



CORNWALL TOWN REPORT 2022 - 2023

WELCOME

David George Anchevski

Ella Marie Bruehl

Alexander Joseph Edgar

Sophia Yun-Kotchoubey Lee

August Joseph Quinn

Nathan Robert Remarzo

Christian Pate Smith

Penelope Rose Trees

Nolan Watson Winkley

Source: Town Clerk records and the Cornwall Chronicle
Some individuals may not live in Cornwall but do have a
Cornwall connection.

FOND ADIEU, SALUTE

Bernice Banks

Michael Pertschuk

Jean Bryant

Mary Sager

Katherine Gannett

Ralph Ingersoll Scoville III

Martha Loutfi

Carolann Tyler

Lisa Nicholson

Andrea Vizcarrando

Isabelle Osborne

Robert Whitford

Judith Parker

Source: Town Clerk records and the Cornwall Chronicle
Some individuals may not have been living in Cornwall in recent years but they all have a Cornwall connection.

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12.29.2022

THE DRIVER OF A PICKUP THAT WAS TOWING A BACKHOE, DROVE THROUGH THE ENTIRE BRIDGE A LITTLE BEFORE NOON LAST FRIDAY

Town Officials, Members of Boards and Commissions

Agricultural Advisory Commission

CHM William Dinneen, Jr.
 SEC Wendy Kennedy
 Garrick Dinneen
 Chris Hopkins
 Jennifer Larson
 Ted Larson
 Mary Riccardelli
 Jen Markow
 Spencer Markow
 Brian Saccardi
 Dana Saccardi
 Dean Saccardi
 Susan Saccardi

 Peter Ripley
 Hunt Williams

Animal Control Officer

Lee Sohl 860-488-6476
 Asst. Jim Sohl

Assessor

Kayla Johnson 672-2703
 JoAnne Dodge
 OFFICE HOURS:
 Wed 9-3
 Tues 1-4

Board of Education

Iris Hermann '23 U
 Hugh Cheney '23 D
 Dean Saccardi '25 D
 CHM Emily Pryor '25 R
 Rachel Matsudaira '23 R
 Martha Bruehl '25 D
 CLERK: Anne Kosciusko
 672-2939
REP. TO HVRHS BOARD:
 John Sanders '23

Board of Finance

Lisa Lansing Simont '27
 Carl Zejke Hermann '25
 Simon Hewett '27
 Rocco Botto '23
 David Hubbard '23
 CHM Joseph Pryor '23

ALTERNATES:

Jessica Brackman '23
 John Brown, Jr. '23
 CLERK: Barbara Herbst

Board of Selectmen

FIRST SELECTMAN:
 Gordon M. Ridgway '23
 SELECTMEN:
 Priscilla Pavel '23
 Janet Carlson '23
 CLERK: Vacancy
 Tel. 672-4959
 FAX 672-4068
 Selectmen@CornwallCT.gov

Board of Assessment

Appeals
 Blaine Matthews '23
 CHM Richard Bramley '23
 Richard Wolkowitz '25

Building Code Appeals

David Williamson 672-4959

Building Official

Peter Russ 672-0711
 Tues & Thurs 7-9 a.m.
 Emergency Management Director
 Diane Beebe
 Marc D. Simont, Asst.
 John Bevans, Asst.

Conservation Commission

Nancy Berry '23
 Vacancy '24
 CHM Heidi Cunnick '25
 Debbie Bennett '24
 Vacancy '25
 Kate Freygang '23

Cornwall Grange #32 Trust Fund

Wendy Kennedy '24
 Chris Hopkins '25
 Susan Saccardi '23

Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department

PRES: Earl Tyler
 CHIEF: Fred Scoville III
 Rescue Capt. Elizabeth Ridgway
 (For a list of volunteers, see p. 42)

Demolition Officer

Peter Russ 672-0711
 Tues & Thurs 7-9 a.m

Fire Marshal

Stanley MacMillan,
 364-0909
 Deputy: Timothy Limbos
 Charles Carlton Jr.
 Robert Norton

Historian

Dorothy Clarke-Wolfe '24

Housatonic River Commission

Philip W. Hart '23
 ALT Barton Jones '24

Highway Department

FOREMAN:
 James Vanicky
 CREW:
 Ted Cheney
 John A. Malahan, Jr.
 David Wloch
 Town Garage: 672-6230

**Inland Wetlands and
 Water Courses Agency**

CHM D. Stevenson Hedden '23
 William J. Hurlburt '23
 Debbie Bennett '23
 Peter Demy '23
 Allan Bahn '23

ALTERNATES:

Jeffrey Morgan '23
 Robert Nethery '23

Judge of Probate

Jordan Richards 860-824-7012
 LITCHFIELD HILLS PROBATE
 COURT, DISTRICT 24

Justices of the Peace '25

Dave Cadwell
 John F. Brown, Jr.
 Gordon Scott Cady
 Margaret Cooley
 B. Daniel Evans
 Mark Hampson
 Allen G. Herkimer II
 Judith A. Herkimer
 Carl Hermann
 Lisa Lansing Simont
 Phyllis Nauts
 Priscilla Pavel
 Debra Tyler
 Katherine West
 Phillip Rollin West

Cream Hill Lake Study Group

Ivan Miller '23
 Betty Spence '23
 Heidi Cunnick '23
 Nancy Berry '23
 Richard Griggs '23

Land Use Administration

Karen Griswold-Nelson
 Administrator ZEO and Clerk
 HOURS: Tues. & Thurs 9-12
 860-672-4957
*See Planning & Zoning, Zoning
 Board of Appeals and Inland Wetlands
 Agency*

**Municipal Agent
 On Aging**

Rebecca Hurlburt 860-689-6511
 HOURS: Wed 9-12

Economic Development Commission

Mare Rubin '24
 Gary Steinkohl '24
 Richard Bramley '25
 Bianka Griggs '25
 Jane Herold '23
 CHM Simon Hewett '23
 Duncan Webb '23
 Christopher Sampson '24
 Oscar Anderson '24
 Vacancy
 Janet Carlson - BoS Representative

Northwest Regional Tourism

Mare Rubin '25

Northwest Regional Mental Health

Kimberly Sullivan '23

Town Office Hours

*Monday - Thursday
9 to noon and 1-4 PM
unless otherwise noted*

Park and Recreation Commission

Shanna Robinson '23
Erin Berry '24
Wendy McFarlane '24
Kim Valkenberg '24
CHM Michelle Shipp '23
Jane Hall '23
Stacy Dolan '23
Melissa Bronson '24

ALTERNATES:

Stephen Saccardi '23
Stephanie Jeski '24

DIRECTOR:

Jennifer Markow
672-4071
Mon & Wed 9-12

Hammond Beach

DIRECTOR: Marina Kotchoubey

Planning and Zoning Commission

Stephen Saccardi '25
Christine Gray '23
CHM Anna Timell '23
James LaPorta '27
Phill West '25
Keith Bodwell '27

ALTERNATES:

Michelle Shipp '23
Bruce Bennett '27
Will Evans '25

Social Services Administrator

Rebecca Hurlburt
860-6689-6511

Recycling Coordinator

Ted Larson 672-4079

Registrars of Voters

Republican

Brittany Mosimann '25

Democrat

Jayne W. Ridgway '25

307-7077 or 672-0279 respectively.

Tax Collector

Jean Bouteiller '23
672-2705
Monday 1-4
Wednesday 9-12/1-4

Torrington Area Health District Representative

Josh Tyson '25
860-489-0436

Town Clerk

Vera L. Dinneen '24
672-2709
Mon through Thurs
9- noon and 1-4

ASSISTANT TOWN CLERKS:

Kathryn Lee
Karen Griswold-Nelson

Treasurer

Richard Bramley '23

Finance Office

Barbara Herbst 672-2707
Mon/Thurs 9:00-5:00
Tues/Wed 8:30-12:30

Tree Warden:

Fred Scoville III '23
Bruce Bennett, Asst. '23
Jim Vanicky '23

Zoning Board of Appeals

George Wolfe '27
Barbara Wolkowitz '23
Ian Elwell '23
Betty Spence '27

CHM Vacancy '25

Amy Worthington-Cady '23

ALTERNATES:

Vacancy '26
Vacancy '24
Vacancy '28

Zoning Enforcement Officer

See Land Use Administrator

Sanitary Transfer Station

Manager Ted Larson
Assistant William Berry
Furnace Brook Road (672-4079)
For additional information, see back cover

Civic Organizations

Cornwall Child Center

Cream Hill Road, West Cornwall
DIRECTOR: Amy C. Martinez
672-6989

Cornwall Historical Society

7 Pine Street, Cornwall Village
PRESIDENT:

Lisa Lansing Simont

HOURS:

Sat, 10 am-4 pm and
Holiday Mondays 1-4 pm
Otherwise by appointment, call 672-0505

Cornwall Housing Corporation

PRESIDENT:

Ginni Block

Cornwall Library

30 Pine Street, Cornwall Village
DIRECTOR:

Margaret Haske Hare

HOURS

Tues, Thurs, Fri, 10 am-5 pm.
Wed. Noon-7 pm. Sat 10 am-2 pm.

Hughes Memorial Library

Lower River Road, West Cornwall

PRESIDENT: Janet Carlson

672-6374

HOURS

Friday, 4-7 pm;
Saturday 9:30 am-12:30 pm

For more civic organizations, go to
www.cornwallct.org

CORNWALL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The Cornwall Business Directory is continuously being updated, please see

<https://cornwallct.org/>

then click on link in the upper right side of the page where it says "Consider Cornwall", then scroll down to the "Business Directory". Here you can search businesses by category, keyword, by location or address.

Currently there are 149 listings and you can find general and contact information for a multitude of Services and Shopping including but not limited to

Agriculture and Farm
Animal Services
Apparel, Gifts & Home Décor
Appliances & Electric
Architects
Beverage & Package Stores
Books
Business Services
Carpenters, Builders & Contractors
Catering, Food and Grocery
Civil Engineering & Surveying
Entertainment
Floor & Wall Coverings

Furniture & Craftsmen
Hardware and Building Materials
Miscellaneous
Music Lessons
Painting Contractors
Personal Care & Nutrition
Photography
Pottery
Property Management
Real Estate
Recreation
Tree Work & Logging
Workspaces & Meetings



ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

I became the Cornwall Animal Control Officer in December 2023. In that time, two dogs were impounded through June 2023. One was redeemed and the other was under quarantine, then returned home.

43 calls/complaints were investigated, including missing pets, roaming dogs, two dog bites (since November), and miscellaneous domestic and wild animal questions.

One infraction ticket was dispatched.

Income source and income collected:
Pound fees - \$20.00

Thank you all for the warm welcome at the Meet and Greet in April, and over the course of all our phone conversations!

Don't forget that while dogs should be licensed every June, if you forget, or adopt mid-year, you can license your dog anytime during the year at the town hall!

Respectfully submitted by
Lee Sohl
Animal Control Officer



Gonzo wandered into Cornwall and got a free ride home back to Goshen from a Little Guild employee!



Rosie was missing for five weeks, but found her way home all by herself!



This beaver decided to forgo his swamp and head for a more luxurious swim...

TOWN MEETING VOTES – AN ABSTRACT

Annual Town Meeting Held November 4, 2022

Reports of the officers, boards and commissions having reports to make were received.

Voted: To adopt the Five-Year Capital Plan for the Town of Cornwall for the years 2023-2024 to 2027-2028, as recommended by the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen. The vote was unanimous.

Special Budget Town Meeting Held at Cornwall Consolidated School on May 19, 2023

Voted: To approve the proposed budget for Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, as recommended by the Board of Finance. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Vera L. Dinneen

Town Clerk



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Board of Selectmen had another busy year. The West Cornwall waste water construction project passed a referendum vote on July 9th. The study committee was reauthorized as a construction committee. Much time has been spent doing an independent environmental analysis of the project as required for federal funding. Activities of an anonymous group called "The Friends of Cornwall" attempts to improperly influence the referendum vote were reported to the State Election Enforcement Commission.

Affordable housing remained a top priority of the Board. A housing task force was appointed to implement the Town's housing plan. Jessica Brackman was appointed Housing Coordinator.

The food pantry continued to provide staples to those in need. Our social service agent, Heather Dinneen, has arranged for the pantry to receive staples from the CT Food Share program.

In January the Board hired Jane Hall to become the Board Administrative Assistant. Jane is also Vice Chair of the ever busy Park & Rec Commission and an active EMT. The Board heartily thanks Joyce Hart for unretiring and helping us in the transition. The Board can be contacted by phone 860-672-4959 and by email selectmen@cornwallct.gov. The Cornwall Town Hall News has been brought back as a publication to keep residents informed on issues. To sign up to receive the newsletter via email contact the Selectmen's Office.

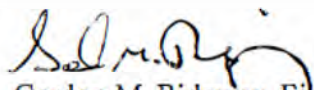
Other activities included installing electricity on the town green and signs for the Western New England Bike Trail. A new town highway truck was received. Roads in the northeastern part of town were paved.

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) committee completed its works with awards given to the Cornwall Food Pantry, Cornwall Housing Corporation, and Cornwall 1st Responders.

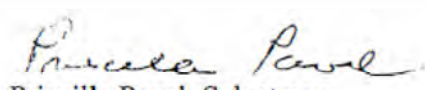
Fred Scoville Sr. retired after many years with the Highway Department. Paul Prindle, the Town's Building Official, also retired. Peter Russ was hired to replace him. Brad Hedden stepped down as the town's Animal Control Officer with Lee Sohl taking over. Brad still can respond to calls about small wild animals (not bears – that is DEEP's responsibility). We thank all of them for their public service.

The Board also thanks all the Town's volunteers who spent many hours making Cornwall the special place it is.

Sincerely,



Gordon M. Ridgway, First Selectman



Priscilla Pavel, Selectman



Janet Carlson, Selectwoman

TOWN OF CORNWALL**5 YEAR CAPITAL PLAN****Fiscal Years 2023 – 2027**

		Approved Previously	Changes	Final
FY 2022-2023	Road Improvement: Repair roads in Group 4			-
	Popple Swamp / Pave Jewell St	300,000		300,000
	Bridges / Culverts	10,000		10,000
	Cornwall Consolidated School	40,000		40,000
	CVFD Truck Fund	80,000		80,000
	Town Buildings	150,000		150,000
	HWY Truck replacement fund (Trk # 9)	100,000		100,000
	TOTAL	680,000	-	680,000
FY 2023-2024	Road Improvement: Repair roads in Group 5			
	East Cornwall	300,000		300,000
	Bridges / Culverts	10,000		10,000
	Cornwall Consolidated School	40,000		40,000
	CVFD Truck Fund	80,000		80,000
	Town Buildings	150,000		150,000
	Highway Truck #10	100,000		100,000
	DPW Mowing Tractor	40,000		40,000
	TOTAL	720,000	-	720,000
FY 2024-2025	Road Improvement: Repair roads 1			-
	Cornwall Hollow	300,000		300,000
	Bridges / Culverts	10,000		10,000
	Cornwall Consolidated School	40,000		40,000
	CVFD Truck Fund	80,000		80,000
	Town Buildings	150,000		150,000
	HWY Truck replacement fund (Trk 10)	100,000		100,000
	TOTAL	680,000		680,000
FY 2025- 2026	Road Improvement: Repair roads in Group 2			
	North Cornwall / Cream Hill	300,000	-	300,000
	Bridges / Culverts	10,000	-	10,000
	Cornwall Consolidated School	40,000	-	40,000
	CVFD Truck Fund	80,000	-	80,000
	Town Buildings	150,000	-	150,000
	HWY Truck replacement fund (Mowing Tractor)	100,000	-	100,000
	TOTAL	680,000	-	680,000
FY 2026-2027	Road Improvement: Repair roads in Group 3			
	Dibble Hill, pave Town St	300,000		300,000
	Bridges / Culverts (TBD)	10,000		10,000
	Cornwall Consolidated School Projects	40,000		40,000
	CVFD Truck Fund -	80,000		80,000
	Town Buildings	100,000		100,000
	HWY Truck replacement fund (Trk # 3)	100,000		100,000
	Revaluation	30,000		30,000
	TOTAL	660,000	-	660,000
GRAND TOTAL		3,420,000	-	3,420,000

Approved Board of Selectmen

10/5/2021

Approved Board of Finance

10/21/2021

BOARD OF FINANCE

The Cornwall Board of Finance met nine times during the fiscal year. Minutes for all Board of Finance Meetings can be found on the Cornwall web site; www.cornwallct.org.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 6/30/2023

Revenues	8,682,624
Expenses	8,094,184
Change in net position	588,440
Net position, beginning of year	11,486,782
Net position, end of year	12,075,222

The COVID-19 pandemic receded, and the Emergency Declaration issued on 3.10.20 ended on May 11, 2023. Town offices remained open for the entire Fiscal Year and a new normal has been recognized as some of the compromises required by the pandemic have turned into conveniences and remain a preference. Most notably is the Zoom platform for remote meeting attendance.

