



CORNWALL  
TOWN REPORT  
2023 - 2024



# WELCOME

Penelope Faith Aguilar

Fiona Tauranac Bardot

Liam Hadi Cadwell

Luke Henry Evans

Anna Solveig Lageson-Heiny

Charlotte Georgia Lee Hurlburt

Vance Kenneth Julian

Alexandra Lucia Jamison Kotchoubey

Emmett Walden Royall

Reason Leeloo Joy Schenk

Ava Michelle Stevens

Elizabeth Liebrecht Zeiser

Hank William Zimany

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

# FOND ADIEU, SALUTE

Todd Aichele	Sandra Messler
Theresa S. Carlson	Sally Ann O'Shaughnessy
Dorothy M. Cass	Robert Andrew Parker
Michael Degreenia	Valerie Rose Pinnette
Charles R. Dickey	Jack Preston
Jerome Doolittle	Constance L. Rakity
John Dutton	R. Thomas Riley
Hannah Kip Edgerly	Cynthia Robbins
Barng Fern	Dorothy May Russ
Ronald W. Goldstein	Joelle Sander
Marjoire Bacon Gracey	Jeanne Pierrette Varlet Scaillier
Jerry L. Graham	Lisa Lansing Simont
John Franklin Green	Geraldine VanDoren
Susan Klaw	Juan Julius Vanicky
	Tom Walker

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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Town Officials, Members of Boards and CommissionsAgricultural 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:  
 Tues 1-4  
 Thurs 9-3

Board of Education

CHM Iris Hermann '27 U  
 Hugh Cheney '27 D  
 Dean Saccardi '25 D  
 Emilie Pryor '25 R  
 Rachel Matsudaira '27 R  
 Martha Bruehl '25 D  
 CLERK: Anne Kosciusko  
 672-2939  
 REP. TO HVRHS BOARD:  
 John Sanders '25

Board of Finance

Kate Sandmeyer Ward '25  
 Carl Zejke Hermann '25  
 Simon Hewett '27  
 Gary Steinkohl '25  
 Jessica Brackman '29  
 CHM Joseph Pryor '29  
 ALTERNATES:  
 Richard Wolkowitz '25  
 Cody Gillotti '25  
 CLERK: Barbara Herbst

Board of Selectmen

FIRST SELECTMAN:  
 Gordon M. Ridgway '25  
 SELECTMEN:  
 Rocco Botto '25  
 Jennifer Markow '25  
 CLERK: Jane Hall  
 Tel. 672-4959  
 FAX 672-4068  
 Selectmen@CornwallCT.gov

Board of AssessmentAppeals

Vacancy '25  
 CHM Richard Bramley '27  
 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

Lisa Keskinen '26  
 Vacancy '24  
 CHM Heidi Cunnick '25  
 Debbie Bennett '24  
 Vacancy '26  
 Kate Freygang '25

Cornwall Grange #32 Trust Fund

Wendy Kennedy '24  
 Chris Hopkins '25  
 Vacancy '26

Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department

PRES: John LaPorta  
 CHIEF: Will Russ  
 Rescue Capt. Elizabeth Russ  
 (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 '26  
 ALT Barton Jones '24

Highway Department

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

Inland Wetlands and  
Water Courses Agency

CHM William J. Hurlburt '25  
 Ian Tyson '25  
 Debbie Bennett '25  
 Peter Demy '25  
 Jeffrey Morgan '25  
 ALTERNATES:  
 Allan Bahn '25  
 Robert Nethery '25

**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  
Phyllis Nauts  
Priscilla Pavel  
Debra Tyler  
Katherine West  
Phillip Rollin West

**Cream Hill Lake Study Group**

Vacancy '25  
Vacancy '25  
Heidi Cunnick '25  
Nancy Berry '25  
Richard Griggs '25

**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 '26  
CHM Simon Hewett '26  
Duncan Webb '26  
Christopher Sampson '24  
Oscar Anderson '24  
David Keisman '25  
Rocco Botto - 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

Vacancy '25  
Erin Berry '24  
Vacancy '24  
Kim Jackson '24  
CHM Michelle Shipp '25  
Vacancy '25  
Stacy Dolan '25  
Melissa Bronson '24

#### ALTERNATES:

Beth Dinneen '25  
Vacancy '24

#### DIRECTOR:

Jennifer Markow  
672-4071  
Mon & Wed 9-12

### Hammond Beach

DIRECTOR: Marina Kotchoubey

### Planning and Zoning Commission

Stephen Saccardi '25  
Christine Gray '29  
CHM Anna Timell '29  
James LaPorta '27  
Phill West '25  
Keith Bodwell '27

#### ALTERNATES:

Michelle Shipp '29  
Bruce Bennett '27  
Will Evans '25

### Social Services Administrator

Rebecca Hurlburt  
860-689-6511

### 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 '25  
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 '26  
672-2709  
Mon through Thurs  
9- noon and 1-4

#### ASSISTANT TOWN CLERKS:

Kathryn Lee  
Karen Griswold-Nelson

### Treasurer

Richard Bramley '25

### Finance Office

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

### Tree Warden:

Bruce Bennett, Asst. 25  
Jim Vanicky '25

### Zoning Board of Appeals

George Wolfe '27  
Barbara Wolkowitz '29  
James Stewart '25  
Carl Herman '25  
CHM Betty Spence '27  
Scott Cady '29

#### ALTERNATES:

Caroline Daifotis '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:  
Steve Brandfield

#### HOURS:

Office hours  
Monday—Wednesday  
10-4 pm 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

35 Lower River Road, West Cwl  
Subsidiary of

### Hughes Memorial Union

415 Sharon Goshen Tpk, West Cwl  
PRESIDENT: Henry Labalme  
Website:  
Hughesmemorialunion.com

For more civic organizations, go to  
[www.cornwallct.org](http://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 "Business", then scroll down to the "Business Directory". Here you can search businesses by category, keyword, by location or address.

Currently there are 178 listings and you can find general and contact information for a multitude of Services and Shopping including but not limited to

Agriculture and Farm	Furniture & Craftsmen
Animal Services	Hardware and Building Materials
Apparel, Gifts & Home Décor	Miscellaneous
Appliances & Electric	Music Lessons
Architects	Painting Contractors
Beverage & Package Stores	Personal Care & Nutrition
Books	Photography
Business Services	Pottery
Carpenters, Builders & Contractors	Property Management
Catering, Food and Grocery	Real Estate
Civil Engineering & Surveying	Recreation
Entertainment	Tree Work & Logging
Floor & Wall Coverings	Workspaces & Meetings



New field of daffodils between the Town Hall and the Library

## ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

From July 2023 through June 2024, four dogs were impounded. Two were redeemed by their owners and two stayed at the Little Guild waiting for adoption. Sadly, one sickly cat needed to be euthanized.

63 calls/complaints were investigated (20 more than last year!), including missing pets, roaming dogs, one dog bite, one dog vs dog attack, and miscellaneous domestic and wild animal questions.

Three infraction tickets were dispatched.

Income source and income collected:

Pound fees - \$30.00

Donation - \$5

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  
Cornwall Animal Control



## TOWN MEETING VOTES – AN ABSTRACT

**Special Town Meeting Held November 3, 2023**

**Voted:** To authorize the Board of Selectmen to spend up to \$500,000 to repair the retaining wall on River Road in West Cornwall at the bridge near Route 128. The funds will come from reserves in the Town's General Fund Account. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Annual Town Meeting Held December 8, 2023**

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 2025 to 2029, as recommended by the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen. The plan was unanimously accepted.

**Voted:** To adopt an ordinance for the establishment of an Affordable Housing Commission. The motion was amended to include the number of members and their terms. The amended motion was unanimously passed.

**Voted:** To amend the ordinance, last amended October 23, 2009, Building Permit Fees. The motion was unanimously passed.

**Special Town Meeting Held April 19, 2024**

**Voted:** To transfer capital projects account interest \$50,000 to capital projects road improvements for spring resurfacing of roads. The vote was unanimously in favor.

**Voted:** To transfer \$50,000 from Town general fund balance to capital road improvements to complete summer storm damage repairs. The vote was unanimously in favor.

**Voted:** To authorize repairs to Essex Hill Road of \$147,000 be paid out of capital projects road improvement. The vote was unanimously in favor.

**Voted:** to increase capital projects fund road improvement by \$17,000 to be reimbursed by state grant for hazardous tree removal. The vote was unanimously in favor.

**Budget Town Meeting Held at Cornwall Consolidated School on May 17, 2024**

**Voted:** To approve the proposed budget for Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, as recommended by the Board of Finance. The vote was unanimously in favor.

**Voted:** To adopt an ordinance for the establishment of an Affordable Housing Fund. It was unanimously voted to amend the motion to add communication and education to the ordinance. The amended motion was unanimously in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vera L. Dinneen  
Town Clerk

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

This past year recovery from storm damage to the town's infrastructure was a top priority of the Board of Selectmen. Excessive rain in July and September caused damage to roads, bridge abutments, and railroad tracks. A landslide in September caused significant damage to the bank holding up Essex Hill Road. The Board (with town meeting approval) spent over \$600,000 making these repairs. The board appreciates the good work done by Yield Industries, Frost Excavation, and WMC in assisting getting the town put back together. The Board was kept busy with a variety of other issues.

In August the Board hired Becky Hurlburt to be the Town's Social Service agent when Heather Dinneen retired. The board appreciates their work of constantly helping residents.

In November new members, Rocco Botto and Jennifer Hurlburt Markow, joined the Board as Janet Carlson and Priscilla Pavel retired after years of service to the town. Rocco was appointed as the Board Rep to the Economic Development Committee and Jennifer attended Affordable Housing meetings.

The Board worked cooperatively with town departments and the Boards of Education and Finance during the long budget process that started in January and ended at the Town meeting in May with budget approval. The budget had some pressure from increased enrollment at the high school and the previously mentioned storm damage.

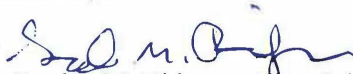
The Town was nicely illuminated over the winter holiday season through the good works of the Cornwall Association and the solar tree in Cornwall Bridge. Governor Lamont visited Mohawk Mountain Ski Area to promote outdoor recreation in January.

In February, residents also received word Nuvance Health was denied the attempt to close the maternity center at Sharon Hospital. In the summer it was announced that Nuvance Health would be merging with Northwell Health.

Townpeople also welcomed the opening of a new market in Cornwall Bridge and a new restaurant in West Cornwall.

Looking ahead, the board will be working on the wastewater project in West Cornwall, installing a sidewalk and crosswalk in Cornwall Bridge, monitoring solutions to our garbage issues and working with the state on reducing damage from a quickly growing bear population. Please feel free to contact the Board of Selectmen at [selectmen@cornwallct.gov](mailto:selectmen@cornwallct.gov) and sign up for our monthly town hall newsletter. We appreciate everyone's work to make Cornwall a special place.

Sincerely,

  
Gordon M. Ridgway, First Selectman

  
Rocco Botto, Selectman

  
Jennifer Markow, Selectman

## TOWN OF CORNWALL

## 5 YEAR CAPITAL PLAN

## Fiscal Years 2024 – 2028

		Approved Previously	Changes	Final
<b>FY 2023-2024</b>	Road Improvement: Group #5 ~ South East	300,000		300,000
	Bridges / Culverts / Guide Rails	10,000	10,000	20,000
	Cornwall Consolidated School	40,000	75,000	115,000
	CVFD Truck Fund	80,000	20,000	100,000
	Town Buildings	150,000	(75,000)	75,000
	Town Plan	-	10,000	10,000
	Highway Truck #10	100,000		100,000
	DPW Mowing Tractor	40,000		40,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>720,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>760,000</b>
<b>FY 2024-2025</b>	Road Improvement: Group # 1 ~ North East	300,000		300,000
	Bridges / Culverts / Guide Rails	10,000	10,000	20,000
	Cornwall Consolidated School	40,000		40,000
	CVFD Truck Fund	80,000	20,000	100,000
	Town Buildings	150,000		150,000
	Town Plan	-	10,000	10,000
	HWY Truck replacement fund (Trk 10)	100,000		100,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>680,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>720,000</b>
<b>FY 2025- 2026</b>	Road Improvement: Group # 2 ~ North West	300,000	-	300,000
	Bridges / Culverts / Guide Rails	10,000	10,000	20,000
	Cornwall Consolidated School	40,000	-	40,000
	CVFD Truck Fund	80,000	20,000	100,000
	Town Buildings	150,000	-	150,000
	Town Plan	-	10,000	10,000
	HWY Truck replacement fund (Mowing Tractor)	100,000	-	100,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>680,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>720,000</b>
<b>FY 2026-2027</b>	Road Improvement: Group # 3 ~ Center	300,000		300,000
	Bridges / Culverts / Guide Rails	10,000	10,000	20,000
	Cornwall Consolidated School Projects	40,000		40,000
	CVFD Truck Fund -	80,000	20,000	100,000
	Town Buildings	100,000		100,000
	Town Plan	-	10,000	10,000
	HWY Truck replacement fund (Trk # 3)	100,000		100,000
	Revaluation	30,000		30,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>660,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>700,000</b>
<b>FY 2027-2028</b>	Road Improvement: Group # 4 ~ South East	300,000		300,000
	Bridges / Culverts / Guide Rails	10,000	10,000	20,000
	Cornwall Consolidated School	40,000		40,000
	CVFD Truck Fund	80,000	20,000	100,000
	Town Buildings	150,000		150,000
	Town Plan	-	10,000	10,000
	HWY Truck replacement fund (Trk # 9)	100,000		100,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>680,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>720,000</b>
Approved Board of Selectmen	10.4.22			
Modified and Approved Board of Finance	10.20.22			
Modifications Approved Board of Selectmen	11.1.22			
Town Meeting	11.4.22			
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>3,420,000</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>3,620,000</b>	

# BOARD OF FINANCE

The Cornwall Board of Finance met eleven times during the fiscal year. Minutes for all Board of Finance Meetings are available on the Cornwall web site; [www.cornwallct.org](http://www.cornwallct.org).

