



# CORNWALL TOWN REPORT 2024 - 2025

### **Cornwall Wins the Coveted Democracy Cup for the Second Time!**

Cornwall has once again earned the prestigious Democracy Cup, awarded to municipalities with the highest voter turnout in the state during the 2024 election. Secretary of State Stephanie Thomas presented the trophy to local leaders in recognition of Cornwall's achievement in the small-town category. With an impressive 90% voter turnout, the award reflects the town's strong civic spirit and deep-rooted culture of volunteerism.

The Democracy Cup is presented every even-numbered election year to communities with the highest voter participation, divided into four categories based on population size: small town, mid-sized town, large town, and city.

Winning municipalities are granted the honor of hosting and displaying the trophy until the next even-numbered election year.

Cornwall was honored in 2014 as well



# WELCOME

Lennox Lee Alburn

Janie Grace Garofano

Charlotte Mary Geisser

Dillon James Hedden

Kevin Michael Quinn

Eva Moon Sterzl

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



4/26/2025 History students from the CCS Class of 2026 were instrumental in getting a portion of Great Hill Road (near the intersection of College Street) dedicated to Naomi Freeman, an enslaved woman living in Cornwall that gained her freedom and became the first Black woman to own land in Cornwall. They petitioned the Board of Selectmen and hosted Congresswoman Jahanna Hayes during the dedication ceremony.

# FOND ADIEU, SALUTE

Pamela Lynne Bain	Karen Jacqueline Beattie
Gilbert Jerome Beers	Jack James Burcroff
William J. Coppola	Karen Blakey Fisher
Deborah Ann Howe	Allyn Henry Hurlburt III
Laura Jean Kisatsky	Yoshiyiro Matsudaira
Alexandra McClelland	Frances Mary Nickerson
Marilyn Ann Olsen	Melanie Richardson
Hernan Sanhueza	Gerald Scott Scofield
Frederick Ralph Scoville II	Barbara Breen Victorien
Clyde P Weed	

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.



## Table of Contents

### **General Government**

Town Officials, Board and Commissions	8-10
Animal Control Officer	12
Abstract of Town Meeting Votes	13
Board of Selectmen	14
Five-Year Capital Plan FY 2024-25 through 28-29	15
Board of Finance	16
Assessor	17
Board of Assessment Appeals	18
Building Inspector	19
Cornwall Energy Task Force	20
Cornwall Economic Development Commission	21
Cornwall Business Directory	11
NW Hills Council of Governments	22-25
Park and Recreation	26-28
Registrar of Voters	29-30
Social Services	31-32
Tax Collector	33
Transfer Station Report	34

### **Education**

Board of Education	35-36
CCS Principal's Report	37-39
Roster of Teachers for School Year 2021-2022	40
Region #1 Report	41
Cornwall Child Center	42

### **Public Safety and Sanitation**

Cornwall Emergency Management	43
Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department	44-45
CVFD list of participants	46
Torrington Area Health	47-48
Transfer Station (hours and general information)	Back covers
Visiting Nurse	49

### **Land Use**

Cornwall Agricultural Advisory Commission	50
Cornwall Inland and Wetlands	51
Cornwall Planning & Zoning	52
Cornwall ZBA	53
Housatonic River Commission	54

### **Civic Organizations**

Cornwall Association	55
Cornwall Conservation Commission	56-57
Cornwall Conservation Trust	58-59
Cornwall Foundation	60

**Civic Organizations (cont)**

Cornwall Historical Society	61-62
Cornwall Housing	63
Cornwall Library	64
Housatonic Youth Service Bureau	65
Little Guild	66
Northwest Corner Chore Service	67
SAGE (Women's Support Services)	68-69

**Financial**

Management's Discussion and Analysis	71-77
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes	78
Tax Collector's Report	78

Richie Dolan graduates fire school and is congratulated by Fire Chief, Will Russ



Cornwall Thanksgiving Turkey Trot



CCS 8th grade class trip to Washington DC



**Town Officials, Members of Boards and Commissions**

**Affordable Housing Commission**

CHM Jill Cutler '28  
SEC Oscar Anderson '26  
Maggie Cady '26  
Caitlin Lunch '26  
Bill McClane '26  
Pamela Weltzien '28  
Ingrid Ellen '28  
Ginni Block '28

**Agricultural Advisory Commission**

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

**Animal Control Officer**

Lee Sohl 860-488-6476  
Asst. Jim Sohl

**Assessor**

Kayla Johnson 672-2703  
JoAnne Dodge  
OFFICE HOURS:  
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:  
Allison Lesch '27

**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 Assessment**

**Appeals**  
David Cavalier '25  
CHM Richard Bramley '27  
Richard Wolkowitz '25

**Building Code Appeals**

David Williamson 672-4959

**Building Official**

Peter Russ 672-0711

**Emergency Management Director**

Diane Beebe  
Jane Hall, Asst.



**Conservation Commission**

Lisa Keskinen '26  
Robin Gray '27  
CHM Heidi Cunnick '25  
Debbie Bennett '27  
Tony Scott '26  
Kate Freygang '25  
Brad Harding '27

**Cornwall Grange #32 Trust Fund**

Vacancy '26  
Chris Hopkins '25  
Bill Dinneen '26

**Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department**

PRES: Dick Sears  
CHIEF: Will Russ  
Rescue Capt. Elizabeth Russ  
(For a list of volunteers, see p. 42)

**Demolition Officer**

Peter Russ 672-0711

**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 '27

**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  
Gil Rubio '25

**Judge of Probate**

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

**Justices of the Peace '25**

Christopher C Arshagra  
Hugh Cheney  
Dave Cadwell  
John F. Brown, Jr.  
Gordon Scott Cady  
Margaret Cooley  
B. Daniel Evans  
Jane Hall  
Mark Hampson  
Allen G. Herkimer II  
Judith A. Herkimer  
Carl Hermann  
Phyllis Nauts  
Karl T Saliter  
Richard Sears  
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**

Spencer Musselman  
Administrator ZEO and Clerk  
HOURS: Tues. & Thurs 7:30-10:30 am  
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 '27  
Gary Steinkohl '27  
Richard Bramley '25  
Bianka Griggs '25  
Jane Herold '26  
CHM Simon Hewett '26  
Duncan Webb '26  
Christopher Sampson '27  
Oscar Anderson '27  
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  
Jane Hall '26  
Kim Jackson '26  
CHM Michelle Shipp '25  
Vacancy '25  
Stacy Dolan '25  
Melissa Bronson '26

#### **ALTERNATES:**

Beth Dinneen '25  
Vacancy '25

#### **DIRECTOR:**

Jennifer Markow  
672-4071  
Mon & Wed 9-12

### **Hammond Beach**

DIRECTOR: Harry Sanders

### **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 '27

Democrat

Jayne W. Ridgway '27

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

### **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 '25  
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

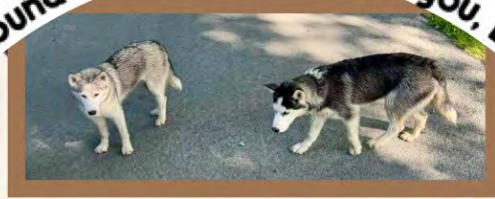
- Agriculture and Farm
- Animal Services
- Apparel, Gifts & Home Décor
- Appliances & Electric
- Architects
- Beverage & Package Stores
- Books
- Business Services
- Carpenters, Builders & Contractors
- Catering, Food and Grocery
- Civil Engineering & Surveying
- Entertainment
- Floor & Wall Coverings

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





This pair found new homes - thank you, Little Guild!



## Cornwall Animal Control Annual Report 2024-2025

**4 dogs were impounded, 2 redeemed, 2 adopted!**

**Out of 67 calls, two were dog bites  
and one was a dog vs dog attack.**

**Others were lost or found pets,  
and pet or wildlife questions.**

**These are some of the Cornwall pets who got home on their  
own, or with help from animal control and/or residents -  
thank you!**



# Town Meeting Votes-An Abstract

## Annual Town Meeting Held November 1, 2024

Voted: To adopt the Five-Year Capital Plan for the Town of Cornwall for the years 2026-2030, as recommended by the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen. The plan was unanimously accepted.

Voted: To adopt an ordinance to change the Cornwall Tax Collector position from an elected official to an appointed position. The motion was unanimously passed.

Voted: To amend the ordinance, made effective April 22, 1973, *Establishment of a Conservation Commission*, to increase the number of commission members from six to eight. The motion passed unanimously.

## Budget Town Meeting Held at Cornwall Consolidated School on May 16, 2025

Voted: To approve the proposed budget for Fiscal Year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, as recommended by the Board of Finance. The vote was unanimously in favor.

Voted: To appropriate \$10,000 from the Gates Bequest fund to be used in commemoration of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the United States of America. as recommended, by the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Vera L. Dinneen

Town Clerk of Cornwall

Photo taken on Town Street by Don Polk from a school bus window en route to school





## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The summer of 2024 saw Cornwall residents file a record number of complaints and concerns of interactions with bears. The First Selectman sent these records to the state legislature in hopes of some relief by encouraging state adoption of a bear management program, similar to those in neighboring states. The legislation did not pass, and many more bear cubs have been recently sighted in town.

The Highway Department received a new backhoe in August and a mower in October.

A dry fall led to a burning ban. At the same time, Ted Larson and Dave Williamson took donations down to the Asheville, North Carolina area to help flooding victims.

The Town has ongoing efforts to establish a municipal composting program and promoting pedestrian safety in our village centers. In December, Northeast Builders Supply received the necessary local approvals to upgrade its lumberyard on Route 7.

The Board started 2025 by establishing an active local committee to plan events celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our country. Cornwall had the highest voter turnout in the 2024 election and received the Democracy Cup from Secretary of State Stephanie Thomas in February.

The Cornwall Consolidated School 7<sup>th</sup> grade class visited the Board of Selectmen in March asking for assistance in giving an honorary designation to a section of Great Hollow Road for Naomi Freeman – a formerly enslaved woman who bought a farm here in the 1800's. The Board of Selectmen and Highway Department put up appropriate signs in the spring and joined Congresswoman Jahanna Hayers in recognizing students for their efforts.

Positions for the land use coordinator and tax collectors were posted and filled by Spencer Musselman and Rebecca Juchert-Derungs.

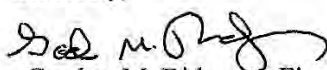
The annual town budget meeting in May approved the town budget for 25/26 and appropriated \$10,000 from the Gates Bequest for use by the 250<sup>th</sup> Committee.

A nice ceremony was held by the Lt. Governor in June at CCS to honor our Vietnam and Korean war veterans. Hammond Beach opened in June with a delicious picnic hosted by the Park & Recreation Commission and the Ag Commission.

The Selectmen's office puts out a newsletter *Town Hall News* throughout the year. You can receive the newsletter by contacting the office at [assistant@cornwallct.gov](mailto:assistant@cornwallct.gov) or 860-672-4959.

The Board of Selectman thanks the many volunteers who worked long hours to help our community be a great place to live.

Sincerely,



Gordon M. Ridgway, First Selectman



Rocco Botto, Selectman



Jennifer Markow, Selectman

**TOWN OF CORNWALL****5 YEAR CAPITAL PLAN****Fiscal Years 2025 – 2029**

		Approved Previously	Changes	Final
<b>FY 2024-2025</b>	Road Improvement: Group # 1 ~ North East	# 300,000	20,000	320,000
	Bridges / Culverts / Guide Rails	20,000	10,000	30,000
	Cornwall Consolidated School	40,000	20,000	60,000
	CVFD Equipment	-	20,000	20,000
	CVFD Truck Fund	100,000	(20,000)	80,000
	Tree Removal		50,000	50,000
	Town Buildings	150,000	(50,000)	100,000
	Town Plan	10,000	-	10,000
	HWY Truck replacement fund (Trk 10)	100,000		100,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>720,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>770,000</b>
<b>FY 2025- 2026</b>	Road Improvement: Group # 2 ~ North West	300,000	20,000	320,000
	Bridges / Culverts / Guide Rails	20,000	-	20,000
	Cornwall Consolidated School	40,000	10,000	50,000
	CVFD Truck Fund	100,000	-	100,000
	Tree Removal	-	50,000	50,000
	Town Buildings	150,000	(50,000)	100,000
	Town Plan	10,000	-	10,000
	HWY Truck replacement fund (Truck #10)	100,000	-	100,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>720,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>750,000</b>
<b>FY 2026-2027</b>	Road Improvement: Group # 3 ~ Center	300,000	20,000	320,000
	Bridges / Culverts / Guide Rails	20,000	-	20,000
	Cornwall Consolidated School Projects	40,000	10,000	50,000
	CVFD Truck Fund -	100,000	-	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>700,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>730,000</b>
<b>FY 2027-2028</b>	Road Improvement: Group # 4 ~ South East	300,000	20,000	320,000
	Bridges / Culverts / Guide Rails	20,000	-	20,000
	Cornwall Consolidated School	40,000	10,000	50,000
	CVFD Truck Fund	100,000	-	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>720,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>750,000</b>
<b>FY 2028-2029</b>	Road Improvement: Group #5 ~ South East	300,000	20,000	320,000
	Bridges / Culverts / Guide Rails	20,000	-	20,000
	Cornwall Consolidated School	50,000		50,000
	CVFD Truck Fund	100,000	-	100,000
	Town Buildings	50,000		50,000
	Town Plan	10,000	-	10,000
	HWY Truck replacement fund (Trk # 9)	100,000		100,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>630,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>650,000</b>
Approved	Board of Selectmen	11.21.23		
Approved	Board of Finance	11.16.23	GRAND TOTAL	3,490,000
	Town Meeting	12.8.23		160,000
				3,650,000

## BOARD OF FINANCE

The Cornwall Board of Finance met ten 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 6/30/2025

Revenues	7,644,139
Expenses	7,488,791
Change in net position	155,348
Net position, beginning of year	11,981,569
Net position, end of year	12,136,917

The Mil rate for FY 2025-2026 was set at 15.96 which is a 4.31% increase over the prior year.