In continuum, all Board of Finance meetings were held via Zoom teleconferencing, however the annual Public Hearing to present the proposed budgets, and the Town Meeting to vote on the proposed budgets, reverted to in-person.

The Mil rate for FY 2023-2024 was set at 14.7 which is a 1.38% increase over the prior year.

The FY 2023-2024 budget is available for viewing at www.cornwallct.org or copies may be requested from the Finance office by calling 860-672-2707 or emailing Finance@CornwallCT.gov.

The Town ended the year with a \$280,957 budget surplus. The revenues exceeded budgeted amounts by \$157,909. This is principally related to favorable variances in fees collected by the Town Clerk, as well as property taxes, delinquent taxes and interest and fees collected by the Tax Collector. Interest on investment income was 17.3% higher than budgeted amounts. Overall, the Town's expenditures were \$123,048 less than budgeted amounts principally attributable to savings on Insurance and Benefits, and savings realized in the Board of Education by staffing changes. The tax collection rate reflected a slight uptick from the prior year of 98.8% to 99.1%.

Thank you to all the Cornwall boards and commissions for your efforts to keep costs stable for the coming fiscal year.

Cornwall's fiscal health, as documented in the Management Discussion and Analysis included in the back of this report, remains exceptional in this continued period of economic uncertainty.

Joseph Pryor, Chairman
John LaPorta
Zejke Hermann
Simon Hewett, Alternate

Lisa Lansing, Vice Chairman
David J. Hubbard
Janet Sanders
John Brown, Alternate

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

The Assessor's office is responsible for discovering, listing and valuing all real estate, personal property and motor vehicles within Cornwall.

The real estate market in our area is still climbing, and we are continuing to see a large increase in sale prices amongst homes here and in the northwest corner. We will closely continue to monitor the market for changes to prepare for the 2026 state mandated revaluation.

Currently we are focusing on creating a GIS database for the town which will be helpful for all offices and taxpayers. This will encompass all properties within Cornwall and give a wonderful aerial view of boundary lines, zoning maps, roads, wetlands, state lands and much more. This database will link directly with the Assessor's cards, so you can find ownership, abutters, and deed references quickly.

Although real estate is the bulk of our work, the office serves many other functions:

We assist realtors, appraisers, surveyors, title searchers, attorneys, and property owners with a variety of questions and projects.

We administer tax relief programs for certain low income or disabled homeowners and renters; as well as the blind, disabled and veterans.

We process all filed deeds and surveys to maintain ownership.

We approve and monitor the farm and forest tax relief programs.

We review all building permits and zoning permits for property changes.

We monitor all real estate websites to make sure that our information is accurate and to be aware of what is on the market and what is selling.



Kayla Johnson
Assessor CCMA 1


JoAnne Dodge, Associate Assessor

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

The Cornwall Board of Assessment Appeals (BAA) is a three-member board whose current members are Blaine Mathews, Richard Wolkowitz and Richard Bramley. We met on March 7 & 16, 2023 to both hear petitioners and to deliberate. We initially had 6 petitioners appealing their property assessments for the October 1, 2022 Grand List.

1. A Brook Street property petitioner withdrew their petition.
2. A Kent Road property had a modest reduction in the in the overall assessment primarily based on the dwelling lot value.
3. A Hall Road property had a substantial reduction in the overall assessment based on the condition of the dwelling and comparable properties.
4. A Flat Rock Road property had no change made after the presentation by the petitioner.
5. A Pritchard Road property had a substantial reduction in the overall assessment based on the comparable properties.
6. A Castle Road property had a substantial reduction in the overall assessment based on the estate rating in relation to the state of repair of the main dwelling.

The total changes the BAA passed reduced the Grand List \$600,300.

The BAA will hear appeals of assessment each year in the month of March for those petitions filed with the Town Clerk by February 20th. The BAA also meets each September for the sole purpose of automobile appeals.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Bramley, Chairman



Painting by William Ward Beecher

Building Official
July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

Cornwall continues at a moderate pace with uncertainty in the political situation and a continued slow down of available building materials.


This will be my last report after 20 years as Building Official. I have enjoyed my tenure as Building Official. I have met most everyone in Cornwall and many lasting friendships have developed.

From the smallest deck to the largest post and beam barn built in North America, it has been a pleasure to serve the Town of Cornwall.

Fiscal Year	No. Permits	New Dwellings	Construction Value
13/14	372	2	\$7,184,900
14/15	329	1	\$6,656,683
15/16	300	3	\$9,242,993
16/17	284	1	\$7,518,571
17/18	311	0	\$9,219,330
18/19	275	3	\$6,854,820
19/20	260	2	\$9,328,374
20/21	319	1	\$8,143,657
21/22	307	0	\$9,038,551
22/23	326	4	\$11,457,611

Let me introduce Peter Russ as my replacement. Please give him the respect, kindness and cooperation you gave me over the years.

Respectfully submitted,


 Paul R. Prindle
 Building Official



SUSTAINABLE CT / CORNWALL ENERGY TASK FORCE

*We Have New Sustainable CT Representatives on Town Committees
Sustainable CT now has a series on CPTV of town initiatives called, RE:SOURCE:FUL*

As a town, we have been working on these sustainable actions:

- Economic Development: Initiated a Roundtable Series to discuss sustainable economic development. Duncan Webb is the new SCT Representative.
- Natural Resources: Integrated the Natural Resources Inventory into website, maintaining Invasive Plant management, and creating an extreme weather plan. Katherine Freygang is the SCT Representative.
- Energy Management: An analysis of the energy usage of CCS is complete and will serve as a baseline for future plans for solar upgrades and other improvements.
- Planning: Followed our POCD with Sustainable Actions and resources. Karen Nelson is the SCT Representative and Land Use Staff
- Communication: Annually participated the Green Tent at the Ag Fair with presentations by environmental organizations and contributed to the Chronicle. We will be adding SCT actions to the town website.
- Stewardship: Attained the Forever Wild, and Wild and Scenic status and renovating the Housatonic Meadows State Park.
- Creative Culture: Developed new activities, and events through local organizations including the Cream Hill Lake Task Force and the Cornwall Garden Club.
- Land Management: Supporting biodiversity, establish priority places, support farming
- Affordable Housing: Working towards positive collaborative solutions.

All Energy Task Force programs such as the Home Energy Solutions Program (HES) for home energy audits, SBEA (Small Business Energy Audits), rebates and incentives can be accessed at www.energizect.com. Our town uses CRI-energy.com (888 403 3500) for advice and services.

The Cornwall Fuel Oil Group still obtains reduced pricing on heating oil. We use Bantam/Wesson who have a good service plan and also reduce rates for backup generators. Contact Rick Wolkowitz at 860 672 6366 or richard_wolkowitz@yahoo.com.

Please visit us at the Ag. Fair in the fall where we now have a Green Tent to highlight all the green efforts in town including conservation, stewardship and development. Representatives from Cornwall's Garden Club, Conservation Trust, Conservation Commission, Energy Task Force and Sustainable CT and others will be there.

As usual, come celebrate our Solar Christmas tree in December.

Programs are announced and updated on these websites: cornwallconservation.org, cornwallctenergy.org, and SustainableCT.org. We'd love to get your feedback. Come join us! Cornwall is working on a Sustainable Future with diligence and creativity!

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Freygang,

Cornwall Energy TF, Sustainable CT, and the Cornwall Conservation Commission

Cornwall Energy (Task Force-CETF) supports our commitment to energy conservation and clean energy with educational materials, events, reporting, and consistent presence at town events to present innovative ideas. The solutions for efficient, sustainable and now resilient towns have been expanded into the actions suggested by Sustainable CT, a program based in the Sustainability Institute at Eastern CT University. The new program covers Equity, Economics, Natural Resources, Arts and Culture, Planning, Transportation, Energy, Communication, Purchasing, Health and Wellness, and Housing. It provides resources, expertise and funding that will help towns in their endeavors. (See SustainableCT.org/actions) In our town, the two programs have joined with the Cornwall Conservation Commission.

CORNWALL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The Cornwall Economic Development Commission, which is now in its thirteenth year, was created in response to Cornwall's Town Plan 2010, which indicated that the Town needed economic health and growth guidance. The Commission is funded by the Town of Cornwall and its mission is to create, develop and maintain a healthy and viable business climate, locale and heritage in Cornwall CT, and to promote tolerance and acceptance of economic diversity and the right/need to work in Cornwall, CT.

The members of the Commission, as of June 30, 2023, are Simon Hewett (Chair), Bianka Langner Griggs (Vice Chair), Gary Steinkohl (Treasurer), Marie Louise Rubin (Secretary), Oscar Anderson, Richard Bramley, Arnon Fischer, Jane Herold, Chris Sampson and Duncan Webb. During the year, William McClane III resigned from the Commission, and we thank him for his service and contributions to the Commission. D. Neil Frauenglass has been designated an Honorary Member. Richard Griggs made videos of our meetings available on CornwallCT.org. I would like to thank all of the above for their contributions to the Commission and its work.

The Commission meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month, and meetings this year took place over Zoom and, latterly, both in-person at the library and via Zoom. The meetings are open to all, and the Commission welcomes the participation of the public. Further information on the Commission can be found at VisitCornwallct.org.

During this year, the Commission has sought the views of Cornwall businesses as part of its regular meetings, and representatives of Northwest Lumber Company, National Iron Bank, The Covered Bridge Electric Bike Rental, Megan Mollica Gardens & Landscaping, LLC, C&M Carting Solutions, Caitlin Belter Evans, Physiotherapist, Thunderhorse Creative and The Cornwall Library each presented to the Commission during the year to June 30. In addition, Jessica Brackman spoke on affordable housing in Cornwall and Katherine Freygang spoke on SustainableCT. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway delivered monthly updates to the Commission. The Commission thanks each of the above for their participation.

The key activities of the Commission during the year were as follows:

- Organized Cornwall Day on July 30 to highlight what Cornwall's business community has to offer
- Sponsored The Twelve Days of Christmas event in West Cornwall
- Sponsored the formation of an ongoing Roundtable for Cornwall businesses
- Handled award of ARPA funds to seven Cornwall artists
- Continued to support the Buy/Hire Local initiative
- Supported the Board of Selectmen in attracting new businesses/residents to Cornwall
- Used social media advertising to attract tourists and potential buyers

The Commission looks forward to continuing to assist in the growth of Cornwall.

Simon Hewett

Chair



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The Northwest Hills Council of Governments (NHCOC) consists of the Mayors and First Selectmen from 21 member towns in the Northwest Corner. It is one of the nine Councils of Governments that have been established in Connecticut.

NHCOC generally meets monthly to discuss issues of municipal concern, oversee COG planning projects, and explore new opportunities for regional cooperation. Additional information on COG initiatives and activities is available at: www.northwesthillscog.org

At the conclusion of the Fiscal Year, NHCOC approved a budget that realized increases in funding and services levels in many areas. These areas included an increase in the state Regional Service Grant (RSG), an increase in the state DOT planning funds for the region, the creation of a regional opioid response fund and a \$1.2M award from Health Resources and Services Administration over the next 4 years for the establishment of a Rural Health Network Project Director to continue the work in this area over the last couple of years. Leonardo Ghio was added to NHCOC staff as the new Project Director for this work.

During the Fiscal Year of July 1st, 2022, and June 30th, 2023, NHCOC planned for a relocation of the home office from Goshen to Litchfield in space within the EdAdvance building at 355 Goshen Road. The move will become official on September 1st, 2023, and will provide additional office space for a growing staff, several sizes of conference room space and efficiencies with other overhead costs along with full time access to our current Information Technology services provided by EdAdvance.

NHCOC also initiated a review and update of the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Major strategies outlined in the current CEDS include expanding access to high-speed fiber optic broadband (Fiber to the Home – FTTH), promoting tourism/arts/culture, supporting local farms, strengthening manufacturing, and encouraging entrepreneurs and innovation. The 2nd round of 3-year funding from US EDA was applied for and granted at the end of the FY and will provide for the continued update to our 5-year CEDS and continued implementation of the goals and objectives contained within.

NHCOC is allocated about \$2M each year from ConnDOT for priority local road improvement projects (LOTICIP) and projects are currently in various stages of approval/development in Burlington, Litchfield, Torrington, and Winchester.

NHCOC also serves as the oversight agent for approximately \$365,000 in Homeland Security Grant funding that is received each year for the Department of Emergency Management and



Homeland Security (DEMHS) Region 5. There are several projects and equipment acquisitions to support this program within multiple Emergency Support Function groups in region-5 (all of NHCOCG and portions of NVCOG and WESTCOG).

In 2022-2023, NHCOCG continued coordination of numerous popular programs such as a prescription assistance program in cooperation with the Foundation for Community Health, a Neighbor-to-Neighbor program in cooperation with the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, the Northwest Hills Public Works Equipment Cooperative, and the region's cooperative purchasing program. NHCOCG also started a few new programs including being the fiduciary of a Produce Rx Program and the recent designation of the Wild and Scenic status for a portion of the Housatonic River working with the 7-town membership of the Housatonic River Commission (HRC).

NHCOCG continuously promotes the on-line Interactive Regional Trail Map that was developed by NHCOCG in cooperation with the Housatonic Valley Association to promote access to the public trails in the region.

In addition, NHCOCG continued to host a quarterly "5th Thursday" forum for area Planning, Zoning, and Conservation Commission members to meet and discuss items of mutual interest, hear guest speakers, and provide input on regional plans. These also have been utilized to meet the new statutory requirements of Land Use Officials annual training program.

Serving as officers of NHCOCG during the majority of FY 2022-2023 were Henry Todd, Chairman, Mike Criss, Vice Chairmen; Charlie Perotti, Secretary; and Tom Weik, Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Phillips

Robert A Phillips, AICP
Executive Director

CORNWALL PARK & RECREATION

We are happy to report that despite Covid still being around, we were able to resume our normal activities and we even added several new events to the calendar. In fact, we held at least one event each month in addition to our monthly community/senior meals.



Park & Rec hosts a Community/Senior Lunch on the 2nd Tuesday of each month and breakfast on the 4th Tuesday of each month. We returned to hosting them inside at the UCC Parish House, which meant that we could host them all year and didn't have to take a break for the cold (lonely) months of winter. The lunches average about 30-32 people and breakfast is usually about 15-20 people. Clearly, not everyone is an early riser.

It is such an important time for our community to gather and have interactions with friends and neighbors. This year one of our attendees told us

that when he leaves one of these events, he feels so energized and happy. He wished we held them all the time. After that comment and wanting to be able to provide more time for our seniors to gather, we created the Community Social Hour. Social Hour is held in the afternoon on 3rd Wednesday of each month. We serve light snacks and beverages and have a great time just chatting away about anything and everything Cornwall.

This year the Commission has taken on the preparation and cooking of the meals we serve. The feedback has been glowing reviews. They love having homemade meals vs catered meals. Jen Markow and Michelle Shipp primarily do the cooking; however, Melissa Bronson and Kim Jackson have also been a part of the meal prep team. Some examples of lunch entrees are Pot Roast with all the fixings, ham dinner and scalloped potatoes, chicken Alfredo pasta, and with each meal we have plenty of salad and a vegetarian option. Desserts are always a treat because Jen is our baker and her pies, crumbles, & cookies are so delicious! For breakfast we have had pancakes, biscuits with sausage gravy, hash browns & eggs, quiche or egg casserole, and each time we have some breakfast meat, fruit salad and a delicious baked item.

The food is delicious, but the conversations and friendships are what truly nourish those who attend.

Sports were held regionally in partnership with some of the Region 1 towns Park & Rec commissions. Many towns are challenged by having enough kids in the same age range to create teams. For example, Cornwall has a small group of kids who do participate in sports, but the ages range from 5- upper teens, so there is no way to host Cornwall only sports program with that wide of range and abilities.

Basketball, soccer, baseball, tennis, and lacrosse were offered this year. The towns of Salisbury and Canaan hosted a sport, with the rest of sports being played at HVRHS.

Congratulations to the Jr. Tennis team and coach Todd Piker for winning the USTA Jr Tennis Championship!!! These youngsters have been working for several years to develop their skills and this year that hard work paid off!

CORNWALL PARK & RECREATION

July Fest was a great evening on the Green and marked the first of our Summer Music Festivals. The Zola Boys played bluegrass music, Hot Z's served burgers, sandwiches and fries, Peter Doda's ice cream truck for dessert, and plenty of fun games for kids of all ages with Cornhole, giant Connect Four and the ever popular GIANT soccer ball.



August continued with the Summer Music Festival series as we hosted the inaugural Taste of Cornwall. Wanda Houston and the HBH Band played swing music and had people up and dancing on the Green. Park & Rec partnered with Freund's Farm to create a tasting buffet that featured fresh produce and meats from the farms of Cornwall. The buffet also had some items from local food vendors found at Cornwall Farmers Markets and at The Local. We also partnered with the Cornwall Association who provided ice cream sodas as part of the dessert buffet.

We served over 200 people and not everyone in attendance ate at the buffet. A fantastic event that showcased the best foods that Cornwall has to offer.