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 6/30/2024

Revenues	8,591,508
Expenses	8,685,161
Change in net position	-93,653
Net position, beginning of year	12,075,222
Net position, end of year	11,981,569,

The new normal “post Covid” is evolving as our community adjusts. A couple of the Board of Finance meetings offered in-person accommodation in addition to the Zoom platform for remote meeting attendance. Notably, the annual Public Hearing to present the proposed budgets was a hybrid meeting, however the Town Meeting to vote on the proposed budgets was in-person only.

The Mil rate for FY 2024-2025 was set at 15.3 which is a 4.8% increase over the prior year.

The FY 2024-2025 budget is available for viewing at [www.cornwallct.org](http://www.cornwallct.org) or copies are available be request from the Finance office by calling 860-672-2707 or emailing [Finance@CornwallCT.gov](mailto:Finance@CornwallCT.gov).

The Town ended the year with a \$487,855 budget deficit. However, this compares favorably with an anticipated \$917,000 deficit. The revenues exceeded budgeted amounts by \$409,571. This is principally related to favorable variances in interest on investments, as well as property taxes, delinquent taxes and interest and fees collected by the Tax Collector. Overall, the Town’s expenditures were \$19,574 less than budgeted amounts principally attributable conservative expense budgeting. The tax collection rate remained static. The prior year it was 99.1% and the current year it was 99.2%.

Two severe weather events necessitated additional appropriations. In July 2023, a rainstorm compromised the retaining wall over Mill Brook in West Cornwall and in January 2024 a similar rain event compromised Essex Hill Road and created a landslide which destabilized the road. Taxpayers approved additional appropriations totaling \$600,000 to address these repairs.

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, Chair  
Simon Hewett  
Zejke Hermann  
Richard Wolkowitz, Alternate

Kate Ward  
Gary Steinkohl  
Jessica Brackman  
Cody Gillotti, 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. We are happy to announce that our GIS database for the town is live. This encompasses all properties within Cornwall and give a wonderful aerial view of boundary lines, zoning maps, roads, wetlands, state lands and much more. This database links 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 home owners 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 Richard Wolkowitz and Richard Bramley with a vacancy. We met on March 8, 2024, to both hear petitioners and to deliberate. We initially had 7 petitioners appealing their property assessments for the October 1, 2023 Grand List.

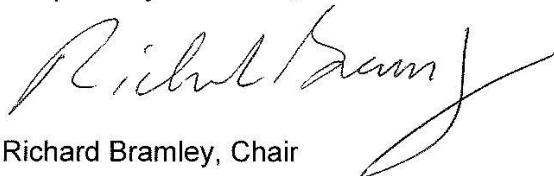
1. A Sharon Goshen Turnpike property had no change made after the presentation by the petitioner.
2. A Great Hollow Road property had no change made after the presentation by the petitioner.
3. A Great Hill Road property & a Whitcomb Hill Road property had no one appear for the scheduled hearings and therefore there were no changes made to their respective assessments.
4. A Popple Swamp Road property had no change made after the presentation by the petitioner.
5. A Pond Road property had a modest reduction in the overall assessment based on the comparable properties.
6. A Kent Road property had no change made after the presentation by the petitioner.

After careful explanations from the Board most of the petitioners were reasonably satisfied.

The total changes the BAA approved reduced the Grand List \$14,900.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Bramley, Chair



# BUILDING INSPECTION

It has been a pleasure serving the Town of Cornwall in the capacity of Building Official this past year.

Several first-year goals have been accomplished with more to come. Below is a “sampling.”

- Working on creating content for the Building Department webpage for the Town of Cornwall website with the help of Rocco Botto.
- Create new documents, and with help from community member, Ben Lesch to create fillable Permit Applications and other forms and put them on the webpage for the convenience of the homeowner, or contractor.
- Learn more about the operations of the Cornwall Land Use Department and Torrington Area Health Department and to work collaboratively with those departments, and staff.
- Set up the office to best utilize the space and have it more optimally organized, which remains a work in progress.
- Whenever possible make my schedule flexible to accommodate the needs of the homeowner and/or contractor.

Fiscal year 2025 goals along with continuing goals above.

- Provide information to homeowners/contractors as requested.
- Encourage homeowners/contractors to obtain permits where required.
- Encourage homeowners/contractors to have inspections performed so that Certificates of Approval, or Certificates of Use and Occupancy can be given. This helps in the life safety of the public, makes sure proper code is followed and makes it easier to sell your property, or acquire a mortgage.

For Fiscal Year 2024, 276 permits were taken out, including three new dwelling permits, and a permit for the Little Guild of Saint Francis to begin building a new shelter for abandoned, abused, and neglected cats and dogs, and to adopt them out to homes where they can thrive, according to their Mission Statement. There were a sizable number of permits taken out for generators (no surprise there) and solar installations, along with many for building repairs, additions, and alterations. There were numerous mechanical, plumbing, and electrical permits issued. Less frequent permits taken out were for temporary tents installations, two for demolitions and one temporary shelter to house The Little Guild of Saint Frances. during construction of their new facility. The total construction value for these 276 permits was \$13,673,672.00.

I would like to thank Paul Prindle, former Building Official in Cornwall and John Worthington, Building Official in Litchfield and Stan MacMillan, Fire Marshall, for their support this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Russ

Building Official



## Sustainable CT/ Cornwall Energy TF Annual Report 2023

*Our town committees are diligently working on the POCD with SustainableCT support.*

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

- Economic Development: A well-rounded committee of stakeholders in the Cornwall Bridge Placemaking Project has been formed and representatives from BOS, COG, and DOT as well as an engineering firm are assembling for a new phased plan that will include traffic control, pedestrian access, parking, landscaping, and EV stations.
- Natural Resources: An Invasive Plant Management Report and a Lake Limnology Health Report were developed for the BOS.
- Energy Management: An analysis of the energy usage of CCS will serve as a baseline for future plans for solar upgrades and other improvements.
- Planning: We are following our POCD with sustainable actions and resources. A Low Impact Development program was presented to the town.
- Communication: The Green Tent at the Ag Fair held presentations by environmental organizations. We will be adding SCT actions to the town website.
- Stewardship: Housatonic River Commission attained and celebrated the Forever Wild and Scenic status and adopted the Housatonic Meadows Restoration Project which completed tree planting and raingardens to mitigate erosion, restore wildlife habitats, enhance recreation and presented educational signage.
- Creative Culture: We inspired collaboration on new activities, and events with many local organizations.
- Land Management: Our projects are geared to support biodiversity, establish priority places, and support farming and affordable housing.

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 [Energizect.com](http://Energizect.com). Our town uses [CMCenergy.com](http://CMCenergy.com) (888 403 1419) for energy audits, advice and services.

The Cornwall Fuel Oil Group still obtains reduced pricing on heating oil. We use Valiant Energy (old 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](mailto: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 that include conservation, stewardship and development. Representatives from Cornwall's Garden Club, Conservation Trust, Conservation Commission, Energy Task Force and Sustainable CT, Housatonic River Commission and others will be there. Come celebrate our Solar Christmas tree in December.

Programs are announced and updated on these websites: [cornwallconservation.org](http://cornwallconservation.org), [cornwallctenergy.org](http://cornwallctenergy.org), and [SustainableCT.org](http://SustainableCT.org). We'd love to get your feedback. Come join us! Cornwall is working on a Sustainable Future!

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Freygang

Cornwall Energy TF, SustainableCT, and 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 actions suggested by Sustainable CT, a program based in the Sustainability Institute at Eastern CT University. The 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 helps towns in their endeavors. (See [SustainableCT.org/actions](http://SustainableCT.org/actions)) In our town, these 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](http://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](http://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





## FY23-24 ANNUAL REPORT

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

The NHCOCG membership generally meets monthly to discuss issues of municipal concern, oversee COG planning projects, and explore new opportunities for regional cooperation. This past Fiscal Year the board met eleven (11) times and meeting recordings can be viewed at NHCOCG's YouTube Channel at: [www.youtube.com/@northwesthillscouncilofgov9418/videos](http://www.youtube.com/@northwesthillscouncilofgov9418/videos) Meeting agendas, minutes and additional information on NHCOCG initiatives and activities can also be found on our website: [www.northwesthillscog.org](http://www.northwesthillscog.org)

### BOARD LEADERSHIP

NHCOCG Officers serving during the majority of FY 2023-2024 were as follows:

- **Chairman** - Dan Jerram (New Hartford)
- **Vice Chairman** - Michael Criss (Harwinton)
- **Secretary** - Patrick Roy (Roxbury)
- **Treasurer** - Tom Weik (Morris)

The NHCOCG board membership approved a FY23-24 budget that incorporated increases in funding in several areas that have a direct benefit to the towns. These areas included an increase in the state Regional Service Grant (RSG) and an increase in the state Department of Transportation (CTDOT) planning funds for the region. With these funding increases, staffing was increased, and funding was set aside for consultants to perform project and planning related work that will directly benefit the region on short- and long-term basis.

In addition, two new areas of service were created that are unique to our region and the state's Council of Governments: 1) *Northwest Hills Community Health Network of CT*. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded the NHCOCG \$1.2M in Rural Health Network Development funding to implement an adolescent mental health network over the next four years. This funding supports three clinical partners and a Rural Health Network Project Director. NHCOCG is the only COG in the state with a fulltime position dedicated to rural health, and 2) *Regional Opioid Response Fund*. NHCOCG convened nine towns in the region to pool their National Opioid Settlement Funds to pursue evidence-based opioid harm-reduction and prevention initiatives tailored to the needs of small, rural communities. To date, the RORF has expended approximately \$60,000, providing Leave Behind Kits to ambulance crews in participating towns,



purchasing 12-months of harm-reduction supplies for the Litchfield County Opiate Task Force, and partially funded the first LGBTQ Harm Reduction position in the region. NHCOCG is currently the only COG in the state to pool National Opioid Settlement Funds.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

NHCOCG, as a federally recognized Economic Development District (EDD), initiated a collaborative review process which culminated in a new Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region. Major strategies outlined in the current CEDS include addressing the housing needs of the region, encourage business growth and expansion, support workforce development that aligns talent with needs of the regional businesses, increase tourism and strengthen the creative economy.

Additionally, three-year funding from the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) was increased to \$70,000 (from \$60,000) for the upcoming FY 25 and will provide for the continued update to our five-year CEDS and continued implementation of the goals and objectives contained within.

### **TRANSPORTATION PLANNING**

NHCOCG issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) at the end of FY23-24 to conduct a Transit Analysis Study which will be funded by the Federal Transit Administration, CTDOT and agency match in the next fiscal year. The focus of this study will be to aid in the development of a coordinated transit network that will serve the residents of the NHCOCG region and provide a thorough analysis in addressing current and future transit demands.

Under the CT Department of Transportation's statewide Active Transportation Microgrant Program, three municipalities (Canaan, Torrington, and Warren) within the Northwest Hills region were awarded \$5,000 grants for the purpose of providing resources that would promote safe walking and biking in Connecticut.

Additional transit operating funds have been made available for elderly and disabled transportation within the NHCOCG region through NHCOCG's approved Congressional Direct Spending grant. This \$92,000 grant will provide funding for the Northwest CT Transit District, GEER, and Sullivan Center.

Approximately \$1M is allocated through the CTDOT each year for priority local road improvement projects (LOTICIP). Five municipalities within the region qualify under this program. Projects currently in various stages of approval/development are located in Burlington, Litchfield, Torrington, and Winchester.



Under the Transportation Rural Improvement Program (TRIPS) three projects were awarded in the amount of approximately \$3.1 million for Cornwall sidewalk construction project located on the West Cornwall Bridge, Salisbury Main Street sidewalk construction project, and Sharon sidewalk rehabilitation on Route 41 and 361.

### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY**

NHTCOG serves as the oversight agent for approximately \$365,000 in Homeland Security Grant funding received each year for the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) Region 5. Several projects and equipment acquisitions support this program within multiple Emergency Support Function groups in Region-5 (all of NHTCOG and portions of NVCOG and WESTCOG).

