, and increasing employee costs (health care alone is increasing 16.4%) make it more difficult to provide the same level of programming for students.

The ACSD board and administration have worked hard to produce a budget that maintains programming while complying with Act 127. The results of those efforts are found within this budget book. We have worked to find efficiencies so that we may maintain services for students. This will be a multi-year process as we do not anticipate increased funding in future years.

The ACSD board recently adopted a [new five-year strategic plan](#) to guide the District. The plan will be at the center of future budget development. The plan's opening paragraph provides an overview of the plan and the District's path forward:

This 5-year Strategic Plan was deliberately rooted in equity and designed to prioritize the success of every student PreK-12 in the Addison Central School District (ACSD). Informed by a district-wide equity audit and a community-based examination of equity issues, the three foundational Board goals focus on students' **access** to resources, sense of **belonging**, and academic **success**. In concert, these goals are crucial to reaching our vision that all ACSD students reach their full learning potential, have a sense of belonging in our schools, and enrich our community and the communities where they live in the future.

The three bolded words – **access**, **belonging**, and **success** – are at the heart of the plan. I encourage you to read through the plan (posted on our website) so that you may learn more about the three goals associated with those three words. District leaders are eager to work on the three goals in concert with ACSD's next Superintendent, Dr. Wendy Baker.

Dr. Baker will be visiting with the ACSD school community over the next few months in preparation for her official start date of July 1, 2024. She will lead the District through the Strategic Plan and beyond. Dr. Baker is a proven leader who is up to the task of implementing the 2024-25 budget and leading ACSD through the challenging years ahead.

I look forward to watching the District continue with its mission of providing “high-quality, equitable, and varied learning environments that inspire a passion for learning and growth among our students.” With a greater emphasis on efficiencies and fiscal responsibility, ACSD can navigate future challenges; our students deserve no less.

Sincerely,  
Timothy P. Williams, Ed. D.  
Interim Superintendent

## Message from the Board Chair

This past year has been a busy one for the Board with a considerable amount of time focused on hiring a new superintendent. Since we were not able to find the right candidate during our initial search, we hired interim superintendent Dr. Tim Williams and then relaunched our search in the fall. In early December, we successfully hired Dr. Wendy Baker, who will be working with the Board and District leaders during the spring to prepare for her official start in July 2024.

In the meantime, the Board is very grateful for the leadership and guidance that Dr. Tim Williams has provided to the District as interim superintendent for the current school year. Over the past year, the Board has focused on board development with a major emphasis on planning and governance to help improve our effectiveness as a board. And in December, the Board passed the 2024-2029 ACSD Strategic plan, which will guide the District over the next 5 years. This 5-year Strategic Plan was deliberately rooted in equity and designed to prioritize the success of every student PreK-12 in the Addison Central School District (ACSD).

The budget presented was developed to preserve stability during our leadership transition and also responds to multiple financial drivers, each of which has significant impacts on next year's finances.

First, the Vermont Legislature enacted Act 127 in 2022 to improve student equity across the State by adjusting the school funding formula. Quoting from the enacted bill (S.287), "The legislation is designed to ensure that the financial resources available to local school districts for educating students living in poverty, English learners, students in small rural schools, students in sparsely populated school districts, and students in middle and high schools are sufficient to meet the cost of educating these students."

As a result of Act 127, ACSD will receive a reduced portion of the State Education Fund starting with FY25. The State also set a lower per pupil property yield. The combination of these two factors will reduce ACSD's portion of the state's education fund by roughly \$4.5M compared to FY24, resulting in a significant increase to our local tax rate. Luckily, the new legislation has provisions to ease this burden and cap the tax rate impact at 5% over the next 5 years. The 5% cap is available to districts that limit annual increases in education spending per LTWADM (Long Term Weighted Average Daily Membership) to be under 10%. The Board is committed to keeping increases in education spending under the 10% threshold and will be working with the new Superintendent to address the impact that Act 127 has on our District over the next several years.

In addition to Act 127, this budget also responds to several other factors, including the expiration of Federal ESSER funding next year. Despite the loss of these funds the Board is committed to providing all students with the necessary tools and resources they need to be successful and supports carrying forward several critical positions which were previously funded through ESSER funds in FY24. This investment in student wellness and success continues to be a critical need and priority. Finally, the budget also responds to a 16.4% increase in healthcare premium costs, anticipated wage increases due to contract negotiations, and a decline in "non-tuition" student enrollment.