September was our first Movie Night. We rented a giant screen for out on the Green and over 100 people gathered to watch Charlotte's Web. A perfect movie since that day was The Cornwall Ag Fair. Thanks to the Dolan Family for bringing a few piglets so we could have our own "Wilbur" for the occasion.



October was another reminder that Covid was still out there and we needed to get another booster vaccine. Park and Rec hosted a dual clinic so residents of the NW Corner could come and get a flu vaccine, a covid vaccine, or some even chose to get both. The clinic was busy all day with about



200 people coming for their shots.

The annual Halloween event returned with the ever popular soup, corn dogs and Mac n Cheese dinner. We added a Chili Cook-off to the night, thanks to a town resident for the suggestion. The Commission tasted and voted on the "best" chili, which was no easy task because there were so many tasty entries. Candy Carlson won 1st place and we look forward to her defending her title next year. There were other additions to this fun night of trick or treating through the Village. We added Trunk or Treat, so those residents of Cornwall that don't live in the Village and want to hand out candy, can use their cars' trunks as a stop for the kids. Such a spooky fun addition for all.

November a new pickleball court was completed and opened at Foote Field. We held a pickleball clinic so that people could learn this fun new game. The pickle ball court shares the space with the basketball court. (For now the courts are open play, no reservations, and the use switches on the hour. If we find a heavy use of the courts, we will reexamine the

CORNWALL PARK & RECREATION

court usage system.) Pickleball is a crazy combination of games that is easy for anyone to play. We have heard that laughter is often involved more than anything else during a game. Come on out and try this new game!

December was the Annual Holiday event with Santa and the Grinch along with a toy and food drive for our Cornwall Food and Fuel Bank. This year we held the event at CCS and the 8th grade class a pasta dinner and raffle fundraiser for their class trip. Such a magical time with friends and the kids loved being able to play in the gym with Santa and the Grinch!

We had a 2D wool needle felting workshop after our January Community Breakfast. Fun time learning a new craft activity!



January and February each had a family movie night. Jan we watched The Bad Guys and Feb we watched Wonder. Families could purchase pizza, delivered by Goshen Pizza, popcorn and candy concessions. A favorite part for many was being in our jammies, with blankets and pillows all over Town Hall as we shared a fun evening together.

In February we had plans of an outing to the Flower Show in Hartford, but Mother Nature had other plans. Unfortunately, a big snow storm came in on our date to go and the Cornwall-Goshen Bus was booked up for all the other days, so we were unable to go. Sure would be wonderful to have our own bus in town so we could adapt when things pop up.

Luck of the Irish found its way to Town Hall on St. Patrick's Day for an afternoon of fun with crafts and snacks for the kids.

April Fool's Day and our Spring Celebration collided at Foote Field and we had some unexpected special guests that morning. 70 people came out that very rainy morning and had breakfast pastries and warm beverages. Imagine the confusion when Santa and the Grinch appeared to say "Good Morning". It wasn't long before the Easter Bunny arrived to set them straight about who was the correct guest for this event. After some discussion between them, and in a true Cornwall manner, they decided that all 3 would stay for the event. They had a blast playing basketball with some kids, while others did a variety of craft activities and the adults chatted with friends and neighbors. Then we had quite the dash to the soccer field for the much anticipated egg hunt.

Earth Day we partnered with C & M Carting Solutions for a Clean Up Cornwall weekend. C & M Carting provided safety vests, gloves, and trash bags to all who volunteered to pick up trash from the roads and trails of Cornwall. They also provided a dumpster in the Village for people to bring the bags they gathered; plus had 3 locations around town that people could stack their bags and they were picked up at the end of each day. Such a great community effort that we filled one dumpster in one afternoon! Sad there is that much trash out there to be picked up, but so uplifting to know that together we can Clean Up Cornwall.



CORNWALL PARK & RECREATION

May found us touring around Cornwall, Litchfield, Goshen and back to Cornwall with 14 people on our Senior Field Trip. The bus was full to the max with people and if we had a bigger bus we would have had more. It was a full day of exploring the businesses and sites of our area. We



started at Cornwall Bridge Garden Center with Ivy's Antiques & Blue Gate Bakery. Then went to Bantam Bread, Litchfield Distillery for a tour and tastings (yes, we tasted and a good time was had by all), lunch at Patty's



Restaurant, Thorncrest Creamery for out of this world chocolate, a stop at Northern Farms & Flowers, and then our final stop before returning to Foote Field was to the top of Mohawk to see the gorgeous views from up there. We could see Cream Hill from there! We all returned with bags full of treats from the various stops and our hearts full of joy having spent the day together.

June brings our annual Town Picnic at Hammond Beach. It is a great way to kick off the summer and opening of the town beach. Park and Rec provided burgers and hot dogs, and veggie burgers and side dishes were potluck. The Ag Commission served ice cream sundaes and this year they had super sized sundaes with all the toppings. I'm sure there were some sundae eaters who regretted that 2nd sundae they had. This year our picnic had some challenges due to weather and smoke from the Canadian Wildfires. It had to be postponed several times, but fortunately we were finally able to hold it and those who came out had a fantastic time swimming, playing, eating and chatting with friends about what the summer might hold for them.



In addition to the events and community activities we held this year, we also made some equipment investments. Park and Rec was contacted by the community with a request for a toddler swing. The town had quite the baby boom in the last few years and there was definitely a need for something for We purchased a toddler swing and it was installed at the park in the Village.

Foote Field got some upgrades too. We purchased some new picnic tables for the pavilion area. Now there is plenty of seating to hold a gathering there. Did you know that you can reserve the pavilion for a family party or event? You can! Check out info on our website cornwallparkrec.org for more information.

We have also added an informational Kiosk to Foote Field. A great place to see what Park and Rec has planned for upcoming events and other important info about Foote Field will be posted in it.

Whew! As you can see the Park & Rec Commission has been very busy creating a calendar of events to create opportunities for community gatherings and social times, as well as

CORNWALL PARK & RECREATION

providing services to the town. We met each month except for in January and February when we did not have a quorum to conduct business.

We look to the future with goals of continuing to build our events calendar and continue to foster recreational opportunities and social interaction in town as well as our partnerships with the businesses and organizations in town.

Attendance at events is growing and with that we are beginning to out grow some of the spaces that we use for indoor events. We also battled with weather issues and rescheduled events so many times that it has become clear that a community center would be an asset to Cornwall.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Michelle Shipp (Commission Chair)

Jen Hurlburt Markow (Director)

Commission Members:

Jane Hall (Vice Chair)

Erin Berry (Secretary)

Melissa Bronson

Stacey Dolan

Kim Jackson

Stephanie Jeski (alternate)

Wendy McFarlane

Shana Robinson

Stephen Saccardi (alternate)



REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

Sadly, the mid-term election November 2022 was Cara Weigold's last. She decided not to run for re-election as Registrar after six years on the job. We wish her well for the next chapter. Happily, we found Brittany Mosimann to take the job. Brittany's training started in the spring of 2022 so she was ready to jump right in to help after the November election.

Also, in November 2022 a new Secretary of the State, Stephanie Thomas was elected. Changes are in the works: Early voting starting April 2024 for the Presidential Preference Primaries and new voting tabulators. Details for both are still being drafted. As we receive updates they will be posted on the Website (Cornwallct.org).

May's Region One Budget vote was very slow. 77 Cornwallians voted. 6.6% of eligible.

In July there was a referendum for the West Cornwall Waste Water Management Project. Of the eligible electors 419 voted. Property owners were also eligible to vote and 67 voted.

Both the Republican and Democratic Parties had primaries in August. Republicans voted for candidates for US Senator and the Secretary of the State. Fifty-four republicans came to vote at the polls and one voted by absentee for a total 29.4 % of eligible voters. Democrats voted for the Secretary of the State and State Treasurer. One hundred and forty-eight voted in person and four by Absentee for a total 25.65% of eligible voters.

November's Gubernatorial and National Mid-Term Election produced a better turn out 76.73%. 759 voted in person and 136 by absentee and 5 Election Day Registration Voters.

As of October 23, 2023, there were 1145 of registered voters 560 Democrats, 188 Republican, 380 Unaffiliated and 17 miscellaneous others.

We need election workers so please let us know if you wish to help at the polls and don't forget to VOTE!

Brittany Mosimann

Jayne Ridgway

Am I eligible to Vote?	Check My Registration	Register to Vote or Update My Voter Registration	Absentee Ballot Application & Information
			

SOCIAL SERVICES

Fiscal Year 22-23 was a year of transition for clients served by the Social Service Office. We saw State and Federal Covid-19 programs ending while prices on nearly everything rose. This meant that more people needed support with essential bills, and food.

The Eversource moratorium on shut offs ended in summer 2023, meaning that clients who had been unable to pay their full Eversource balance each month during the pandemic were now subject to shut off notices. Thankfully a new low-income program will be rolled out in early 2024, which should help decrease large back balances and make monthly payments more affordable.

Thanks to ARPA Funding and the continued generosity of Cornwall residents, the Food and Fuel Fund, a tax-exempt fund of the Town of Cornwall, was able to meet the increased need. We were also grateful to become a partner Food Pantry of CT FoodShare, which provides 500+ pounds of food, for free, to the Pantry each week.

As we saw an increase in demand for the Food Pantry with an average number of requests rising from 28 to 34 weekly households served, we continued to benefit from a reliable and dedicated group of volunteers who help with sorting, driving, coordinating orders, and raising awareness about the Pantry in the community.

We were fortunate for the continued support from regional organizations like Food Rescue, and Food Hub, who provide weekly deliveries of produce and food items from local restaurants and grocery stores. We also are blessed to have Produce to the People, founded and managed by Michelle and Chris Mullens, who work to gather produce from local gardens and get it to pantries in need. Finally, we are fortunate to have so many great and generous farms in the area, including Ridgway and Hurlburt Farms, and benefitted from their donations of produce and beef. This collaborative work ensures that those who access the Cornwall Food Pantry can receive local, fresh, and nutritious food.

I will be wrapping up my time as Director of Social Services in Fall 2023. It has been a great honor to serve the community and work alongside so many wonderful Cornwall residents since 2018. Thanks to all for your continued support during some very difficult times!

All the best, Heather Dinneen

TRANSFER STATION

It's business as usual at the Transfer Station.

The mask mandate has been lifted and things are slowly returning to the new normal.

Bulk containers fill up fast so please call before loading.

The MSW (our trash) continues to be hauled to Pennsylvania, please be mindful of what gets thrown away.

The compost project is still on-going. After two tries with DEEP, let's keep our fingers crossed it passes and we will be able to accept leaves and food soon.

The new building has been completed and we are now using it and enjoying the functional windows, a new heating system and a real office.

The limit on the tarmac is four cars at a time, this allows us to manage questions easier and more efficiently.

As always: **REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE and REPURPOSE**



Many Thanks
Ted Larson, Manager
Will Berry, Attendant

CORNWALL BOARD OF EDUCATION

School felt “back to normal” this year as covid cases waned and more activities that had paused could resume. Our meetings were once again held at the school. Principal Mary Kay Ravenola continued to do an outstanding job running the school and interacting with, and educating, the board of education. The highlight of most meetings was visiting classrooms and learning more about what a teacher brings to our students. CCS has a dedicated and experienced staff, and our students are thriving.

This year brought a big change with Ms Ravenola’s resignation from her position as principal. While saddened by this news, the board came together quickly with the team from Region One to determine a search committee and strategy. In addition to all board of education members, the search committee included: staff members Cathy Binkowski, Danielle Krueger, Alicia Simonetti-Shpur, Tom Brown and Patty Rovezzi; Administrators Mary Kay Ravenola, Lisa Carter and Jeanine Rose; community members Jen Markow and Cay Hosterman; and parents Noah Noyes and Jane Hall. After weeks of meetings and thorough interviews, the committee was completely unanimous in its recommendation to hire Leanne Maguire as our new principal. We are all thrilled that she said yes!

Thanks to my colleagues on the Board of Education: Martha Bruehl, Hugh Cheney, Iris Herman, Rachel Matsudaira, and Dean Saccardi. Everyone participates in our regular meetings and this year the search committee, but also helps serving on various other committees.

Our buildings and grounds committee, which meets monthly to set priorities for work and upgrades to our campus, included board member Hugh Cheney and staff members Mary Kay Ravenola, Annie Kosciusko, Tom Brown, and Pete Selino (retired custodian) and community member Phil Hart. The committee also worked with the town to organize and review CCS capital projects that are needed over the next few years.

Many policies are required and necessary to run the school and are reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis. Iris Herman and Martha Bruehl serve on the policy committee, which is much more efficient thanks to Lisa Carter’s regional approach.

Rachel Mastudaira and Dean Saccardi serve on the region one middle school athletics and activities committee (MSAAP).

Our region one representative continues to be John Sanders who attends and reports at meetings and is a welcome addition providing insight into regional issues and activities.

CORNWALL BOARD OF EDUCATION

The CCS budget is an important component of the board's work and was passed in March 2023 at \$2,633,903 for the 2023-24 school year, a slight reduction over last year due to diligent budgeting by Annie Kosciusko and Ms. Ravenola. The budget was reviewed by the board of finance and was later approved by the town. The budget committee also includes Emilie Pryor, Iris Hermann, and Rachel Matsudaira, but the entire board of education is involved with reviewing and approving our budget. Board clerk Annie Kosciusko is the budget master.

Remember that our Board of Education meetings are open to the public and you are most welcome to attend.

Respectfully,
Emilie Pryor, chair



CCS PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

The 2022-2023 school year was an amazing year of learning and growing as a school community. A satellite lunch program was started which was a huge success with between 40-65 students a day participating. Housatonic Valley Regional High School provided the daily lunches and will continue to do so for the next school year.

Student leadership opportunities for students was a strong focus this year. Eight of the thirteen 8th graders participated on the daily Morning Announcement Team guided by Alicia Simonetti, CCS Music Teacher and advisor. This group created daily scripts which included weather, quote of the week, trivia, jokes and other pertinent event information to the school community. Monday through Thursday, they announced over the intercom. On Fridays with the technical support of Jacob Johnson, a CCS alum, they created a news studio to livestream the morning announcement which included an interview of a Cornwall community member. They learned how to work video cameras, sound boards, microphones, lights and took turns as newscasters. Middle School students had the opportunity to be on the Student Leadership Team. Each homeroom elected three members to represent their grade and have their voices heard. This team met monthly with the principal and Ms Krueger, Middle School Math Teacher & Advisor, to share student concerns and ideas to promote a positive school climate. Students also planned and led events as much as possible such as the Veteran Day Ceremony, Voting for the Walk a Thon Charity, fundraising events to name a few. Eighth graders created Exploration presentations on a topic of their choice and created a video with the support of Catherine Tatge and Dominique Lasseur, Executive Directors of the Civic Life Project. Student-led conferences were held providing students the opportunity to present information and insight about their academic achievement and progress to teachers and parents. Students at CCS are gaining confidence in public speaking due to experiences such as this.

In the spring, Student Leadership Awards were presented to CCS students at a Cornwall BOE meeting. Seventh grader Nathan Young and eighth grader Byron Bell were awarded the Connecticut Association of Board of Education Leadership Award. Daniel Lesch, an eighth grader, was awarded the Litchfield County Superintendent Association Leadership Award.

This year also brought back some wonderful experiences for our children. CCS TEAMS met monthly. Students were in mixed groups from K-7 and led by 8th graders. This provided time for students to get to know others in the school community by sharing interests, thoughts and having shared team building activities. The winter sports program ran again this year with the majority of students skiing or snowboarding at Mohawk Mountain while others participated in winter hikes. Winter and spring concerts were held again along with Art shows showcasing student work. The musical returned and Peter Pan Jr was a huge success! Many middle school students rehearsed for weeks and are looking forward to participating in the next one this school year. Grade 5 and 6 students

enjoyed a few days away at Nature's Classroom. Grade 4 had a regional Arts Day, and all students went on field trips throughout the year. Gr 8 ended the year with a trip to Boston. The entire CCS School community had a wonderful day at Cream Hill Lake swimming, eating, and playing in June!

The dedicated CCS staff continued to ensure that our school had a positive climate throughout the year by ensuring that students started their day on a positive note with daily morning meetings and added this year a daily afternoon meeting. This afternoon meeting focused on sharing positives that happened during the day, discussing any concerns that needed to be addressed or having a team building activity before leaving for the day. CCS also continued the whole school focus on Habits of Mind (HOM) which provided opportunities for students to learn and apply important life skills throughout the challenges of their day such as persisting, managing impulsivity, listening with understanding and empathy and being open to continuous learning.

The Cornwall Consolidated School class of 2023 was a group of 13 outstanding students. Mais Aljasem, Byron Bell, Selena Black, Jasmine Bright, Sofia Bindley, Ava Bronson, Elizabeth Holland, Olivia Jeans, Conor Joseph, Daniel Lesch, Jacob O'Connell, Jacob Robles, and Liam Steck graduated under a large tent outside at CCS. The graduation speaker was Brian Saccardi, a CCS alum, who shared a powerful message about learning to the graduates. The ceremony was student-led by two of our eighth graders, Olivia Jeans and Jacob Robles, who served as emcees for the event. It was a joyful celebration and marked the end of another successful year.