### **SHARED MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

In FY23-24, NHTCOG continued coordination of numerous programs such as: 1) a prescription assistance program in cooperation with the Foundation for Community Health (program ended February 2024), 2) a Neighbor-to-Neighbor program in cooperation with the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, 3) the Northwest Hills Public Works Equipment Cooperative sharing various roadway assets, and 4) the region's cooperative purchasing program for products and services relating to public works.

NHTCOG also managed a new program serving as the fiduciary of a Produce Rx Program during the first half of the Fiscal Year.

### **LAND USE/CONSERVATION/PRESERVATION/SUSTAINABILITY**

NHTCOG serves as the Statutory referral agency for municipalities within and adjacent to the NHTCOG regional boundary and reviewed thirty-four (34) zoning, subdivision and Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) referrals during the Fiscal Year. The agency also advised local municipalities in land use matters on an ad hoc basis as issues arose throughout the year.

NHTCOG continues 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.

NHTCOG has also assumed the role of Fiduciary for National Park Service (NPS) funding (\$135,000) allocated to the Housatonic River Commission (HRC) for the recent designation of



federal Wild and Scenic status for a portion of the Housatonic River while continuing to partner with the 7-town membership of the HRC.

NHCOG also continuously promotes the on-line Interactive Regional Trail Map, developed by NHCOG, in cooperation with the Housatonic Valley Association to promote access and usability of the public hiking trails in the region.

The agency supports local conservation and preservation grant application and funding efforts through letters of support on an ongoing basis throughout the year upon request.

The state of Municipal Solid Waste in the region and its sustainable future was a key issue this fiscal year and ongoing into the next, particularly with the dissolution of the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) on the horizon in 2025.

NHCOG also continued its support of the SustainableCT Summer Fellowship where college-level students perform valuable sustainability-related work for our member communities each year.



Respectfully submitted,

Robert A Phillips, AICP  
Executive Director

Essex Hill landslide



Cornwall Park and Recreation Commission  
July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

Park & Rec continued with a robust schedule with one event nearly every month in addition to our monthly community/senior meals. **Community/Senior lunch** the 2nd Tues & breakfast the 4th Tues each month. Lunch averages 45 people, which is nearing our maximum capacity, & breakfast averages 30 people, some months 35. Jen Markow & Michelle Shipp shop & prepare the meals each month, which saves the Town money. Social hour the 3rd Wed each month, light snacks & beverages. During the warmer months, we use Foote Field. Little Guild is there right now & brought some furry friends.



**Sports/activities:** Ice Skating at Hotchkiss weekly Saturday nights in Jan & Feb. Financial assistance for the CCS physical education ski program at Mohawk for 1st-8th grade. (Possibly the only school in CT that has skiing as part of their physical education curriculum.)

Thanks to CCS for their partnership with using the gym. Indoor Pickleball on Thurs from Jan-June. Fencing April-June with an Olympic Fencing expert as the coach. Regional sports were offered such as basketball, soccer, baseball, tennis, lacrosse, & fencing.

**July:** July Fest had Country Steele rockin' the old classic rock tunes, delicious food trucks, and a tie dye station & games for the kids.

**August:** 2nd annual Taste of Cornwall. Henhouse Prowlers, known as bluegrass ambassadors, made a stop in Cornwall while on tour. Park & Rec cooked the majority of the tasting buffet, with Freund's Farm making a few items. The tasting buffet featured fresh produce & meats from farms of Cornwall & some items from local food vendors found around Cornwall. This year we added a new segment which featured the businesses of Cornwall. Taste of Cornwall had 26 businesses sponsor the event & we are so grateful for their support! Nearly 300 people were served & not everyone in attendance ate at the buffet. Attendance was up by about 100 people.



**October:** Flu vaccine clinic at Town Hall. 100 people from all over the NW Corner. Park & Rec Commissions in Region One joined together to host a Regional Senior Lunch at The Lakeville Town Grove.

The annual Halloween event returned with a Chili Cook-off event added. A very fun night of trick/trunk or treating through the Village.

**November:** An additional Flu & Covid vaccine clinic. About 100 people came. Friendsgiving Potluck & Movie night as CCS. Park & Rec roasted turkeys & the community brought the side dishes & dessert.

**December:** Annual Holiday event with Santa & the Grinch. Spaghetti dinner & basketball game

**January 2024:** Pancake Breakfast at the UCC Parish House.

Survey conducted & results

[cornwallparkrec.org](http://cornwallparkrec.org)

**February:** Seniors enjoyed a trip on Cornwall-Goshen Senior Bus to the CT Flower Show in Hartford. Family Movie Night in Town Hall.

**March:** Spring Celebration at Foote Field.

**April:** 3rd Covid clinic 80 people came.

The 2nd Annual Clean Up Cornwall with partners C&M Carting Solutions & The Cornwall Association.

**May:** Partnership with Sharon Park & Rec to attend musicals at The Goodspeed Opera House. The package included the play, lunch, & transportation on the Cornwall-Goshen Senior bus.

**June:** Annual Town Picnic at Hammond Beach. Park & Rec provided burgers, hot dogs, & veggie burgers. Side dishes were potluck. The Ag Commission served sundaes with all the toppings. The weeknight brought out some new faces & it was fantastic to see so many people discover our great Town Beach for the first time.

The Commission worked hard to create a calendar of events that provided opportunities for community gatherings & social times, as well as providing services to the town. We met each month except for in December.

Our current calendar continues to foster recreational opportunities & social interaction in town as well as partnerships with businesses & organizations in town. Attendance at



events continues to grow & in several cases we have nearly out grown some of the indoor spaces. This year the early voting has been in Town Hall & events have to relocate. This has put a strain on the UCC Parish House availability. In addition, weather issues continue to be a challenge & look to be a regular factor for outdoor events. It is clear that a community center would be an asset to Cornwall.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Michelle Shipp (Commission Chair)

Jen Hurlburt Markow (Director)

Commission Members: Erin Berry, Melissa Bronson, Stacey Dolan, Kim Jackson, Beth Dinneen (alternate)



## REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

The Registrars have had another busy year with many meetings and trainings for the multiple changes for elections. The main change is Early Voting. The Legislature voted (date) to implement Early Voting for Elections (14 days), Primary (7 days), and Presidential (4 days). Yikes- there goes our budget!! The Town did receive a \$10,000 grant to help. Unfortunately, this only covered a fraction of the expenses, hence the large budget increase; luckily our budget is a small portion of the total Town Budget.

Our first go round with Early Voting was for the Presidential Preference Primary in April. Over the four days there were 46 Democratic and 10 Republican votes casted. Each day was staffed with four poll workers. Overall, the process went smoothly with only a little hiccup with the label printer. On primary day 125 Democrats (22.44 %) and 28 Republicans (14.14%) voted in person.

Our annual May Referendum for Region One Budget drew 49 voters to the Town Hall out of the 1145 eligible voters.

The second round of Early Voting was for an August Republican Senate Primary. Over the seven days, 5 people cast their vote and our staff total was 19. Again, the process went well but with the low turnout workers were bored and the entertainment was puzzling and needlecrafts. The actual Primary day was slightly busier but. The total vote cast on Primary day was 19 (10%) out of 189 eligible voters. The third round of early voting will occur in late October.

The Secretary of State, Stephanie Thomas has selected new voting machines for all Towns in the State. Next year 2025 we will cast our ballots with brand new machines. Training and demonstrations will be done prior to any elections.

As of October 1, 2024, there were 1,151 registered voters, 568 Democrats, 191 Republican and 15 minor parties.

Early Voting is from Oct 21-Nov 3 and Election Day is November 5, 2024. All at the Town Hall hope to see you all!

Jayne Ridgway

Brittany Mosimann



## SOCIAL SERVICES

First I want to thank Heather Dinneen for her five years as Cornwall's Social Services Director, carrying us through Covid and all those challenges. Heather passed the baton to me in September, 2023, and we worked together for two months as she helped me learn the ropes of this demanding part-time position. I recognize her dedication to the people in Cornwall, and to her coordinating an effective, unique Food Pantry which serves up to fifty households in need, on a weekly basis. Thank you Heather, who now lives and works in Massachusetts, and who continues to help and support me whenever I have a question. Cornwall is grateful.

The financial and emotional needs are plentiful and constant in this small NW Corner town, even when the beauty smoothes over the underlying issues and states of mind. The generosity of local, state and personal donations to support those in need is inspiring and amazing. I took a photo of the produce that we were giving out recently at our Monday distribution at the Food Pantry . . . look at the variety and quality of the *local* vegetables and fruits we had on hand, to share.



Connecticut Foodshare, Food Hub and Food Rescue continue to be our resources for weekly food and supplies. We are lucky to be enrolled with CT Foodshare, and we are now categorized as a TEFAP Pantry (The Emergency Food Assistance Program), which is where the majority of our food comes from. Local farms and gardeners generously donate their delicacies, and we appreciate all of it. Produce to the People, is also a constant resource and supplier on a variety of levels. Funding from the Town budget, and grants from the Cornwall Association and the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation are valued contributors. Financial donations to the Food and Fuel Fund are greatly needed and are also well-used to uphold the variety and quality of our Pantry. If you can add to our Fund, please do, as the phrase "it takes a Village" takes on deep meaning in Cornwall, with an incredible attitude of what goes around, comes around. Your support and donations of food and money

are critical and put to important, effective use.

The volunteers who help me day after day, *you know who you are*, mean everything to the sustainability of Social Services in Cornwall. The ordering of foods, unpacking of deliveries, distributing of food for the orders, driving to stores and homes, visiting neighbors . . . I could not do any of this without your help. I thank you; we *all* really thank you!

The Fuel Assistance applications from CAAWC, Community Action Agency of Western Connecticut, are being submitted, and that is a very valuable resource for many households in Cornwall, especially as the cost of living continues to rise.

I have learned a great deal in the past year, and will continue to do so. I've met Cornwallians that I didn't know before, and I'm grateful for that. We are a small, mighty, caring town that truly looks out for one another, so let's uphold those strengths together and continue to support.

Here's to a productive, positive year!

Best, Becky Hurlburt



# TAX COLLECTOR

Tax payments have come into the Tax Collector's Office at a steady pace throughout the year. Our collection rate has been a consistent 98-99 %.

There were two tax sales in October 2023 on the long-delinquent Burkhart properties on River Road South and Kent Road in Cornwall Bridge. The sales netted the town \$125,121.61 in back taxes.

There has been a significant increase in refunds to taxpayers. This seems to be because folks are not waiting long enough for their payments to clear before issuing their payment again. This is especially true with the online payment system. The recording of payments is still a manual process, not automatic. It takes up to five days for online payments to reach the tax office's bank account before payments can be processed. Due to limited office hours and waiting for money to be in the account, it can take a week for the online system to reflect receipt of payments.

Jean D. Bouteiller, CCMC  
Tax Collector



# TRANSFER STATION

Hi Folks

Welcome to the Transfer Station!

All is well with us, and we are busy getting ready for fall. Operations are smooth thanks to the availability of the Town Crews backhoe and front loader to optimize our capacity of the 30-yard and 40-yard bulk containers.

One new addition to our fleet of containers is the yellow shipping container now used for our tire storage as mandated by the state of CT. This helps our vendor who picks up the tires by keeping them dry and clean so the tires can be recycled more easily.

Speaking of mandates, please remember our hours of operation as follows

Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday 8:00am till 4:30 pm  
Sunday MSW only 8:00am till 11:00

When the gates are open, we put an orange barrel in front of it till we are ready to receive cars and customers. Your safety and ours are our concern!  
Thank You!

As we work towards getting an official composting program up and running at the Transfer Station, please feel free to start composting at home.

Be mindful of Wildlife and take measures to make your compost piles unappealing to the bears

Respectfully submitted, the Transfer Station crew

Ted Larson, Operator  
William Berry, Assistant



**AS ALWAYS, PLEASE REDUCE, REUSE, AND RECYCLE**

# CORNWALL BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Cornwall Board of Education met almost entirely in person for every monthly meeting and one of the highlights of these gatherings continued to be the “spotlight on learning”. During this agenda item, the Board would travel to a classroom or host a speaker and be immersed in the wonderful and enriching learning practices that our CCS teachers are providing for our students. Topics ranged from Danielle Krueger and Kristi Pramuka explaining math techniques and thinking classroom setups to Will Vincent heralded the exceptional efforts and presentation from our 7th graders at the Troutbeck Symposium to Joe Markow showing off the new, improved eyewash station while explaining about solar eclipses and thermodynamic gadgets. The quality and quantity of the work being done by both students and staff at CCS is nothing short of, incredible.

Leanne Maguire began her first year as CCS Principal and while she was thrown several, highly unusual curveballs during her first year, she pulled on her cowgirl boots and turned every single hit into a homerun! Her enthusiasm, commitment, and professionalism seamlessly meld with CCS's community. The Board thanked our lucky stars for working with such a wonderful, open, and organized principal.