Due to the above drivers, the ACSD 2024–2025 budget sees an increase in education spending of 8.2%. Our estimated cost per Long Term Weighted Average Daily Membership (LTWADM) pupil spending will be \$16,099 which is up 9.9% over the previous year. Given the impact of Act 127 and the escalating increases in healthcare and other uncontrolled expenses, the Board will be forced to make difficult choices about the District's operational budget in the future. In addition, strategies that have emerged from our Strategic Plan may require realignment of priorities and resources to ensure more equitable support and resources for our most vulnerable students and marginalized populations of our learning community. The Board is committed to engaging with the ACSD community as we take on the hard work that is ahead of us to ensure that the District is able to support all students and continue to offer robust learning opportunities for all. It is the Board's responsibility to secure long-term financial viability to ensure continued delivery of a great education for our students. It is with that in mind that we prepare for the work of 2024-2025.



### **Message from the Board Chair, *continued***

It is with confidence and genuine commitment to our community that we present this budget to you for your support.

There will be many opportunities to be involved in the work of our schools and district in the year to come. Stay up-to-date with all aspects of Board and Committee work at [About the Board -Addison Central School District](http://www.acsdvt.org/about-the-board) (acsdvt.org).

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Wilson  
ACSD Board Chair

## Year to Year Budget Summary

The following table shows all of the anticipated FY25 ACSD Expenditures and their offsetting Revenues. Expenditures other than those associated with the General Fund are color matched to show the link between those expenses and their revenue source. We have also included actual FY23 numbers for comparison purposes.

In order to perform the calculations which ultimately lead to the District Tax Rate, we subtract all Revenues from all Expenses to arrive at our Local Education Spending amount. This is the amount which the Vermont Agency of Education will provide to ACSD from the State Education Fund in FY25 and is the amount that the District's Towns will contribute to that fund through taxes.

### Year to Year Budget Summary - Notes

Most of the components in the budget summary are detailed in the subsequent detail sections. The items below summarize changes in the few areas that do not have an expanded section.

- **Expenditures**

- We have added detailed “% of General Fund” info to all expense categories to help track relative fluctuations in specific cost centers.
- Other expenses: the FY24 Budget was revised to reflect the proper presentation of general fund expenses based on State reporting guidelines. “Other expenses” are those previously listed as Food Service expenses. There was no change to education spending or per pupil spending.
- The FY25 Budget also lists other expenses. These represent the projected costs of three items:
  - The new Child Care payroll tax on wages.
  - Additional costs from the Mary Hogan ESSER-funded HVAC project.
  - The normal shortfall between Food Service grant revenue and expense.

- **Revenues**

- Under Act 127, schools with fewer than 26 English Language Learner students are entitled to receive a \$25,000 ELL Grant. We anticipate that we will receive this as a new funding source and have added it into the Revenues section.

### Year to Year Budget Summary, *continued*

EXPENSE	FY23 ACTUAL	FY24 BUDGET	% of Total GF	FY25 PROPOSED	% of Total GF	Difference	% Diff.
<b>General Fund:</b>							
Student Instruction, Regular Education	\$ 23,538,325	\$ 24,581,951	58%	\$ 25,642,838	55%	\$ 1,045,887	4%
Student Services, Special Education	\$ 4,129,732	\$ 5,625,631	13%	\$ 7,826,464	17%	\$ 2,200,833	39%
Universal PreK	\$ 455,343	\$ 489,320	1%	\$ 508,893	1%	\$ 19,573	4%
Technical/Career Center Education	\$ 1,218,261	\$ 1,416,919	3%	\$ 1,615,287	3%	\$ 198,368	14%
Transportation	\$ 1,359,709	\$ 1,303,269	3%	\$ 1,361,916	3%	\$ 58,647	5%
Facilities and Maintenance	\$ 3,733,797	\$ 4,247,280	10%	\$ 4,307,252	9%	\$ 59,972	1%
Technology and IT	\$ 1,190,060	\$ 1,386,936	3%	\$ 1,418,472	3%	\$ 31,536	2%
School Board and District Administration	\$ 2,039,071	\$ 2,391,208	6%	\$ 2,600,009	6%	\$ 208,801	9%
Professional Development/Curriculum	\$ 682,128	\$ 703,776	2%	\$ 1,002,596	2%	\$ 273,820	39%
Debt Service	\$ 166,856	\$ 172,073	0.4%	\$ 172,073	0.4%	\$ -	0%
<b>GenFund Subtotals</b>	<b>\$ 38,513,282</b>	<b>\$ 42,318,363</b>		<b>\$ 46,455,800</b>		<b>\$4,097,437</b>	<b>9.7%</b>
<b>Other Expenses</b>	\$ -	\$ 1,046,197		\$ 420,000			
<b>Fund Balance Transfer</b>	\$ 2,323,099	\$ 1,520,974		\$ 2,033,842	<i>preliminary</i>		
<b>Other Funds:</b>							
Consolidated Federal Grant Program	\$ 952,771	\$ 856,460		\$ 856,460		\$ -	0.0%
Special Education Federal Grant Expenditures	\$ 615,229	\$ 586,106		\$ 586,106		\$ -	0.0%
ESSER	\$ 1,750,052	\$ 917,313		\$ -		\$ (917,313)	-100.0%
Medicaid/MAC	\$ 148,864	\$ 191,707		\$ 191,707		\$ -	0.0%
Special Funds	\$ 51,133	\$ 60,165		\$ 60,165		\$ -	100.0%
<b>Total Other Funds:</b>	<b>\$3,518,049</b>	<b>\$2,611,751</b>		<b>\$1,694,438</b>		<b>-\$917,313</b>	<b>-35.1%</b>
<b>Total Expense:</b>	<b>\$44,354,430</b>	<b>\$47,497,285</b>		<b>\$50,604,080</b>		<b>\$3,106,795</b>	<b>6.5%</b>