This year there was a slight dip in enrollment at Cornwall Consolidated School. The previous school year ended with 101 students enrolled and the 2022-2023 school year began with 95. When school ended in June, the enrollment was at 93.

There were some staff changes as well for 2022-2023. Jennifer Fedor was hired as the Library Media Specialist to support the technology needs of the school but resigned for personal reasons in September. CCS was fortunate to be able to reassign Laura Munson, who had been the library paraprofessional for years, to part of the day in order to keep the library available to students and staff. Mrs. Munson's flexibility and dedication to our school was greatly appreciated. Helena Sweet was hired as the Middle School English Language Arts teacher and resigned for personal reasons at the end of October. Lauren Stiles was hired as the Grades 5 & 6 English Language Arts and Social Studies teacher and started at the end of November. Will Vincent who at that time was the Middle School Social Studies Teacher became the Grades 7 & 8 English Language Arts and Social Studies teacher. Mrs. Munson's and Mr. Vincent's flexibility and dedication to our school was greatly appreciated. Unfortunately, a full time Spanish teacher was not hired as this was a shortage area currently. With creative problem solving, students were able to have an incredible virtual experience with Senor Zachary Rudes, a CCS alum. Senor Rudes lived in Spain and taught grade 7 and 8 students virtually for most of the year. The last few weeks of school, the students were given a huge surprise and Senor Rudes was able to teach at CCS!

At the end of the year, we celebrated three retirements. Vicki Nelson, Grade 3 teacher, Sukie Hatcher, Special Education Teacher and Mary Kay Ravenola, Principal. These three educators had 25-35 years in education, and we wish them the best in their next life chapters! Kate Buckley was hired as the new grade 3 teacher and Leanne Maguire was hired as the new principal. Michelle Decker will be serving as the Special Education Teacher and will split her time between CCS and Housatonic Valley Regional High School. Susana Martinez-Bauer, who was a half time Art teacher for the 2022-2023 school year was hired full time for the 2023-2024 school year. She will be a half time Art teacher and a half time Spanish teacher. This will provide an amazing opportunity for our students as once the Spanish program develops; students will be able to use their Spanish skills in Art class as well.

CCS truly appreciates all the support from our special community!

Mary Kay Ravenola,
CCS Principal



CCS TEAMS Scarecrow Building Activity Ceremony



Student Led Veterans Day



Winter Concert



Skiing at Mohawk Mountain



Peter Pan Jr Musical



8th Graders in Recording Studio
For Morning Announcements



2023 CCS Eighth Grade Graduates



Cream Hill Lake Day



Earth Day

CCS FACULTY/STAFF 2022 - 2023

Last Name	First Name	Position
Binkowski	Cathy	Grade 4
Boucher	Aaron	P.E.
Brown	Tom	Custodian
Carlson	Candise	Grade K
Coleman	Angie	O/T
Collins	Patricia	Paraprofessional/Special Ed.
Folino	Nicole	Social Worker
Gray	Kirsten	Grade 1
Hanna	Jandi	Speech/Language Pathologist
Hatcher	Susan	Special Ed. (Gr. K-8)
Hill	Jennifer	Reading Interventionist
Huber	Celina	EL Coordinator Region One
Kosciusko	Anne	Board Clerk
Krueger	Danielle	Math (Gr. 5-8)
Lindstrom	Karen	Psychoanalyst
Markow	Joseph	Science {Gr. 5-8}
Martinez-Bauer	Susana	Art
Munson	Laura	Paraprofessional (Gr.
Munson	Lusana	Paraprofessional (Gr. K)
Nelson	Victoria	Grade 3
Pramuka	Kristi	Grade 2
Rashkoff	Clare	Nurse
Ravenola	Mary Kay	Principal
Rovezzi	Patricia	Administrative Assistant
Simonetti-Shpur	Alicia	Music
Stiles	Luren	ELA & Social Studies (Gr. 5/6)
Thulin	Jake	Custodian
Vincent	William	ELA & Social Studies (Gr. 7/8)



HVRHS Mural in the cafeteria - Installed in 2023 and funded by the 21st Century Fund and the Arts Fund for Region 1

2022-2023 Region 1 Annual Report to Towns

The 2022-2023 school year began in full swing as we returned to completely normal routines and activities in a post-pandemic school environment. Staff and students welcomed the return of collaborative classroom environments and robust athletic and after-school activities.

With respect to academic news, Region 1 school students continued to grow and learn in all disciplines. However, there were some notable shifts in curriculum, instruction and assessment that included:

- adopting instructional practices for pre-kindergarten-third grade students that are aligned with the new CT State Department of Education (CSDE) Science of Reading legislation. All Pre-k-8 schools are required to acquire new materials and training to successfully implement this new curriculum. Grant funding is being used to offset much of this cost.
- changing instructional strategies in the grade 5-12 mathematics classrooms to incorporate more peer-to-peer interaction and higher order thinking with respect to critical thinking and problem-solving.
- a return to mid-term and final exams at HVRHS as a means of assessing summative learning with respect to the key learning targets in each discipline as well as preparation for similar assessments that students may encounter in college or other postsecondary experiences that may require an examination for certification or licensure.

Student social emotional support remains a priority for all schools. Toward that end, all Region 1 schools benefited from a grant award received by EdAdvance, the local Regional Educational Service Center, located in Litchfield, CT. All seven schools in the region are able to add a .5 school counselor to their staff for the next five years with no charge to the schools. With this addition, each Pre-k-8 school now has 1.5 counselors and the High School has 2.5 school counselors and one social worker.

Many students continue to participate in the visual and performing arts in all of the Region 1 Schools. Dramatic performances and art shows are wonderful opportunities for students to show their talent and exhibit their work. Students also have field trip opportunities that include attendance at live performances and museum visits. Finally, the Pre-k-8 schools have opportunities to meet with local authors to listen to their stories and learn about their craft.

Athletics and extracurricular activities made a comeback in the post-pandemic environment. Student participation has increased from the previous year and is expected to continue as we move farther away from the pandemic. The 2022-2023 year was the second year of The Region 1 Middle School Athletics and Activities program, which fields teams from all Pre-k-8 schools as well as provides students with access to the Art Garage and Sci-Tech Center located on the HVRHS campus.

All Region 1 school facilities continue to be well maintained. Local school Board of Education Building Committees collaborate with their municipal governments to develop the scope and funding for major projects. For HVRHS, a Board of Education Building Committee consisting of representatives from all six towns in the Region oversees the maintenance of the High School building in Falls Village, which also houses the Pupil Services and the Central Office.

2022-2023 was a great year of learning and growing for all students. The success of the Region 1 program depends on the generous investment of all of the stakeholders in each of our towns. We are thankful for everyone's support as we continue to work together for the benefit of all.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa B. Carter



Cornwall Child Center - 8 Cream Hill Road / West Cornwall, CT 06796

860-672-6989

CornwallChildCenter@yahoo.com

www.CornwallChildCenter.org



The Cornwall Child Center - Annual Report July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

The Cornwall Child Center's fiscal year started off with a solid enrollment base for the Summer of 2022, bringing in approximately \$44,000 which was up \$5,000 from the previous year. The school year brought in \$182,571, very close to our budgeted \$183,000.

The town of Cornwall continued to provide \$50,000 for operating costs and the Annual Appeal brought in \$12,700 which was up about \$2,700 from the previous year. We also received additional "Gifts" totaling \$5460.

The Federal government continued to see the importance of the Early Childhood Education field and through the Office of Early Childhood's Wage Support Grant, Cornwall Child Center was granted a total of \$25,255 where all but 15% was required to be used directly on the teaching staff. This went toward bonuses, health insurance and pay raises. The Board of Directors and I continue to be strongly committed to providing equity of pay, including benefits to show our teachers that they are respected as professionals and cherished as educators. We are also committed to retaining the teachers that we have.

The \$1500 literacy grant we received last year was used this fiscal year to purchase a Lending Library made by the Ian Ingersoll Company. Please see the photo attached.

In May of 2023, we hosted our annual fundraiser at the Torrington Country Club. This event raised \$8500 and other misc. fundraisers raised an additional \$2800, one of which was the Memorial Day fair that we were asked to host and look forward to doing again in the years ahead.

A "snippet" from this year's Annual Appeal. "As we look to the future, the road is not without barriers. Childcare centers across Connecticut's Northwest Corner face a shrinking staffing pipeline. State and federal funding is sporadic, and pandemic-era funding has dried up. The Cornwall Child Center is not immune to these challenges." The task of enduring the costs of a "high quality" Early Childhood Program is daunting but we are committed to find additional income sources to keep the costs to families down.

Sincerely,

 Amy C. Martinez

Director

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

This past fiscal year 2022-2023 we remain vigilant regarding COVID-19. We ask citizens to continue exercising caution and to monitor the impacts of COVID variants.

Weather at best was wet and windy. While few “named” weather systems created issues, we did have unexpected impacts from unnamed storms. These weather events, most notably one in December impacted travel and utilities over the Christmas holiday. Another storm in March created damage throughout town, requiring thirty road closers, and as many as 230 households without power. Lake Road was severely impacted and required extended time to clear and bring services back online.

Throughout these events it is not always necessary to declare an emergency, however, the office of the EMD worked under a unified command structure with the town crew, First Selectman, and the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department. This process ensured effective communication across agencies and allowed for proper prioritization of work, a clear understanding of roles, and most importantly information for the safety of all individuals involved in the response. During all storms the First Selectman and EMD frequently reviewed the status of road conditions, power outages, concerns for at risk populations and communicated these needs to the utility companies. Through proper escalation and management of work tickets, the issues were resolved in a timely manner. It remains our goal to continue effective communication and review of recovery plans so that households are brought online as soon as possible.



While changes in weather patterns have limited heavy snows, we are experiencing periods of excessive dry and heat which has presented newer challenges. The wildfires in Canada created significant air quality concerns for the east coast. Efforts are underway to establish a plan that better addresses such issues in the future. This upcoming year will involve continued training on emergency tracking and resource systems. In addition, emergency plans are geared toward, large “named” events, as EMD in conjunction with other services I am looking into improvements for plans relative to “unnamed” weather events. As always, Cornwall’s Office of Emergency Management is focused on the safety of all citizens.

May we all enjoy the pleasures of the seasons in safety!

Diane Beebe

Emergency Management Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane Beebe".

Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department Fiscal year 2022-2023



The Fire Department responded to 136 calls for the year; in order of frequency: 62 false alarms, 33 motor vehicle accidents, 7 structure fires, 3 swift water and/or trail rescues, 6 public assists, 8 mutual aid calls, 8 canceled calls, 5 grass and/or outside non structure fires, 3 chimney fires, and 12 power lines down and/or trees on power lines. Included in the list was a double electric vehicle and barn fire with multiple large propane tanks that required the mutual aid from 12 other towns! CVFD was able to utilize an automobile fire blanket and F500 foam to control the incinerated EVs and decided to purchase these items for future use.

The Fire division of CVFD held 39 in person drills, 6 ropes rescue drills, and 12 meetings during the year to ensure training, orientation to trucks and equipment, and protocols were kept up to date. Mandatory bloodborne/airborne training was held for the entire Membership for yearly compliance.

As an entire Department we held 12 monthly meetings. It fostered and strengthened mentality to have the option of entirely in-person meetings after holding them virtually and/or hybrid for two years. We were lucky enough to be able to host community and team building events for our families as well- a tubing and pizza party at Mohawk and later a great time of racing in full turnout gear with other departments (and a yeti), as well as our annual banquet. We proudly marched in the annual Memorial Day Parade, tossing candy from our boat at the end of the line of equipment. We also held an Open House (the first in years!) in honor of our 90th anniversary, for the entire community at the end of Fire Prevention Week.

EMS had 202 medical calls for the year and with the requirement to roll our ambulance for all MVA and fire calls, that number increases to 245 total. EMS held 12 meetings and 17 drills for the year so that all members were able to stay consistent with their mandated continuing education credits needed for EMR/EMT certification including training in recognizing and reporting elder abuse, working with Project Sage (formerly WSS),



and crisis communication. EMS hosted a very successful community CPR and basic first aid class and looks forward to offering this service again. Two members received additional certifications: Richie Dolan is now an EMT and Jayne Ridgway is an EMS instructor.

To help us help you, be prepared with a reflective number on your driveway and a list of your medications, allergies, and medical history easily accessible in your home. Please reach out to us if you would like a file of life and/or a Cornwall made, reflective number plate.

Iris Hermann, CVFD Secretary

CVFD Officers

Chief: Fred Scoville (Fire, EMS) Captain Cornwall Bridge: Will Russ (Fire)
 Assistant Chief: Earle Tyler (Fire) Lt. West Cornwall: Ian Ridgway (Fire, EMS)
 Captain West Cornwall: Ted Larson (Fire) Lt. Cornwall Bridge: Garrick Dinneen (Fire)
 EMS Captain: Elizabeth Russ(EMS) EMS 1st Lt.: Jayne Ridgway (EMS) EMS 2nd Lt.:Joyce Hart (EMS)



Executives

President: Will Russ (Fire)
 Vice President: John LaPorta (EMS)
 Treasurer: Patience Lindholm (EMS)
 Secretary: Iris Hermann
 Chaplain: Micki Nunn-Miller



Responding and Support

Members

Allan Bahn
 Tom Barrett
 Marie Bate
 Diane Beebe
 John Bevans
 Terry Burke
 Dave Cadwell
 Mike Carano
 Casey Cook
 Michael DeGreenia
 Garrick Dinneen
 Richie Dolan
 Ralph Dzenutis
 Jane Hall

Joyce Hart
 Connie Hedden
 Steve Hedden
 Iris Hermann
 Chris Jackson
 Brendon Jankowics
 Peter Jaquet
 Chris Kesl
 Anne Kosciusko
 Lauren Kosciusko
 Mary Kate Kosciusko
 Skip Kosciusko
 Thomas Kurilenko
 John LaPorta

Ted Larson
 Ali Lesch
 Patience Lindholm
 Bill Lyon
 Rod MacNeil
 Bob Meyers
 Micki Nunn-Miller
 Jack Preston
 Alex Rehnberg
 Ian Ridgway
 Gordon Ridgway
 Jayne Ridgway

Rebecca Ridgway
Elizabeth Russ
Will Russ
Brian Saccardi
Steve Saccardi
Larry Saed
Fred Scoville
Dick Sears
Jessica Slaven
Robert Thompson
Earle Tyler
Josh Tyson
Jim Vanicky
Jim Whiteside
Jonah Whiteside
Bob Whitford
Hunt Williams
Dave Williamson





TORRINGTON AREA HEALTH DISTRICT

JULY 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2023

The TAHD served over 133,000 people in twenty boroughs, cities, and towns covering 611 square miles.

The TAHD **Community Health Program** partnered with DPH and FoodCORE to investigate: **6** giardiasis, **10** campylobacteriosis, and **10** salmonellosis cases. TAHD guided schools, daycares, and community members on a variety of health issues and administered **566** flu vaccines to residents. TAHD consulted with 13 residents regarding potential rabies exposures submitting **9** specimens to the DPH Laboratory for rabies testing. Ticks brought in by **52** residents were sent to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station for Lyme disease bacteria testing.

TAHD is an active member of **Fit Together**, a Northwest Connecticut Healthy Eating and Active Living Initiative. The 5210-fitness initiative serves as the cornerstone of the group's outreach and educational efforts. Fit Together allocates its resources to provide community assistance and has awarded \$15,000 in mini-grants to community partners. These grants aim to support projects that align with Fit Together's mission and strategies. Some of the funded projects include assisting the Torrington Kids Marathon, purchasing spin bikes for Oliver Wolcott School, buying local fruits and veggies for the school meal program in Torrington Schools, and obtaining stencils and paint to create black tops around schools. These areas serve as a creative way to promote a variety of physical activities. Fit Together has also supported sustainable healthy environmental opportunities in Torrington and Winsted by designating funding for a new all-level fitness trail along the Sue Grossman Still River Greenway.

TAHD actively participates in the **Litchfield County Opiate Task Force (LCOTF)** and as a member of the LCOTF executive committee, developing strategies and solutions to combat the opiate epidemic. Additionally, TAHD staff has provided training sessions to local pharmacies and medical offices on various topics such as the CT Prescription Monitoring and Reporting System, Naloxone administration, Medication-Assisted Treatment, and Resetting Pain Expectations. This training falls under the Academic Detailing on Opioid Safety initiative. Furthermore, TAHD is also involved in the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP). The primary objective of RCORP is to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with substance use disorder (SUD), including opioid use disorder (OUD), in high-risk rural communities. By participating in this program, TAHD aims to strengthen and expand prevention, treatment, and recovery services, allowing rural residents to access appropriate treatment and make progress toward their recovery goals.