This year's slate held Iris Hermann as Chair, Rachel Matsudaira as Vice Chair, and Martha Bruehl as Secretary. Hugh Cheney, Emilie Pryor, and Dean Saccardi rounded out the rest of the Board. John Sanders was, again, our Region One Board Representative. Members also serve on multiple committees within the BoE. Building and Grounds is managed by the diligent eyes and efforts of Hugh Cheney, custodians Tom Brown and Jake Thulin, Annie Kosciusko, Phil Hart, Garrick Dinneen, Ronnie Lizana, and Principal Maguire, ensuring that our beloved, yet aging building is kept in the best condition possible. Martha Bruehl and Iris Hermann served on the Regional Policy Committee. This group met quarterly to review and revise policies to bring forth to the seven different Regional Boards. Feedback was received from each Board and further revisions were made as needed before policies were approved. Dean Saccardi and Rachel Matsudaira attend monthly meetings to manage the Middle School Athletics and Activities Program (MSAAP). This regionalized initiative offers seasonal athletics, art garage, STEAM, and music lab activities to the students at the middle school level. This year piloted the inclusion of 6th graders. All activities were held after school at HVRHS. The Safety and Security Committee noted a rejuvenation and after an audit from DEMAS, reformulated several practices and procedures at CCS. Luckily, overall, we were already in very good shape.

The Budget Committee worked hard to produce a mindful, practical budget proposal. When we were asked to lower our proposed budget by 1%, the entire Board came together and combined with the matchless number crunching abilities of Board Clerk Annie Kosciusko and the new eyes of Principal Maguire, were able to get the reduced figure of \$4,783,513 using both creativity and excellent management. Our 2024-2025 Budget was approved in March 2024. In the same ilk, Emilie Pryor and Iris Hermann, with the expertise of Sam Herrick and Superintendent Lisa Carter, managed the certified contract negotiations that were due for renewal according to Cornwall's four year plan. Both staff and Board members were satisfied with the final outcomes.



# CORNWALL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Superintendent Lisa Carter announced her resignation, set for the end of the 2023-24 school year. The All-Boards Chair Committee worked with CABE's Mary Broderick to conduct a search for the new leader of Region One. After interviews and deliberation, the ABC was happy to introduce Melony Brady-Shanley as Ms. Carter's successor for the 2024-25 year and hopefully many more to come.

In the previous year, input was received, and evaluations were made for the creation of School Based Health Centers and while Cornwall was not chosen as the location for one, we supported the formation of three SBHCs in other towns in Region One during the 2023-24 fiscal year. One issue we *did* have to contend with was water contamination in one or more of our wells. Repeated testing showed consistent and unacceptable levels of e-coli and after a chlorination system was installed, the problem was, thankfully, resolved.

Another issue that crept in was the state of the outdated and inefficient I/T wiring and infrastructure. Principal Leanne Magure worked tirelessly to secure a grant to offset costs for this endeavor as well as prioritized areas of concern and urgency with a reputable company. The results include updated security cameras, wireless capabilities that don't drop during valuable class time and lessons, a properly housed server, and accessible, secure wiring through the entire school.

At our last meeting of the year, we were happy to present CCS students with annual CABE and Superintendent awards. This year we were also able to award a former CCS student heading to UCONN a Bradford Scholarship. The last recipient of this four-year scholarship was in 2018.

As always, please feel free to come to our monthly Board of Education meetings. We are happy to share and show what is going on behind the scenes at CCS with the Cornwall community and always have a place in the agenda for public comment where we can listen to how you feel we are doing.

Respectfully Submitted,

Iris Hermann, BoE Chair



## 2023-2024 CCS Principal's Report

Dear Cornwall Consolidated School Community,

As we reflect on the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year, it is with great pride and joy that we celebrate the myriad achievements and memorable moments that have defined our year together at CCS.

This year has been nothing short of extraordinary—a year marked by growth, innovation, and community spirit. Our commitment to excellence in education was evident in every facet of school life. From the expansion and enhancement of our satellite lunch program, provided through Housatonic Valley Regional High School, guaranteeing nutritious meals daily to our students, to the outstanding leadership demonstrated by our Morning Announcements Team, led by our talented CCS Music teacher, Alicia Simonetti.

Eight of our fifteen 8th graders participated in our Morning Announcements Team this year. This group creates the daily scripts which include weather, the quote of the week, trivia, jokes and other pertinent event information. Monday through Thursday they announce over the intercom and on Fridays they create a news studio to livestream the morning announcements. Every Friday, the team interviews a member of the Cornwall community. Their dedication ensured that each day started with enthusiasm and vital information for our school community.

Student leadership continued to shine brightly at CCS. Our Student Leadership Team with members elected to represent each grade spearheaded numerous initiatives that brought our community closer together. From organizing Spirit Days and community-building events to leading CCS Teams activities. Students planned and led events such as the Veterans Day Ceremony, the fundraising events that supported the Cornwall Food and Fuel Fund and the Little Guild, just to name a few.

Eighth graders continued the legacy of creating Exploration presentations on a topic of their choice through the support of Catherine Tatge and Dominique Lasseur, Executive Directors of the Civic Life Project and supported by Humanities teachers Lauren Stiles and Will Vincent.

Academically, our students thrived through initiatives like Student-led Conferences and Explorations presentations, supported by Catherine Tatge and Dominique Lasseur and facilitated by teachers Lauren Stiles and Will Vincent. These opportunities not only showcased our students' academic achievements but also their growth as responsible, engaged citizens.

We were honored to be recognized as the Red, White, and Blue School award recipient, a testament to the dedication of our seventh-grade students and teacher, Will Vincent, who championed this cause and made a lasting impact on our campus and beyond. CCS earned this designation and award thanks to our 7th graders' Troutbeck project on the Americans with Disabilities Act. Seventh grade students not only researched and learned about ADA but took action by repainting our handicapped decals in the parking lot, printing braille labels for around the school, ordering books for our library to increase the diversity of topics and individuals

represented, and so much more. Secretary of State, Stephanie Thomas came to CCS to present the award. What a special day that was!

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

Beyond academics, our school community enjoyed a diverse array of activities and experiences. The winter sports program was a great success with the majority of our students in grades one through eight skiing or snowboarding at Mohawk Mountain, while others participated in winter hikes around the local area. Our Winter and Spring concerts were a highlight, partnered with stunning Art shows. The musical, *Newsies*, was phenomenal! Middle school students rehearsed for weeks and their hard work sure paid off! We can't wait for next year's show! Students enjoyed many experiences outside of CCS including Nature's Classroom, Regional Arts Day, The Warner Theater, The Audubon, and a regional trip for grade 8 to Washington, DC. The entire CCS School community had a wonderful field day followed by lunch and the afternoon at Cream Hill Lake swimming, eating and playing!

Throughout the year, our staff remained steadfast in fostering a positive and nurturing environment for our students. Daily morning meetings and Habits of Mind sessions reinforced essential life skills and ensured that every student felt supported and empowered to succeed.

As we bid farewell to the graduating class of 2024, we celebrate their achievements and look forward to their continued success in the future. Their graduation ceremony, led by their peers Lily Danforth-Gold and Logan Bronson, was a strong reminder of the bonds forged and the milestones achieved during their time at CCS. The Cornwall Consolidated School class of 2024 consists of 15 outstanding students. Travis Barber, Samuel Berry, Logan Bronson, Lucius Bryant, Olivia Cavalier, Winter Cheney, Lily Danforth-Gold, Logan Dolan, Elise Laigle, Karoleena Martins, Chayton Pastre, Kaylee Roache, Rowan Taaffe, Schuyler Thompson and Nathan Young graduated under a large tent outside at CCS. The graduation speaker was Ben Gray, a CCS alum, who shared a powerful message with our graduates.

Amidst challenges with our water system and IT infrastructure, our community rallied together with resilience and determination. The unwavering support of our Cornwall community has been instrumental in our successes throughout the year, for which we are deeply grateful.

Looking ahead, we welcome new faces and opportunities, as we continue to build upon the foundation of excellence and community that defines Cornwall Consolidated School. This year, there was a slight increase in enrollment at Cornwall Consolidated School. The previous school year ended with 95 students enrolled and the 2023-2024 school year began and ended with 98.

There were some staff changes for the 2023-2024 school year including Principal MaryKay Ravenola retiring and Leanne Maguire selected as principal. Kaitlyn Buckley, a former CCS graduate, assumed the third grade classroom position due to Vicki Nelson's retirement. Susana

Martinez-Bauer became full time at CCS fulfilling our half-time Art position and assuming the half-time Spanish/Cultural Enrichment position. It's been great having Susana full time! Luckily for us, we have no retirements as we close out this year. We will maintain our awesome staff! With last year's retirement of Sukie Hatcher, Special Education Teacher, we gained Michelle Decker as our Special Education Teacher. She split her time between CCS and the Preschool program at Kent Center School. Sadly, Michelle is needed full time next year in Kent. Samantha Flunory will join our CCS staff next year. We will miss Michelle but are excited to have Samantha!

Thank you to our students, parents, faculty, staff, and community members for another amazing year of learning, growth, and achievement. Together, we have created a year filled with cherished memories and valuable experiences that will resonate within our school community for years to come.

Here's to a bright and promising future for CCS!

Warm regards,  
  
Leanne Maguire  
Principal



### 2023-2024 CCS FACULTY /STAFF

Binkowski	Cathy	Gr. 4 Teacher
Boucher	Aaron	P.E. Teacher
Brown	Tom	Custodian
Buckley	Kaitlyn	Gr. 3 Teacher
Carlson	Candise	Kindergarten Teacher
Coleman	Angie	Region 1 Occupational Therapist
Collins	Patricia	Region 1 Special Education
Decker	Michelle	Region 1 Special Education K-8
Folino	Nicole	School Social Worker
Grav	Kirsten	Gr. 1 Teacher
Hanna	Jandi	Region 1 Speech/Language Pathologist
Hill	Jennifer	Title One Reading Teacher
Huber	Celena	Regional EL Coordinator
Kosciusko	Anne	Cornwall BoE Clerk
Krueger	Danielle	Gr 5-8 Math Teacher
Lindstrom	Karen	Region 1 Psychologist
Maguire	Leanne	Principal
Markow	Joseph	Gr 5-8 Science Teacher
Martinez-Bauer	Susana	Art Teacher
Munson	Laura	Paraprofessional
Munson	Lusana	Paraprofessional
Pramuka	Kristi	Grade 2 Teacher
Rashkoff	Clare	Nurse
Rovezzi	Patricia	Administrative Assistant
Sawicki	Sharon	Region 1 Special Educational
Simonetti-Shpur	Alicia	Music Teacher
Stiles	Lauren	Gr 5 & 6 ELA & SS (Humanities) Teacher
Tarsi	Andrea	School Counselor
Thulin	Jake	Custodian
Vincent	William	Gr 7 & 8 ELA & SS (Humanities) Teacher



**Superintendent Report  
Region 1 Schools  
June 2024**



This is my last report of the 2023-2024 school year and as the Superintendent in Region 1. Thank you all for your partnership throughout my time in this role, especially throughout the pandemic years when there was so much uncertainty and worry. Our collaboration and communication at that time helped us keep our students safe and in school. We are fortunate to have such thoughtful and committed BOE teams. I wish you all the best in continuing your work to support Superintendent Melony Brady-Shanley and the Central Office staff, the Administrative team and all of the Region 1 staff as they provide a high quality education for all of our students. Thank you again for being there for all of them and for me. Have a great summer!

**Leadership Transition** - I continue to work with Melony Brady-Shanley to support her smooth transition to the role of Region 1 Superintendent. By the end of June, she will have spent several days in the Region meeting with administrators and other staff members, as well as attending several end of year events at HVRHS. I will continue to work with her through June and beyond as needed.

**Region 1 Policy Plan Update** - I have shared [The Region 1 Policy Consolidation Plan](#) with incoming Superintendent Brady-Shanley. As a result, we have made few changes to the plan. During her time in Winchester, Superintendent Brady-Shanley transitioned the district to the Shipman & Goodwin policy directory service. She would like to take the time in the next school year, as everyone engages in the proposed plan, to make a similar transition in Region 1. Superintendent Brady-Shanley's experience with the S&G policies is that they are of higher quality and easier for administrators and BOE members to follow. We can begin to discuss this transition in June and then BOEs can continue the discussion with Superintendent Brady-Shanley. Tina and I are currently working with Shipman & Goodwin to understand the details involved, such as cost and access to the policy directory.

**HYSB Partnership Guidelines** - In May, Kelly Parker, the Executive Director of the Housatonic Youth Services Bureau (HYSB) and I met to discuss the relationship between HYSB and Region 1. Given the transition to a new Superintendent, we feel it is important to formally document [guidelines](#) for the current services offered by HYSB at HVRHS, especially since there are funds included in the HVRHS budget for these services. In addition to discussing the services at HVRHS, Ms. Parker is requesting that our Pe-k-8 schools consider working with their local municipalities to endorse increased future budget contributions to support the work at HYSB. Their counselors currently provide services to students in each of our schools. HYSB is supported by State and Federal grants; however, the organization would benefit from additional support to ensure the continuity of offered services and the stability of the counseling staff. Superintendent Brady-Shanley can continue this conversation with administrators and Boards of Education with respect to the 2024-2025 budget year.