### Year to Year Budget Summary, *continued*

REVENUE					
	FY23 ACTUAL	FY24 BUDGET	FY25 PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE	% DIFF
General Fund (Tuition, State & Local Grants)	\$ 2,616,971	\$ 3,599,042	\$ 3,599,042	\$ -	0.0%
Special Ed Block Grant	\$ 2,349,758	\$ 2,768,282	\$ 3,185,246	\$ 416,964	15.1%
Federal Grant Funds	\$ 1,568,000	\$ 1,442,566	\$ 1,442,566	\$ -	0.0%
ESSER	\$ 1,750,052	\$ 917,313	\$ -	\$ (917,313)	100.0%
Medicaid/MAC	\$ 148,864	\$ 191,707	\$ 191,707.31	\$ 0.31	0.0%
Special Funds	\$ 51,133	\$ 60,165	\$ 60,165	\$ -	0.0%
ELL Grant	\$ -	\$0	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	100.0%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 10,807,877</b>	<b>\$ 10,500,049</b>	<b>\$ 10,562,568</b>	<b>\$ (450,349)</b>	<b>-4.3%</b>
Fund Balance Transfer	\$ 2,323,099	\$ 1,520,974	\$ 2,033,842		
	FY23 ACTUAL	FY24 BUDGET	FY25 PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE	% DIFF
Total Expenses	\$44,354,430	\$47,497,285	\$50,604,080	\$3,106,795	6.5%
less					
Offsetting Revenues	\$10,807,877	\$10,500,049	\$10,562,568	\$62,519	0.6%
Education Spending	\$33,546,553	\$36,997,236	\$40,041,512	\$3,044,276	8.2%
Long Term Weighted Average Daily Membership	na	2524.92	2487.15	-37.77	-1.5%
Ed Spending/LTWADM	na	\$14,653	\$16,099	\$1,447	9.87%

Notes: \*Because FY23 used Equalized Pupils instead of LTWADM, it is not possible to compare spending per weighted pupil on the same basis.

## **Tax Rate Considerations**

The proposed FY25 budget includes net local education spending of \$40,041,512 (+8.2%); and an education cost per weighted pupil of \$16,099 (+9.9%).

There remain a number of unknown variables that will affect the final figures and ultimately, our tax rates:

- Federal funding revenue via grants are not awarded until Spring 2024. Budget figures are based on estimates. Although these revenues are offset by their expenses, they have the ability to impact the dollar figure we ultimately receive from the state education fund.
- The State legislature has the ability to adjust the property yield rate to adjust tax revenue throughout the legislative session. Yield reductions increase tax rates.
- Special education costs and associated reimbursements are based on estimates of eligible expenses. As student needs change, expenditures also change, which results in more or less reimbursement.