TAHD contracted with United Way of Connecticut (UWC) to expand upon cross-sector efforts within the state to implement a comprehensive public health approach to suicide prevention to reduce suicide morbidity and mortality among three key vulnerable populations in the state: 1) middle-aged adults 35-64 years of age, particularly those in high-risk occupations or with serious mental illness or substance use disorder, 2) young adults 18-24 years of age and 3) adolescents 10-17 years of age. The TAHD provides QPR training to community members with the goal of reducing suicidal behaviors and saving lives. QPR Gatekeeper Trainers deliver this training and offer an innovative, practical, and proven suicide prevention approach. QPR is an excellent method for individuals and organizations to empower our communities in effectively intervening on behalf of suicidal and in-crisis individuals.

TAHD is an active member of the **National Diabetes Prevention Program**, dedicated to preventing or delaying the onset of type 2 diabetes. The program is designed for individuals with prediabetes and those at high risk for type 2 diabetes, spanning an entire year and focusing on promoting lifestyle changes. The program's objectives for participants involve engaging in 150 minutes of physical activity each week and achieving weight loss of 5 to 7%. The first session for this year commenced in November at the Litchfield Community Center.

TORRINGTON AREA HEALTH DISTRICT

The **TAHD Immunization Action Program (IAP)** collaborates with local providers and hospitals to ensure compliance with CT childhood immunization laws. In partnership with 12 medical and 40 community-based organizations in the district, TAHD focuses on educating, raising awareness, and promoting immunization. To support medical providers, TAHD supplies them with educational materials for both staff and patients, aiming to foster vaccine confidence and organizing educational events. Additionally, for community partners, TAHD arranges displays in libraries, museums, and food banks, and actively participates in various events such as back-to-school nights and health fairs. Posters are distributed in public spaces like post offices, coffee shops, libraries, and town halls to further spread the message. To boost vaccination efforts, TAHD continues to leverage social media.

The **TAHD Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program** provided case management for more than 40 children with blood lead levels ($\geq 3.5\mu\text{dl}$) as well as provided educational information to more than 100 families. Abatement/Remediation Orders were issued for 9 properties. 7 abatements were completed.

TAHD Environmental Health Program resulted in the following inspections/licenses/permits: **875** food inspections, **806** temporary food permits, **118** new septic systems, **252** repaired septic systems, **167** private well permits, **130** private pool permits, **200** beauty salons & barber shops inspections, **616** house addition permits, **355** soil tests, **28** subdivision lots, **43** public pools were inspected, and **26** daycare centers inspected. Records show that approximately **557** samples were submitted to the state lab for testing of drinking water, beach and pool water, lead in water, soil and dust, and stool samples for pathogens. Sanitarians investigated **293** complaints of various public health concerns; **24** legal orders/voluntary compliances were issued for enforcement purposes.

TAHD Emergency Preparedness Program continues to work and participate with local, regional, and state community partners to prepare for unprecedented events. The activities include but are not limited to outbreak investigation, surveillance, consultation and communication with health partners, public safety, town, and school officials, receiving and distributing personal protective equipment, promoting flu vaccination clinics, practicing closed point of distribution drills (POD) at Housatonic Valley Regional High School and meet CT-DPH deliverable by conducting multi-regional and multi-agency Anthrax tabletop exercise.

The **TAHD Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)** continues to work actively and recruit new volunteers with the goal of focusing on local community health and well-being. The program's main emphasis lies in education and outreach, covering a wide range of topics. These include but are not limited to, first aid, CPR/AED, QPR Gatekeeper, Stop the Bleed training, Human trafficking training, Build an Emergency Kit, and generic emergency preparedness at home. Moreover, the program actively participates in local fairs and community outreach events. The primary objective of TAHD MRC is to raise awareness and develop a comprehensive training curriculum. This curriculum aims to better equip the public in protecting themselves and their family members in a safe, timely, and effective manner. As of July 2023, TAHD has successfully recruited 220 volunteers and plans to retain and recruit even more.

TAHD continues to distribute at-home COVID-19 test kits throughout the community including community centers, libraries, shelters, and food pantries.

Robert Rubbo, MPH, Director of Health

VISITING NURSE & HOSPICE OF LITCHFIELD COUNTY, INC.

Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Litchfield County was created in 2020 by the mergers of Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association (est. 1904), VNA Northwest (Bantam, est. 1928) and Foothills Visiting Nurse & Home Care (Winsted, est. 1922). The combined agencies will be caring for the residents of all towns in Litchfield County plus Burlington, Canton, and Hartland.

VNHLC is a State licensed, Medicare certified, non-profit VNA providing care 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. VNHLC provides services in the areas of Skilled Nursing, Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapies, Medical Social Work, Hospice, Dietary, Pediatrics, Wound Care, Chronic Disease Management and non-medical Home Assistance Programs.

VNHLC employs 115 people, 95% of whom reside locally in Northwest Connecticut.

VNHLC cared for 2,204 patients and provided 50,198 patient visits in 2022-2023.

VNHLC is proud of its long-standing history with the Town of Cornwall. 62 persons from Cornwall received home health services from VNHLC during the past year.

Eighty-four (84%) percent of all our patients were age 65 or older and 24% lived alone.

VNHLC also offers, with funding assistance from the town, the following services free of charge to residents of Cornwall:

- Matter of Balance Classes – classes focus on how to maintain balance, continue moving and exercise at any age.
- Blood Pressure Clinics
- Health Promotion Visits - VNHLC receives an annual allocation from the town to help defray the costs of providing free Health Promotion visits and Public Health Programs. Health Promotion is a program in which certain elderly at-risk patients, who normally live alone and no longer qualify for insurance benefits, are routinely monitored free of charge by one of our staff nurses, therapists, social workers, or dieticians.

Structured Bereavement Groups are held twice a year. The groups are free and open to anyone in the community who has lost a family member or friend. The bereavement coordinator is also always available to meet privately with people. Just before the holiday season, an event, The Tree of Lights, is held to honor and remember VNHLC patients who have passed within the past 18 months to which family members and caregivers are invited.

This past year VNHLC was able to conduct public and many private flu clinics and administered more than 1,400 flu vaccines to mostly high-risk individuals. All ages, 18 and older, were welcome to attend.

Since VNHLC is a non-profit health agency, the Board of Directors serve on a voluntary basis and represent all the towns in which full services are provided.

Referrals for services are accepted from anyone and services are provided regardless of ability to pay, as long as contributions, grants and other appropriations are sufficient to cover these costs.

Michael Caselas, Executive Director

CORNWALL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY

The Cornwall Agricultural Advisory Commission was quite busy this year in preparation for the 30th. Agricultural Fair. We spend many meeting hours planning for the upcoming Fair and organizing a schedule of activities and vendors that all enhance our little Fair.

We also had scholarship applications from Spencer Markow and Melody Matsudaira. Both applicants were very deserving of a five-hundred-dollar scholarship each and a unanimous vote by the Commission honored their request.

The Lorch Farm Community Garden has maintained a total of 4 gardeners for a few years now and not only do they supply produce to their immediate families but also to the wider community through distribution at food pantries in the area. We are also working on building a garden shed for the gardeners to store their tools in and hope to have it done soon.

As president of the Commission, I will say that I am very proud of every member for their dedication and hard work.

If you are interested in joining the Ag. Commission or helping us financially to keep our scholarship program going for the young people of Cornwall well into the future, our meetings are usually held on the first Monday of the month at Town Hall.

All are welcome!

Respectfully, Bill Dinneen president
Wendy Kennedy secretary

Hunt Williams
Susan Saccardi
Brian Saccardi
Dean Saccardi
Dana Saccardi
Mary Riccardelli
Garrick Dinneen

Peter Ripley
Chris Hopkins
Jenn Markow
Ted Larson
Jenn Larson
Spencer Markow



INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES AGENCY

The Cornwall Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency held 10 regular meetings, (8 ZOOM and 2 In-person) in the year 2022-2023. In addition, 2 site walk meetings were conducted to allow commission members to review proposed activities prior to discussion and approval. A total of 8 applications for activities within regulated areas were reviewed by the Agency. The 8 applications for regulated activities included the construction of one new single family residence, 2 driveways to approved lots of record, and activities associated with the construction and repair of non-residential structures. The remainder of the applications were “Petitions for Declaratory Rulings” (PDR’s) or as “use as of right” applications. The “Petitions” included pond maintenance for both residential ponds and ponds used for fire protection, and agricultural activities i.e. forestry, and improvements to farm land and farm access.

New regulations enacted in 2011 for “use as of right” PDR’s (Petition for Declaratory Ruling) continue to result in better prepared petitions and quicker turnaround times, important factors when dealing with activities associated with maintenance in both residential and agricultural settings. The receipt and transmission of applications electronically to Agency members has resulted in quicker turnaround overall. Individual site walks prior to meetings – a self-imposed standard not common to most Agencies continues to result in better informed decisions.

Chairman D. Stevenson Hedden, Alan Bahn, Deborah Bennett, Peter Demy, and William Hurlburt remain as regular Agency members. Alternate Jeff Morgan was joined by Robert Nethery in September. Agency member Deborah Bennett has taken on the task of being the liaison between the Town and environmental groups to address invasive plants including Japanese Knot weed and its potential impact on water resources. Karen Griswold Nelson remains as Agency staff, serving as Agency secretary, Authorized Agent, and Enforcement Officer. The Agency overall has members rich in experience in agriculture, horticulture, environmental site development, and case law. Several members of the Agency have completed the CT DEEP Municipal Inland Wetlands Agency Comprehensive Training Program. The combination of experience and education allows the Agency to continue to serve the town with well-grounded understanding and application of the current wetlands and watercourses regulations adopted for the protection of Cornwall’s valuable water resources while allowing for reasonable development.



PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

The work of the Planning and Zoning Commission over the previous two years to reformat the regulations to make them clearer and easier to read, while updating them to conform to state legislative changes over time, continued in this fiscal year. After an education forum and two public hearings, the reformatted regulations were finally adopted, effective July 1, 2023.

State legislation passed during the year also required attention, specifically changes to Accessory Dwelling Units and the legalization of cannabis. The P&Z created a subcommittee to recommend amendments to our Accessory Apartment regulation and surveyed town residents regarding their opinions about the 6 cannabis enterprise-related licenses that might be allowed in town. In the end, confusion at the state level relating to setting policies and procedures prompted the Commission to vote, after a public hearing, in favor of a one-year moratorium on accepting cannabis-related applications.

The aforementioned new legislation also initiated a requirement for land-use commissioner training. Several P&Z commissioners attended all or part of the annual six-hour training session offered by the CT Bar Association.

Interactions with other Cornwall Commissions and Boards continued during this fiscal year. The Conservation Commission provided a well-received presentation on Ridgeline Protection, which was added to the 32 item priority list that Commissioners vote on prior to starting a new discussion about amending our regulations. The Chair participated in the Cornwall Conservation Trust's panel discussion on reconciling the need for land for housing with the need for conservation.

In Cornwall, the Planning Commission and the Zoning Commission exist by town ordinance as a combined Planning and Zoning Commission (aka the Commission), therefore all Commission members act in both their "planning" and "zoning" capacities at all meetings. The Commission's make-up remained stable with Anna Timell as chairman, James Laporta as Vice chairman and Phil West as secretary. Commission membership remained stable throughout the year and officers (Chair: Anna Timell, Vice-Chair: James LaPorta, Secretary: Phill West) were re-elected in January. The balance of the Commission were regular members Christine Gray, Keith Bodwell and Stephen Saccardi with Bruce Bennett, Will Evans and Michelle Shipp as participating alternates.

Between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023, the Commission held a total of fourteen meetings, three of those as special meetings, including a meeting with the Cornwall Conservation Commission, the yearly Plan of Conservation and Development update forum in January and an educational forum on Cannabis in April. Between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023, 36 zoning permits were issued by the Zoning Enforcement Officer acting as the authorized agent for the Commission. They included 4 permits for new single-family residences, 12 for additions and modifications to single family residences, 2 swimming pools, 4 accessory structures, 4 solar arrays, 2 home based businesses, and 3 accessory apartments and misc.

The Commission greatly appreciates the dedication and assistance of Zoning Enforcement Officer Karen Nelson and Commission Planning Consultant Janell Mullen, without whom none of our work would have been possible.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Cornwall Zoning Board of Appeals held no regular meetings in the year 2022-2023.

The 2022-2023 Board consisted of regular members Amy Worthington-Cady, Ian Elwell, Betty Spence, George Wolfe, and Barbara Wolkowitz and alternate member Jonathan Berry.

Despite lack of activity, it should be noted that many of the thoughtful decisions made by the Zoning Board of Appeals in past years have resulted in recommendations in the 2020 Town Plan of Conservation and Development being addressed by the Planning & Zoning Commission. Ongoing regulatory changes will support the overall goals of the Plan's "Housing Section" to provide appropriate housing for all ages, including options that are affordable, attainable, energy efficient and handicapped accessible.



Painting by
William Ward Beecher



NORTHWEST CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022-2023
 1185 New Litchfield Street * Torrington, CT 06790 * 860 626 7222 * www.nwcd.org

The Northwest Conservation District (NWCD) is an environmental non-profit organization serving 34 municipalities in northwestern Connecticut. Our mission is to promote conservation and protect the environment through education and technical assistance services.

TECHNICAL SERVICES PROVIDED TO MUNICIPALITIES

During 2022-2023, we assisted our towns' land-use departments and citizens with on site development reviews and field inspections of sites in a variety of land use settings. Our recommendations on proposed land use changes balance development with protection of the natural environment. We provide practical, science-based solutions using the latest techniques, including Low Impact Development (LID), to ensure that projects work with the landscape and are designed to address changes in our climate. Our professional soil scientist is able to review inland-wetland delineations.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AND PROJECTS ACROSS THE DISTRICT

We conducted workshops on topics including LID and stormwater management, residential rain gardens, soil health, renewable energy options, pollinator gardens, home composting, invasive plant management, cover crops and other best agricultural management practices. We support the work of the state-wide Pollinator Pathway Northeast (www.pollinatorpathway.org). We provide support to USDA-NRCS's conservation planning program and to farms in our District through our Climate Smart Agriculture Initiative that provides free cover crop seed to farmers to help them transition to healthy soil practices.

We support the CT Envirothon Program (www.ctenvirothon.org) providing hands-on science for high school students through workshops and educational support. Participating schools take part in an annual May Field Day statewide competition and the winning team competes at a National Conservation Foundation (NCF) competition. Twelve teams participated in the event. NWCD participating schools included Housatonic Valley Regional; Northwest Regional 7; Marvelwood School from Kent, and Nonnewaug High School winner of the statewide competition and that went on to the international competition in Canada.

EARTH DAY PLANT SALE

Our Earth Day Plant Sale is held annually at the Goshen Fairgrounds over a three-day period in late April. Through the plant sale, we continue to encourage people to make personal changes to promote clean air, clean water, healthy soils, and quality habitat. This year we provided extensive educational material with an expanded display of literature and information boards on many topics and we shared literature from many of our northwest corner partners. NWCD staff and Master Gardeners are on hand to help people select the right plants for their needs and growing conditions.

OUTREACH AND WEBSITE

We continue to publish our "Voice of Conservation" bi-annual newsletter, as well as a new yearly "Education Edition" in print form and electronic offerings through our website, and Facebook. Recorded webinars and educational articles are now offered on our website with news and links on our Facebook page, and we are planning additional resources for on-line outreach to help readers conserve natural habitats and wildlife. Our goal is to make our educational programming available to a wider audience. To be added to our mailing list, email info@nwcd.org.

THANKS TO YOU!

NWCD appreciates the ongoing support and partnership of the District's 34 municipalities, the generous contributions of local individuals, our funders, and many volunteers. We welcome feedback and requests for information, assistance, and educational programming.

Lawrence M. Rousseau

Lawrence Rousseau, Chairman, Northwest Conservation District



HOUSATONIC RIVER COMMISSION

The Housatonic River Commission (HRC) is a regional planning board responsible for monitoring and advising the towns in Northwest Connecticut on issues that involve the Housatonic River.

The Commission was formed in response to the US National Park Service recognizing this section of the Housatonic as one with outstanding scenic, recreational, and ecological value in the 1970's. Formed by the towns in response to this recognition, the HRC's first meeting was July of 1979 with representatives from, **Canaan, Cornwall, Kent, New Milford, North Canaan, Salisbury and Sharon** - each town that borders the River from the Massachusetts state line to Boardman Bridge in New Milford.

Our task is to work to maintain an environmentally healthy and scenic river corridor - one which today is enjoyed by boaters, fishermen, and hikers and campers. We act as an advisory board for everything from applications for construction and river use to the relicensing of the power plants on the Housatonic. Our non-regulatory responsibilities include providing recommendations to town Planning and Zoning Boards, Conservation Commissions offering a unique watershed wide perspective on local issues.

A key component of our efforts is the production of a management plan that summarizes the goals of the commission as well as suggestions to improve the quality of water in the Housatonic. Our first management plan was produced soon after our founding and published in 1981. An updated plan completed in 2005 found the river continued to have tremendous value but faced with issues revolving on the relicensing of the several hydroelectric generating facilities as well as contamination with polychlorinated biphenols (PCBs).