**Legislation Update** - The legislative session ended on May 8, 2024. I attended the CAFE legislative wrap-up session in Hartford on May 15th. As a result of this session, legislation that requires HVAC system audits and improvements will be the most significant issue that school districts and BOEs will have to pay attention to in the coming years. We will receive a list of all new statutory requirements from CAFE, CAPSS or Shipman & Goodwin over the summer with guidance on how to implement any changes in our schools. Superintendent Brady-Shanley will review any changes with the Admin team at the summer retreat on July 25th and share the information with all BOEs in September. **However, there is one piece of legislation that is important for all Region 1 BOEs to be aware of prior to the end of the school year. [Sections 7 & 8 \(page 13 & 14\)](#) of [HB 5437](#) refer to actions that Boards of education may take with respect to the treatment of unexpended funds. According to this new legislation, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 a local Board of Education may deposit up to 2% of unexpended funds into a non-lapsing account without approval from the local Board of Finance. All expenditures from this account must be used for educational purposes and must be approved by the Board of Education.** I have written to Tom

Mooney to ask several questions about the details of this legislation and Sam or I will share that information with all Region 1 BOEs as soon as we receive it. In the meantime, it would probably be best to make the First Selectman in each local municipality aware of this new law so that they can share it with their attorney and be prepared for any action taken by local Region 1 BOEs at the end of this fiscal year.

**Support for Region 1 Nurses** - The administrative team has agreed to enter into a one year consulting agreement with Lois Mulhern, a retired nurse recommended by Shipman & Goodwin, to help support our nursing team. Not only does Ms. Mulhern have a strong command of nursing medical practice expectations, but she also has a strong understanding of statutory requirements. Ms. Mulhern will help us draft a position description for a Nursing Coordinator, a position to be filled by one of our current nurses, and to continue to organize our nurses into a more cohesive team. This is important as we currently have two new nurses who benefit from regular meetings and conversions with the other more experienced nurses in the Region.

**Dr. Lefebvre Resignation** - Dr. Lefebvre has submitted her resignation from the role of Region 1 Medical Advisor effective June 30, 2024. We thank Dr. Lefebvre for her many years of service to the Region and wish her well in her future endeavors. We have posted the position opening along with the statutory requirements and will inform BOEs when it has been filled.

**Certified contract Negotiations 2024-2-25** - Four contracts must be addressed in the coming school year. I have received notification of the contract negotiation windows for Canaan, North Canaan, Region 1 administrators, and Region 1 teachers and I have forwarded the information to Sam and Superintendent Brady-Shanley for their planning purposes.

**End of Year Administrator Evaluations** - I will have completed these evaluations by mid-June. Administrators will share student achievement progress as well as progress relative to their school strategic plans. Finally, they will share their thoughts about plans for the next school year. We thank all administrators for all of their hard work in leading the schools through another challenging year and hope they can find some time for themselves this summer.

**Middle School Athletics and Activities** - The Committee will meet on June 5th to discuss the spring survey data and review the budget summary for the 2023-2024 school year. I will provide updates to the Pre-k-8 BOEs after that meeting.





# THE CORNWALL CHILD CENTER

8 Cream Hill Road  
West Cornwall, CT 06796

T: (860) 672-6989  
E: [info@cornwallchildcenter.org](mailto:info@cornwallchildcenter.org)  
W: [www.cornwallchildcenter.org](http://www.cornwallchildcenter.org)

The Cornwall Child Center celebrated a momentous milestone in 2024: **50 years** of serving the youngest members of this community by providing a student-centered environment where they can thrive socially and emotionally while growing up in our idyllic town and surrounding areas.

The Center's fiscal year started off with a solid enrollment base for the Summer of 2023, bringing in approximately \$37,500 which was comparative to the previous year. The school year brought in \$193,000, which was \$10,000 over our budgeted amount of \$183,000.

The town of Cornwall continued to provide \$50,000 for operating costs and the Annual Appeal brought in \$14,140 which was up about \$1,400 from the previous year. We also received additional "Gifts" totaling \$6,725, up \$1265 and Grants totaling \$12,050.

One of those grants was the Housatonic Valley Instructor Grant for \$5400 which went directly to a music enrichment program for all our children. We have Josh Driver come to the center every Friday for music and movement. Another grant of \$5000 was received from the Cornwall Foundation which went to the installation of a generator for the center. Installing this has already proven beneficial as there were two separate occasions which the use of this generator allowed the center to remain open during a power outages.

In May of 2023, we hosted our annual fundraiser at the Torrington Country Club. This event raised \$10,740, up \$2,000. We also had two additional fundraisers which raised an additional \$2550, one was a Book Signing at the Wish House and the other was a Trivia Night at Cream Hill Lake. The Memorial Day Fair was unfortunately canceled due to rain.

From our founding days in 1974 at the Parish House to the 3-mile move in 1994 to our own building on Cream Hill Road, the open-hearted and generous communal effort in supporting us along this five-decades-long journey has been nothing short of inspiring.

Sincerely,

Amy C. Martinez

Director

Amy Martinez, Director

*The Cornwall Child Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)*

Board of Directors:

Eiseley Kotchoubey, President  
Brittany McAllister, Vice President  
Caitlin Evans, Treasurer  
Dara Burke, Secretary

Jane Carlen  
Jane Hall  
Ali Lesch  
Jaimee Marano  
Rebecca Rehnberg



## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

This past fiscal year (2023-2024), Cornwall's Local Emergency Operating Plan (LEOP) was updated and filed with the state. The 396-page document covers all aspects of emergency planning and operations for the town of Cornwall. Additions to the plan included sections for Cyber-Security Threats, and COVID-19 learnings. February 2024, the State granted Cornwall the letter of compliance for the LEOP. The final document was reviewed with the Selectmen, Cornwall Volunteer Fire/EMS Officers, Town Crew Chief, Social Services, and Eversource representative. Our next revision and review will take place in 2026. It is also the responsibility of the Emergency Management Director to review and sign the Emergency Plan for the Cornwall Consolidated School as presented by the school and safety committee. This was completed in October of 2023.

Early December our unified command was gathered to prepare for a December 10<sup>th</sup> rain event projecting 3 inches of rainfall in our area and localized flooding. The Housatonic River was identified as a moderate threat for flooding. The brunt of the storm was felt by the southern portion of Connecticut. There were no damages or reported power outages related to this storm. Quickly following the December 10<sup>th</sup> storm, we experienced a wind and rain event on December 17<sup>th</sup>. With the ground already saturated and brooks running high Cornwall experienced 16 road closures and power outages for approximately 20% of residents. The storm caused major damage to Essex Hill Road, and a bridge on Popple Swamp. Due to the localized damage the total dollar amount did not reach the State's threshold for FEMA funds. Our most significant snow fall of 12 inches occurred in early January and did not cause major damage or outages.



Serious wind and rain events have become the predominate risk to our infrastructure. Given the localized nature of many storms, the burden of recovery does not reach FEMA thresholds thus placing the greatest burden of expense on the local towns. While changes in weather patterns have limited heavy snows, we are experiencing significant rain and wind events. This upcoming year the EMD is focused on communications and improved preparations for localized storms. 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

**Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department  
Fiscal Year 2023-2024**



The Fire Department responded to 128 calls during the year detailing as follows: 10 mutual aid, 57 false alarms, 27 motor vehicle accidents, 4 fires (structure, vehicle, vegetation), 16 power lines/electrical hazards, 2 gas leaks, 5 public assists (water in the basement, smoke removals), 4 carbon monoxide alarms, and 3 swift water rescues. These were prepared for by hosting 52 drills through the year including ropes rescue, tanker shuttles, cold and swift water rescue including our boat, monthly truck checks, staging for scenes, roof venting and door demolition at the former Little Guild building, electric vehicle protocols, pump operation, trail rescues, vehicle extrication, and collaboration training with other departments like Sharon with their ladder truck, as well as collaborative drills with Fire Police and EMS. Waterhole hydrants were fitted with new hardware and checked at each location for efficacy and accessibility.



The Emergency Medical Squad had another very active year with 202 calls. These included medical emergencies, motor vehicle collisions, and trail rescues, as well as standby on fire scenes. There were 22 EMS drills to help responders maintain their skills; including hosting an EMR/EMT class in West Cornwall, OB/GYN, cardiac, respiratory, and sepsis emergencies, CPR training including drills with our equipment, handling patients

with special needs, and epi pen and narcan administration. EMS held 11 meetings during the year. Please help us help you by having a list of medications, diagnoses, and allergies available for the responders. A list is needed if you're unable to tell your medical history. Email the Department [emscaptain@cornwallfire.org](mailto:emscaptain@cornwallfire.org) to get a File of Life. We will look for this magnetic folder with your medical information on your refrigerator.

CVFD welcomed five new members: Donn Castonguay, Kim Jackson, and Rick Wolkowitz joined the EMS squad, Kenny Knox and Andrew Lundeen now respond on Fire calls. Both fire houses were given

the approval of OSHA and Department Members received current mandatory anti-harassment training in



addition to the yearly bloodborne-airborne training and fit for duty physicals. Security features such as cameras and a key fob system were installed at both firehouses. Cornwall Bridge began mold remediation and water management steps as well as installed a turn-out gear washing machine. There were full Department meetings held almost every month that included Fire,

EMS, Fire Police, and Corporate Officers. We celebrated with our annual Banquet and congratulated Members on their years of service as well as annual participation. Our Hepprich scholarship awarded six ambitious applicants with \$4,000 each. In addition to our community outreach through the wildly successful smoke detector distribution program, we also hosted an Open House at West Cornwall where Cornwallians of all ages could come check out equipment, apparatus, turn out gear, and receive literature about safety and emergency awareness.

Iris Hermann, CVFD Secretary

#### CVFD Officers

Chief: Will Russ (Fire, EMS)  
 Assistant Chief: Jim Vanicky (Fire)  
 Captain Cornwall Bridge: Ian Ridgway (Fire, EMS)  
 Captain West Cornwall: Ted Larson (Fire)  
 Lt. Cornwall Bridge: Chris Jackson (Fire)  
 Lt. West Cornwall: Garrick/Josh(Fire, EMS)  
 EMS Captain: Elizabeth Russ(EMS)  
 EMS 1st Lt.: Jayne Ridgway (EMS)  
 EMS 2nd Lt.:Joyce Hart (EMS)

#### Executives

President: John LaPorta (EMS)  
 Vice President: Diane Beebe (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



Donn Castonguay  
Casey Cook  
Michael DeGreenia  
Garrick Dinneen  
Richie Dolan  
Ralph Dzenutis  
Jane Hall  
Joyce Hart  
Connie Hedden

Steve Hedden  
Iris Hermann  
Chris Jackson  
Kim Jackson  
Brandon Jankowics  
Peter Jaquette  
Chris Kesl  
Anne Kosciusko  
Lauren Kosciusko  
Mary Kate Kosciusko  
Skip Kosciusko  
Kenny Knox  
John LaPorta  
Ted Larson  
Ali Lesch  
Patience Lindholm  
Andrew Lundeen  
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  
Dean 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  
Rick Wolkowitz



**TORRINGTON AREA HEALTH DISTRICT**  
**ANNUAL REPORT: JULY 1, 2023 – JUNE 30, 2024**

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: **5** giardiasis, **45** campylobacteriosis, and **30** salmonellosis cases. TAHD guided schools, daycares, and community members on a variety of health issues and administered **448** flu vaccines to residents. TAHD consulted with **14** residents regarding potential rabies exposures submitting **6 specimens** to the DPH Laboratory for rabies testing. Ticks brought in by **88** residents were sent to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station for Lyme disease testing.

The TAHD is an active member of **Fit Together**, a Northwest Connecticut Healthy Eating and Active Living Initiative. Fit Together's mission is to build the healthiest kids, families, and communities through sustainable strategies that promote healthy eating and active living, primarily through the 5210 program and other initiatives. This year's accomplishments were hosting a Family Bicycle Rally at the Sue Grossman Greenway Trail and providing \$7,500 in mini grants to various community partners. These grants support projects that align with Fit Together's mission and strategies.

The TAHD continued its active participation in the **Litchfield County Opiate Task Force (LCOTF)** and served on the executive committee. TAHD staff initiated a data committee to gather and analyze data supporting substance misuse prevention efforts. Training sessions for local pharmacies and medical offices on opioid misuse prevention resumed under the Academic Detailing on Opioid Safety initiative. Additionally, TAHD participated in the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP), aiming to reduce morbidity and mortality associated with substance use disorder (SUD) and opioid use disorder (OUD) in high-risk rural communities. Through these programs, TAHD seeks to strengthen and expand prevention, treatment, and recovery services, ensuring rural residents can access appropriate treatment and make progress toward recovery.