The FY 2025-2026 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.

The Town ended the year with a \$16,373 budget deficit. However, this compares favorably with an anticipated \$200,000 deficit. The revenues exceeded budgeted amounts by \$128,792. 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 \$54,835 less than budgeted amounts principally attributable conservative expense budgeting. The tax collection rate remained static. The prior year it was 99.2% and the current year it was 98.9%.

Eleven budget transfers totaling \$99,285 were required to finish out the year. The contingency appropriation covered \$28,185 and the balance came from DPW and Employee Health insurance appropriations that had available funding at the end of the fiscal year due to not filling the DPW vacancy. Increasing costs for utilities, staffing modulations and mandates for early voting contributed to the need for these transfers. The Board of Education uncharacteristically needed a budget transfer principally related to staffing, the food service program, and PA24-45 which allows the Region to retain surplus from prior years for capital improvements starting 7/1/2024.

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 will be hiring an outside company to complete this process. We have switched GIS vendors to a more user-friendly version and will continue to improve the data it is hosting. This encompasses all properties within Cornwall and gives a wonderful aerial view of boundary lines, 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



Poppies and Lavender by Collette Hurst



## BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

The Cornwall Board of Assessment Appeals (BAA) is a three-member board whose current members are Richard Wolkowitz, David Cavalier and Richard Bramley

The BAA met several times this past year but most significantly to resolve issues created by the state legislature. Hartford enacted legislation affecting specific veteran's exemptions on the 2024 Grand List and then subsequently changed the qualifications. The board met to resolve those issues, and for the 2024 Grand List the BAA had two applicants and two hearings. With the BAA approval there were no changes to the Assessor's Grand List total.

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

The Building Department is dedicated to ensuring the safety, sustainability and quality of construction within Cornwall.

For the period covering July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025 a total of 313 permits were issued

- 121 were building permits
- 97 were electrical permits
- 44 were mechanical permits
- 10 were miscellaneous permits
- 41 were plumbing permits
- Over 300 inspections were conducted

In January, the Building Department was contacted by an examiner regarding the **Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS)**. This program, developed by ISO Mitigation (part of Verisk), evaluates how well communities adopt and enforce building codes. Communities are graded on a scale from **1 (exemplary) to 10**, and this score helps insurance companies determine premium credits for residential and commercial properties.

The BCEGS evaluation looks at several key areas:

- Code Adoption
- Plan Reviews
- Inspections & Enforcement
- Staffing & Qualifications
- Public Awareness

Communities with strong building code enforcement tend to have fewer losses, and lower insurance costs provide an incentive to maintain high standards.

We'd like to thank the **Assessor's Office, Planning and Zoning Office, Selectman's Office, and Fire Department** for their valuable contributions to this evaluation.

## Community Reminder

Earlier this year, the Building Department shared an informational brochure, including a submission in the *Cornwall Chronicle*. If you still have a copy, please note the following updates:

- **Spencer Musselman** is now the **Land Use Administrator**.
- **New office hours:** Tuesdays & Thursdays, **7:30 AM to 10:30 AM**.

## Selling Your Home?

If you're planning to sell your house, we encourage you to contact the Building Department to check for any **outstanding permits**. Resolving these ahead of time can help make the **closing process smoother**. Regulations related to open permits are available for review in our office.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Russ, Building Official



## Sustainable CT/ Cornwall Energy TF Annual Report 2025

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

We are pleased that sustainable practices have become the norm in many of our town actions which are reported under other committees. This includes regular lake monitoring, invasive plant management, low impact development, and support of biodiversity, prioritized places, farming and affordable housing. The Green Tent at the Ag. Fair displays much of the data illustrating the good stewardship of natural resources. However, we are still pursuing three projects. One is improved town energy monitoring, improvements in the safety and economic development of Cornwall Bridge, and the development of more economic composting and waste management.

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 (the 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 Conservation Trust, Conservation Commission, Housing Authority, Energy Task Force and Sustainable CT, Housatonic River Commission, Garden Club 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 love feedback. Come join us anytime! Cornwall is working for 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, now in its fifteenth 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.

The members of the Commission, as of June 30, 2025, are Simon Hewett (Chair), Bianka Langner Griggs (Vice Chair), Gary Steinkohl (Treasurer), Richard Bramley, Jane Herold, David Keisman, Marie Louise Ruben, Chris Sampson and Duncan Webb. Oscar Anderson stepped down as a member of the Commission in September. During the year, D. Neil Frauenglass continued to participate as 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 generally meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month, and meetings this year took place 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 the year, the Commission continued to seek the views of Cornwall businesses as part of its regular meetings, and Tommy Encallito of Coltsfoot Farm, Liz Macaire of Macaire Kristoph, West Cornwall and Mike Casari, of The Cornwall Market each presented to the Commission. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway and Selectman Rocco Botto 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 Days on August 9-11 to highlight what Cornwall's business community has to offer
- Updated the Cornwall Business Directory
- Organized and paid for a seasonal Rent-A-Potty in West Cornwall
- Sponsored The Twelve Days of Christmas event in West Cornwall
- Held a Holiday Event for Cornwall businesses at Trinity Retreat Center

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

Simon Hewett

Bianca Langner Griggs

Chair

Vice-Chair







## FY24-25 ANNUAL REPORT

The Northwest Hills Council of Governments (NHCOC) 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 NHCOC 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 at regularly scheduled meetings and multiple times under special meetings to address issues of immediate concern. Meeting recordings can be viewed at NHCOC's YouTube Channel at: [www.youtube.com/@northwesthillscouncilofgov9418/videos](http://www.youtube.com/@northwesthillscouncilofgov9418/videos) Meeting agendas, minutes and additional information on NHCOC initiatives and activities can also be found on our website: [www.northwesthillscog.org](http://www.northwesthillscog.org)

### BOARD LEADERSHIP

NHCOC members holding board officer appointments during FY 2024-2025 were as follows:

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

The NHCOC board membership approved a FY24-25 budget that again incorporated recent increases in funding in several areas in the last FY that have a direct benefit to the towns. These increases in the state Regional Service Grant (RSG) and the state Department of Transportation (CTDOT) planning funds for the region provided support for project and planning related work that continue to directly benefit the region on a short- and long-term basis.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NHCOC, as a federally recognized Economic Development District (EDD), focused on implementation of its new Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region. The major achievements this year are as follows:

- *Capitalize on State and Federal Brownfield assessment and remediation programs to encourage adaptive reuse projects:* NHCOC received 3 CT Municipal Brownfield Assessment Only Grants and 1 CT Brownfield Areawide Revitalization Grant.

- *Partner with the National Center for Economic Gardening to implement their entrepreneurial approach to economic development:* Completed 1 business engagement with National Center for Economic Gardening.
- *Provide guidance and technical assistance for downtown and village Center improvements:* Partnered with CT Main Street Center to develop a Regional Main Street Management approach. This year 17 downtown readiness assessments were completed and multiple workshops educating elected officials on the value of a managed Main Street and assisting 5 Communities in creating a vision statement.
- *Create a 3–5-year strategy for the promotion of Discover Litchfield Hills, exploring all options, i.e. TV, radio, social media (paid & organic), billboard and print material & explore the possibility of a brand ‘refresh’ which is widely recommended to be done every 3–5 years:* NHCOG retained Miranda Creative to assist with these tasks. This year a SWOT analysis of the current brand has been completed, and a community survey seeking input on the brand is developed.
- *Further development and promote the Naugatuck River Greenway, Western New England Greenway, Sue Grossman Greenway, Appalachian Trail, Blue Blazed Trails and local Trails:* NHCOG is administering a CT Recreational Trails Grant for the routing and design of the Naugatuck River Greenway from Bouge Road in Harwinton to Route 118 in Litchfield. and NHCOG staff is part of the Sue Grossman Committee in Winsted which is focused on final routing and design of the Sue Grossman’s final phases, from the DMV to Downtown.
- *Support Cost-effective ways to address Municipal Solid Waste and local recycling initiatives:* With the closure of MIRA, NHCOG worked to ensure the Torrington Transfer Station remained a public facility, assisted in the development of the Northwest Resource Recovery Authority (NRRA), and continued to work with local legislators and the NRRA to acquire and operate the Facility.
- Lastly, NHCOG applied for a new three-year funding package of EDA Partnership Planning program from the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) for a total budget of \$350,000, of which \$210,000 is federal funds and \$140,000 is local match. These funds will provide for the continued implementation of the goals and objectives contained within the CEDS.

## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

The Northwest Hills Council of Governments (NHCOG) completed its Transit Analysis Study, which originated from the Request for Proposals (RFP) issued at the end of FY23–24. The study was funded by the Federal Transit Administration, CTDOT, along with agency match funds in FY25. Its focus was to support the development of a coordinated transit network to serve residents of the NHCOG region. The final report provides a thorough analysis of current and future transit demands and offers recommendations that will help guide improvements to regional transit services.

Through the CT Department of Transportation’s Statewide Active Transportation Microgrant Program, four municipalities in the Northwest Hills region—Canaan, Torrington, Warren, and Harwinton—were each awarded \$5,000 grants to promote safe walking and biking in Connecticut.

Under the CTDOT Statewide Transportation Rural Improvement Program (TRIP), four municipalities—Litchfield, Goshen, Burlington, and Barkhamsted—were awarded up to \$1,500,000 each for roadway and/or bridge improvements.

Approximately \$1 million is allocated annually by CTDOT through the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) for priority local road projects. Five municipalities in the region currently qualify under this program, with projects in various stages of approval and development in Burlington, Litchfield, Torrington, and Winchester.

Finally, NHCOC has applied for a \$350,000 grant through the USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) 2025 Implementation Grant. If awarded, this funding would support the creation of a comprehensive Safety Action Plan for the entire NHCOC region.

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY**

NHCOC serves as the administrator and fiscal agent for almost \$400,000 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 NHCOC and portions of NVCOC and WestCOC) running along the western part of the state.

## **SHARED MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

In FY24-25, NHCOC continued coordination of numerous programs such as 1) a Neighbor-to-Neighbor program in cooperation with the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, 2) the Northwest Hills Public Works Equipment Cooperative sharing various roadway assets, and 3) the region's cooperative purchasing program for products and services relating to public works.

## **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

FY24-25 marked the second year of the federal Health Resources and Services Administration's Rural Health Network Development grant awarded to NHCOC to increase access to adolescent mental health services in the NHCOC region. In FY24-25, the Northwest Hills Community Health Network of CT expanded the network to include Torrington Youth Services Bureau (TYSB) and Outside Perspectives Inc (OP). This partnership expansion provides funding from the HRSA grant to OP to provide a group of 12 to 15 adolescents (identified via TYSB) with 10 weeks of outdoor programming that employs strength-based approaches and positive childhood experiences to teach participants resiliency and coping skills. Developing and growing these skills continues to be an important factor when addressing adolescent mental health as we saw a nearly 15% increase from FY22-23 to FY24-25 in the number of 211 crisis calls originating in the region, an 18% increase in the number of adolescents presenting with 4 or more Adverse Childhood Experiences, and a 13% increase in referrals for services to address social determinants of health, such as food insecurity, housing instability, and barriers to receiving care.

NHCOC continues to be the only COG in the state to implement and host a pooled fund of National Opioid Settlement funds. In FY24-25, The Regional Opioid Response Fund collected \$55,243.19 from nine participating towns and expended \$32,188.41 on opioid use remediation initiatives



tailored to our rural communities. The largest expense was a \$25,000 donation to Greenwood's Counseling and Referrals via the Northwest CT Community Foundation's Northwest Corner Gives event, which matched the donation dollar-for-dollar and enabled Greenwood's to continue its outreach and harm-reduction efforts throughout the region. About \$7,000 was spent on harm-reduction supplies and about \$200 was spent on refreshments for hosting screenings in Falls Village, Washington and Barkhamsted of Uprooting Addiction, an educational film about opioid use and recovery that was filmed in the region.

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

NHCOG serves as the Statutory referral agency for municipalities within and adjacent to the NHCOG regional boundary and reviewed fifty-one (51) zoning, subdivision and Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) referrals during the Fiscal Year. The agency also advised local municipalities on land use matters on an ad hoc basis as issues arose throughout the year.

NHCOG continues to host a quarterly "5th Thursday" forum on most occasions for area Planning, Zoning, and Conservation Commission members, and staff, 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 statutory requirements of Land Use Officials annual training program.

NHCOG has also assumed the role of Administrator and Fiscal Agent for National Park Service (NPS) annual funding (\$135,000) which continues to be allocated for the Housatonic River Commission (HRC) working the Wild and Scenic designation of a stretch of the Housatonic River. NHCOG also continues to partner with the 7-town membership of the HRC in a support role when requested.

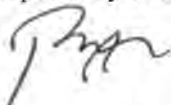
NHCOG also continues to host an Interactive Regional Trail Map, developed by NHCOG and the Housatonic Valley Association to promote access and usability of the public hiking trails in the region.