The Housatonic River Commission's purpose is to coordinate, on a regional basis, the local management and protection of the Housatonic River Valley in northwestern Connecticut.



HOUSATONIC RIVER COMMISSION

The following are those objectives as outlined in our most recent Management Plan.

Promote the retention of the free-flowing and scenic character of the Housatonic River.

Promote the protection and improvement of water quality, through:

- The elimination of toxic waste discharges and waste discharges lacking tertiary treatment.
- The adoption of measures to assure the proper performance of septic systems, including control of minimum lot sizes in relation to their soil characteristics.
- The adoption of measures for aquifer protection, ridgeline protection, erosion, and sediment control, and the regulation of gravel and topsoil mining.
- The adoption of best management practices by farms within the watershed; and the adoption of measures to minimize non-point source pollution.

Promote the preservation of significant ecological areas, including protection of fish and wildlife habitats and the continued stocking of indigenous game birds and fish.

Promote the adoption of measures to control density of recreational activity in the river corridor.

Consult and cooperate with State agencies, the Towns, and local groups in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York, and Federal agencies, for the achievement of these objectives.

The Housatonic River Commission meets on the second Tuesday of every month (except August) in the library of the Cornwall Consolidated School located at 5 Cream Hill Rd, West Cornwall, CT 06796.

We welcome all citizens to come to our meetings and get involved in discussions about the river. If you would like to attend a meeting or are interested in more information, please contact the Northwest Hills Council of Governments at 860-491-9884.



The Cornwall Association

The Cornwall Association's goal is to foster and build our Cornwall community through town-wide events and forums. We have been doing this for over thirty years, and in the last year we:

- hosted our town's annual ***Newcomers Tea*** in September, introducing those new and recently new to our town and community leaders, encouraging them to get involved, and giving them a 'Welcome to Cornwall Gift Bag'.



- held '***Good Morning With Good Neighbors***' Saturday morning gatherings in West Cornwall, offering coffee and pastries and casual chats to everyone who stopped by.
- led two forums, one on ***Bear Awareness*** and one as a meet and greet with our town's ***new Animal Control Officer***.

TRIVIA
NIGHT!
LIVE!

- held a ***Trivia Night Live!*** game, raising funds for The Cornwall Food and Fuel Fund.

More about us at www.CornwallAssociation.org, and there you can find out more about what we're working on now and become a member.

Gary Steinkohl, President; Board Members: Tony Appio, Sam Bruehl, Dave Cadwell, Casey Cook, Peter Demy, Katherine Freygang, Richard Griggs, Priscilla Pavel, Michelle Shipp, Brenda Singer



CORNWALL CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.

www.cornwallconservationtrust.org

Conservation Activities: Since our last report of October 4, 2022, Cornwall Conservation Trust, Inc. (CCT) has the following to report:

Our virtual annual meeting, Conservation and Affordable Housing in Cornwall, featuring a panel discussion, was very well attended. The YouTube video can be found on our website.

In collaboration with The Cornwall Library, the Cornwall Garden Club, and the Cornwall Conservation Commission, we presented a live program on composting. More events were held both live and Zoom, including the annual mushroom walk with Dave Paton, a birding program discussing the use of phone apps with Larry Master, and a presentation by Larry Master via Zoom on “Who’s Slinking Around in our Woods?”, a wonderful resource on using trail cameras to capture wildlife. Visit our website to view past programs via our YouTube channel.

Our 7th annual Clean-Up/Green-Up took place in September 2023 and proved to be another successful event.

Scholarships: The 2023 Student Grant program, now in its 15th year, awarded twelve scholarships to local students. Three of the students are previous recipients. Awards were granted to Nathan Benjamin, Benjamin Gray, Quinn Hedden, Spencer Markow, Melody Matsudaira, and Shanea Togninalli of Cornwall; Natalie Wadsworth and Aiden Cherniske of Falls Village; Lydia Klingebiel and Brennan Wilkins of Kent; Leila Kline of Salisbury; and Emma Colley of Sharon.

Annual Meeting: Our Annual Meeting will again be virtual this year – live on Zoom – on Saturday November 18 starting at 4pm. Professor Doug Tallamy will be our guest speaker on the topic “Homegrown National Park”. Hear his solution to our crumbling biodiversity, Homegrown National Park. This is a plan to support life, sequester carbon, feed pollinators and manage water using our own yards and properties. Registration is required via the CCT website.

CCT Board Members: The CCT Board of Directors are as follows: Oscar Anderson, Debby Bennett, Jean Bouteiller, Terry Burke, Will Evans, Katherine Freygang, Andrea Geisser, Ed Greene, Martin Horner, Bart Jones, Robinson Lacy, Aaron Landman, Larry Master, Pat Mulberry, and Fiona Ocain. Honorary Directors: Duke Besozzi, Nev Dunn, Denny Frost[†], and Hector Prud'homme[†], Larry Van Valkenburgh[†], and Johan Winsser[†].



Happy hikers on the Welles Preserve with naturalists Bruce and Debby Bennett.

From:

Barton T. Jones,

President

October 12, 2023

THE CORNWALL FOUNDATION, INC.

The Cornwall Foundation makes grants to nonprofits, community organizations, and civic entities that serve the residents of Cornwall. It relies on contributions received in its annual appeal to make grants targeted primarily to serve as seed money for new programs, to meet one-time needs, or to respond to emergencies. To the extent donations are expressly designated as endowment funds or exceed what is required to fund current grants, they are added to a professionally managed endowment to generate income for future grants.

The Cornwall Foundation has made more than \$266,000 in grants since it was established in 2003. During the twelve months through June 2023, it increased the size of available grants and raised its annual grant-making budget to \$35,000 per year. It made grants to the Chore Service, for new accounting software; the Cornwall Association, for its Winter Lights project; the Housatonic Youth Services Bureau, for pop-up student support services throughout Cornwall; the Little Guild, for a new pet training program; the United Church of Christ, for the Minister's Discretionary Fund; and the West Cornwall Library Association, to create a space for wellness classes above the Local. In addition to its four regular meetings, the Foundation's Board of Directors held two special meetings to consider time-sensitive grant applications.

More information concerning the Cornwall Foundation, including a list of past grants, instructions and forms for grant applications, and directions for making donations, can be found at www.cornwallfoundation.org. The Cornwall Foundation is qualified as a charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.



Hike and Artist Talk



TOURING THE COUNTRYSIDE
Postcards from Cornwall, Kent, and Warren



CORNWALL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

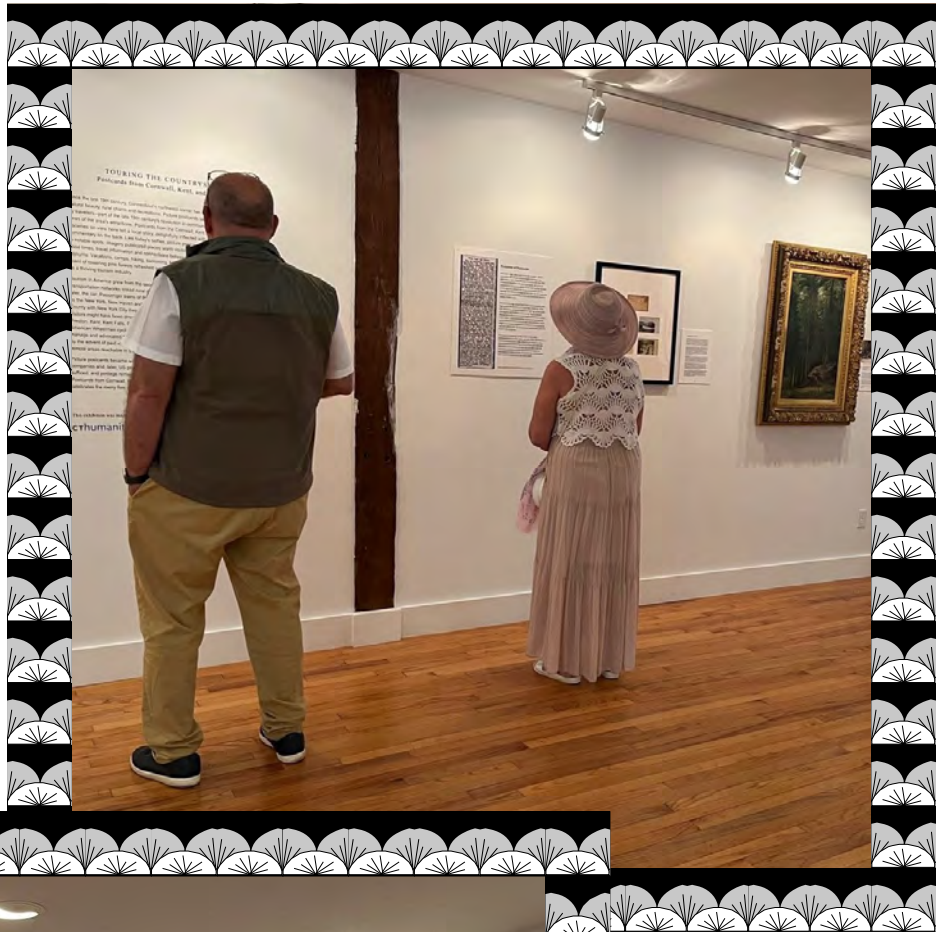
P. O. Box 115, Cornwall, CT 06753
7 Pine Street, Cornwall, Connecticut
www.cornwallhistoricalsociety.org
(860) 672-0505

The directors of the Cornwall Historical Society met as a board or as a committee of the whole twelve times in 2023 to plan and carry out the many activities of the organization. The backbone and energy of the Society is Suzie Fateh, our curator and guide.

- First and foremost, CHS is grateful for the financial support received from CTHumanities in the form of a CT Cultural Fund Operating Grant of \$7,300. Also, the Town of Cornwall provided \$6,000 and our loyal donors responded graciously to our outreach. Thank you!
- The year was notable for its firsts -- a newsletter which informed the town about upcoming events and the planting of a garden. The tilling of the ground behind our building at 7 Pine Street led to a cornucopia of vegetables which were available to visitors to take home. The project, spearheaded by our treasurer, Bruce Whiteford, will develop into a cultivated landscape which recalls the gardens planted long ago by Cornwall's early settlers. It will be a valuable teaching opportunity.
- The 2023 season opened July 1 with two new exhibitions -- Touring the Countryside: Postcards from Cornwall, Kent and Warren, a collaboration with the historical societies of those two towns. Postcards were all the rage in the first decades of the 20th century as millions of them were mailed every year. The images on the cards offer a snapshot of our history in those years. The second exhibit, The Understory, focused on the 18th and 19th century iron industry that once flourished in our corner of Connecticut.
- We celebrated on August 12 with a fund-raising dinner at the home of Anne and John Coffin on Cogswell Road which was attended by 90 people and raised over \$7,000 to support the Society's activities.
- A variety of programs appeared on the Society's calendar including two talks by architectural historians about living in old houses. A visit to the still-intact foundation of a blast furnace along Furnace Brook in Cornwall Bridge provided an adventure and background for The Understory exhibit.
- The season ended with a concert by Lorraine and Bennett Hammond which featured songs Lorraine learned here in Cornwall as a child. The songs and ballads of Oscar Degreenia were also on the program. A recording of this concert and a video of an earlier concert are available on our website cornwallhistoricalsociety.org.
- Over 400 people came to see our exhibits or our events; this is in addition to the 90 who came to the August 12 fund-raiser.

A final appeal: Please make every effort to get your email address to us by sending it to info@cornwallhistoricalsociety.org or including it on response cards. Your experience with us will be vastly improved if you get yourself on our eblast list. Check out the website and explore the many ways to learn about Cornwall.

Lisa Lansing Simont, Steve Brandfield, Bruce Whitefield, Cindy Kirk, Anne Grant, Michael Heming, Dan Hubbard, Bill McClane. Suzie Fateh, curator.



CORNWALL HOUSING CORPORATION



Cornwall Housing Corporation has been active in many ways as affordable/attainable housing continues to be the top priority for the town. In summary:

*Participated in the zoom Forum in November organized by The Cornwall Conservation Trust on how affordable housing and land trusts can work together.

*Through the Parcel Program, a lease was signed for one of the Dark Entry properties; the applicant has begun work on house design and placement.

*Received an ARPA grant of \$100,000 to be used to cover predevelopment costs for our four Parcel Program lots. Estimates for predevelopment work have been requested.

*Funded tree removal on one of the Parcel Program sites where large trees threatened the safety of the house. (Because CHC retains ownership of the land, it is responsible for any potential hazards to the house).

*Working to establish a closer and more collaborative connection with LC- CHO (Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity). Monthly virtual meetings with LC-CHO and our grant writer, David Berto to keep up the momentum in developing and funding projects.

*Established a working relationship with our newly appointed Town Housing Advocate, Jessica Brackman, whose enthusiasm, commitment, and work to do outreach have been most helpful.

*Began work on a grant application to help fund much needed repairs and maintenance at Kugeman Village, our 18 unit low-moderate income rental property.

* Applied for a state grant, with the help of David Berto, to help cover the gap between the cost of building new homes and the selling price of the homes to applicants earning 50% and 80% of the area median income. This would be for two houses on the two lots at Potter Woods (generously donated by Ginny Potter).

*Increased community outreach/education by providing information on our table at community events such as Memorial Day and Taste of Cornwall.

Efforts to build funds got some boosts as follows:

*The first fundraising letter in the last several years began a renewal of citizens' generous financial participation in support of affordable housing

*Received a very generous grant from the proceeds from the Rose Algrant show in 2022 -\$3,242.

We welcome your thoughts. For land and/ or financial donations and more information visit our website: cornwallhousingcorporation.com

Ginni Block Rocco Botto Will Calhoun Hugh Cheney Margaret Cooley Bill Fairbairn Beth
Frost Paul Prindle Kate Ward Wayde Wolfe

THE CORNWALL LIBRARY

The overall effort of the Library is to enrich the Cornwall community through services and programs.

Collection: The Cornwall Library's collection remains robust, at 29,000 volumes plus thousands of downloadable eBooks and audiobooks through Overdrive. Magazines have been added to our digital collection with thousands of titles available instantly and at no cost to the patron. We have three ways to request books through interlibrary loan so virtually any book in a Connecticut library is available to Cornwall Library patrons. Please note we are always looking for book recommendations, especially for children and young adults.

Circulation: Circulation remained very consistent with the previous year with just over 11,000. The biggest increase was in the Library's downloadable collection through Overdrive.

New Patrons: We added 86 new patrons in the past year.

Programs: The Library's rich programming continues to expand. In the past year the Library hosted eight literary events plus an eight-week series on Ishiguro, eight art shows, three children's events in addition to a weekly toddler program and a weekly afterschool art program, plus two full weeks of summer camp conducted at the Library. We held three family events including a jack o lantern carving contest, a gingerbread house contest plus a new event, a Turkey Trot Fun Run on Thanksgiving. The Library offered three nature programs, two programs targeting to young adult patrons, two events on current topics, and six self-help programs and four series of art classes.

The Library continues to be the site for a monthly knitting group, a weekly Zumba class as well as the site for 90 community meetings. Altogether, the Library received approximately 20,000 visits during the past fiscal year.

We held three major fundraisers, a Georgia O'Keefe Birthday Celebration, the Book Sale, and Books and Blooms.

Building and Grounds: The Library building is 22 years old. It has been carefully maintained and needs no repairs at this time.

Finances: The Library's fiscal situation is solid. Along with expanded services comes an expanded budget. The annual town grant supplies about 22% of our funding, the remainder comes from contributions.

The Library offers simple business services, copying, printing, faxing, and meeting space.

We are grateful for the continued support of our wonderful community.