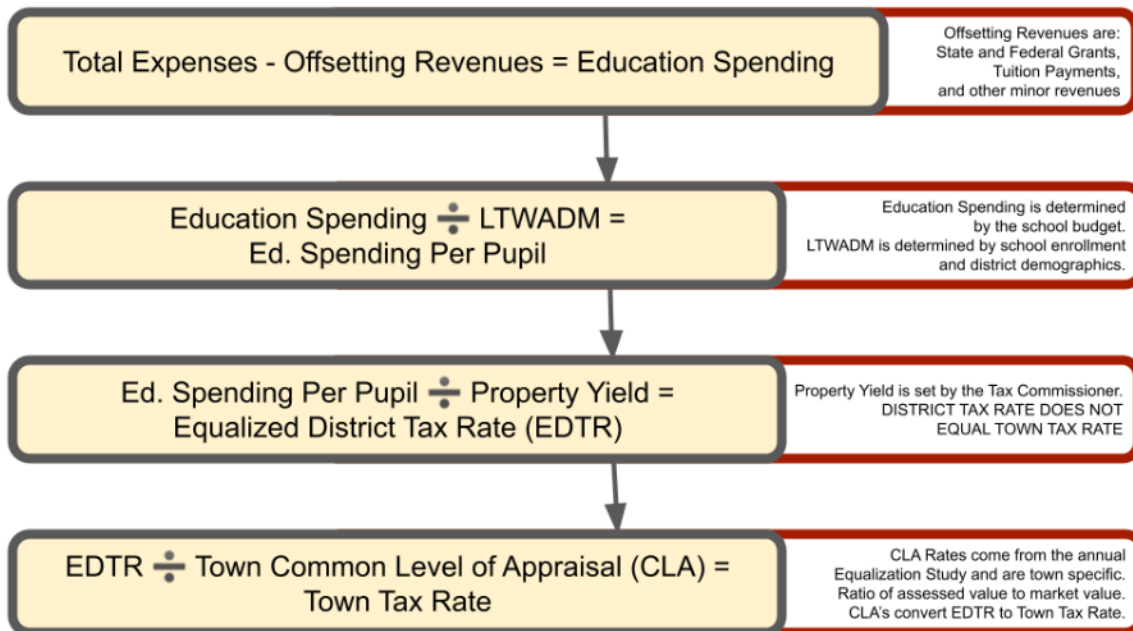
We have a preliminary balance of \$2,033,842 in undesignated funds from FY23. We propose that the undesignated fund balance be transferred to the Capital Reserve Fund in anticipation of addressing substantial deferred maintenance.

The proposed FY25 budget results in a projected equalized district-wide tax rate (EDTR) of \$1.47, a \$0.07 increase from the current year. This rate does not include Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) adjustments for each Town. Town specific tax rates adjusted for CLA can be found on page 23.

### **Budget 101: Education Spending and Property Tax Rates**

There is a direct relationship between a district's school budget, the subsequent education spending, and the annual Equalized District Tax Rate. Understanding this relationship helps us understand the impacts of school spending on the local taxpayers who vote on the budget and ultimately are asked to fund it through Education Property Taxes.

The following flowchart walks through the entire process of determining a town's homestead property tax rate, starting with the school budget.



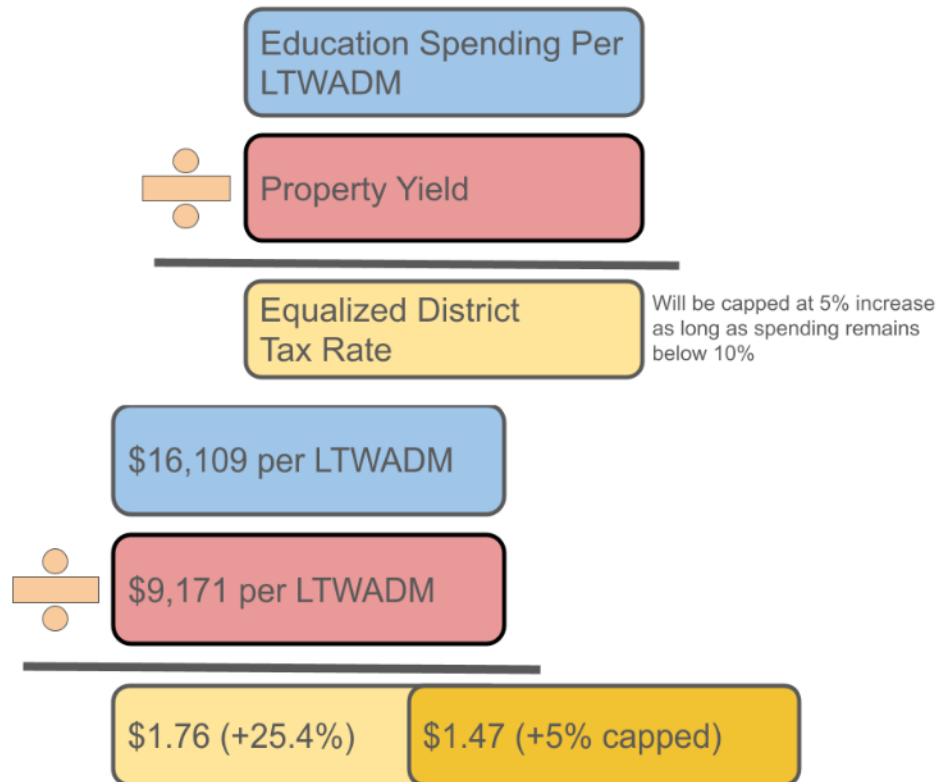
By controlling education spending, the District has the ability to control the cost per pupil and subsequent Equalized District Tax Rate (EDTR). The District does not control the property yield, enrollment weights, or town CLA's.