The agency supports local conservation and preservation grant applications and funding efforts on an ongoing basis throughout the year upon request.

The state of Municipal Solid Waste in the region and its sustainable future continues to be a key issue, particularly with the dissolution of the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) on the last day in June of the past Fiscal Year.

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



## **Cornwall Park and Recreation Annual Town Report 2024-25**

### **Ongoing Events:**

- Every month, except for July, we hosted a Community (Senior) lunch on the 2nd Tuesday, a Social hour on the 3rd Wednesday, and a Community (Senior) breakfast on the 4th Tuesday. Lunch and breakfast were prepared by Jen Markow and Michelle Shipp. Attendance for the lunch averaged about 40 people, Social Hour was about 10, and breakfast averaged about 30 people. These are so important for many of our Cornwall seniors because it is often one of the few times they get to spend time with others.
- Park and Rec Meetings were held in person and hybrid every month.

### **July 2024**

- July Fest with Too Blue playing music. Food Trucks, games, CVFD firetruck hose down, and more. Attendance about 200 people
- "South Pacific" at Goodspeed Opera House in partnership with Sharon Park and Rec. The Goshen/Cornwall Senior bus was used for transportation from Foote Field to the Opera House, so only 14 people could go due to space. The attendees had lunch before the matinee. It was a full day of fun!

### **August**

- 3rd Annual Taste of Cornwall: Fabulous Farm to Table Buffet featuring produce and meats from Cornwall farms. Artisan Crafters and local bakers sold their products. Grain Thief played Bluegrass & Country Music. The Commission cooked the food for the buffet. Over 300 people came to see the best Cornwall has to offer.
- Yard Goats baseball game- 40 people met up in Hartford for a fun Friday night under the lights.

### **September**

- "Maggie" at Goodspeed Opera House in partnership with Sharon Park and Rec. The Goshen/Cornwall Senior bus was used for transportation from Foote Field to the Opera House, so only 14 people could go due to space. The attendees had lunch before the matinee. It was a full day of fun!

### **October**

- Flu & Covid Vaccine Clinic was held at the UCC Parish House. Approximately 100 people came to get a vaccine.
- Our traditional Halloween night of trick-or-treating, trunk-or-treating, and dinner of soups/chilis, and other comfort foods continued with one change. Our location was switched to the Parish House due to early voting for the elections. This turned out to be a great thing and a new tradition was made.

### **November**

- A 2nd Flu & Covid Vaccine Clinic was held at the UCC Parish House. Once again approximately 100 people came to get a vaccine. Many people like to get their vaccinations on different days, so we offer 2 dates.
- Wolf Pack Hockey Game at the XL Center had a small but enthusiastic group enjoy a fun Saturday night out.

- Breakfast with Santa and The Grinch wrapped up November and got the holiday season started. Wish lists were shared, pictures taken and bellies were filled with delicious food from the 8th grade class.

### **January**

- Ice skating at Hotchkiss every Saturday night was enjoyed by many Cornwall families.

### **February**

- Ice skating at Hotchkiss every Saturday night continued.
- Pickleball at CCS on Thursday nights allowed the fun to continue when winter weather makes outdoor play a challenge.

### **March**

- Glori Wilder Band played in Town Hall for a "Beat the Winter Blues" event. Sandwiches, chips, and veggie & fruit platters for dinner. This was an adult only event giving Cornwall grown-ups a night out. They must of needed it because Town Hall was packed and many were dancing/swaying to the music.
- Flower Arranging Workshop brought Spring to Cornwall. We held 2 sessions at the UCC Parish House. One in the afternoon for seniors and one in the evening for everyone. Everyone learned the secret of how to create their own beautiful arrangements in a variety of containers.
- Monster Jam was awesome! Monster trucks inside the XL Center was a site to see and 42 lucky people met up for the afternoon. This is something that should not be missed!
- Pickleball at CCS on Thursday nights allowed the fun to continue when winter weather makes outdoor play a challenge.

### **April**

- Spring Celebration was a hopping good time. We had the Park and Rec Bunny kick off the egg hunt for each age group. Plus, there was a slime table and egg decorating station. Foote Field was full of kids of all ages.
- Clean up Cornwall celebrates Earth Day by cleaning up the roads & trails in Cornwall. Partnered with C&M Carting Solutions who provided safety vests, gloves, and a giant dumpster. Thank you to all who went out and picked up trash!
- Pickleball at CCS on Thursday nights allowed the fun to continue when winter weather makes outdoor play a challenge.

### **May**

- Spring Flu & Covid Vaccine Clinic was held at the UCC Parish House. We had a new partner with Kent Pharmacy. They not only offered Flu & Covid vaccines, but you could preorder Shingles & Pneumonia vaccines. 100 people came to get a vaccine, which seems to be our magic vaccine number.
- Yard Goats Baseball Game at Dunkin Field had a boost from our first outing. 50 people came out to cheer on the Yard Goats. Be sure to get your tickets next time we go.

### **June**

- We kicked off summer with our Annual Town Picnic at Hammond Beach. This year we had Hot Z's food truck down on the beach doing the cooking. The Ag



Commission brought ice cream bars and sundae cups. The weather was great and the beach was full!

**Goals:**

- Revamp the upper soccer field at Foote Field to a recreational field that includes a playground, fitness apparatus, and other recreational options based upon community input.
- Develop a dedicated community hub for use by all ages for a variety of events. A place where age specific programming can be held on a regular basis.

Respectfully submitted by:

Michelle Shipp (Chair)

Jen Markow (Director)

Stacey Dolan (Commissioner)

Melissa Bronson (Commissioner)

Kim Jackson (Commissioner)

Beth Dinneen (Commissioner)

Jane Hall (Commissioner)

*Michelle Shipp*



Too Blue band sponsored by Park and Recreation



# REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

## Election News

On February 13, 2025, Secretary of State, Stephanie Thomas presented the Town of Cornwall with the Democracy Cup Trophy for the highest voter turnout for the Presidential Election on November 5, 2024. The trophy is on display in the Selectmen's Office. This large trophy is given out every 2 years and will be presented to the next winner on 2026. This is the second time Cornwall has won the trophy (2014). For the odd years a small permanent trophy is given. Let's win again! Please vote at every election!

In April 2025 the new tabulators arrived. These new machines are similar in style and size to the old units with an added feature of monitor screen which indicates if ballot has been received usually within 5 seconds.

## Year In Review Highlights

In August 2024, early voting was held for 7 days before the Republican Primary (August 13) for US Senator. 5 voted early and 14 during the Primary. The results were 6 for Gerry Smith and 13 for Matthew Corey.

Early Voting for the general election was held for 14 days in October. Again, Cornwall had one of the top percentages of early voting turnout with 50% votes cast before election day. Go Team!

A shout out to all the election workers. Some worked multiple days and long hours. For November early voting period we had a staff of 15 and for the election we had 20. Diane Beebe was the Moderator, and it was a long day! The registrars and Diane left the Town Hall at 12:30 am (Nov 6) for a total of 19.25 hours.

The Town was selected for an Audit of the November 5 election. The audit was held on November 20 at the Town Hall. By working in teams all ballots were able to be counted and there were no discrepancies found!

The Registrars continually train and keep up to date on Statewide and National election issues. The training includes monthly zoom calls with Secretary Thomas and a two-day conference in April and September. Additionally, they were trained in new ballot programming software and new tabulators.

The annual Region One Budget Referendum was held on May 6, 2025. The turnout was low with 62 voting representing 5% of eligible voters.



Memorial Day 2025

## REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

As of September 29, 2025, there are 552 Democrats, 190 Republicans, 391 Unaffiliated, and 19 minor parties, bringing the total to 1,152 registered voters.

Early Voting will be from Oct 20 to Nov 2 and Election Day is November 4, 2025. All voting will be at Town Hall. Let's win a permanent trophy for the highest turnout for a small town! Hope to see you all there!



Brittany

Jayne R. 9



## SOCIAL SERVICES

Over the past year, I reviewed the many checks issued by the Food & Fuel Fund, and I thought you might appreciate seeing the wide range of needs we help meet.

- Car repairs
- Dental care
- Firewood
- Food insecurity
- Fuel assistance
- Furnace replacement
- Hoarding support
- Holiday expenses
- Legal Counsel
- Loneliness and isolation
- Medical bills
- Prescription medications
- Rent assistance
- Septic system repairs

This list is always evolving, but it gives a sense of the broad and ongoing financial and emotional needs in our community.

We're grateful to still receive weekly food and supplies from **Connecticut Foodshare** and **Food Rescue**. While deliveries from Food Hub have ended, our local gardeners have stepped up in a beautiful way, dropping off anonymous, bountiful harvests from their gardens. We're also proud to be a **TEFAP Pantry** (The Emergency Food Assistance Program), which provides most of our staple foods. **Produce to the People** remains a steady and valued partner.

Funding from the Town budget, grants from **Berkshire Taconic**, the **Cornwall Association**, and the **Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation** play a vital role in supporting our efforts. Individual donations to the **Food & Fuel Fund** are always deeply appreciated. The generosity of individuals, local groups, and state-level donors continues to be both inspiring and essential.

The phrase "*it takes a village*" truly comes to life here in Cornwall, where kindness and reciprocity are part of our everyday spirit.

To the volunteers who help me day in and day out—you know who you are—thank you. From ordering and unpacking food, to delivering it and checking in on neighbors, your dedication is the heartbeat of Social Services in Cornwall. I couldn't do this without you, and we are all better for your efforts.





# SOCIAL SERVICES

## Fuel Assistance & Community Collaboration

Fuel Assistance applications are submitted through **CAAWC** (Community Action Agency of Western Connecticut) and continue to be a vital resource for many Cornwall households—especially as the cost of living keeps rising.

I regularly attend meetings and collaborate with partners like **WCAAA** (Western Connecticut Area Agency on Aging) and the **Chore Service** to ensure that counseling, guidance, and practical support are available to those who need it. The Social Services Directors from our neighboring towns—Falls Village, Kent, Norfolk, North Canaan, Sharon, Salisbury, and Warren—are also incredibly generous with their time and insights.

## Holiday Giving & Community Spirit

As the holidays approach, we're gearing up for our special **Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Drives**. One of Cornwall's most heartwarming traditions is our **anonymous gift-giving program** for local children. Families let us know what their kids would love to receive, and generous donors step in to make those wishes come true. It's a beautiful way to spread joy and connect with one another.

We also receive many thoughtful gifts through the **Canaan Police Barracks**, and I've included a photo to share just how meaningful their contributions are.

## Looking Ahead

Over the past two years, I've learned so much—and I continue to learn every day. I've had the pleasure of meeting many Cornwallians I hadn't known before, and I'm truly grateful for those connections.

Cornwall is a small but mighty town, full of heart. We look out for one another, and that's something to be proud of. Let's keep that spirit alive and strong as we move into another



year of service, support, and community.

Here's to a positive, productive year ahead!

Warmly, **Becky**

## TAX COLLECTOR

The tax office has been moving at a steady pace, with the collection rate still a respectable 98-99%.

After 17 years serving Cornwall in this capacity, I am looking forward to retiring in November. During my tenure I was able to modernize the collection procedures and make the office more efficient.

The office will enter a new phase in November with the job being held by an appointed collector instead of being elected. With the increased complexity of the job, it made more sense to hire an already certified collector, experienced with Connecticut tax laws and procedures. I hope that you will join me in welcoming our new collector, Rebecca Juchert-Derungs. She is energetic and knowledgeable. She serves as collector in the towns of Falls Village, Goshen, and Morris, which she will continue to do.

I anticipate spending more time in my workshop, finishing my home restoration, spending time with my dogs, and travelling. The dogs and I will miss visiting with everyone that stops by the office, which might be a bigger adjustment for the dogs. It has been an honor to serve Cornwall in this way.





# TRANSFER STATION

**Hi Folks,**

Welcome to the Transfer Station!

We hope you're doing well as fall quickly approaches. Just a friendly reminder to observe the posted speed limit and bring a little extra patience with you, especially as we welcome many new residents to town.

Pre-sorting your recyclables at home is a big help and very much appreciated!

A few updates to keep in mind:

- **Freon disposal** now costs **\$15**, which applies to items like freezers, refrigerators, air conditioners, and dehumidifiers.
- **Mattress disposal** has increased to **\$30** for futons and foam mattresses. However, **traditional mattresses and box springs** remain **free** to drop off, as long as they're **clean and dry**.

We're still waiting to hear back about our compost application. Fingers crossed we'll have more news by fall!