TAHD has continued its contract with the United Way of Connecticut (UWC) to enhance cross-sector efforts across the state and implement a comprehensive public health approach to **suicide prevention**. The focus is on reducing suicide morbidity and mortality among three key vulnerable populations: middle-aged adults, particularly those in high-risk occupations or with serious mental illness or substance use disorder; young adults, and adolescents. This year, special attention was given to the LGBTQIA+ community through various initiatives. A LGBTQIA+ Suicide Awareness and Prevention page was launched on the TAHD website, and targeted content on this topic was shared on the organization's Facebook page. Additionally, a printed brochure was created for distribution within the community, targeting locations such as Torrington Middle and High Schools, pediatrician offices, and Suicide Prevention Community-Based Organizations. A Youth LGBTQIA+ Sticker with a QR code linking to the TAHD website was also designed. TAHD offers QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) training to community members with the aim of reducing suicidal behaviors and saving lives. QPR Gatekeeper Trainers provide this training, offering an innovative, practical, and proven approach to suicide prevention.

TAHD partnered with the Agency on Aging and the Winsted Senior Center to conduct a six-week **Chronic Disease Self-Management** program for seniors. This program educates participants on living with and managing their conditions through weekly sessions on healthy eating, exercising, medication use, and coping with difficult emotions. This year, twelve participants completed the program and reported it significantly improved their quality of life by providing practical tools and techniques. The program aims to empower individuals with chronic conditions by enhancing their confidence, reducing symptom severity, and promoting overall well-being through group discussions, hands-on activities, and personalized feedback.

The TAHD **Immunization Action Program (IAP)** works with local healthcare providers and hospitals to ensure compliance with Connecticut's childhood immunization laws. The program collaborates with 12 medical organizations and 40 community-based organizations within the district, emphasizing education, awareness, and promotion of immunization. TAHD provides medical providers with educational materials for both staff and patients to boost vaccine confidence and organizes educational events. For community partners, TAHD sets up displays in libraries, museums, and food banks, and actively participates in events such as back-to-school nights and health fairs. Posters are distributed in public places like post offices, coffee shops, libraries, and town halls to further spread the message. Additionally, TAHD uses social media to enhance vaccination efforts.

The Torrington Area Health District (TAHD) **Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program** has been diligently working across multiple fronts to address lead poisoning in our community. Our program provided case management for over 60 children with blood lead levels  $\geq 3.5$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  and offered educational information to more than 100 families. TAHD continues its partnership with the Connecticut Children's Healthy Homes Program to ensure lead-safe housing throughout the district. Additionally, in collaboration with the City of Torrington, we launched a pilot lead abatement grant program funded by the American Rescue Plan Act. Through these combined efforts, a total of 20 epidemiological investigations were completed and 17 abatement orders were issued.

TAHD **Environmental Health Program** resulted in the following inspections/licenses/permits: **723** food inspections, **958** temporary food permits, **118** new septic systems, **240** repaired septic systems, **144** private well permits, **81** private pool permits, **191** beauty salons & barber shops inspections, **551** house addition permits, **279** soil tests, **35** subdivision lots, **56** public pools were inspected, and **18** daycare centers inspected. Records show that approximately **855** 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 **227** complaints of various public health concerns; **22** legal orders/voluntary compliances were issued for enforcement purposes.

The TAHD **Emergency Preparedness Program** continues to collaborate with local, regional, and state community partners to prepare for unprecedented events. Our activities include, but are not limited to, outbreak investigation, surveillance, consultation and communication with health partners, public safety officials, town officials, and school officials. In April 2024, TAHD conducted a Point of Dispensing (POD) Drill at John Trumble Primary School. We also met DPH deliverables by holding a tabletop exercise focused on pandemic influenza. Additionally, the emergency preparedness team attended local and national conferences and trainings, including the NACCHO Preparedness Summit and the Emergency Management Symposium. We successfully secured the lead role as the CT Region 5 Fiduciary for the upcoming project period from 2024 to 2029.

The TAHD **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)** continues to recruit volunteers with a focus on local community health and well-being. The program emphasizes education and outreach on topics including, but not limited to, first aid, CPR/AED, QPR Gatekeeper training, Stop the Bleed training, human trafficking awareness, building emergency kits, and general emergency preparedness at home. The program also actively participates in local fairs and community outreach events. The primary objective of the TAHD MRC is to raise awareness and develop a comprehensive training curriculum that aims to better equip the public to protect themselves and their family members in a safe, timely, and effective manner. The emergency preparedness team attended the National MRC Summit to enhance and improve the TAHD MRC unit. The team continues to apply for grants and other funding to support ongoing programs and training for the community.



Robert Rubbo, MPH, Director of Health

## VISITING NURSE & HOSPICE OF LITCHFIELD COUNTY, INC.

Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Litchfield County was formed by the mergers of Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association (est. 1904), VNA Northwest (Bantam, est. 1928) Foothills Visiting Nurse & Home Care (Winsted, est. 1922) and the Farmington Valley VNA (Simsbury, est. 1908). The combined agencies will be caring for the residents of Litchfield County and the Farmington Valley.

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 150 people, 90% of whom reside locally in Northwest Connecticut.

VNHLC cared for 2,398 patients and provided 52,464 patient visits in 2023-2024.

VNHLC is proud of its long-standing history with the Town of Cornwall. 56 persons from Cornwall received home health services from VNHLC during the past year.

Eighty-six (86%) percent of all our patients were age 65 or older and 23% lived alone.

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

- Flu Clinics
- 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 1,000 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 Conservation Commission

Cornwall's Conservation Commission (CCC) began the year with a strategic planning session to identify priorities to shape the coming year's work. Priorities identified include:

- Filling two open Commissioner seats
- Enhancing the CCC website and its visibility
- Creating a stronger connection to the Board of Selectpersons (BoS)
- Creating an Invasive Plant Species Report and incorporating the identified priorities into control efforts
- Working to be heard in the state as a small town
- Continued work with the BoS to solve the composting issues of the town
- Supporting SCT recommendations and objectives such as for Smart Streets
- Supporting SCT energy management objectives for CCS

## Completed and ongoing work on Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) Goals

### Protecting our Forests: *Managing Invasive Species*

CCC continues its work with the Cornwall Conservation Trust to map and eradicate invasive species. During 2023-'24 the CCC wrote an overarching Invasive Plant Species Report for the town and presented it to the BoS. CCC will now incorporate the plan into its ongoing control efforts.

### Protecting our Water Bodies: *The Cream Hill Lake Task Force*

The Lake Task Force (LTF) tested waters twice during 2023-'24; testing for clarity, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and nutrients; samples were analyzed by University of Connecticut's lab. The LTF deployed a buoy at lake center-deep to make testing easier and more consistent. The LTF identified a weed that appeared to be invasive hydrilla and petitioned the state's department of Aquatic Invasives for free mapping. The state found no hydrilla but did find a rare look-alike; the finding makes a double win for Cornwall and its Cream Hill Lake in both keeping its waters free of invasives and clean enough to serve as a refuge for a rare species.



### *Housatonic Railway Company (HRCC) Right of Way Herbicide Application*

CCC members worked with the Housatonic Herbicide Working Group to pass legislation designed to limit the type and amount of pesticide sprayed in areas adjacent to the railbeds.



### Participating in Local and Statewide Conservation Efforts: *Cornwall Agricultural Fair*

In association with the Cornwall Conservation Trust, Sustainable CT, the Garden Club and others, the CCC sponsored The Green Tent at the annual Agricultural Fair. In addition to other activities, CCC demonstrated invasive species identification and presented energy conservation and other Sustainable CT programs.



## INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES AGENCY

The Cornwall Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency (IWWA) held 10 regular meetings (ZOOM/ In-person) in the year 2023-2024. In addition, 7 special site walk meetings were conducted to allow commission members to review proposed activities in the field prior to discussion and approval. The impact of high impact storm events resulted in more applications and/or Petitions for Declaratory Ruling (PDR's); including the repair of the River Road Bridge and the Essex Hill landslide. A total of 12 applications for activities within regulated areas were reviewed by the Agency. The remainder of the Agency's actions were Petitions including pond maintenance for both residential ponds and ponds used for fire protection, driveway repair due to storm events, and agricultural activities i.e. forestry.

Modifications to the Town of Cornwall's IWW Regulations enacted in October 2011 under the leadership of then Chairman Steve Hedden enhanced the "use of right" PDR's, resulting in better prepared and timely submission to the Agency for review, important factors when dealing with activities associated with maintenance in emergency and/or routine repair in town, 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 CT state IWW agencies continues to result in better informed decisions.

The make-up of the Agency saw a drastic change with the resignation of Chairman D. Stevenson Hedden aka Steve in May. Steve Hedden is to be credited with decades of strong leadership. Longtime member William "Bill" Hurlburt has taken over the role as Agency chairman with Peter Demy moving up from secretary to vice chair. Regular member Debby Bennett has assumed the role as Agency secretary as well as being the liaison between the Town and environmental groups to address invasive plants including Japanese Knotweed and its potential impact on water resources. The balance of members includes Alan Bahn, Jeff Morgan, and Robert Nethery. Karen Griswold Nelson remains as Agency staff, serving as recording secretary, Authorized Agent, and Enforcement Officer. The Agency overall has members rich in experience in agriculture, horticulture, environmental site development, and case law. All members of the Agency are participating in 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 regulations as well as preparing for the coming year's challenges brought about by changing weather conditions and the pressing need for infrastructure maintenance and improvement. To that end, we will continue our commitment to training and education and by filling the agency with experienced and knowledgeable residents. We are happy to welcome to the Agency for the coming year Ian Tyson, who will bring youth, local knowledge, and professional experience.



# PLANNING AND ZONING

The Planning and Zoning Commission had 15 meetings this fiscal year: 12 Regular Monthly Meetings, 2 Special Meetings and the Annual Planning Meeting. 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 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.

The Commission made significant progress toward the goals of the 2020 Town Plan by amending the Accessory Dwelling Unit regulation (while making changes required by recent state statute amendments) and passing a new Housing amendment expanding the possible types of housing allowed in the town. After due consideration, the Commission decided to place a moratorium on Cannabis-related businesses until May 1, 2025.

An important application testing the Town’s prior affirmations of support for farming via the 2020 town Plan and the 2019 agriculture amendment was settled in the applicant’s favor after a Public Hearings continued 3 times before a final unanimous decision. Two other applications relating to the Little Guild’s massive reconstruction project were also decided in the applicant’s favor.

Otherwise, there were fewer zoning applications than usual this year: 3 new homes, 2 home-based businesses (one old, one new), 3 lot line adjustments and the rest a variety of pools, porches, generators and additions.

The Commissioners attended a variety of training sessions as newly required by State Statute, which were well received. They also voted to formalize as a Standard Operating Procedure for the continued open sharing of all meeting materials on the Town Website.

A commitment to public education about Planning and Zoning was honored through a Cornwall Chronicle insert about the need for new housing types.

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 one regular meeting in the year 2023-2024. A November meeting, held for organizational purposes, resulted in long time member, Betty Spence, replacing Donald Bardot as chairman and George Wolfe assuming the role of vice chairman.

It was agreed that meetings would be held by Zoom and/or in person commencing at 7Pm in the Town Hall meeting room. The 2023 elections resulted in Barbara Wolkowitz re-elected to a regular member position and several new members, Carl "Zeke" Herman, Scott Cady and James Stewart filling regular member positions vacated by Ian Elwell and Amy Cady. Caroline Daifoitis was appointed to an alternate member position to fill the Board.

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



# CORNWALL AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

The Cornwall Ag. Commission started the year by finishing the garden shed at the Lorch Farm Community Garden. With generous donations from Enchanted Forest Logging for the pine logs that were milled by Brad Hedden at the Cornwall Ag. Fair, hardware, batten strips, metal roofing and paint from Northeast Building Supply, the shed was complete.

Our next step was to lay out the garden plots for a total of 4 gardeners, which include **Produce to the People**. Gardening was once again a success and our thank you to Calf and Clover Dairy for the supply of water during dry times.

Monthly meetings resumed in April along with planning for the annual Ag. Fair. It was decided early on to honor **Produce to the People**, Chris Mullins and Michelle Schipp, for their tireless efforts to grow, pick up and supply produce to not only the Cornwall Food Pantry but also pantries in surrounding towns.

June was Ag. Commission Scholarship time and we received two applications. The commission unanimously voted to approve both applications and Spencer Markow and Melody Matsudaira were each awarded \$500 to further their studies in college.

Our focus then turned to the 2023 Ag. Fair. Baled hay was in short supply, so a decision was made to rent a bounce house. The weather held out for a wonderful day at our little fair on the green with vendors, a food truck, tractors, and sawmill keeping everyone's interest. A great crowd turned out in support of the fair, approximately 100 lbs. of produce and nonperishable food items were donated and taken to the Cornwall Food Pantry.

It is with great pride that the Ag. Commission works together to have the Ag. Fair continue, as it has for many years. I would also like to thank all our members for a great job in keeping agriculture alive in Cornwall. A great team!!

Respectfully submitted, Bill Dinneen president.

Members:

Wendy Kennedy, Secretary  
 Susan, Dean, Brian, and Dana Saccardi  
 Garrick Dinneen  
 Mary Riccardelli  
 Ian Tyson  
 Chris Mullins  
 Jennifer and Ted Larson  
 Jennifer and Spencer Markow  
 Hunt Williams  
 Chris Hopkins  
 Peter Ripley



## Housatonic River Commission

*“to coordinate on a regional basis the local management and protection of the Housatonic River Valley in northwestern Connecticut”*

### Annual Report 2023-2024

The Housatonic River Commission (HRC) held 11 regularly scheduled monthly meetings in the past year. Meetings took place at 7:00 on the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings were held at the Cornwall Consolidated School and, in the latter half of the year, HRC’s new office at 7 Railroad St, West Cornwall. Virtual options to join the meetings were available via Google Meet. With recent Partnership National Wild and Scenic River Designation, the Commission continued work with non-voting representatives from HVA, the CT DEEP, National Park Service (NPS), FirstLight, and Northwest Hills Council of Governments. The voting members continued to be our town commissioners and alternates from Canaan, Cornwall, Kent, New Milford, North Canaan, Salisbury, and Sharon.

The HRC continues to have a primary responsibility for monitoring and advising these seven towns on issues that involve the Housatonic River and working to maintain a healthy and scenic river corridor as according to Wild and Scenic Outstandingly Remarkable (Resource) Values. The annual dues requested from each town are \$400 per year. Much of the time at our meetings this year focused on continuing to build the framework around our participation in the Wild and Scenic River Partnership Program and funding from NPS, including developing fiscal work plans and an updated stewardship management plan to support River projects and management. These efforts are structured to maintain local control for these projects within the framework of HRC.

Our monthly meetings continued to provide space for updates from each of our subcommittee chairs and supporting partners on their work addressing issues including HVA’s successful River Information and Outreach (RIO) program, fishing management (CT DEEP), and river access. HRC’s mission includes maintaining public access, and the proposed Ruggles Landing is being partnered with the state and town of North Canaan to allow for safe river usage. In addition, HRC continues to monitor the PCB cleanup and remediation proposals for the rest of the Housatonic River.

As always, land use issues within the Housatonic River Corridor remain a significant concern. We continue to support efforts to address topics of natural resources management in our newly designated subcommittees, including resource protection, river use and access, and communications and outreach. Recent and upcoming work in these committees includes, and is certainly not limited to, invasive plant management, visitor use management, development and inventory of Housatonic River access sites, stream-crossing management, and buildout of outreach strategy. Monitoring the work of the Housatonic Railroad, including their track repair, herbicide use, and derailment risk also continues. The River Commission provided comments and suggestions on many proposed projects as development along the River continues to increase significantly. All towns are reminded to please be sure that the HRC is notified of any proposed project within the River Corridor.

We welcome all citizens to come to our meetings and get involved in discussions about the River. We are also grateful for the support we have received from the member towns, local zoning officials, and the Northwest Hills Council of Governments.

# The Cornwall Association

The Cornwall Association's mission is to foster and support our Cornwall community with engaging town-wide events. We've done this for 30+ years, and last year we:

- Created the Winter Lights Project. We purchased and installed warm LED string lights on the buildings in our town centers - West Cornwall, Cornwall Village, and Cornwall Bridge – bringing a warm glow to these areas on our cold winter nights.



- Hosted a 'Good Morning With Good Neighbors' gathering. Coffee and pastries were enjoyed by all, and community camaraderie was warm and welcoming.

- Hosted Cornwall's annual Newcomers Tea, introducing those new and recently new to our town and our community, encouraging them to get involved, and giving them a chock-full 'Welcome to Cornwall' gift bag.

- Created the Cornwall Candidates Forum, where those running for town-wide elected office explained to voters their positions and platform.



***To learn more about what we do, become a member, and even join our team, visit [www.CornwallAssociation.org](http://www.CornwallAssociation.org)***

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



## CORNWALL CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.

[www.cornwallconservationtrust.org](http://www.cornwallconservationtrust.org)

**Conservation Activities:** Since our last report of October 25, 2023, Cornwall Conservation Trust, Inc. (CCT) has the following to report:

In February 2024, CCT conserved two important parcels. The first is 32 acres consisting of the Quarry Hill Ridgeline and Thurber's Arrowhead, thanks to open space grants from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environment and the Federal Highlands Act and the patience and cooperation of the Swift and Waterston families. Trail work has begun to connect to the adjacent trail on Cathedral Pines. The second property is 18 acres on Valley

Road in Cornwall Village. The purchase for conservation of these acres was made possible thanks to the generous contributions of local Cornwall homeowners.

Our virtual annual meeting with Doug Tallamy, "Homegrown National Park", was very well attended and extremely informative. Guest Speaker Ben Goldfarb gave a virtual presentation on beavers. The YouTube video can be found on our website.

We hosted several hikes including a meditation hike at Trinity Forest Preserve, our annual mushroom hike with Dave Paton, and a Dogs Welcome Hike at Hart Farm Preserve, which was wildly popular. Visit our website to sign up for our email list so you can be notified of upcoming events.

**Scholarships:** The 2024 Student Grant program, now in its 16th year, awarded nine scholarships to local students. Three of the students are previous recipients. Awards were granted to Nathan Benjamin and Dana Saccardi of Cornwall; Kayla Jacquier of East Canaan; Aiden Cherniske, Taylor Christen, Ashley Wilkins, and Brennan Wilkins of Kent; Wade Barillaro of Lakeville; and Anne Moran of Norfolk.

**Annual Meeting:** Our Annual Meeting will again be virtual this year – live on Zoom – on Saturday November 16 starting at 4pm. "Promoting Cornwall's Birds and their Habitat" will be our topic with conservation biologist, zoologist and CCT Board Member Larry Master. 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, Katherine Freygang, Andrea Geisser, Ed Greene, Martin Horner, Bart Jones, Robinson Lacy, Aaron Landman, Larry Master, and Fiona Ocain. Honorary Directors: Duke Besozzi, Nev Dunn, Denny Frost<sup>†</sup>, and Hector Prud'homme<sup>†</sup>, Larry Van Valkenburgh<sup>†</sup>, and Johan Winsser<sup>†</sup>.



*Two-legged and four-legged hikers at Hart Farm Preserve attending our Dogs Welcome Hike in September 2024.*

From:

Barton T. Jones,  
President

October 9, 2024

## THE CORNWALL FOUNDATION, INC.

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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. Donations that are expressly designated as endowment funds or exceed what is required to fund current grants are added to a professionally managed endowment to generate income for future grants.

The Cornwall Foundation has made more than \$308,000 in grants since it was established in 2003. During the twelve months through June 2024, it raised its annual grant-making budget to \$40,000 per year. It made twelve grants including grants to the Food and Fuel Fund to buy a larger refrigerator and to provide medicine for people who had recently lost financial assistance, the Little Guild for an online reservation system for events and fundraisers, the Cornwall Child Center for a generator, the Volunteer Fire Department to install smoke detectors in homes, the UCC for a new stove in the parish house, the Cornwall Consolidated School for a Smartboard for the library and magnetic door locks to facilitate emergency door closings, and the Cornwall Historical Society for a computer system to manage visitor and donor communications. In addition to its four regular meetings, the Foundation's Board of Directors held one special meeting 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](http://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.





The Cornwall Historical Society, incorporated in 1964, seeks to preserve, promote and present the history of Cornwall and its people. The Society believes that awareness of its unique cultural, economic, and social history enriches the Cornwall community and strengthens its sense of self.

Below are highlights from the past year.

- In January of 2024, a gift of four paintings created by Arthur Kimmig Getz were received by CHS. Getz is best known for his lengthy career as an illustrator and cover artist for the New Yorker magazine. Arthur rented an apartment in West Cornwall.



- CHS received a grant of \$8,000 from the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation (NCCF) to support the cost of repairing and painting part of our building's street-facing façade.
- Additionally, the Cornwall Foundation awarded CHS a grant of \$2,500 to support the cost of hiring a database management consultant.



On July 6, CHS opened for the 2024 season with a new exhibition titled,

*Mohawk Mountain: The Snow Story.*

Mohawk Mountain Ski Area has been a leading player in the Connecticut ski industry since its founding more than 70 years ago by Walter Schoenknecht.

Today the Ski Area is a vital part of the Cornwall landscape, attracting thousands of people who come every year and have been doing so for decades.

CHS held its second annual summer fundraising event on August 17th at the home of Anne and John Coffin.

The well attended event included a live auction, silent auction, cocktails, and jazz.

The evening was a tremendous success, raising just over \$10,000 to support the society's activities.



- A "sell-out" crowd turned out for our annual Norman Dorsen Lecture to hear author Alex Prud'homme discuss his latest book, *Dinner with the President: Food, Politics, and a History of Breaking Bread at the White House*.
- CHS welcomed more than 350 visitors to its site during its four-month open season. For many of our summer visitors, a trip to CHS is a tradition, and an opportunity to learn more about Cornwall.
- CHS celebrated its 60th anniversary this year. Since its incorporation in February of 1964, the Society has grown over the decades into a valuable resource for anyone interested in the history of Cornwall.

**We are still collecting contact information**, please make every effort to get your email address to us by sending it to [info@cornwallhistoricalsociety.org](mailto: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.

Suzanne Fateh, *Curator*  
 Steve Brandfield, *President*  
 William McClane, *Vice President*  
 Bruce Whiteford, *Treasurer*  
 Cindy Kirk, *Secretary*

*Directors*  
 James Douglas Gold III  
 Anne Grant  
 Susan Hellmann  
 Daniel D. Hubbard  
 Ann Trowbridge

# CORNWALL HOUSING CORPORATION



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

\*Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity ( LC-CHO) has worked with us to apply for funding to develop 3 affordable home ownership sites. One is on Dark Entry and the other 2 are on Town St.

\*Clearing began at 325 and 329 Town St., the lots donated by Ginny Potter. Work began to obtain permits for septic at those sites.



\*Thanks to a grant from CHFA, work began on needed repairs at Kugeman Village, including replacing the roof and seal coating the sidewalks and driveway.

\*We began working on an option to purchase Kent Rd. property that is now owned by David Berto. The ultimate goal is to develop affordable housing there, with input from the community.

\*CHC is represented on the newly formed Town Housing Commission; we are delighted to be a part of this group.

\*Our non-profit has been a presence at town events such as Taste of Cornwall and the Ag Fair, in order to educate our community about CHC successes and goals. As always, we are grateful to both the town and the people in this community who so generously support us. We can be reached at [cornwallhousingcorporation.org](http://cornwallhousingcorporation.org)

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

## 2023-2024 Annual Report of 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 our digital platforms, Overdrive and Hoopla. Magazines have been added to our digital collection with thousands of titles available instantly and for free. We have three ways to request books through inter-library 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 items circulating. The biggest increase was in the Library's downloadable collection through Overdrive and Hoopla, and children's books.

**New Patrons:** We added 112 new patrons in the past year.

**Programs:** The Library's wonderful original programming continues to expand. In the past year the Cornwall Library hosted 8 literary events including 3 poetry events, 6 art shows, 3 childrens' events in addition to a weekly toddler program and a weekly afterschool art program, a weekly plus once a month Story Book Hour, plus 2 full weeks of summer camp conducted at the Library. We held 3 family events, a jack-a-lantern carving contest, a gingerbread house contest and a Turkey Trot Fun Run on Thanksgiving. The Library offered 4 programs on current events, and 6 series of art classes.

In addition, the Library is once again the site for a weekly bridge class, and a weekly Zumba class, plus the site for 59 community meetings. All together, the Library received over 20,000 visits during the past fiscal year.

We held 3 major fundraisers, the Labor Day Art Sale, the Book Sale, and Books & Blooms.

**Building and Grounds:** This past fiscal year saw considerable capital expenditures, including replacing the furnace and one air conditioning condenser. We replaced the carpeting in the community room and the area behind the circulation desk. Future planned capital expenses include landscaping for the front of the Library, upgrades in the children's area, and carpet replacement.

**Finances:** The Library's finances are always carefully monitored and are strong. Along with expanded services comes an expanded budget. The annual town grant supplies about 25% of our funding. We depend on contributions for the rest.

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



Entries in the 2023 Carved  
Pumpkin Contest



**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.

With an abundance of Town support, the Little Guild has moved operations to the temporary site of Foote Field for the duration of the construction of our new facility. Funding for the approximately \$5 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 our website [www.littleguild.org](http://www.littleguild.org).

The Little Guild's 20 Board of Directors, drawn from all over Litchfield County, meet four times annually: President Karen Doeblin, Vice President Betsy Vorce, Secretary Joel Howard, Treasurer Tricia Deans, Kelly Bozzuto, Dr. Carrie Cannon, Page Dickey, Philippa Durrant, Stella Goulet, Allison Gray, Coleen Hellerman, Rodger Hicks, Richard Lanier, Diane Mattes, Priscilla McCord, Dr. Matthew Nebel, Joan Osofsky, Dr. David Ott, Charles Short and Alice Yoakum.

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

Sincerely,

Jennifer Langendoerfer, Executive Director





Since 1992, Chore Service has provided in-home, non-medical assistance to older adults and differently-abled people in the community so they may remain safely and independently in their homes. Chore employs local caregivers who provide essential services such as companionship, house cleaning, laundry, light meal prep, minor handyperson tasks, technology assistance, transportation, and yard work. 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, Chore makes referrals to the Visiting Nurse Association, physicians, social workers, etc., to ensure client well-being.

On February 1st, 2024, Chore Service and Litchfield Hills Chore Service (LHCS) consolidated operations under Chore Service. Both organizations share the same vision, mission, and services - keeping the most at risk in our community safely and independently at home, regardless of their ability to pay for the services needed. The goal of the consolidation was to maximize resources to provide services for the people of Litchfield County. Chore now proudly serves residents in 13 towns: Cornwall, Falls Village, Goshen, Kent, Litchfield, Morris, Norfolk, North Canaan, Roxbury, Salisbury, Sharon, Warren, and Washington. Community and private foundations in our area have supported the consolidation, provided funding to cover transition costs, and offered continued support after the consolidation. In addition, the first selectmen from the six new municipalities promised their support. Chore expanded its board with representatives from the towns LHCS served. The expanded Chore Service Board continues to focus on building community support in all towns. This consolidation positions Chore to thrive and reach more people in the future – our mission’s essence.

From July 2023 through June 2024, Chore provided services to 21 Cornwall residents. These residents received 672 hours of help with chores such as cleaning, errands, and yard work so that they could continue to live in their homes. This significant increase in service hours, representing a 60% rise from the previous fiscal year and a 24% increase in the number of clients served, is a testament to our growing impact. In addition, three caregivers who live in Cornwall earned over \$8,600, which helps support our local economy.

We are most grateful for the generous support of all our donors, including the Town of Cornwall. This invaluable support helps our neighbors remain at home with dignity and will have a lasting impact on our mission and the lives of those we serve.

Chore Service remains steadfast in its commitment to helping the most vulnerable in our community. 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](http://www.choreservice.org). Also, if you are seeking employment or volunteer opportunities and want to make a difference in someone’s life, please give us a call.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane MacLaren  
Executive Director  
[jane@choreservice.org](mailto:jane@choreservice.org)

TOWN OF CORNWALL, CONNECTICUT  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
JUNE 30, 2024

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, 2024.

**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 \$11,981,569 (net position). Of this amount, \$4,436,939 (unrestricted net position) may be used to meet the government's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors. Restricted Net Position is \$84,705, which is comprised of \$53,793 for the Cornwall Endowment Fund, \$16,251 for Open Space and \$14,661 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 \$4,362,226, a decrease of \$447,868 in comparison with the prior year. Of this amount, \$2,629,336 is available for spending at the government's discretion and called the Unassigned fund balance. The Assigned portion is \$610,251, the Committed portion is \$1,000,678, the Restricted portion is \$30,912 and the Nonspendable portion is \$91,049. 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 \$3,073,140, of which \$37,256 was nonspendable, \$200,000 has been assigned for the subsequent year's budget and \$264,662 has been assigned for other purposes leaving an unassigned fund balance for the General Fund of \$2,571,222 or 31.9% percent of total General Fund expenditures for the subsequent year 2024/2025.

**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

TOWN OF CORNWALL, CONNECTICUT  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
JUNE 30, 2024

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.

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 nine (9) 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 as a 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.



TOWN OF CORNWALL, CONNECTICUT  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
JUNE 30, 2024

**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.

**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 \$11,981,569 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 decreased by \$93,653 during the current fiscal year.

**NET POSITION - June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2023**

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 \$4,436,939 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 decreased by \$93,653 during this fiscal year. This decrease 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, 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>Assets</u>		
Current and other assets	\$ 4,676,902	\$ 5,183,694
Capital assets, net of depreciation	7,920,035	7,838,049
<u>Total assets</u>	<u>12,596,937</u>	<u>13,021,743</u>
<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,416</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Current and other liabilities	312,710	486,827
Long-term liabilities	302,658	465,110
<u>Total liabilities</u>	<u>615,368</u>	<u>951,937</u>
<u>Net position</u>		
Net Investment in capital assets	7,459,925	7,046,747
Restricted	84,705	77,288
Unrestricted	4,436,939	4,951,187
<u>Total net position</u>	<u>\$ 11,981,569</u>	<u>\$ 12,075,222</u>

**CHANGES IN NET POSITION - June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2023**

**Governmental Activities**

Governmental activities decreased the Town of Cornwall's net position by \$93,653.

Key elements of the activities are as follows: 82.7% of the revenues of the Town were derived from property taxes, followed by 10.4% from Operating grants and contributions, 2.1% from charges for services, and 4.8% from investment income, capital grants and other revenues.

Major revenue factors included increases in charges for services and operating grants and contributions and a decrease in capital grants as the ARPA program ended. This is also impacted by an increase of \$28,879 from \$391,836 to \$420,715 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, 59.8% of the Town's expenses relate to education, 17.1% relates to highways and public works, 5.8% relates to public safety and health and welfare, and the remaining 17.3% 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.

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, 2024

	2024	2023
<u>Revenues:</u>		
General revenues:		
Property taxes	7,106,508	6,989,180
Unrestricted investment income	187,585	126,471
Grants and contributions not restricted to	89,337	62,166
Other revenue	22,961	26,591
Program revenues:		
Charges for services	221,870	202,982
Operating grants and contributions	893,360	1,209,092
Capital grants and contributions	69,887	66,142
<u>Total revenues</u>	8,591,508	8,682,624
 <u>Expenses</u>		
Governmental activities		
General government	1,236,087	1,289,823
Public safety	367,565	386,552
Highways	1,288,549	920,345
Sanitation	199,589	197,152
Health and welfare	131,189	186,705
Recreation	104,483	100,948
Education	5,194,154	4,827,159
Other	165,634	169,889
Debt service	17,411	15,611
<u>Total Expenses</u>	8,685,161	8,094,184
 <u>Change in Net Position</u>	(93,653)	588,440
 <u>Net Position, beginning</u>	12,075,222	11,486,782
 <u>Net Position, ending</u>	\$ 11,981,569	\$ 12,075,222

**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, 2024

As of the end of the current fiscal year, the Town's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$4,362,226 a decrease of \$447,868. Sixty 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 \$3,073,140, a decrease of \$487,855 over the previous year of which \$200,000 was assigned for the subsequent year's budget and \$264,662 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 \$2,571,222 represents 31.9% of total General Fund expenditures budgeted for the subsequent Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

**GENERAL FUND BUDGETARY HIGHLIGHTS**

The Town ended the year with a \$487,855 decrease in its general fund balance. However, this compares favorably with an anticipated \$917,00 decrease. The revenues exceeded budgeted amounts by \$409,571. This is principally related to favorable variances in property taxes, delinquent taxes and interest and fees collected by the Tax Collector and interest earnings from town investments. Overall, the Town's expenditures were \$19,574 less than budgeted amounts principally attributable 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, 2024 amounted to \$7,920,035. 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 paying for storm damage including the Essex Hill landslide and the retaining wall in West Cornwall.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Land and infrastructure	\$ 2,792,024	\$ 2,441,748
Building and improvements	3,880,216	4,017,132
Machinery and equipment	<u>1,247,795</u>	<u>1,379,169</u>
Total (net of accumulated depreciation)	<u>\$ 7,920,035</u>	<u>\$ 7,838,049</u>

**Long-Term Obligations**

At the end of the current fiscal year, the Town had outstanding debt of \$460,110 related to governmental activities as follows.

TOWN OF CORNWALL, CONNECTICUT  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
JUNE 30, 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
General obligation bonds	\$ 450,000	\$ 779,156
Landfill closure	<u>10,110</u>	<u>17,562</u>
Total	<u>\$ 460,110</u>	<u>\$ 798,741</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**

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

The Town's elected officials considered many factors when setting the fiscal year 2025 budget and property tax rates.

- a) Additional use of fund balance \$550,000 during the FY to pay for storm damage to roads and bridges, including the Essex Hill landslide and the retaining wall in West Cornwall.
- b) Modifications to Capital Project allocations to address some pressing concerns regarding storm damage to roads and bridges.
- c) Adding a new Capital Project called Storm Damage Reserves.
- d) Enrollment shifts in all the Region One towns and the economic pressure resulting from the Region One proposed increase of over \$100,000 for the second year in a row.
- e) Use of the Undesignated Fund balance to help offset a mil rate increase, reserve levels and the appropriate number of months of funding to be held in reserve.
- f) Asking both the BoS and BoE to trim their budgets by 1%.
- g) Grand list changes and Revaluation years, retired debt service.

All of the above factors were considered in preparing the Town's budget for the 2024-2025 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, 2024

	General Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Non-Major Governmental Funds	Total
<u>Revenues:</u>				
Property taxes	\$ 7,165,471	-	-	\$ 7,165,471
Investment income	137,841	40,490	9,254	187,585
Fees and charges	101,421	-	120,449	221,870
Intergovernmental revenue	781,916	20,433	98,856	901,205
Contributions	-	555	155,158	155,713
Other revenues	62,210	-	-	62,210
<u>Total revenues</u>	<u>8,248,859</u>	<u>61,478</u>	<u>383,717</u>	<u>8,694,054</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>				
General government	991,653	16,935	180,783	1,189,371
Public safety	205,998	-	-	205,998
Highways	568,951	-	-	568,951
Sanitation	204,639	-	-	204,639
Health and welfare	67,144	-	64,045	131,189
Recreation	104,483	-	-	104,483
Education	4,885,061	110,928	93,072	5,089,061
Other	165,634	-	-	165,634
Debt service	341,151	-	-	341,151
Capital outlay	-	1,141,445	-	1,141,445
<u>Total Expenditures:</u>	<u>7,534,714</u>	<u>1,269,308</u>	<u>337,900</u>	<u>9,141,922</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	<u>714,145</u>	<u>(1,207,830)</u>	<u>45,817</u>	<u>(447,868)</u>
<u>Other financing sources (uses):</u>				
Transfers In	-	1,192,000	10,000	1,202,000
Transfers Out	(1,202,000)	-	-	(1,202,000)
<u>Total other financing sources (uses):</u>	<u>(1,202,000)</u>	<u>1,192,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>Net change in fund balances</u>	<u>(487,855)</u>	<u>(15,830)</u>	<u>55,817</u>	<u>(447,868)</u>
<u>Fund balances beginning of year</u>	<u>3,560,995</u>	<u>921,794</u>	<u>327,305</u>	<u>4,810,094</u>
<u>Fund balances end of year</u>	<u>\$ 3,073,140</u>	<u>\$ 905,964</u>	<u>\$ 383,122</u>	<u>\$ 4,362,226</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

TOWN OF CORNWALL, CONNECTICUT  
 REPORT OF THE TAX COLLECTOR  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

Grand List October 1	Balances 6/30/2023	Current Levy	Lawful Corrections		Collectable Taxes	Collections		Transfers To Suspense	Balances 6/30/2024
			Additions	Deductions		Taxes	Interest and Liens		
2022	\$ -	\$ 7,026,478	\$ 4,706	\$ 8,668	\$ 7,022,516	\$ 6,968,281	\$ 18,557	\$ -	\$ 54,235
2021	53,548	-	214	2,927	50,835	22,654	4,704	-	28,181
2020	23,678	-	-	2,809	20,869	2,960	1,242	-	17,909
2019	20,019	-	-	2,809	17,210	1,593	945	1,935	13,682
2018	13,430	-	-	2,809	10,621	1,222	922	62	9,337
2017	13,879	-	-	2,797	11,082	1,217	1,137	-	9,865
2016	12,944	-	-	2,711	10,233	1,179	1,316	-	9,054
2015	10,888	-	-	2,809	8,079	1,297	1,677	-	6,782
2014	10,868	-	-	2,775	8,093	1,282	1,889	-	6,811
2013	7,514	-	-	2,735	4,779	1,263	3,254	-	3,516
2012	7,510	-	-	-	7,510	3,887	7,104	-	3,623
2011	4,390	-	-	-	4,390	3,914	8,033	-	476
2010	8,213	-	-	-	8,213	7,989	17,424	-	224
2009	9,069	-	-	-	9,069	7,873	18,590	-	1,196
2008	9,668	-	-	-	9,668	7,701	19,571	-	1,967
2007	8,652	-	-	-	8,652	-	-	8,652	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 214,270</b>	<b>\$ 7,026,478</b>	<b>\$ 4,920</b>	<b>\$ 33,849</b>	<b>\$ 7,211,819</b>	<b>\$ 7,034,312</b>	<b>\$ 106,365</b>	<b>\$ 1,997</b>	<b>\$ 166,858</b>

**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  
shoebbox 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**

- METAL** other than cans goes into the metal bin if space is available.
- PAINT** in original container with lid and label.
- BULKY WASTE** accepted only when space available - **call first!** 860-672-4079 Fees apply. **Pay as you dump.**
- All **wood, plywood, pressboard** goes into bulky waste. Fees apply. **Pay as you dump.**
- 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 \*\*\*