### Equalized District Tax Rate Calculation

Our total Local Education Spending amount of \$40,066,512 is the first and only figure used in calculating the Equalized District Tax Rate, and the only one over which we have control. The other components in the formula are supplied by the VT Tax Department or Agency of Education and *are subject to changes by the State Legislature.*

## Calculation of Equalized District Tax Rate

### Calculation of Equalized District Tax Rate



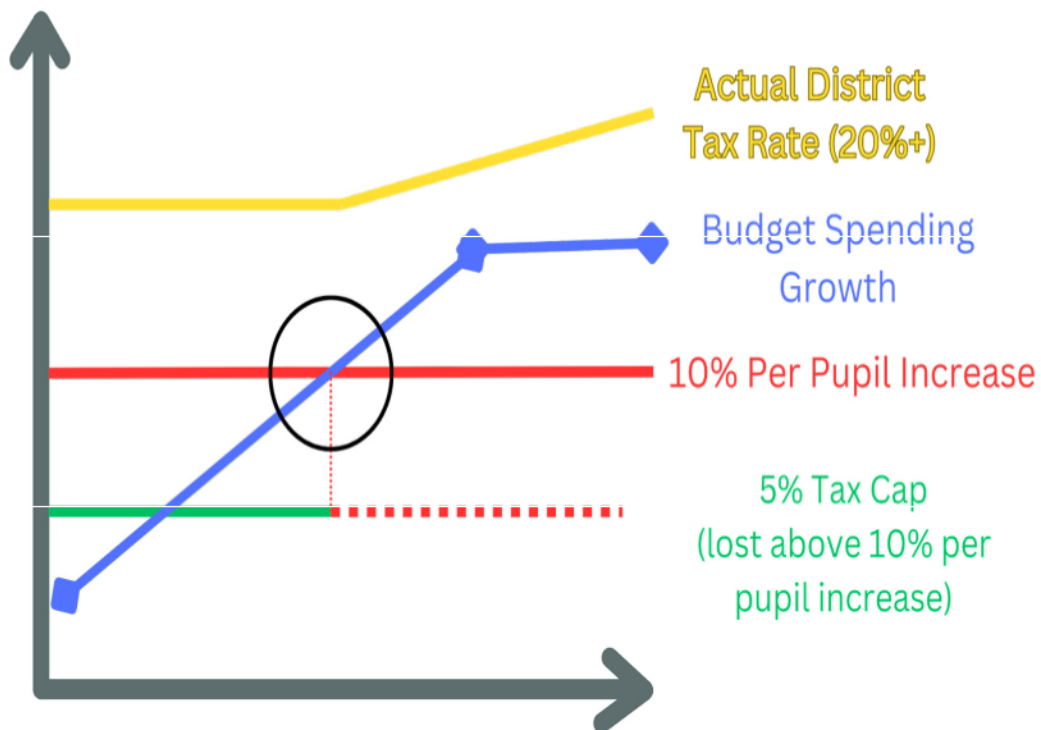
The estimated EDTR of \$1.47 (capped) is then divided by each town's Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) as set by the VT Department of Taxes to determine each Town's estimated tax rate. CLA and Town Tax Rates are included at the end of the next section.