**Transfer Station Hours:**

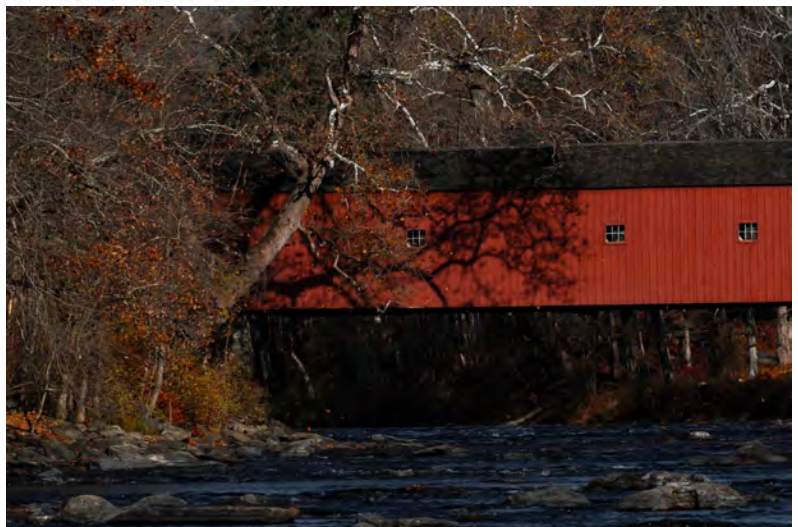
- **Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday:** 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
- **Sunday (MSW only):** 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

**Respectfully,**

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 monthly from September through June in the CCS Library with optional Zoom links to accommodate Members that could not attend in person. 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 retired as our Region One Board Representative after a decade of excellent service. With a unanimous nomination from our Board, Ali Lesch stepped seamlessly into this role and has been a fantastic addition both to the Region One roster as well as a welcomed part of our Cornwall meetings. The second agenda item at meetings has continued to be the *Spotlight on Learning*. During this time we toured the "new" Library Media Center under the reorganization of Kristi Pramuka, received our outstanding Next Generation testing results, watched with awe as we experienced the new play based learning room, felt the tangible enthusiasm from Jen Markow as she explained our current lunch program (which over 50% of students use daily and of that 30% are on free or reduced lunch) and the ambitions that can evolve from the gathering room kitchen, heard motivational and promising things about our school improvement plan from faculty members Jenn Hill, Danielle Krueger, and Dr. Lauren Stiles, and watched a lovely narration from the 7th graders about their Troutbeck Symposium presentation on Naomi Freeman. We received and analyzed the results from a school and community wide climate and culture survey and were strongly encouraged by both Cornwall's and the Region One results. It is empowering and reassuring when best practice and policy actionably combine to produce a wholly satisfying and reputable school environment. At our June meeting, we presented CCS students with annual CAFE and Superintendent awards. We renewed the Bradford Scholarship given to last year's recipient and hopefully will continue this disbursement for the next two years, for the full duration of the award. We set the annual tuition amount for out-of-town students to attend CCS. With enthusiasm we renewed Principal Maguire's contract. She has been a fantastic addition to our school and worked diligently through her second year to advocate for new District needs while respecting the culture and climate that makes us Cornwall.

There was a Regional BoE training with Attorney Tom Mooney in October. This was our yearly opportunity to meet with other Board members in Region One; converse, compare, and grow together. The exercises reaffirmed that the primary intent of a Board is to fulfill the *legislative* duties within a school system. Two weeks after the end of the fiscal year, but worth mentioning because of its recency and also because it brought so much invigoration and insight, there was another training that pinpointed goals in relation to mission, belief, and vision statements through the focus areas of instruction; community and climate; and operations, policy, and finance. The Board hopes to continue this work independently at the local level throughout the year and produce incredibly solid, cohesive remarks and results.

The monthly meetings are only a portion of the BoE Members' duties. Multiple committees keep both the Regional and Local pieces moving smoothly. The Building Committee, composed of Hugh Cheney, custodians Tom Brown and Jake Thulin, Annie Kosciusko, Phil Hart, Garrick Dinneen, Ronnie Lizana, and Principal Leanne Maguire met monthly to ensure that our beloved, yet aging building is kept in the best shape possible. It was fortunate that two of our legislative additions were an updated Request for Proposal and Single Source Justification paperwork when we needed an emergency boiler repair over

## CORNWALL BOARD OF EDUCATION

winter break! The Safety and Security Committee upheld bi-monthly and then transitioned to monthly meetings to make sure that our students and staff are prepared to manage and handle any kind of emergency. Our yearly plan was submitted to the State far ahead of the deadline. Iris Hermann and Martha Bruehl attended the Regional Policy Committee meetings and transferred feedback between our local Board to the Regional one; sometimes resulting in multiple reads and edits before being approved by Cornwall. Iris Hermann, Hugh Cheney, and Martha Bruehl, with the expertise of Sam Herrick and new Region One Superintendent Melony Brady-Shanley, negotiated with the Non-Certified Union for a three-year contract that was mutually acceptable for all parties involved. The All-Boards Chair committee met through the school year and conducted a thorough evaluation of our new Superintendent's goals and performance in the Spring. We look forward to relying on her extensive experience to guide and support Region One for many years to come.

The entire Board worked together with Principal Maguire and Board Clerk Annie Kosciusko with Superintendent Brady-Shanley learning our individual particulars, to create an incredibly prudent, responsible budget that reflects the actual costs of running Cornwall Consolidated School. There were two notable changes for the 2025-6 Budget approved in Spring 2024. First, a breakfast program was added which increased the food manager position hours and created accessibility for students to eat two meals during school hours. We were previously one of the only districts in the state that did not offer this option to students and families. It was a very logical progression after the addition of our highly utilized, successful lunch program. Second, we paused the Early Kindergarten program for the 2025-6 school year. This was due to the very large estimated incoming Kindergarten class which would have necessitated the hire of a full time EK teacher and because of the new State level legislation that mandated children turn five before September 1st of their birth year before entering Kindergarten.

We were given notice in the late Spring that the EdAdvance federal grant that staffed counselors in Region One schools was being terminated three years ahead of schedule. Losing this position in our school would leave an enormous deficit in the entirety of the CCS community. Students, teachers, and staff would all be greatly impacted in the most negative of ways. Planning and organization began immediately to ensure that after December 31st, 2025, our school would be able to carry on as adequately staffed as it had the first half of the year. By the beginning of the new FY, we had reorganized and decided on a positive, affordable solution that retained our .5 counselor position at CCS and did not alter our already approved budget.



We warmly invite you to attend our monthly Board of Education meetings. These gatherings offer a valuable opportunity to learn more about the work happening behind the scenes at Cornwall Consolidated School and within the broader Cornwall community. Each meeting includes a dedicated agenda item for public comment, where we welcome your feedback and insights on how we're doing.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Iris Herman, BoE Chair



# CORNWALL CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Cornwall Consolidated School Community,

As we reflect on the conclusion of the 2024–2025 school year, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the incredible accomplishments, growth, and sense of community we experienced at Cornwall Consolidated School (CCS). It was a year marked by student leadership, academic achievement, creativity, and an unwavering commitment to fostering a nurturing and inclusive learning environment.

Our students rose to new heights through dynamic academic and civic initiatives. Eighth graders continued the tradition of *Exploration Presentations*, researching topics of personal interest with support from our Humanities teachers, Lauren Stiles and Will Vincent, and in partnership with Catherine Tatge and Dominique Lasseur of the Civic Life Project. These presentations highlighted students' growth as informed, engaged citizens.

CCS was honored to receive the Red, White, and Blue Outstanding School Award, thanks to our seventh graders' project with Troutbeck on *The Women of Cornwall*. Their work led to the honorary road naming of Great Hollow Road for Naomi Cain Freeman—the first Black female landowner in Cornwall. This recognition was celebrated with a visit from representatives of Secretary of State Stephanie Thomas's office.

Additionally, we celebrated individual student leadership with the presentation of regional awards at a Cornwall Board of Education meeting. Congratulations to: Skylar Brown (Grade 7) and Austin Ward (Grade 8) – Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Student Leadership Awards. Donald Polk III (Grade 8) – Litchfield County Superintendent Association Leadership Award.

Student voice was vibrant and impactful throughout the year. Our *Morning Announcements Team*, guided by CCS teacher Alicia Simonetti, included 7th and 8th grade students who prepared daily scripts and hosted Friday livestream broadcasts featuring interviews with members of the Cornwall community. These broadcasts brought energy and connection to each school day.

Students also led Spirit Days, community service initiatives, and annual events such as: The Veterans Day Ceremony, a fundraiser supporting a wildfire-affected school in California, the return of the CCS Walk-a-Thon, which raised funds for the New York



# CORNWALL CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Marine Rescue Center—where students “adopted” and named a rehabilitated seal *Tater Tot* before his release into the ocean!

CCS students had rich opportunities to express themselves and explore the world beyond the classroom: Our Winter and Spring Concerts, along with student art shows, showcased creative talent. The musical *The Little Mermaid Jr.* was a highlight, with middle school students rehearsing for weeks to deliver a truly memorable performance. Nearly all students in grades 1–8 participated in our ski and snowboard program at Mohawk Mountain. Others engaged in guided winter hikes around Cornwall.

Students experienced field trips & enrichment including the Grade 8 trip to Washington, D.C., an overnight adventure at Nature’s Classroom for grades 5 & 6, grade 4 Regional Arts Day, time at the Warner Theatre, the Audubon, and more. School-wide Field Day followed by lunch and swimming at Cream Hill Lake is always a great way to celebrate the year’s end!

Our commitment to student well-being remained central. Daily *Morning Meetings* and *Habits of Mind* sessions cultivated life skills, emotional awareness, and a sense of belonging.

We are also proud to continue our satellite lunch program through Housatonic Valley Regional High School, ensuring daily nutritious meals for all students. Excitingly, we plan to expand this offering with a breakfast program in the 2025–2026 school year.

We joyfully celebrated the achievements of our five graduating eighth graders: Jonny Bindley, Mason Bryant, Donald Polk III, Austin Ward and Mya Weed.

The graduation ceremony, held in the CCS gymnasium, was led by student speakers and featured an inspiring address by CCS alumna Elizabeth Russ. This small but mighty class leaves a lasting legacy at CCS.

This year, CCS saw several staffing updates: Kristi Pramuka transitioned to Library Media Specialist. Shannon Dieck joined as 2nd grade teacher—and became Mrs. Byrne following her summer wedding. Kaitlyn Buckley, also newly married, will now be known as Mrs. Hoadley. Samantha Flunory, who joined CCS as a halftime Special Education teacher, will become full-time next year.

# CORNWALL CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

I completed my second year as CCS principal and remain deeply thankful for our dedicated and talented staff. We had no retirements this year and look forward to maintaining the strong team that makes CCS exceptional.

This year, enrollment at CCS saw a slight decrease—from 98 students in 2023–2024 to 86 students in 2024–2025. Despite this, our students continue to thrive, demonstrated by strong academic outcomes, high engagement, and extremely low chronic absenteeism rates.

Looking ahead to the 2025–2026 school year, we are excited to welcome a projected 95 students, including a large incoming kindergarten class of 15 students—a vibrant and promising group that will bring new energy to our school community.

We're also kicking off the new year with a space-themed welcome back: *"Blasting Off into a New School Year!"*

From rising test scores to daily student achievements, CCS continues to reach new heights. Our students, staff, and school community are truly *out of this world*, and we're ready to launch into another stellar year.

In closing, thank you to our students, families, faculty, staff, and the broader Cornwall community. Your ongoing support makes CCS a place of joy, learning, and deep connection. Together, we've created another year full of cherished memories and meaningful accomplishments.

Here's to another amazing year ahead!

With pride and excitement,  
Leanne Maguire  
Principal  
Cornwall Consolidated School





## CCS Faculty/Staff 2024/2025

Binkowski, Cathy	Gr. 4 Teacher
Boucher, Aaron	PE Teacher
Brown, Tom	Custodian
Buckley, Kate	Gr. 3 Teacher
Carlson, Candy	Gr. K Teacher
Collins, Tricia	Paraeducator/Special Ed.
Dieck, Shannon	Gr. 2 Teacher
Flunory, Samantha	Special Ed. K-8
Folino, Nicole	School Social Worker
Gray, Kirsten	Gr. 1 Teacher
Hanna, Jandi	Reg. One Speech Pathologist
Hill, Jennifer	Title One Reading Teacher
Kassouf, Angelia	Occupational Therapist
Kosciusko, Annie	Board of Education Board Clerk
Krueger, Danielle	Gr. 5-8 Math Teacher
Lindstrom, Karen	Reg. One Psychologist
Maguire, Leanne	Principal
Markow, Joseph	Gr. 5-8 Science Teacher
Martinez-Bauer, Susana	Art Teacher/World Language - Spanish
Munson, Laura	Paraeducator
Munson, Lusanna	Paraeducator
Pramuka, Kristi	Library Media Specialist
Rashkoff, Clare	Nurse
Rovezzi, Patty	Administrative Assistant
Sawicki, Sharon	Paraeducator/Special Ed.
Simonetti-Shpur, Alicia	Music Teacher
Stiles, Lauren	Gr. 5/6 ELA & Social Studies Teacher
Tarsi, Andrea	School Counselor
Thulin, Jake	Custodian (afternoon/evening)
Vincent, Will	Gr. 7/8 ELA & Social Studies Teacher





SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS  
 246 Warren Turnpike Road  
 Falls Village,  
 CT 06031  
 Central Office (860) 824-0855  
[mbrady-shanley@region1schools.org](mailto:mbrady-shanley@region1schools.org)

It is with great pride and appreciation that I present this annual report for Cornwall Consolidated School (CCS). As the new Superintendent of Regional School District #1, I would like to begin by extending my heartfelt thanks to the Cornwall community for the warm welcome I have received. There is a true sense of pride and ownership of CCS that is evident in every interaction, event, and decision — a testament to the strong partnership between the school and the community.

This year, I have had the pleasure of working closely with a collaborative and supportive Board of Education whose commitment to students is unwavering. The Board's work is always centered around what is best for children, with every decision made through the lens of care, equity, and excellence. Their passion for education and for the future of CCS shines through in all they do.