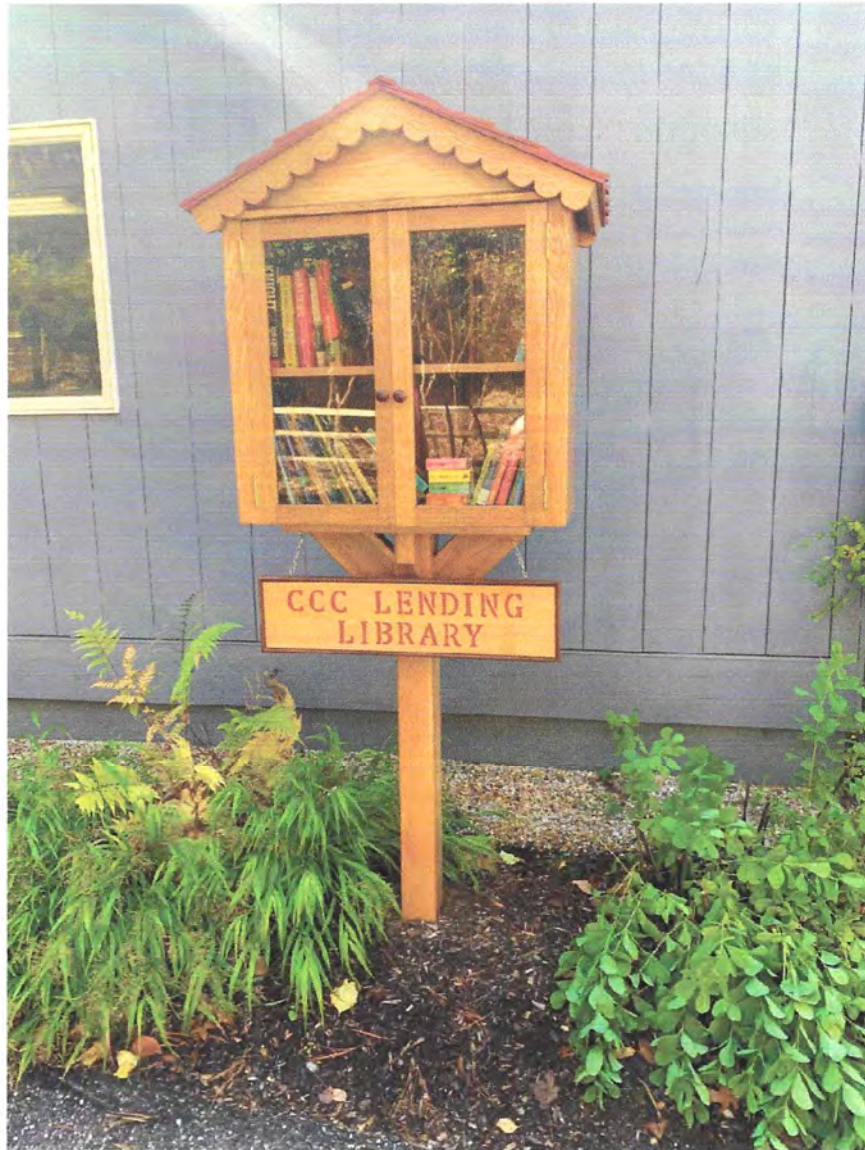
Sincerely,

Margaret Haske,
Director of the Cornwall Library



First place winner in the 2022 Gingerbread House Contest.







Housatonic Youth Service Bureau

Our Mission

...
HYSB exists to strengthen the emotional health of youth and families by providing free behavioral health services and empowerment programs in partnership with our public schools, local organizations, donors and volunteers in the Northwest Corner community.

The Housatonic Youth Service Bureau is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that serves the towns of North Canaan, Canaan, Salisbury/Lakeville, Sharon, Cornwall, and Kent. Our licensed clinicians provide a variety of free services that promote the overall health and wellbeing of children and their families and impact the lives of thousands living in our community

SECOND STEP

EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN

SOCIAL SKILLS GROUP

GIRLS GROUP

SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

JUVENILE REVIEW BOARD

HYSB eliminates barriers by bringing engaging programs directly to students at all six elementary/middle schools in our region and the Housatonic Regional Valley High School. We provide a range of youth development programs and opportunities for self exploration that help young people feel more valued, productive and positive about their lives. These interactive, supportive groups build confidence and help shape the minds, behaviors and futures of our valued youth!

SECOND STEP

Second Step is a proven, classroom-tested program for elementary (and middle school) students that helps transform schools into supportive, successful learning environments uniquely equipped to encourage children to thrive. The program gives students invaluable tools for managing their emotions, forming health relationships, making good decisions and coping with everyday social and academic challenges.

EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN

This successful student-led program for female students in grades 9-12 at the Housatonic Valley Regional High School provides a safe space for young women to discuss the many challenging issues they face as they mature and move toward adulthood. The students come together in an open and supportive environment to talk about topics such as body image, women in the workplace, the #METOO movement, dating violence, self-esteem and other concerns. The young women also participate in community outreach projects that build skills and provide opportunities to support others in their communities. HYSB and Women's Support Services co-run this popular program.

Your continued annual support makes it possible for HYSB to make a difference in the lives of thousands within our community.

PO Box 356 | Falls Village, CT 06031 | P: (860) 824-4720
www.hysb.org | info@hysbct.org



THE LITTLE GUILD ANIMAL RESCUE has had another successful year thanks to strong community support from residents of Cornwall and other towns across Litchfield County. Many animals found their forever homes, and many local families with animals received support from the Guild in the form of food, medical care, or temporary housing for animals when in crisis. Through a generous grant from The Cornwall Foundation, the Guild was also able to provide free animal training for Cornwall residents.

The Little Guild has been working hard this year to fund and build a new facility. We could not attempt this without Town support. Cornwall has agreed to allow us to use about a half-acre of the Foote Field area as a temporary location while we rebuild at our current location. We should be there for about 18 months and will house approximately half the number of animals we usually have. Funding for the approximately \$4 million new facility came from several large foundations outside of Cornwall and from wide community support within our Town, including a \$35,000 AARPA grant for which we are extremely thankful. We are building at our current location thanks to the help of our neighbor the Cornwall Conservation Trust with whom we have negotiated a lot line adjustment which makes an efficient new building possible. The new facility will house the same number of animals and allow us to expand our programming, offer enhanced education and training activities, and hold additional medical clinics. It will serve as a central resource for everyone living in Northwest Connecticut and the surrounding counties—animals and humans alike.

As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, the Little Guild raises approximately 75% of its operating budget annually through adoption fees, fundraising and donations. The Little Guild holds two major fundraising events annually, the Great Country Mutt Show in early summer, and the Run & Wag, a fall 5K race that runs from the center of Cornwall Village down Valley Road and back. Last year the event brought nearly 300 people from across the region into our Town.

The Little Guild attributes its progress this year, and every year, to strong community support from the Town and a vibrant base of local volunteers. We have more than 150 volunteers who walk dogs, socialize cats, work at events, and help with the food pantry and myriad other tasks, all of which are integral to our success. For more information, please go to www.littleguild.org.

The Little Guild's 19 Board of Directors, drawn from all over Litchfield County, meet four times annually: President Karen Doeblin, Vice President Richard Lanier, Secretary Jill Sheffield, Treasurer Charles Short, Kelly Bozzuto, Dr. Carrie Cannon, Trish Deans, Page Dickey, Philippa Durrant, Allison Gray, Joel Howard, Diane Mattes, Priscilla McCord, Dr. Matthew Nebel, Katherine O'Brien, Joan Osofsky, Dr. David Ott, Betsy Vorce and Alice Yoakum.

We look forward to a bright future, and thank you so much!

Sincerely,

Jenny Langendoerfer
Jennifer Langendoerfer, Executive Director





CHORE SERVICE, INC.

Chore Service, founded in 1992, provides in-home, non-medical assistance to seniors and people with disabilities within the community so they may remain safely and independently at home. Chore employs local, caring people to provide essential services such as house cleaning, laundry, companionship, transportation, and yard work to North Canaan, Cornwall, Falls Village, Kent, Norfolk, Salisbury/Lakeville, and Sharon residents. Services are partially funded by a grant from the Western Connecticut Area Agency on Aging, which subsidizes clients aged sixty and over regardless of income. Client contributions supplement the grant along with donations from towns, churches, charitable foundations, and donors so that the program can remain affordable for everyone. When necessary, referrals are made to the VNA, physicians, social workers, etc., to assure safety.

From July 2022 through June 2023, Chore provided services to 17 Cornwall residents. These residents received 420 hours of help with chores such as cleaning, errands, and yard work so that they could continue to remain safely in their homes. Three Chore Workers who live in Cornwall earned, in total, close to \$8,000 last year.

Chore began the year asking the pivotal question, “How can we expand to provide additional much-needed services to more people while ensuring our long-term financial viability?” This question was the basis for many discussions during several board and staff sessions led by an outside consultant. As a result, we have developed and adopted a three-year strategic plan, which meets those goals. Our mission will remain the same, but ways to expand our scope of services, increase community partnership, and address cuts in federal funding drive our strategy.

Our federal grant monies are depleted before the year ends, so we are delighted that the Town of Cornwall continues contributing to these services—many thanks to those who have supported and continue to support Chore. We are most grateful for the generous support of all our donors, including the Town of Cornwall.

Chore Service remains committed to helping our most vulnerable community members. If you need assistance or know someone who might benefit from our services, please call (860) 435-9177 or visit our website at www.choreservice.org. Also, if you seek employment or volunteer opportunities and want to make a difference in someone’s life, please call Chore.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane MacLaren
Executive Director
jane@choreservice.org

PROJECT SAGE

Support • Advocate • Guide • Educate
to end relationship violence

Project SAGE Annual Report 01 July 2022 – 30 June 2023 Town of Cornwall

Over the past year, the urgent need for Project SAGE's client and community services remains present, as demonstrated by the statistics below:

From July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, Project SAGE provided the following supports:

- Support services were provided to **805 clients**.
- **Of this number, 429 were new clients.** This is a 10% increase since 2020.
- The composition of our new clients includes:
 - 405 adults and 24 children
 - 305 identified as female and 124 identified as male
- Project SAGE responded to **2,040 hotline crisis requests – this number has more than doubled since 2020.**
- Provided **emergency shelter to 41 people for a total of 1,719 nights of shelter. This included 26 women, 2 men, and 13 children.**
- Provided criminal and civil court advocacy and support to **624 victims of family violence – a more than 30% increase since 2020.**
- Conducted **over 250 prevention workshops to children and teens** in area schools, totaling **over 3,200 child and student interactions.** We are now active in every single elementary/middle school in the region, as well as Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

Project SAGE continues to innovate and grow to meet the increasing, complex needs of our clients. In December of 2022, Women's Support Services officially announced a name change to Project SAGE (**S**upport – **A**dvocate – **G**uide – **E**ducate). Chosen to honor the wisdom and experience of our clients and their capacity to make their own choices, Project SAGE illustrates that domestic violence affects everyone and we serve people of all ages, identities, and backgrounds. The name change offered an opportunity to reintroduce ourselves to the community and reinvigorate critical conversations on the need to end relationship violence. With this in mind, the past year has been one of tremendous change and growth. **Thank you to the Town of Cornwall for your generous grant of \$1,500 last year, which has been critical in helping Project SAGE continue strengthening our programs and support services.**

With an agency comprised of 12 full-time staff members, Project SAGE has been able to meet the increasing requests for our services. Clients are received in warm, inviting spaces at our new home at 13a Porter Street in Lakeville and the expanded office space has accommodated an ever-growing staff. In addition to full-time staff, the agency created opportunities for interns of various ages and backgrounds to gain experience relevant to their educational or professional pursuits. Interns provided support to program and prevention education staff and became certified volunteers through the 20-hour training program.

The work you all do is so inspiring, and I am so grateful to have been part of it.

Christina B., High School Intern

Working to create connection beyond the walls of our Porter Street office building, Project SAGE launched a monthly digital newsletter "This Month At..." last fall. The newsletter features updates on the

Continued on page 70



PROJECT SAGE

Support • Advocate • Guide • Educate
to end relationship violence

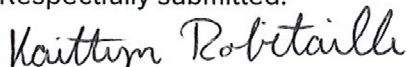
work of the agency, information on special events, and links to resources on topics including the connection between domestic abuse and human trafficking, the importance of consent in relationships, digital safety, and more. Director of Community Engagement, Linda Ciano, also relaunched our *Main Street Partners* program, which seeks to engage local businesses in our efforts to eliminate domestic violence in our communities. A primary focus this year has been to provide opportunities for connection – whether that be relational like placing a client in contact with an advocate to assist them in navigating the civil or criminal court system or to resources like state and federal programs offering disability benefits, food resources, or child care.

Project SAGE's dedicated and diverse staff have greatly contributed to the tremendous growth of our prevention education and shelter programs. Our revised prevention education curriculum provides a seamless progression of lessons from grade 6 through grade 12 and every student in the Region One Middle and High Schools have access to Project SAGE programming. Last school year, we had more than 3,200 child and student interactions and taught over 250 workshops. This is a more than 40% increase over last year in response to increasing requests for these services. Additionally, our *Early Years Program*, focused on teaching children in preschool through grade 2 about emotion regulation, bystander intervention and more, has been relaunched thanks to the assistance of our certified volunteers. Studies show that promoting healthy relationships and teaching youth the skills to form them reduces the risk for victimization in adulthood. For this reason, Project SAGE is wholly committed to providing prevention education to children and youth so that they learn what it means to be in healthy, loving relationships.

Project SAGE also supports clients working to live independently. Stable, permanent housing is key to achieving that. This past year, the agency's shelter programming has greatly expanded in large part due to the HUD-funded Rapid Re-Housing Program (RRH). A one-year bridge program, RRH removes the barriers to gaining stable housing for victims of domestic abuse. For many survivors, this is the first time they have ever had a home to call their own. Jesi Sarno, Project SAGE's Housing Specialist Advocate works closely with clients to help them take the next step towards living autonomously. By the end of June, Jesi helped 30 families including 91 children move into stable housing through the RRH program.

Even after the transformation Project SAGE has undergone in the last year, we are looking ahead to the future with plans to renovate the second part of our Porter Street office building. The completion of phase II will serve as a vital community resource that meets the diverse and urgent needs of our clients, will foster the healthy development of our youth, and create a dynamic space for training, engagement, and community collaboration. **Thank you to the Town of Cornwall for encouraging the work of Project SAGE and supporting our mission to end relationship violence.**

Respectfully submitted:



Kaitlyn Robitaille

Director of Appeals & Fundraising Events

TOWN OF CORNWALL, CONNECTICUT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
JUNE 30, 2023

As management of the Town of Cornwall (the "Town"), we offer readers of the Town's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the Town for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The assets and deferred outflows of resources of the Town of Cornwall exceeded its liabilities at the close of the most recent fiscal year by \$12,075,222 (net position). Of this amount, \$4,951,187 (unrestricted net position) may be used to meet the government's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors. Restricted Net Position is \$77,288, which is comprised of \$53,793 for the Cornwall Endowment Fund, \$16,251 for Open Space and \$7,244 for the Food & Fuel Fund. The remainder of its net position is invested in capital assets.
- As of the close of the current fiscal year, the Town of Cornwall's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$4,810,094, an increase of \$424,801 in comparison with the prior year. Of this amount, \$2,990,842 is available for spending at the government's discretion and called the Unassigned fund balance. The Assigned portion is \$717,788, the Committed portion is \$994,797, the Restricted portion is \$23,495 and the Nonspendable portion is \$83,172. See page 35 of the audit report for details.
- At the end of the current fiscal year, the fund balance for the General Fund was \$3,560,995, of which \$350,000 has been assigned for the subsequent year's budget and \$250,772 has been assigned for other purposes leaving an unassigned fund balance for the General Fund of \$2,930,844 or 37.7% percent of total General Fund expenditures for the subsequent year 2023/2024.

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the Town's basic financial statements. The Town's basic financial statements are comprised of three components: 1) government-wide financial statements, 2) fund financial statements, and 3) notes to the financial statements. The report also contains other supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the Town's finances, in a manner similar to a private-sector business.

The Statement of Net Position presents information on all of the Town's assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as net position. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Town is improving or deteriorating.

The Statement of Activities presents information showing how the government's net position is changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will result in future cash inflows (revenues) and outflows (expenditures).

Both of the government-wide financial statements present functions of the Town that are principally supported by tax revenues, grants and intergovernmental revenues (governmental activities). The governmental activities of the Town include general government, public safety, highways, sanitation, health and welfare, recreation, and education. The Town does not report any funds that carry-on business-type activities.

TOWN OF CORNWALL, CONNECTICUT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
JUNE 30, 2023

The government-wide financial statements can be found on pages 11-12 of the audit report.

Fund Financial Statements

A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The Town, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. All of the funds of the Town can be divided into two categories: governmental funds and fiduciary funds.

Governmental Funds

Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements focus on near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources, as well as on balances of spendable resources available at the end of the fiscal year. Such information may be useful in evaluating a government's near-term financing requirements.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for governmental funds with similar information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the government's near-term financing decisions. Both the governmental fund Balance Sheet and the governmental fund Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between governmental funds and governmental activities.

The Town maintains ten (10) individual governmental funds. Information is presented separately in the governmental fund Balance Sheet and in the governmental fund Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances for the General Fund. The Town also reports the Capital Projects Fund and the Town Special Grant Fund as major funds.

The Town adopts an annual appropriated budget for its General Fund. A budgetary comparison statement has been provided for the general fund to demonstrate compliance with this budget.

The basic governmental fund financial statements can be found on pages 13-17 of the audit report.

Fiduciary Funds.

Fiduciary funds are used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties outside the government. Fiduciary funds are not reflected in the government-wide financial statements because the resources of those funds are not available to support the Town's own programs.

The basic fiduciary fund financial statements can be found on pages 18-19 of the audit report.

Notes to the Financial Statements.

The notes to the financial statements provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and financial fund statements. The notes to the financial statements can be found on pages 20 – 46 of this report.

TOWN OF CORNWALL, CONNECTICUT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
JUNE 30, 2023

Other Information.

The combining statements referred to earlier in connection with non-major governmental funds are presented following notes to the financial statements. Combining and individual fund statements and other schedules can be found on pages 47–59 of this report.

GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position and an important determinant of its ability to finance services in the future. In the case of the Town, assets exceeded liabilities by \$12,075,222 At the close of the most recent fiscal year.