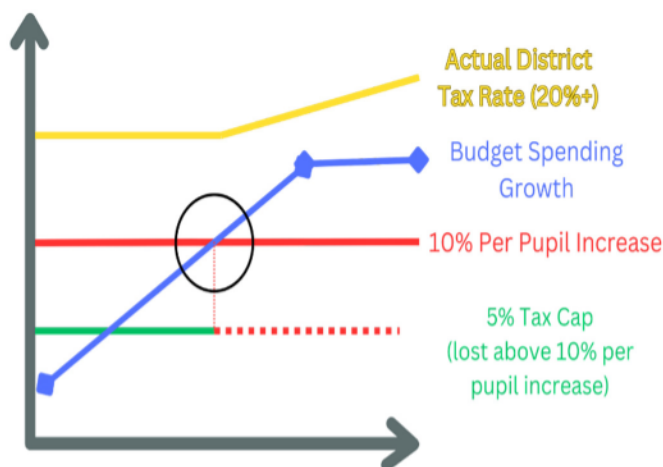
## Budget 101: What is the 5% Property Tax Cap? How does it relate to the Budget?

First, we need to understand the four main elements of the relationship:

Per Pupil Spending	How much has our budget grown year to year?
Actual District Tax Rate	What tax rate is required to fund the budget?
Capped District Tax Rate	Maximum annual District rate increase of 5%.
Spending Growth Threshold	10% spending limit to maintain capped rate.

Next, we look at relationship between these four elements:





### How does this relate to the FY25 Budget?

As per pupil spending passes the 10% red line, the 5% tax cap is lost and the District Tax Rate reverts to the Actual Rate.

To prevent this from occurring, we have put forth a spending plan that caps new spending at 9.9%.

The Actual Tax Rate of this spending plan is +25.4% but will be capped at +5%.

Due to the diminished tax capacity caused by Act 127, ACSD would see a **12.7% increase in Actual EDTR to fund the same budget as FY24, with no new spending.** In a fiscal landscape full of budget cost drivers, such a level spending plan would require significant staff cuts to achieve. With those cuts, we would be forced to eliminate vital educational resources and still be facing the same capped 5% tax rate increase. **To go a step further and maintain the FY24 District Tax Rate of \$1.40, ACSD would need to cut over \$4 million in spending!** Put another way, the proposed 9.9% new spending plan maximizes continuity in staffing levels and the ACSD educational product while safely delivering a 5% increased base tax rate to voters.

## Common Level of Appraisal and Town Tax Rates

Once we determine the Equalized District Tax Rate, it must then be converted to the Town Tax rate for each of ACSD's six member towns. Property tax follows property values. The values of a town's properties are assessed on a 5-10 year cycle and recorded on the town's Grand List. In between assessments, a town's property will appreciate, depreciate, or remain the same. Towns can also gain or lose housing units during this timeframe. To account for the difference between a town's current property values (measured as the average of annual home sales) and the grand list value, the State of Vermont performs an annual Equalization Study and assigns each town in the state with a CLA. The CLA is tied only to relative fluctuations in property value, not to the school budget. It ensures that each town pays their fair share of the taxes needed.

### Budget 101: What is the Common Level of Appraisal? (CLA)

ASSESSED VALUE  
MARKET VALUE

- If the Average Grand List Assessment exceeds the 3-Year Average Market Value, a town will be assigned a CLA of more than 1.0
- If the Average Grand List Assessment falls short of the 3-Year Average Market Value, a town will be assigned a CLA of less than 1.0
- CLA's of less than one will trigger a statutory requirement for a town to reappraise its properties.

TOWN	FY24 CLA	FY23 CLA	Change
Bridport	70.67	79.29	-8.62 (11%)
Cornwall	70.60	85.67	-15.07 (18%)
Middlebury	76.95	83.97	-7.02 (8%)
Ripton	73.29	79.45	-6.16 (8%)
Salisbury	68.33	75.97	-7.64 (10%)
Shoreham	76.09	82.90	-6.81 (8%)
Weybridge	77.07	84.75	-7.68 (9%)

**LA: Chart of year-to year CLA changes by Town. FY24 CLA is used for the FY25 Budget.**



TOWN	FY24 CLA	FY25 Town Tax Rate Projection (\$1.47 EDTR)	FY24 Town Tax Rate (\$1.40 EDTR)	Change
Bridport	70.67	2.08	1.78	+\$0.30 (17%)
Cornwall	70.60	2.08	1.64	+\$0.44 (27%)
Middlebury	76.95	1.91	1.68	+\$0.23 (14%)
Ripton	73.29	2.01	1.77	+\$0.24 (13%)
Salisbury	68.33	2.15	1.85	+\$0.30 (16%)
Shoreham	76.09	1.93	1.70	+\$0.23 (14%)
Weybridge	77.07	1.91	1.66	+\$0.25 (15%)

**Town Tax Rates: Chart of projected FY25 Town Tax Rates and FY24 comparison.**