CCS continues to be a vibrant hub of learning and community connection. From engaging family nights to student-led events and school-wide celebrations, the school provides a welcoming and exciting environment where students, families, and staff come together. These experiences strengthen school spirit and create a strong sense of belonging for all.

Under the direction of strong leadership and a dedicated team of educators, CCS has distinguished itself as the highest performing school in Region 1. Academic outcomes have been outstanding, with CCS students scoring well above the state average in all measured areas of performance. These results reflect intentional teaching, rigorous learning, and a commitment to continuous growth for all learners.

As we look ahead, I am excited about the future of CCS. With an engaged community, supportive leadership, and exceptional staff, CCS is well-positioned to continue its tradition of excellence.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Melony Brady-Shanley**  
 Superintendent of Schools  
 Regional School District #1

Superintendent: Melony Brady-Shanley  
 Asst. Superintendent: Dr Jeanine Rose  
[mbrady-shanley@region1schools.org](mailto:mbrady-shanley@region1schools.org)  
[jrose@region1schools.org](mailto:jrose@region1schools.org)

Business Manager: Samuel Herrick

[sherrick@region1schools.org](mailto:sherrick@region1schools.org)

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



# 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 is continuing to thrive. Last year's fiscal year saw a 100% enrollment rate with a waitlist. The waitlist was mostly for the Infant/Toddler program which is a feeder program for the center.

The Center's fiscal year started off with a solid enrollment base for the Summer of 2024, bringing in approximately \$41,000 which was up about \$4,000 from the previous year. The school year brought in \$272,000, which was \$79,000 over the previous year. Tuition rates were increased at the rate of \$5 per student, per day for the first time in over three years. The increase allowed us to directly raise current staff salaries, and increase starting teacher pay to attract needed talent to our Center.

The town of Cornwall provided \$52,500, up \$2500, for operating costs and the Annual Appeal brought in \$12,525. We also received additional "Gifts" totaling \$11,400 and Grants totaling \$16,800.

The experience, professionalism and credentials of our teachers are very important to us. An expectation of NAEYC is for centers to have teachers that have degrees in Early Childhood education. This is a difficult "ask" in our community and of those current teachers who would like to obtain a degree, the cost of doing so is daunting. It was the center's desire to have a scholarship fund for our current teachers to help support them in furthering their knowledge base/education. The Women and Girls Fund provided \$2500 to start this fund.

Our scholarship fund for families needing extra financial support was funded by the United Way with a grant for \$1500 and the Frost fund was supported by the Cornwall Womens Foundation with \$2500 and our Trivia night with \$2300.

Two grants totaling \$6486, were received from the Cornwall Foundation which went to adding technology in the classrooms including laptops for teachers' use in all 3 classrooms and Ipads which will be purchased for the Preschool classroom this year. Funds were also spent towards updating our website and Donor base software.

In March of 2024, we hosted our annual fundraiser at the White Hart Inn. This event raised over \$23,000 which was almost double the previous years. It was a change in venue which stirred some more interest and our Silent Auction trips were a hit!

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

Fiscal year 2024-2025 began with severe thunderstorms and heavy rains. The most significant occurred in mid-August 2024, when the state received historic rainfall reminiscent of the flood of 1955. Most damage and sadly the loss of life occurred in towns south of our region. Cornwall experienced washouts in several areas but were spared the devastation experienced by other towns.

Drought conditions prevailed in the Fall. The state issued Extreme Fire Condition alerts and a multi-week emergency burn ban. Red flag warnings became the norm in October 2024. In November smoke from the Great Barrington Butternut fire had many on edge. Our volunteer firefighters quickly responded to reports of smoke or possible illegal burn activity. The officers and members of the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department are diligent in monitoring conditions, addressing water availability and equipment readiness. The office of emergency management is greatly appreciative of their partnership, attentiveness, and current plans to purchase new apparatus designed for the safety of our community.

December experienced more rain than snow and two significant events of strong winds ending with high winds and some loss of power on New Year's day. Power outages throughout the year were limited in number and duration. We continue to leverage Eversource's platform to log and prioritize outages, bringing resources in as quickly as possible.

Pop-up weather systems are often fast moving, providing significant challenges due to limited warning. Unlike named storms, localized severe storms can manifest in a few hours. Throughout the year our operating plan has been reviewed for its effectiveness regarding response to localized events. Our strengthened communications, partnerships with local services as well as utility companies, decentralization of an emergency management office, have provided nimble and efficient responses to these storms. In November of 2025, we will be filing updates to our Emergency Operations Plan addressing best practices implemented over the past two years. 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 2024-2025**



The Fire Department responded to 172 calls for the year including the following statistics: 25 downed power lines, 2 lock outs, 27 motor vehicle accidents, 54 smoke detector/CO alarms, 5 chimney or building fires, 6 brush fires, 6 reports of odors of or removal of smoke, 4 water problems, 4 unauthorized burns, 3 extrication rescues, 2 gas leaks, and 29 "other" or cancelled calls. The Membership prepared for these emergencies by holding 44 drills throughout the year that included areas of training such as advanced ice and swift water rescue, wildfire training, hydrant and hose testing, vehicle stabilization and extrication, car fires/foam extinguishing, RIT training, and truck checks. Three Members completed Firefighter 1: Andy Lundeen, Richie Dolan, and Jonah Whiteside. Two Members completed Firefighter 2: Ian Ridgway and Chris Jackson.



The EMS side had an extremely active year and responded to 240 calls. There were 11 meetings, 23 drills, and a weekly ambulance inventory to ensure that all

responding Members were up to date on skills including pharmacology, CPR/AED, environmental emergencies, trauma, burns, proper documentation of scenes and patients, human trafficking awareness training, and extrications. We welcomed three new EMT responders: Maja Gray, William Schweizer, and Ivan Miller. All are great additions to our squad. Two members, John LaPorta and Kim Jackson upgraded their certification to Emergency Medical Technician (EMT).

Please email [142jayner@gmail.com](mailto:142jayner@gmail.com) if you are interested in attending Basic First Aid or Layperson CPR training. Training will be held at the West Cornwall Fire House.





We hosted the annual New Year's Pancake Breakfast at the UCC and loved *serving* the Cornwall community in a different capacity. There was a Department wide Fire Police training class that many



Members attended to ensure there is always proper scene safety. We held our annual Department wide airborne-bloodborne training as well as yearly fit for duty physicals. There were full Department meetings held in person with optional Zoom links almost every month of the year that included Fire, EMS, Fire Police, and Corporate Officers. During the winter we hosted our second annual Cabin Fever Party to keep our spirits up and camaraderie high. We celebrated with our annual Banquet and congratulated Members on their years of service as



well as annual participation awards. Our Heprich scholarship awarded six ambitious applicants with \$4,000 each to continue their educational paths. Our Open House event in October was an outstanding community experience complete with tool and equipment demonstrations, free food, games, and even Lifestar landing and taking off! The Department marched in the Memorial day parade and decorated our trucks for the Parade of Lights in North Canaan. The Truck Committee reconvened to start work on an updated evaluation for the best course of action for replacing our aging apparatus.

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.

Respectfully Submitted, 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. West Cornwall: Josh Tyson (Fire, EMS)

Lt. Cornwall Bridge: Chris Jackson (Fire)  
 EMS Captain: Elizabeth Russ (EMS)  
 EMS 1st Lt.: Jayne Ridgway (EMS)  
 EMS 2nd Lt.: Jessica Slaven (EMS)

**Executives**

President: Dick Sears (EMS)  
 Vice President: Diane Beebe (EMS)  
 Treasurer: Patience Lindholm (EMS)  
 Secretary: Iris Hermann  
 Chaplain: Micki Nunn-Miller

**Active Members**

Allan Bahn  
 Tom Barrett  
 Diane Beebe  
 John Bevans  
 Dave Cadwell  
 Mike Carano

Patience Lindholm  
 Andrew Lundeen  
 Daniel McDonald  
 Rod MacNeil  
 Bob Meyers  
 Micki Nunn-Miller

Donn Castonguay  
 Casey Cook  
 Garrick Dinneen  
 Richie Dolan  
 Eli Ferris-Jones  
 Cody Gillotti  
 Maja Gray  
 Dave Hall  
 Jane Hall  
 Joyce Hart  
 Connie Hedden  
 Steve Hedden  
 Iris Hermann  
 Chris Jackson  
 Kim Jackson



Kenny Knox  
 Anne Kosciusko  
 Skip Kosciusko  
 John LaPorta  
 Ted Larson  
 Ali Lesch

Alex Rehnberg  
 Ian Ridgway  
 Gordon Ridgway  
 Jayne Ridgway  
 Rebecca Ridgway  
 Elizabeth Russ  
 Will Russ  
 Steve Saccardi  
 William Schweizer  
 Fred Scoville  
 Dick Sears  
 Jessica Slaven  
 Earle Tyler  
 Josh Tyson  
 Jim Vanicky

Phill West  
 Jim Whiteside  
 Jonah Whiteside  
 Dave Williamson  
 Rick Wolkowitz



**TORRINGTON AREA HEALTH DISTRICT**  
**ANNUAL REPORT: JULY 1, 2024 – JUNE 30, 2025**

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

The Torrington Area Health District (TAHD) **Community Health Program** partnered with DPH and FoodCORE to investigate: **9** giardiasis, **40** campylobacteriosis, and **13** salmonellosis cases. TAHD guided schools, daycares, and community members on a variety of health issues and administered **291** flu vaccines to residents. TAHD consulted with **14** residents regarding potential rabies exposures submitting **9** specimens to the DPH Laboratory for rabies testing. Ticks brought in by **117** 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 healthier kids, families, and communities through sustainable strategies that promote healthy eating and active living, primarily through the 5210 program and related initiatives. This year, Fit Together focused on updating its action plan to include improved communication with the community via social media, policy advocacy, and environmental changes such as the Sue Grossman Greenway equipment upgrade and healthy eating mini-grant projects.

The Torrington Area Health District (TAHD) continued its active participation in the **Litchfield County Opiate Task Force (LCOTF)**, serving on its executive committee. TAHD staff also initiated a data committee focused on collecting and analyzing information to support 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. TAHD also participated in the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP), aimed at reducing morbidity and mortality associated with substance use disorder (SUD) and opioid use disorder (OUD) in high-risk rural communities. Through these programs, TAHD strengthened and expanded prevention, treatment, and recovery services to help rural residents access appropriate care and make progress toward recovery. Although some of these programs concluded in August, TAHD applied for new grant opportunities and remains committed to harm reduction as an active member of the LCOTF Harm Reduction Subcommittee.

TAHD continued its contract with the United Way of Connecticut (UWC) to enhance cross-sector efforts and implement a comprehensive public health approach to **suicide prevention**. Efforts focused 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, TAHD prioritized identifying and addressing suicide hotspots along railroad areas in Litchfield County. Suicide prevention signs were ordered for installation along two separate railway lines as part of a targeted intervention. TAHD also strengthened its involvement with the Western CT Coalition to support regional collaboration in suicide prevention. **QPR** (Question, Persuade, Refer) training continued to be offered to community members by certified Gatekeeper Trainers, providing a practical, evidence-based approach to reducing suicidal behaviors.

This year, TAHD was awarded the **Preventive Health Strategies at Work in CT Communities** grant through the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) to support the delivery of evidence-based prevention programs. The funding enabled TAHD to continue facilitating initiatives such as **Chronic Disease Self-Management**, **Diabetes Self-Management**, **Chronic Pain Self-Management**, and the CDC-recognized **Prevent T2** program for type 2 diabetes prevention.

With this support, TAHD partnered with the Agency on Aging to conduct two six-week workshops: Chronic Disease Self-Management at the Litchfield Community Center and Chronic Pain Self-Management at the Winsted Senior Center. These interactive sessions were designed for individuals with one or more chronic physical or mental health conditions, such as arthritis, diabetes, heart disease, or depression, and provided practical tools to improve daily life. Participants learned self-care strategies including exercise, healthy eating, symptom management, weight loss, and communication with healthcare providers. Those who completed the programs reported significant improvements in quality of life, demonstrating the effectiveness of these community-based prevention efforts.

The TAHD **Immunization Action Program (IAP)** collaborated with local healthcare providers and hospitals to ensure adherence to Connecticut's childhood immunization requirements. The program partnered with 12 medical organizations and 40

community-based organizations across the district, focusing on education, outreach, and promoting vaccine confidence. TAHD provided healthcare providers with educational materials for staff and patients and hosted training sessions and events. For community partners, TAHD set up informational displays in libraries, hospitals, museums, food banks, and KidsPlay Children's Museum, and participated in outreach at events such as back-to-school nights and health fairs. Public messaging was amplified through posters in high-visibility locations including post offices, coffee shops, libraries, and town halls. Social media was also used to extend the reach of vaccination campaigns. This year, TAHD received an award for achieving 100% outreach success across all program areas, recognizing the team's strong commitment to immunization education and community engagement.

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. Through these combined efforts, a total of **14** epidemiological investigations were completed and **14** abatement orders were issued.

TAHD **Environmental Health Program** resulted in the following inspections/licenses/permits: **1159** food inspections, **1016** temporary food permits, **129** new septic systems, **208** repaired septic systems, **140** private well permits, **79** private pool permits, **206** beauty salons & barber shops inspections, **632** house addition permits, **296** soil tests, **29** subdivision lots, **32** public pools were inspected, and **29** daycare centers inspected. Records show that approximately **407** samples were submitted to the state lab for testing drinking water, beach and pool water, lead in water, soil and dust, and stool samples for pathogens. Sanitarians investigated **350** complaints of various public health concerns; **35** legal orders/voluntary compliances were issued for enforcement purposes.

#### **Emergency Preparedness Annual Summary**

The TAHD Emergency Preparedness Program remained focused on training, education, and community engagement throughout the year. In April 2025, TAHD conducted a Point of Dispensing (POD) Drill at John Trumbull Primary School to test readiness for large-scale medical countermeasure distribution. We also met Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) deliverables by organizing a tabletop exercise focused on pandemic influenza response.

To further enhance public health and emergency preparedness capabilities, TAHD coordinated two in-person training courses through the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX). The first, Disaster Preparedness for Bombing Incidents (DPBI), equipped attendees with knowledge to effectively plan for and respond to explosive threats. The second course, Medical Countermeasures: Point of Dispensing (POD), Planning and Response, focuses on operational planning and execution of mass prophylaxis campaigns. These trainings are open to MRC volunteers, TAHD staff, public health partners, emergency personnel, and town officials.

The emergency preparedness team also participated in professional development opportunities, including the NACCHO Preparedness Summit and the Emergency Management Symposium. Additionally, TAHD attended an MRC Leadership training in Rhode Island with the Training, Innovation and Leadership Institute. TAHD also continues to be the lead fiduciary role for Connecticut Region 5 for the 2024–2029 project period, strengthening the district's position in regional preparedness coordination.

The TAHD **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)** continued to grow and engage with the community through education and outreach. Trainings offered during the year included First Aid, Hands-Only CPR, Narcan administration, and Stop the Bleed. MRC volunteers participated in local fairs and events, distributing preparedness materials and promoting household readiness. The emergency preparedness team also attended the 2025 National MRC Summit, further supporting TAHD's capacity to enhance and sustain a responsive MRC program. Efforts to secure grant funding remain ongoing to support training, volunteer engagement, and community preparedness throughout the district.

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, Nutrition Counseling, Pediatrics, Wound Care, Chronic Disease Management and non-medical Home Assistance Programs.

VNHLC employs 130 people, 90% of whom reside locally in Northwest Connecticut.

VNHLC cared for 2,356 patients and provided 50,132 patient visits in 2024-2025.

VNHLC is proud of its long-standing history with the Town of Cornwall. 50 persons from Cornwall received home health services from VNHLC during the past year.

Eighty-seven (87%) percent of all our patients were age 65 or older and 22% 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 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 1,500 flu vaccines to mostly high-risk individuals. All ages, 18 and older, were welcome to attend.

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

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

Michael Caselas, Executive Director



## CORNWALL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

Another year has flown by, and once again I have the pleasure of sharing highlights from the Cornwall Agricultural Commission.

Overall, it was a relatively quiet year, but still full of meaningful activity. The garden shed at the Lorch Farm Community Garden received a fresh coat of stain, and the garden itself continued to thrive—providing vegetables for personal use and for donation through Produce to the People, which delivered fresh produce to local food pantries.

Planning for the Agricultural Fair was in full swing throughout the year. Each meeting was filled with energy and ideas as we focused on organizing events, lining up vendors, and coordinating demonstrations from a variety of groups and individuals. We were especially proud to honor Phil Hart at our 32nd Ag Fair. Phil has been a steadfast supporter of both the Fair and agriculture in Cornwall, and it was a joy to recognize his contributions.

During the fair, we hosted two well-attended farm tours at Coltsfoot Cottage Garden and Coltsfoot Valley Farm. The Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department also held their popular Cow Chip Raffle, selling out all tickets just in time for the big event.

A special highlight was the pair of aerial performances by Margaret Hopkins and her Chalk Gremlin Circus—an absolute hit with attendees!

In June, we received two scholarship applications and were delighted to award \$500 each to Spencer Markow and Dana Saccardi. Supporting our local students as they pursue higher education is always a privilege.

I'm incredibly proud of the Agricultural Commission and the dedication of everyone involved. It's inspiring to see how our community continues to come together to promote and support agriculture in Cornwall.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Bill Dinneen, President

**Members:**

Wendy Kennedy, Secretary

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



## INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES

The primary purpose of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency in Connecticut municipalities is to safeguard the state's natural resources by regulating activities that may impact inland wetlands and watercourses. The agency aims to minimize or prevent disturbance and pollution in these areas, which are essential to the ecosystem and environment. Responsibilities include reviewing development applications that may affect these resources and ensuring compliance with state regulations<sup>1</sup>.

During the fiscal year, the commission held ten meetings to process new applications and continue work on existing ones. Eight applications were considered, and involved site walks, recommendations for invasive species removal, oversight and monitoring of activities within regulated areas, and enforcement actions such as issuing notices of violation and recommending corrective actions to restore compliance, and oversight of various landscape projects within regulated areas.

Public hearings were conducted as required. Amendments to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations were addressed.

Fiscal year applications included but were not limited to the following.

- **Residential Construction:** Projects included dwellings, pools, detached accessory dwelling units (ADUs), garages, and driveways.
- **Commercial Construction:** Notable projects included the retail lumber yard in Cornwall Bridge, and installation of a boardwalk.
- **Septic System Modifications:** Oversight of modifications to non-compliant existing septic systems, and septic repairs.
- **Petitions for Declaratory Rulings:** Addressed issues such as pond maintenance, field remediation and restoration after storms, stream bed work, viewing platform construction, forestry, and tree removal within regulated areas.
- **Site Walks:** Conducted as required for project review and compliance monitoring.

**Congratulations and a huge Thank You:** On December 31, 2024, long-time member and chairman D. Stevensen "Steve" Hedden was honored for 47 years of service, including 40 years as Chairman of the Cornwall Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency.

William J Hurlburt, Chairman  
Ian Tyson  
Debbie Bennett  
Peter Demy

Jeffrey Morgan  
Allan Bahn, Alternate  
Gil Rubio, Alternate



## PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

**Membership:** unchanged from last year. Chair, Anna Timell; Vice-Chair, James Laporta; Secretary, Phill West; Regular Members: Christine Gray, Keith Bodwell, Stephen Saccardi; Alternates: Bruce Bennett, Will Evans, Michelle Shipp

**Meetings:** 12, including the Annual Planning Meeting.

**Zoning Permits:** New Homes: 6 (three are thanks to the Cornwall Housing Corporation); Accessory Dwelling Units: 4; Commercially related: 2 businesses changed their use to residential, the YMCA camp renovated several cabins, construction began on the Ridgway Farm Store, the Country Market received permission for a new outdoor food service; Generators: 7; Propane Tanks: 8; Garages: 2, Sheds: 2, Decks/Porches/Patios: 9; Home additions/renovations: 4, Swimming pools: 1

**Subcommittees:** A Bylaws Subcommittee updated the Commission's bylaws for the first time since 1983; A Buildable Area Subcommittee reviewed a request from the BOS to drop the requirement that a buildable area must be rectangular.

**Letters of Support for Funding Grants:** Cornwall Conservation Trust, Hughes Memorial Library

**Regulation Amendments:** Building height limit reduced to 35 feet with graphics providing instructions for measurement; Buildable Area parameters changed to eliminate requirement for a rectangle and set for public hearing early in next fiscal year.

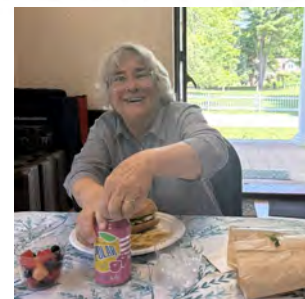
### Important Discussions

- The Cannabis Moratorium was allowed to lapse after a review of the current state licensing requirements made it clear there was unlikely to be any applications in Cornwall that couldn't be handled with our current regulations.
- Several lengthy discussions of potential zoning regulation changes in response to requests from the BOS, CHC and Affordable Housing Commission. A change in the lot size of our current residential zones was rejected.

### Administrative

- We continued to receive outstanding professional advice from Town Planner Janell Mullen, who among other things, improved the zoning application form and created the wording for zoning regulation changes while keeping us from making legal errors during our meetings.
- ZEO Karen Nelson retired after many years of service to Cornwall. The new Land Use Administrator is Spencer Musselman, a resident of Goshen and current Land Use Administrator in Litchfield.

Karen Griswold-Nelson retirement luncheon





## ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Membership remained the same this year, with Betty Spence continuing as Chair and George Wolfe as Vice Chair. Regular members include Scott Cady, Zejke Herman, James Stewart, and Barbara Wolkowitz, with Caroline Daifoitis serving as Alternate.

The Board held one regular meeting in June, focused on organizational updates and the adoption of a new application form. No appeals were submitted during the year. The meeting also welcomed Spencer Musselman as the new Land Use Administrator and expressed appreciation to Karen Nelson for her dedicated service to Cornwall.



Sword presented to Major General John Sedwick



David Colbert sculpture

## Housatonic River Commission

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

### Annual Report 2024-2025

The Housatonic River Commission (HRC) held 12 regularly scheduled monthly meetings in the past year. Meetings take place at 7:00 on the second Tuesday of each month and are held at the new HRC office located 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.

The Housatonic River was officially designated as a National Wild and Scenic River with the passing and signing of the Consolidated Appropriations Act (H.R. 2617) in December of 2022, roughly 43 years after first being studied by the National Park Service. Ongoing focus includes 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

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The Cornwall Association supports our Cornwall community through town-wide events. We've done this for 30+ years, and this past year we led:

- Our town's annual Newcomers Tea: we warmly welcomed those new and recently new to our town and our community, encouraging them to get involved, and giving them a 'Welcome to Cornwall' gift bag.



- The Winter Lights Project: Our 2<sup>nd</sup> year stringing warm white LED lights on buildings in our town centers to brighten up our cold winter nights.



- Homemade-Meals-2-Go: We continue to support and promote these bi-monthly prepared meals offered to all seniors in our town.
- A community forum on Hospice care and support, with discussions on what to know about hospice care and about becoming a hospice volunteer.

***More about us at [www.CornwallAssociation.org](http://www.CornwallAssociation.org)***

Gary Steinkohl, President; Board Members: Tony Appio, Dave Cadwell, Casey Cook, Peter Demy, Michelle Shipp, Brenda Singer, Catherine Zeiser, and Walker Zeiser

**[CornwallAssociationInc@gmail.com](mailto:CornwallAssociationInc@gmail.com)**

# CORNWALL CONSERVATION COMMISSION (CCC)

The CCC met ten times during the fiscal year. Our work focused on objectives listed in the Natural Resources section of the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD).


## Protecting our Forests

**Managing Invasive Species** Through a grant from the Cornwall Foundation, the CCC designed and published a series of colorful and informative broadsheets on the *Sinister Seven*, seven of the worst invasive species in Cornwall. Each broadsheet describes one of the 7 invasive species of concern, and best management practices. The CCC also continues its work with the Cornwall Conservation Trust to map and control Japanese knotweed and is piloting efforts to control phragmites at two sites.

## Protecting our Water Bodies

**The Cream Hill Lake Task Force** The Lake Task Force (LTF) tested water twice during 2024-'25; testing for water clarity, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and nutrients. Samples were analyzed by the University of Connecticut's lab. No concerning trends were found in key nutrient levels (see chart).

Categories of Lake Health defined for CT, and Cream Hill Lake Status

	Trophic Category	Total Phosphorus ( $\mu\text{g} / \text{L}$ )	Total Nitrogen ( $\mu\text{g} / \text{L}$ )	Summer Chlorophyll-a ( $\mu\text{g} / \text{L}$ )	Summer Secchi Transparency (m)
	Oligotrophic	0 - 10	0 - 200	0 - 2	>6
	Early Mesotrophic	10 - 15	200 - 300	2 - 5	4 - 6
	Mesotrophic	15 - 25	300 - 500	5 - 10	3 - 4
	Late Mesotrophic	25 - 30	500 - 600	10 - 15	2 - 3
	Eutrophic	30 - 50	600 - 1000	15 - 30	1 - 2
	Highly Eutrophic	> 50	> 1000	> 30	0 - 1

The yellow ovals show where Cream Hill Lake falls according to the samples the Lake Task Force took (see red bar)

## Participating in Local and Statewide Conservation Efforts

**The Agricultural Fair** the CCC participated under The Green Tent at the annual Agricultural Fair. To increase awareness and importance of composting and its benefits to both reduce Transfer Station costs and its role in keeping carbon in the soil, the CCC demonstrated composting methods and presented posters on Sustainable Composting. A free raffle was held to give away 4 composters. A display table of invasive species was also set up under the tent.



# CORNWALL CONSERVATION COMMISSION (CCC)

## Building bridges with P&Z and Housing

Members of the commission continued to talk with P&Z and the Housing Commission on the 1) conservation of viewsheds and limiting light pollution 2) incorporating conservation strategies into the housing development.

## Two new areas of effort

Issues at the intersection of Public Health and Environment  
Highlighting the role that Agriculture does and can play in Conservation through a series of Chronicle articles on local agriculture.

**Heidi Cunnick**

Chair, Conservation Commission

Free raffle to give away four composters





## CORNWALL CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.

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

For the twelve months through June 2025, Cornwall Conservation Trust, Inc. (CCT) has the following to report:

**A Change in Leadership:** In June 2025, we announced the election of Rob Lacy as President, succeeding Bart Jones upon his retirement. Bart joined the board in 2010 and became the president in 2012, serving 13 years in that role. During his presidency CCT made 25 land acquisitions, by either gift or purchase, totaling 1317 acres, or roughly two-thirds of all the land now owned by CCT. He led the process of earning CCT's accreditation by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission and initiated the process of establishing Forever Wild status for appropriate areas of CCT's preserves by granting easements to the Northeast Wilderness Trust. He leaves behind a dedicated and experienced group of officers and committee chairs to continue CCT's work. Rob has been a member of CCT's board since 2017 and has been serving as vice president and a member of the executive and conservation committees.

**Conservation Activities:** A new handicap-accessible viewing platform was installed at the Rattlesnake Preserve in October 2024, thanks to the generosity of Joe and Barbara Ellis. In January 2025, in partnership with Northeast Wilderness Trust, CCT subjected more than 400 acres in its Cathedral Pines, Quarry Hill, Thurber's Arrowhead, and Trinity Forest Preserves to forever-wild conservation easements. CCT's Forever Wild holdings now total over 800 acres. During the year CCT continued work on two planned purchases and one planned donation of new preserves. The donation was finalized in September 2025 when CCT accepted the gift of a magnificent 65-acre preserve from board member Ed Greene and his wife Dinny. The donation further expands a large area of contiguous protected land including the Mohawk State Forest and CCT's Red Mountain, Dobbs, and Greylodge Preserves.



*View of the recently donated 65-acre parcel, Greylodge Preserve.*



**Outreach Activities:** Our virtual annual meeting in November 2024, with CCT Board Member Larry Master speaking on “Promoting Cornwall’s Birds and their Habitat,” was very well attended and extremely informative. Larry also presented “Welcoming Neo-Tropical Migrating Birds” in May. Both of these videos can be found on our YouTube channel.



*Plaque installed at Trinity Riverside Trail in dedication to former CCT board member, Johan Winsser.*

We hosted several hikes including a frog and salamander program at Welles Preserve with Joe Markow, and the popular “Dogs Welcome” hike at Hart Farm Preserve. In June, we honored former board member Johan Winsser, who passed in 2022, for his work and dedication to the Trinity Forest Preserve by dedicating a plaque on the Trinity Riverside Trail. Visit our website to sign up for our email list so you can be notified of upcoming events.

**Scholarships:** The 2025 Student Grant program, now in its 17th year, awarded nine scholarships to local students: Joshua Benjamin, Nathan Benjamin, Marisin McLain, Manasseh Matsudaira, and Dana Saccardi of Cornwall; Kaleigh Lynch of Goshen; and Aiden Cherniske, Ashley Wilkins, and Brennan Wilkins of Kent.

**CCT Board Members:** During the twelve-month period the Board of Directors held five regular meetings. The board comprises Oscar Anderson, Debby Bennett, Jean Bouteiller, Terry Burke, Martin Chalk, Katherine Freygang, Andrea Geisser, Ed Greene, Martin Horner, Bart Jones, Rob Lacy, Aaron Landman, Larry Master, Fiona Ocain, and Mare Rubin. Duke Besozzi and Nev Dunn are Honorary Directors.

From:

Rob Lacy,  
President

September 26, 2025

CCS Middle  
School play  
The  
Little  
Mermaid



## The Cornwall Foundation, Inc.

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The Cornwall Foundation relies on contributions from friends of Cornwall to make grants to local community organizations and municipal agencies for special projects or capital expenditures, or to deal with 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 Foundation is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

The Foundation has made more than \$350,000 in grants since it was established in 2003. During the twelve months through June 2025, it made grants for a new program to distribute prepared meals for seniors, to the UCC for new computers, to the Chore Service to produce informational videos, to the Agricultural Advisory Commission for animal enclosures for the Ag Fair, to the Child Center for computer equipment and software, to the UCC for fire protection equipment, to the Cornwall Conservation Commission for a series of *Chronicle* inserts on invasive species, to the Grumbling Gryphons for workshops and performances at CCS, to Camp Mohawk for new lighting for their dining and recreational halls, to the Historical Society for a guest curator to prepare an exhibition to celebrate the nation's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary, to the Housatonic Youth Services Bureau for emergency preparedness equipment and professional training for CCS, to the Cornwall Library for enhancements to its summer camp program, and to CCS for library books and equipment for its food preparation facilities. In addition to its four regular meetings, the Foundation's Board of Directors held three special meetings to consider time-sensitive grant applications and approved one application by unanimous written consent.



Rob Lacy  
President



# CORNWALL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

This year, the Cornwall Historical Society (CHS) expanded its programming with the continuing support of the community and the generosity of its volunteers and donors. Thanks to a \$3,000 grant from the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation, we were able to repair and repaint our iconic cupola—bringing fresh life to the historic façade that greets visitors on the street. This marks the second year of NCCF's support, and we are grateful.

We kicked off our 2025 season on July 5 with *Treasures from Our Collection*, an exhibition featuring rarely seen artifacts from our vault, including a gold sword once presented to Major General John Sedgwick by his fellow officers.

August brought our third annual summer fundraiser at the Yelping Hill Association in West Cornwall. A full house enjoyed a talk by Jeremy Brecher on the community's 103-year history, toured original leaseholds, and capped the evening with dinner, an auction, and live jazz. The event raised over \$7,000 to support CHS programs.

Throughout the year, we hosted a variety of engaging events: a plein-air painting day in Coltsfoot Valley with artist Robert Adzema, a fascinating presentation by historical shoemaker Andrew Rowand, and the annual Norman Dorsen lecture, delivered by artist and curator Richard Klein, who spoke about his exhibition *Sight & Sound: Artists Consider Long Island Sound*.

We also began work on a new backyard exhibition garden and gathering space, designed to share Cornwall's agricultural and natural history. The first phase, a terrace with a stone wall and steps, is complete. Plantings and fencing are phase II and on the way. The CHS was the lucky recipient of one of the grafted **Burnham Sweet apple** saplings reintroduced by Peter Del Tredici in collaboration with the Ridgway family.

Excitement is building for our 2026 exhibition commemorating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. With a \$4,000 grant from The Cornwall Foundation, we have engaged historian Dr. Steven H. Jaffe as guest curator. Additional support came from the Town of Cornwall's Larry and Judy Gates Fund and a generous gift from the Hofer family in honor of Ann Schillinger.

Looking ahead, CHS is organizing a series of community potlucks to discuss books about the American Revolution, building momentum for next year's exhibit and town-wide celebration.

Suzie Fateh, Curator ~ Ann Trowbridge, President ~ William McClane, Vice President  
Bruce Whiteford, Treasurer ~ Cindy Kirk, Secretary ~ Directors: Barbara Ensor, Douglas Gold, Susan Hellman, Michael Heming, Dan Hubbard





Plein-air

Peter Busby  
sculpture

Shoemaking program



Summer party





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

\*With the help of Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity (LC-CHO) and a grant from the Department of Housing, 2 modular houses were placed on 2 lots donated by Ginny Potter on Town St. Interior work on the houses continues and applicants will be chosen to secure a mortgage for these 3 bedroom houses.



\*Clearing for septic, well and houses on 2 lots on Dark Entry has been scheduled and will be completed by the end of summer 2025.

\* The house on 17 Pierce Lane was purchased from an heir, renovated and sold to a family of 3. One of the owners works for a local business.

\* Grant money from the state was used to replace the roof and do other much needed work at Kugeman Village

\*Several Board members participated in regional meetings to work on collaboration between local housing and conservation groups.

\*We continue to participate in community events such as Taste of Cornwall and the Ag Fair

\*We held a meeting in February to get community input on how to best use the 12 acre Millard Brook property for which we have an option to purchase.

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, President*

Rocco Botto Hugh Cheney Margaret Cooley Bill Fairbairn  
Beth Frost Steve Heaney Betsey Mauro Kate Ward Wayde Wolfe

## Cornwall Library

**The Cornwall Library's Mission:** The Cornwall Library is a welcoming community resource for all, promoting lifelong learning and the free exchange of ideas.

**The Library enriches the Cornwall community through services and programs.**

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

**Circulation:** Circulation dropped slightly from last year by about 700 circulations. The biggest increase was in non-fiction.

**New Patrons:** We added 51 new patrons in the past year.

**Programs:** The Library's programming is extensive. We offer three weekly children's events and one monthly event on Saturday. In the past year the Library hosted eight literary events plus an eight-week series on Eudora Welty, six art shows, and two full weeks of summer camp for children conducted at the Library. We held three family events including a jack o lantern carving contest, a gingerbread house contest, and the Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot Fun Run. The Library hosted three poetry events, four nature/environmental events, twenty-seven art classes, a Jane Austin film series and two single film showings, and three community service events, plus two annual events: Cornwall Reads Cornwall, and the Boxing Day Reading.

The Library continues to be the site for a weekly Zumba class and a weekly bridge class. Seventy-two town meetings were held at the Library along with eight outside groups, two political groups, four private book groups, and ten tutoring sessions. Altogether, the Library received approximately 20,000 visits during the past fiscal year.

We held three major fundraisers, the Labor Day Art Sale, the Book Sale, and Books & Blooms. All were successful financially, and were wonderful community events.

**Building and Grounds:** The Library building is 23 years old. The children's area has been renovated with new paint, carpeting and fun furniture donated by West Elm. It is now a bright, inviting space. Unfortunately, because of intrusions in the Library, it was necessary to install cameras that record after hour activity at the Library entrances and in the office.

**Finances:** The Library's fiscal situation is solid. Along with expanded services comes an expanded budget. The annual town grant supplies about 22% of our funding, the remainder comes from contributions, fundraising, and a planned draw on income from endowment funds.

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



One of four gardens on tour during  
Books & Blooms 2025.



30 Pine Street | Cornwall Village | 860-672-6874 | [CornwallLibrary.org](http://CornwallLibrary.org)





## Housatonic Youth Service Bureau Annual Report FY 2025

The Housatonic Youth Service Bureau (HYSB) is proud to partner with the town of Cornwall in supporting the mental health and well-being of our youth and families. Your investment in our mission ensures that professional counseling, prevention initiatives, and positive youth development programs are available at no cost to those who need them most.

### FY25 Impact in Cornwall

- **Counseling Services** – Provided confidential support to Cornwall youth and families, fostering resilience, stronger relationships, and improved academic outcomes.
- **Prevention & Education** – Delivered programs that addressed substance use risks and equipped youth and parents with strategies for making healthy, informed choices.
- **Youth Development** – Engaged young people in activities that built confidence, leadership, and community connection, preparing them for future success.

### Why It Matters

When young people and families have access to support, the entire community benefits.

- Students are better able to focus and succeed in school.
- Families report stronger communication, healthier relationships, and reduced conflict.
- Youth gain skills in decision-making, leadership, and resilience that last a lifetime.
- The community experiences lower risk of substance use, reduced delinquency, and greater civic engagement.

Together, these outcomes create a ripple effect - strengthening not only individual families, but also the long-term vitality of Cornwall as a whole.

### Looking Forward

With Cornwall's continued support, HYSB will expand access to counseling and prevention resources, ensuring that every young person has the tools to thrive. Together, we are building a stronger future for our community.

♥ **Thank you, Cornwall, for your ongoing partnership and belief in this work.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelly Parker'.

Kelly Parker  
HYSB Executive Director





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.

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.

The Little Guild will be moving into the new facility soon and we extend a HUGE thank you to the Town of Cornwall for all the support in helping us!

Jennifer Langendoerfer, Executive Director







***Chore Service, Inc.***

*www.choreservice.org*

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 handyman 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)

## PROJECT SAGE

*to end relationship violence*



Trade Secrets is the principle fundraiser for Project SAGE

On behalf of Project SAGE, we extend our gratitude to the Town of Cornwall for your continued commitment to our mission to end interpersonal and relationship violence and to support survivors across Northwest Connecticut and the surrounding tri-state area. Your grant of \$3,000.00 this past year has been critical in helping Project SAGE continue to strengthen our programs and support services.

Since our founding in 1979, Project SAGE has remained dedicated to creating social change to end interpersonal violence by challenging attitudes about power, control, and gender norms, while advocating for victims and survivors. This past year, with your support, Project SAGE has continued to serve as a critical community resource, providing comprehensive, trauma-informed services to individuals and families seeking safety, stability, and a path forward.

### In FY 2024-2025, your support helped make possible:

- **Emergency Shelter:** 1,400 nights of safe shelter provided to 28 clients in crisis.
- **Direct Services:** Support for approximately 800 adult and youth clients, including ongoing counseling and safety planning.
- **Hotline/Crisis Response:** 1,910 hotline calls received, providing immediate crisis support 24/7.
- **Court Advocacy:** Assistance provided to 613 victims of family violence navigating criminal and civil courts.
- **Housing Stability:** Ongoing work with our Housing Specialist Advocate to help clients access and maintain stable, safe housing through our HUD-funded Rapid Rehousing program.
- **Prevention Education:**
  - 317 workshops in Region 1 schools and local daycares, providing education on healthy relationships, boundaries, and consent to children and teens.
  - 46 workshops for adults, reaching over 400 community members.
- **Community Engagement:** Participation in 16 outreach events, with awareness materials distributed through 87 Main Street Partner businesses.





- **Training the next generation:** Hosting high school and college interns to expand our reach while providing learning opportunities for the next generation of advocates.
- We also recently marked **one year with our Executive Director**, Kristen van Ginhoven, who continues to guide our work with clarity, compassion, and a commitment to building stronger systems of support for those we serve. Today, she leads a dedicated team of 16 staff, a committed Board of 16 members, and an entire community of volunteers that help us across all areas- from driving clients around to covering the front desk to organizing donations and more. Collectively, we ensure that Project SAGE can continue to live our mission and thrive into the future.

Looking ahead, we are actively preparing and fundraising for the final phase of our building renovations. This next phase will expand our trauma-informed environment by creating additional private counseling spaces, dedicated youth and family meeting areas, and enhanced community programming rooms. These improvements will strengthen our ability to meet the increasing demand for services while fostering a welcoming and safe space for clients and community partners alike.

As we move into this next chapter, we remain focused on our shared vision: building safer, healthier communities where all individuals can thrive free from violence. We are deeply grateful for the Town of Cornwall's partnership in this mission, and we look forward to continuing to work together to support residents and build a stronger, more connected Northwest Corner.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss these updates or learn more about our plans for the year ahead.

With gratitude,

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristen van Ginhoven  
Executive Director, Project SAGE  
[kristenvg@project-sage.org](mailto:kristenvg@project-sage.org)  
(860) 364-1900 x 100



CVFD open house hosts  
LifeStar



Park and Recreation hosts a  
Yardgoats outing



Lori Barker display at Souterrain  
Gallery, West Cornwall



Display table of invasive species set up at the  
Agricultural Fair by the Cornwall Conservation  
Commission





TOWN OF CORNWALL, CONNECTICUT  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
JUNE 30, 2025

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, 2025.

### **FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

- The assets and deferred outflows of resources of the Town of Cornwall exceeded its liabilities at the close of the most recent fiscal year by \$12,136,917 (net position). Of this amount, \$4,572,097 (unrestricted net position) may be used to meet the government's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors. Restricted Net Position is \$72,337, which is comprised of \$53,793 for the Cornwall Endowment Fund, \$16,251 for Open Space and \$2,293 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 \$4,476,822, an increase of \$114,596 in comparison with the prior year. Of this amount, \$2,617,271 is available for spending at the government's discretion and called the Unassigned fund balance. The Assigned portion is \$674,875, the Committed portion is \$1,074,705, the Restricted portion is \$18,544 and the Nonspendable portion is \$91,427. 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 \$3,056,767, of which \$37,634 was nonspendable, \$225,000 has been assigned for the subsequent year's budget and \$277,522 has been assigned for other purposes, leaving an unassigned fund balance for the General Fund of \$2,516,611 or 29.9% percent of total General Fund expenditures for the subsequent year 2025/2026.

### **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, 2025

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, 2025

**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 \$12,136,917 At the close of the most recent fiscal year.

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

The Town's net position increased by \$155,348 during the current fiscal year.

**NET POSITION - June 30, 2025 and June 30, 2024**

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 \$4,572,097 may be used to meet the government's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.

At the end of the current fiscal year, the Town is able to report that all categories of net position increased by \$155,348 during this fiscal year. This increase is primarily attributable to principal pay down of bonded debt and the excess of additions over depreciation 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, 2025

	2025	2024
<u>Assets</u>		
Current and other assets	\$ 4,791,037	\$ 4,676,902
Capital assets, net of depreciation	7,795,141	7,920,035
<u>Total assets</u>	<u>12,586,178</u>	<u>12,596,937</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Current and other liabilities	299,261	312,710
Long-term liabilities	150,000	302,658
<u>Total liabilities</u>	<u>449,261</u>	<u>615,368</u>
<u>Net position</u>		
Net Investment in capital assets	7,492,483	7,459,925
Restricted	72,337	84,705
Unrestricted	4,572,097	4,436,939
<u>Total net position</u>	<u>\$ 12,136,917</u>	<u>\$ 11,981,569</u>

**CHANGES IN NET POSITION - June 30, 2025 and June 30, 2024**

**Governmental Activities**

Governmental activities increased the Town of Cornwall's net position by \$155,348.

Key elements of the activities are as follows: 83.0% of the revenues of the Town were derived from property taxes, followed by 11.1% from Operating grants and contributions, 2.7% from charges for services, and 3.2% 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. This is also impacted by an increase of \$102,727 from \$378,932 to \$481,659 on a government-wide basis in the on-behalf payments from the state of Connecticut for the teacher's retirement contribution which offsets both income and expenses. The tax collection rate remained consistent with prior fiscal years.

For Governmental Activities, 64.0% of the Town's expenses relate to education, 13.1% relates to highways and public works, 6.1% relates to public safety and health and welfare, and the remaining 16.8% 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, 2025

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
<u>Revenues:</u>		
General revenues:		
Property taxes	7,380,974	7,106,508
Unrestricted investment income	176,431	187,585
Grants and contributions not restricted to	79,749	89,337
Other revenue	6,985	22,961
Program revenues:		
Charges for services	236,349	221,870
Operating grants and contributions	986,330	893,360
Capital grants and contributions	23,455	69,887
<u>Total revenues</u>	<u>8,890,273</u>	<u>8,591,508</u>
<u>Expenses</u>		
Governmental activities		
General government	1,169,734	1,236,087
Public safety	378,755	367,565
Highways	925,248	1,288,549
Sanitation	226,446	199,589
Health and welfare	150,884	131,189
Recreation	105,179	104,483
Education	5,588,591	5,194,154
Other	179,480	146,134
Debt service	10,608	17,411
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>8,734,925</u>	<u>8,685,161</u>
<u>Change in Net Position</u>	155,348	(93,653)
<u>Net Position, beginning</u>	<u>11,981,569</u>	<u>12,075,222</u>
<u>Net Position, ending</u>	<u>\$ 12,136,917</u>	<u>\$ 11,981,569</u>

**FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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

**Governmental Funds**

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

TOWN OF CORNWALL, CONNECTICUT  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
JUNE 30, 2025

As of the end of the current fiscal year, the Town's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$4,476,822 an increase of \$114,596. Fifty Eight 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 \$3,056,767, a decrease of \$16,373 over the previous year vs a budgeted decrease of \$200,000. The general fund balance includes \$225,000 which is assigned for the subsequent year's budget and \$277,522 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 \$2,516,611 represents 29.9% of total General Fund expenditures budgeted for the subsequent Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

#### **GENERAL FUND BUDGETARY HIGHLIGHTS**

The Town ended the year with a \$16,373 decrease in its general fund balance. However, this compares favorably with an anticipated \$200,000 decrease. The revenues exceeded budgeted amounts by \$128,792. 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 \$54,835 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, 2025 amounted to \$7,795,141. 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 a new backhoe and mower for the public works department and security upgrades at the Cornwall Cons

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Land and infrastructure	\$ 2,754,592	\$ 2,792,024
Building and improvements	3,786,384	3,880,216
Machinery and equipment	<u>1,254,165</u>	<u>1,247,795</u>
Total (net of accumulated depreciation)	<u>\$ 7,795,141</u>	<u>\$ 7,920,035</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, 2025

	2025	2024
General obligation bonds	\$ 300,000	\$ 450,000
Landfill closure	2,658	10,110
Total	<u>\$ 302,658</u>	<u>\$ 462,134</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 2026 budget and property tax rates.

- a. The Federal government's decision to freeze all federal grants, the effect on state programs and financial stability. Concerns about potential program reductions and their fiscal impact.
- b. Healthcare costs rising by 9%, attributed to increased hospitalization rates.
- c. The Cornwall Library and the Cornwall Child Center continue to provide valuable services to the Cornwall community. Additionally, support for the Housatonic Art Garage's after-school program remains important.
- d. Need for increased funding to maintain cemeteries adequately.
- e. Town buildings, the need for ongoing maintenance and planning for future projects.
- f. Shifts in enrollment across Region One towns are influencing local Board of Education budgets.
- g. Escalating costs for replacements of public works equipment.
- h. Utilization of the Undesignated Fund balance to mitigate a potential mill rate increase, while also evaluating appropriate reserve levels and the recommended duration of reserve holdings.
- i. The grand list decreased by 0.07%, primarily due to changes in motor vehicle taxation and a 1.07% rise in tax-exempt properties.

All of the above factors were considered in preparing the Town's budget for the 2025-2026 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, 2025

	General Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Non Major Governmental Funds	Total
<u>Revenues:</u>				
Property taxes	\$ 7,372,780	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,372,780
Investment income	126,639	40,831	8,961	176,431
Fees and charges	103,918	-	132,431	236,349
Intergovernmental revenue	715,566	-	69,744	785,310
Contributions	-	699	175,240	175,939
Other revenues	80,562	-	-	80,562
<u>Total revenues</u>	<u>8,399,465</u>	<u>41,530</u>	<u>386,376</u>	<u>8,827,371</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>				
General government	980,697	29,293	155,338	1,165,328
Public safety	211,168	-	-	211,168
Highways	536,250	-	-	536,250
Sanitation	233,898	-	-	233,898
Health and welfare	62,589	-	88,295	150,884
Recreation	105,179	-	-	105,179
Education	5,219,969	90,212	126,552	5,436,733
Other	179,480	-	-	179,480
Debt service	160,608	-	-	160,608
Capital outlay	-	533,247	-	533,247
<u>Total Expenditures:</u>	<u>7,689,838</u>	<u>652,752</u>	<u>370,185</u>	<u>8,712,775</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	709,627	(611,222)	16,191	114,596
<u>Other financing sources (uses):</u>				
Transfers In	-	720,000	6,000	726,000
Transfers Out	(726,000)	-	-	(726,000)
<u>Total other financing sources (uses):</u>	<u>(726,000)</u>	<u>720,000</u>	<u>6,000</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>Net change in fund balances</u>	<u>(16,373)</u>	<u>108,778</u>	<u>22,191</u>	<u>114,596</u>
<u>Fund balances beginning of year</u>	<u>3,073,140</u>	<u>905,964</u>	<u>383,122</u>	<u>4,362,226</u>
<u>Fund balances end of year</u>	<u>\$ 3,056,767</u>	<u>\$ 1,014,742</u>	<u>\$ 405,313</u>	<u>\$ 4,476,822</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements  
-15-

TOWN OF CORNWALL, CONNECTICUT  
REPORT OF THE TAX COLLECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

Grand List	Balances	Current	Lawful Corrections		Collectable	Collections			Transfers To	Balances
October 1	6/30/2024	Levy	Additions	Deductions	Taxes	Taxes	Interest and Liens	Total	Suspense	6/30/2024
2023	\$ -	\$ 7,362,235	\$ 3,806	\$ 6,522	\$ 7,359,519	\$ 7,280,942	\$ 16,704	\$ 7,297,646	\$ -	\$ 78,577
2022	54,235	-	351	565	54,021	21,407	4,151	25,558	-	32,614
2021	28,181	-	174	2	28,353	4,390	2,840	7,230	-	23,963
2020	17,909	-	-	-	17,909	4,868	3,507	8,375	1,660	11,381
2019	13,682	-	-	-	13,682	4,396	3,433	7,829	-	9,286
2018	9,337	-	-	-	9,337	-	-	-	-	9,337
2017	9,865	-	-	-	9,865	-	-	-	-	9,865
2016	9,054	-	-	-	9,054	-	-	-	-	9,054
2015	6,782	-	-	-	6,782	-	-	-	-	6,782
2014	6,811	-	-	-	6,811	-	2,575	2,575	-	6,811
2013	3,516	-	-	-	3,516	-	-	-	-	3,516
2012	3,623	-	-	-	3,623	-	-	-	-	3,623
2011	476	-	-	-	476	-	-	-	-	476
2010	224	-	-	-	224	-	-	-	-	224
2009	1,196	-	-	-	1,196	-	-	-	-	1,196
2008	1,967	-	-	-	1,967	-	-	-	1,967	-
<u>Totals</u>	<u>\$ 166,858</u>	<u>\$ 7,362,235</u>	<u>\$ 4,331</u>	<u>\$ 7,089</u>	<u>\$ 7,526,335</u>	<u>\$ 7,316,003</u>	<u>\$ 33,210</u>	<u>\$ 7,349,213</u>	<u>\$ 3,627</u>	<u>\$ 206,705</u>



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

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

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

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

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

**DEMOLITION MATERIALS:** Not accepted on Sundays

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

Limit one load per month per residence.

**Lumber must not be longer than 4' in length.**

For major amounts the rental of a dumpster is necessary.

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

**SCRAP METAL:** Accepted - See attendant before unloading.

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

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

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

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

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



# CORNWALL TRANSFER STATION

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

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

We can only accept garbage and trash generated

## IN THE TOWN OF CORNWALL

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

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

### PLACE IN SEPARATE CONTAINERS

#### Loose & rinsed

#### Bundled in brown bags or tied

#### Loose

#### **in shed in container to the left**

#### **outside shed in container to left**

#### **in shed in container to right**

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

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

office paper  
junk paper  
cereal boxes  
shoebox cardboard

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

Unmarked plastic

Lids, caps or screw tops

Styrofoam (excepting "peanuts")

**Please rinse all** containers for the attendant's safety.

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

### **-- No Bulky Waste on Sundays**

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

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

**Fluorescent light bulbs:** compact and tube variety

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

**Polystyrene peanuts** (the packing kind)

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

**Waste oil and motor oil**

**Plastic Flower pots**

**Printer cartridges**

**Electronics**

**Paper egg cartons**

**Redeemable glass and plastic bottles**

**Antifreeze**

**Books**

**Eye Glasses**

**Smoke Detectors**

**Black Plastic**

**Retired Flags**

\*\*\* RECYCLABLES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE \*\*\*