By far the largest portion of the Town's assets is its investment in capital assets (e.g., land, buildings, machinery, and equipment). It is presented in the statement of net position less any related debt used to acquire those assets to provide services to citizens; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. Although the Town's investment in its capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, is reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the resources needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources, since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities.

The Town's net position increased by \$588,440 during the current fiscal year.

NET POSITION - June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2022

The restricted portion of the Town's Net Position represents net position restricted for capital projects and other purposes. The balance of Unrestricted Net Position \$4,951,187 may be used to meet the government's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.

At the end of the current fiscal year, the Town is able to report that all categories of net position increased by \$588,440 during this fiscal year. This increase is primarily attributable to principal pay down of bonded debt and the excess of depreciation over additions to capital assets.

A comparative detail of net position for the last two fiscal years is as follows:

TOWN OF CORNWALL, CONNECTICUT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
JUNE 30, 2023

	2023	2022
<u>Assets</u>		
Current and other assets	\$ 5,183,694	\$ 4,836,434
Capital assets, net of depreciation	7,838,049	7,964,115
<u>Total assets</u>	<u>13,021,743</u>	<u>12,800,549</u>
 <u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>	 <u>5,416</u>	 <u>10,832</u>
 <u>Liabilities</u>		
Current and other liabilities	486,827	527,881
Long-term liabilities	465,110	796,718
<u>Total liabilities</u>	<u>951,937</u>	<u>1,324,599</u>
 <u>Net position</u>		
Net Investment in capital assets	7,046,747	6,846,615
Restricted	77,288	90,544
Unrestricted	4,951,187	4,549,623
<u>Total net position</u>	<u>\$ 12,075,222</u>	<u>\$ 11,486,782</u>

CHANGES IN NET POSITION - June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2022

Governmental Activities

Governmental activities increased the Town of Cornwall's net position by \$588,440.

Key elements of the activities are as follows: 80.5% of the revenues of the Town were derived from property taxes, followed by 13.9% from Operating grants and contributions, 2.3% from charges for services, and 3.3% from investment income, capital grants and other revenues.

Major revenue factors included increases in charges for services, operating grants and contributions, capital grants and other income. This is impacted by an increase of \$199,992 from \$191,844 to \$391,836 in the on-behalf payments from the state of Connecticut for the teacher's retirement contribution which offsets both income and expenses, see note 2. The tax collection rate remained consistent with prior fiscal years.

For Governmental Activities, 59.6% of the Town's expenses relate to education, 13.8% relates to highways and public works, 7.1% relates to public safety and health and welfare, and the remaining 19.5% relates to government, community services, administration and other areas.

For the most part, major expense factors for the General Fund remained consistent as compared to the prior year. Major capital asset events during the fiscal year include the purchase of a Western Star 4700SF truck for the public works department.

A comparative detail of changes in net position for the last two fiscal years is as follows:

TOWN OF CORNWALL, CONNECTICUT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
JUNE 30, 2023

	2023	2022
<u>Revenues:</u>		
General revenues:		
Property taxes	6,989,180	6,759,146
Unrestricted investment income	126,471	9,164
Grants and contributions not restricted to	62,166	114,489
Other revenue	26,591	10,808
Program revenues:		
Charges for services	202,982	158,909
Operating grants and contributions	1,209,092	927,443
Capital grants and contributions	66,142	858
<u>Total revenues</u>	<u>8,682,624</u>	<u>7,980,817</u>
<u>Expenses</u>		
Governmental activities		
General government	1,289,823	1,225,370
Public safety	386,552	215,484
Highways	920,345	955,993
Sanitation	197,152	184,246
Health and welfare	186,705	267,900
Recreation	100,948	74,407
Education	4,827,159	4,504,943
Other	169,889	178,927
Debt service	15,611	29,908
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>8,094,184</u>	<u>7,637,178</u>
<u>Change in Net Position</u>	588,440	343,639
<u>Net Position, beginning</u>	<u>11,486,782</u>	<u>11,143,143</u>
<u>Net Position, ending</u>	<u>\$ 12,075,222</u>	<u>\$ 11,486,782</u>

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As noted earlier, the Town uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

Governmental Funds

The focus of the Town's governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the Town's financing requirements. In particular, unassigned fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year.

TOWN OF CORNWALL, CONNECTICUT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
JUNE 30, 2023

As of the end of the current fiscal year, the Town's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$4,810,094 an increase of \$424,801. Sixty two Percent of this total amount constitutes Unassigned fund balance, which is available for spending at the government's discretion.

The General Fund is the chief operating fund of the Town. At the end of the current fiscal year, total fund balance of the General Fund totaled \$3,560,995, an increase of \$280,957 over the previous year of which \$350,000 was assigned for the subsequent year's budget and \$250,772 was assigned for other purposes.

As a measure of the General Fund's liquidity, it may be useful to compare both Unassigned Fund Balance and total Fund Balance to total fund expenditures. Unassigned Fund Balance of \$2,930,844 represents 37.7% of total General Fund expenditures budgeted for the subsequent Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

GENERAL FUND BUDGETARY HIGHLIGHTS

The Town ended the year with a \$280,957 budget surplus. The revenues exceeded budgeted amounts by \$157,909. This is principally related to favorable variances in fees collected by the Town Clerk, as well as property taxes, delinquent taxes and interest and fees collected by the Tax Collector. Overall, the Town's expenditures were \$123,048 less than budgeted amounts principally attributable to savings in insurance and benefits and education as well as conservative expense budgeting.

A detailed schedule of revenues and expenditures, budget and actual, can be found on 49-54 of this report.

CAPITAL ASSET AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION

Capital Assets

The town's investment in capital assets (net of accumulated depreciation) for its governmental fund as of June 30, 2023 amounted to \$7,838,049. This investment in capital assets included land, buildings and system improvements, infrastructure, and machinery and equipment.

Major capital asset events during the fiscal year include the purchase of a Western Star 4700SF truck for the public works department.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Land and infrastructure	\$ 2,441,748	\$ 2,471,431
Building and improvements	4,017,132	4,183,383
Machinery and equipment	<u>1,379,169</u>	<u>1,309,301</u>
Total (net of accumulated depreciation)	<u>\$ 7,838,049</u>	<u>\$ 7,964,115</u>

Long-Term Obligations

At the end of the current fiscal year, the Town had outstanding debt of \$796,718 related to governmental activities as follows.

TOWN OF CORNWALL, CONNECTICUT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
JUNE 30, 2023

	2023	2022
General obligation bonds	\$ 779,156	\$ 1,103,318
Landfill closure	17,562	25,014
Total	<u>\$ 796,718</u>	<u>\$ 1,130,354</u>

Additional information on the Town's long-term debt can be found in Note 9 on pages 33-34 of the audit report.

ECONOMIC FACTORS AND THE NEXT YEAR'S BUDGETS AND RATES

The COVID-19 pandemic was less front and center and all Town offices remained open for the Fiscal Year. Many Board and Commission meetings continued to be held via Zoom more out of convenience than necessity. Some meetings were held in person as well.

There were no changes to the budget preparation or approval processes. All Board of Finance meetings were held via the Zoom teleconferencing platform out of convenience. The annual Public Hearing to present the proposed budgets was an in-person meeting held at Cornwall Consolidated School. The budget referendum was held in person.

The Town's elected officials considered many factors when setting the fiscal year 2024 budget and property tax rates.

- a) Economic pressure resulting from the Region One assessment increases, based on enrollment.
- b) CCS Staffing vs enrollment, staffing changes, contractual raises, and creation of a new position for a Lunch Manager.
- c) Rising costs of Fuel for both heating and equipment.
- d) Modifications to Capital Project allocations to address some pressing concerns at Cornwall Consolidated School.
- e) Long term forecast and planning for Capital expenditures and keeping capital expenditures level by renovating and maintaining current assets.
- f) Reserve levels and the appropriate number of months of funding to be held in reserve.
- g) Stabilization of the mil rate without large fluctuations year over year.
- h) WC Wastewater project, the federal funding for a portion of the project and the anticipated financial contribution required by the Town of Cornwall.
- i) Garbage removal cost increases associated with the closure of MIRA, initiatives at the Transfer Station to compost food waste to help offset those increases.
- j) Cyber security insurance costs.

All of the above factors were considered in preparing the Town's budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Requests for Information

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Town's finances for all those with an interest in the government's finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to the Finance Office, Town of Cornwall, P.O. Box 97, Cornwall, CT 06753.

TOWN OF CORNWALL, CONNECTICUT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	General Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Town Special Grant Fund	Non Major Governmental Funds	Total
<u>Revenues:</u>					
Property taxes	\$ 7,034,739	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,034,739
Investment income	91,524	30,109	-	4,838	126,471
Fees and charges	97,952	-	-	105,030	202,982
Intergovernmental revenue	751,449	-	203,853	-	955,302
Contributions	-	687	-	238,781	239,468
Other revenues	66,554	-	-	-	66,554
<u>Total revenues</u>	<u>8,042,218</u>	<u>30,796</u>	<u>203,853</u>	<u>348,649</u>	<u>8,625,516</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>					
General government	932,104	24,485	140,853	116,542	1,213,984
Public safety	254,412	-	-	-	254,412
Highways	557,443	-	-	-	557,443
Sanitation	204,604	-	-	-	204,604
Health and welfare	59,558	-	-	127,147	186,705
Recreation	100,948	-	-	-	100,948
Education	4,428,880	31,938	63,000	43,492	4,567,310
Other	169,889	-	-	-	169,889
Debt service	343,423	-	-	-	343,423
Capital outlay	-	601,997	-	-	601,997
<u>Total Expenditures:</u>	<u>7,051,261</u>	<u>658,420</u>	<u>203,853</u>	<u>287,181</u>	<u>8,200,715</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	<u>990,957</u>	<u>(627,624)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>61,468</u>	<u>424,801</u>
<u>Other financing sources (uses):</u>					
Transfers In	-	700,000	-	28,219	728,219
Transfers Out	(710,000)	-	-	(18,219)	(728,219)
<u>Total other financing sources (uses):</u>	<u>(710,000)</u>	<u>700,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>Net change in fund balances</u>	<u>280,957</u>	<u>72,376</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>71,468</u>	<u>424,801</u>
<u>Fund balances beginning of year</u>	<u>3,280,038</u>	<u>849,418</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>255,837</u>	<u>4,385,293</u>
<u>Fund balances end of year</u>	<u>\$ 3,560,995</u>	<u>\$ 921,794</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 327,305</u>	<u>\$ 4,810,094</u>

TOWN OF CORNWALL, CONNECTICUT
REPORT OF THE TAX COLLECTOR
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

Grand List	Balances	Current	Lawful Corrections		Collectable	Collections			Transfers To	Balances
October 1	6/30/2021	Levy	Additions	Deductions	Taxes	Taxes	Interest and Liens	Total	Suspense	6/30/2022
2021	\$ -	\$ 6,910,172	\$ 10,579	\$ 24,237	\$ 6,896,514	\$ 6,841,314	\$ 13,087	\$ 6,854,401	\$ 1,652	\$ 53,548
2020	87,362	-	663	662	87,363	62,890	11,274	74,164	795	23,678
2019	46,557	-	-	-	46,557	26,394	10,402	36,796	144	20,019
2018	18,704	-	210	-	18,914	2,441	1,194	3,635	3,043	13,430
2017	14,023	-	-	-	14,023	144	121	265	-	13,879
2016	12,937	-	7	-	12,944	-	-	-	-	12,944
2015	10,727	-	161	-	10,888	-	-	-	-	10,888
2014	10,868	-	-	-	10,868	-	-	-	-	10,868
2013	7,514	-	-	-	7,514	-	-	-	-	7,514
2012	7,510	-	-	-	7,510	-	-	-	-	7,510
2011	4,390	-	-	-	4,390	-	-	-	-	4,390
2010	8,213	-	-	-	8,213	-	-	-	-	8,213
2009	9,069	-	-	-	9,069	-	-	-	-	9,069
2008	9,668	-	-	-	9,668	-	-	-	-	9,668
2007	8,637	-	15	-	8,652	-	-	-	-	8,652
2006	9,661	-	-	-	9,661	-	-	-	9,661	-
<u>Totals</u>	<u>\$ 265,840</u>	<u>\$ 6,910,172</u>	<u>\$ 11,620</u>	<u>\$ 24,899</u>	<u>\$ 7,162,748</u>	<u>\$ 6,933,183</u>	<u>\$ 36,078</u>	<u>\$ 6,969,261</u>	<u>\$ 5,634</u>	<u>\$ 214,270</u>

PLEASE ABIDE BY THE 5 MPH SPEED LIMIT ON ENTERING & EXITING FACILITY.

FEES FOR BULKY WASTE – CASH ONLY BASIS - SEE ATTENDANT BEFORE DUMPING:

No Bulky Waste on Sundays - Payment expected at time of dumping

Appliances with CFC & HCFC gases	\$13.00
Standard Pick-Up Truck-load	\$50.00 (pro-rated for partial loads)
Auto batteries	\$5.00 and up
Automobile tires	\$5.00 each
Light truck tires up to size 825/20	\$5.00 each
Tires on rims add	\$1.00 each
Shingles	\$60.00 and up

BULKY WASTE: Pay as you dump. THE TRANSFER STATION WILL ACCEPT (not on Sundays), "BULKY WASTE" UP TO 2.5 YARDS (a standard pickup load) PER RESIDENCE OR BUSINESS. ONLY NON-HAZARDOUS MATERIALS CAN BE DUMPED. THIS INCLUDES WOOD, FURNITURE, ETC. WASTE MUST BE IN SIZE AND SHAPE ACCEPTABLE TO THE TRANSFER STATION OPERATOR.

DEMOLITION MATERIALS: Not accepted on Sundays

Accepted on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Limit one load per month per residence.

Lumber must not be longer than 4' in length.

For major amounts the rental of a dumpster is necessary.

Shingles/ Sheetrock/Carpet: Make arrangements at Transfer Station prior to disposal. Check with attendant for rate information.

SCRAP METAL: Accepted - See attendant before unloading.

PAINT: Accepted – See attendant before unloading (exceptions apply).

MATTRESSES: Accepted – See attendant before unloading (exceptions apply).

YARD WASTE: Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection does not permit the disposal of yard wastes (i.e. leaves, grass clippings) at transfer stations.

Please compost your yard waste, wreaths, plants, animal waste with your kitchen waste of fruit & vegetable peelings. Composting can reduce solid waste by 40%!

BRUSH BURNING: Brush can be burned only with a permit and during low risk weather. Obtain permit beforehand at the Selectman's Office, 9:00 am-12:00, 1:00-4:00 pm Monday-Thursday, 860-672-4959.



CORNWALL TRANSFER STATION

24 Furnace Brook Road (Route 4) - 860-672-4079

HOURS: Tues., Thurs. & Sat.: 9:00-4:30 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00-11:00 a.m.

We can only accept garbage and trash generated

IN THE TOWN OF CORNWALL

you must have a Transfer Sticker ~ you can obtain a Transfer Sticker from Transfer Station attendants.

RECYCLING: Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has mandated recycling.

PLACE IN SEPARATE CONTAINERS

Loose & rinsed

Bundled in brown bags or tied

Loose

in shed in container to the left

outside shed in container to left

in shed in container to right

milk cartons
juice boxes (aseptic)
metal cans
clean aluminum foil
glass jars (w/no lids)
wax milk containers
juice box containers (aseptic)
plastic #1 through #7

newspapers
magazines
catalogs
corrugated cardboard - 3'x3' & smaller
(no waxed cardboard)

office paper
junk paper
cereal boxes
shoebox cardboard

cannot accept: as recyclables: (to be disposed of as household waste)

Unmarked plastic

Lids, caps or screw tops

Styrofoam (excepting "peanuts")

Please rinse all containers for the attendant's safety.

Cardboard: Please flatten cardboard boxes, cut large pieces of cardboard to 4' 6" x 2' 6"

-- No Bulky Waste on Sundays

1. **METAL** other than cans goes into the metal bin if space is available.
2. **PAINT** in original container with lid and label.
3. **BULKY WASTE** accepted only when space available - **call first!** 860-672-4079 Fees apply. **Pay as you dump.**
4. All **wood, plywood, pressboard** goes into bulky waste. Fees apply. **Pay as you dump.**
5. **Bulky waste, woods, metal:** Please reduce, cut and compact prior to dumping.

MISCELLANEOUS: Check with attendant. We accept for recycling and/or redistribution:

Fluorescent light bulbs: compact and tube variety

Rechargeable batteries: Nickel Cadmium (NiCad) Lithium Ion (Li-ion), small sealed lead (Pb) and Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH) rechargeable batteries

Polystyrene peanuts (the packing kind)

Clean, used clothing in good condition can be placed in the large bin outside the gate

Waste oil and motor oil

Plastic Flower pots

Printer cartridges

Electronics

Paper egg cartons

Redeemable glass and plastic bottles

Antifreeze

Books

Eye Glasses

Smoke Detectors

Black Plastic

Retired Flags

*** RECYCLABLES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE ***