Sawmill Win for P&Z
The Planning & Zoning Commission has won a major victory in the long-running dispute over its 1991 decision to change regulations governing sawmills in residential areas. Ruling in the commission's favor, Superior Court Judge Richard Walsh has dismissed a lawsuit brought by Toby Cole, of Cream Hill Road, and three other plaintiffs.

The suit accused P&Z of acting illegally and arbitrarily. The chief point of contention was a change in the requirement that sawmills in residential zones must be at least 500 feet from the nearest property line. The commission reduced the setback to 200 feet, while adding provisions for buffers and new restrictions on noise levels and hours of operation.

Judge Walsh, agreeing that P&Z had acted in the interest of the community, rejected the plaintiffs' argument that the rules had been changed solely to accommodate one individual — Lawrence Stevens, Jr. Stevens had been operating a sawmill on land owned by his brother, Victoria Stevens, on Cream Hill Road — a site on which there is no way to place a sawmill so as to comply with a 500-foot setback requirement.

Judge Walsh said that in view of technological advances — sawmills make less noise than they used to — the 1991 changes were within the commission's power to make. He also agreed with P&Z that making it easier to establish sawmills in residential areas was consistent with the Town Plan — one of whose purposes is "to expand the opportunity for local employment by permitting small-scale...business activities in residential zones under standards which assure that such activities will be compatible with the surrounding residential uses."

The tangled sawmill litigation has cost Cornwall $23,029 in legal fees and related expenses. Cole said he and the other plaintiffs planned to appeal the court's decision. — Spencer Klaw

New Gannett Book Out
If you're not already a Cornwall history buff, an hour spent with Michael R. Gannett's new book, Town Meeting Minutes: 1740-1875, will certainly make you one.

And it will be a short hour. The 326-page book is fascinating. Starting to read the old minutes, one plunges into the reality of history in a way that offers insights no summary or modern appraisal could provide. The reader enters a Cornwall where taxes were paid in "wheat, rye, Indian corn, flax, wool or money," and expenses figured in pence, shillings, and pounds. Concerns ranged from hiring and supporting a town minister to fixing the annual bounty on rattlesnake tails.

It was a very WASPish world, seem-
(continued from page 1)

This has been a multi-year project for me," said Gannett. "It has been challenging to collect and organize the information, but I am pleased with the results. The book contains entries on many important historical figures, including William Pitt and Thomas Jefferson. It is a valuable resource for anyone interested in Connecticut history. - Bob Potter

Goodbye to a Friend

The Grapes of Wrath aged to a valuable vintage recently for the Cornwall Library. On April 10 Jeannette Rohatyn of New York City mailed a library copy of John Steinbeck's popular novel back to Cornwall, explaining that she had found the 20-years-overdue book while remodeling her youngest son's bedroom. "We have never been Cornwall residents," Ms. Rohatyn wrote, "but my three boys were good friends of the Zabriskies and Boillots and periodically visited them for skiing weekends and the like... Though I imagine the statute of limitations has run out, I would like to do something and so enclose a check for $100." And she didn't even know of the Library's "Conscience Box" for overdue books. Wow! - Bob Potter

Kugeman Village Filling Up

As of the Ides of April, 13 of 18 units at Kugeman Village had been assigned, with families and individuals settled in or getting ready to do so. Applications were being processed to assign residents to the remaining units.
Of the 13 early occupants (including single folk, families, and retirees), nine either live, work, or have family in Cornwall. The others hail from Sharon and Kent.

Some work remains to be done. Site grading is to be completed in May, with sodding, seeding, and planting of trees and shrubs to follow. Outdoor light fixtures will be changed, and the poles shortened. A 10,000-gallon underground water storage tank is to be installed for firefighting purposes. A fenced-in community garden area is also in the plans, along with the play area for children.

Anne Baren of Cornwall Bridge has been hired by Community Housing Management as administrator of the Village, and Peter Selino of Sharon as superintendent. Those wishing more information about Kugeman Village may call 672-4439 or write to 19 Kugeman Village, Cornwall Bridge, CT 06754.

Dedication ceremonies are planned for Wednesday, June 8, at 11 a.m. — Ken Kestinen

Republicans Elect, Select

At the Cornwall Republican Town Committee meeting on April 12, David Harmon was elected Treasurer, to replace Robert Beers, who has served faithfully for many years. Edwin Whitcomb was elected a new member of the committee. Two HVRHS students, Heidi Hedden and Melissa Borggreve, were selected for the Intern Program, to go to Washington, D.C., July 25-30. Next meeting: May 10, 7:30 p.m., Mohawk Ski Area.

— Ruth Ohmen

Groark Speaking in Cornwall

Lieutenant Governor Bunice Groark will be a guest speaker at the Democratic Town Committee meeting at 7:30, on Tues., May 10, at the Town Hall. Democrats and everybody else are invited to come hear the ACP candidate who is hoping to succeed Lowell Weicker as Governor. — John Miller

The Great Open Spaces

On April 6, the Cornwall Conservation Trust sponsored a talk by Jim Gibbons of the UConn Extension Service. His topic was "Conserving Open Spaces," which he sees, not in the traditional way as "nothing between two somethings," but as an essential element in a constructive approach to land-use planning. The conservation and scenic values of open spaces are clear, and it has also been shown that farms, forests, and raw land cost towns 34 cents in services for every tax dollar collected, while developed-land services costs are about $1.15 for the same tax dollar.

The yearly decrease in farmland and wetlands is rapid, and most of the forested 60 percent of the state is in private hands, in parcels of under ten acres, held by owners whose average age is 61. Because of budget constraints, there is not much help to be hoped for from the state or the federal government. More alarming is that time of depression are difficult ones for land preservation, and that a backlash, such as the "Wise Use" movement (composed of those notoriously wise groups, developers and lawyers) has begun to wrestle planning and zoning commissions to the mat.

Gibbons recommended that conserving open spaces be seen as a local effort, with cooperation between planning boards and town officials sharing common goals. A good town plan is the starting point; its advisory recommendations can be translated into forward-looking regulations by P&Z. Factual material to back up such regulations can be supplied by mapping and inventorying town resources, both natural and esthetic. In this way, desirable open space can be identified, and officials will have something to lean on when asking developers for the open space set-aside encouraged by state statute.

The talk gave rise to many questions and provided much food for thought. It took place in the CCS library under children's conservation posters reading "Save Our Stuff," and concluded with excellent food for stomachs, especially Anne Zinsser's cookies.

— Maggie Cooley and John Leich

Letters to the Chronicle

SPRING FEVER

The welcome equinox of spring
Sea tennis now is just the thing.
So grimly grab your bat and ball
Alert to lob and ace and let;
To crush some soul across the net.
But let ye not one sec forget
The starting score is LOVE: Love-all.
— Alfred Lord Tennyson

(Otherwise known as Lord Harry of Fool, we suspect — The Editors.)

MEMORIAL DAY MEMORY

Yes, I was in Cornwall Hollow on Memorial Day 1900. I remember the day well, 94 years ago. Our whole family was there. The boys, being boys, were able to go around where they pleased. We girls had to sit close to Mama, in a shady place. I remember there were crowds of people, and horses and carriages hitched at almost every fence post along the roads. A man on a fenced-in platform seemed very angry as he shouted and hit his fists together. I didn't think much of him. After he stopped yelling, Papa came to our group and asked Mama to come with him to shake hands with this man, who was the Governor. Mama was very shy and said she wasn't dressed well enough. Papa got very red in his face and snatched up Esther, who was very beautiful with her long curls and white dress. He started toward the man within the fence but, if Esther was to shake hands with the Governor, I wanted to be there too, and started after Papa. Mama caught my apron and held me back, so I didn't get to shake hands with the Governor. Mama gave me an egg sandwich and a drink of cold lemonade from the dipper in a ten-gallon milk can. I didn't care any longer about the Governor, who had yelled and pounded his fists.
— Harriet Clark

THOSE DANGEROUS CURVES

This is a letter about Route 4. I know that sounds a little boring, but please be careful on the turns after Benjamin Farm, all the way to Cornwall Bridge. Both directions are dangerous as heck. In March the LifeStar helicopter picked up a person who crashed. This winter there were two accidents on this road. A couple of years ago a person died on this road. Is it the curves? Are they banked the wrong way? Is it the sand? Is it not swept off properly? Are the posted speed limits too fast? Drive carefully; the next victim could be you or someone you love. If you don't like that prospect then let the State Highway Department know in writing. They'll do a traffic study. I know this summer they plan to fix the crumbling cement bank-retaining wall on the curves. Maybe, since they'll be there, they can fix the bad curves and change the speed limits! Write Richard Bates, and he will forward the letters directly to Steve Martinson, the traffic engineer for our neck of the woods at the district office in Thomaston. Bates' address is: Field Supervisor State Garage, 24 Bunker Hill Road, West Cornwall, CT 06796, Phone 672-6671.
— Janice Bracken

ALL IN THE FAMILY

This is to let you know that I had absolutely nothing to do with the fine article attributed to me in your April issue on the housewarming for the new Habitat house. The article's author is a very close friend of mine, Joan F. Leich, who is fully responsible for its content.
— John F. Leich

MORE DRIVERS NEEDED

If you can spare time now and then to take a Cornwall neighbor to the doctor or to do an errand, FISH needs your help. Our current drivers are working overtime. Please call me at 672-6261 if you want to volunteer.
— Marie Prentice, FISHhead

DEAR CONSERVATION COMMISSION:
Thank you for all your hard work and time for letting us fish in Mill Brook. We had a lot of fun fishing there. I was so excited when I caught my first fish. Thank you so much.
— Meagan and Jamie Pastre

— Maggie Cooley and John Leich
Events & Announcements

Memorial Day Schedule: As usual in Cornwall, Memorial Day — Monday, May 30 — offers activities from the deservedly solemn to the forgivably frivolous:

- 9:15 a.m. The day begins with a traditional observance at the North Cornwall Cemetery led by Charles Gold. Participants often bring flowers — wild or cultivated — to decorate the graves.
- 10 a.m. Seamen’s Memorial Service at the Covered Bridge in West Cornwall.
- 11 a.m. The annual parade and ceremony at the Cornwall Village Green. The parade will form on Hubbard Field at 10:30 a.m. All veterans are invited to march, and uniforms are not required. In case of rain, the program will be held in the CCS gym.
- 11 a.m.-2 p.m. The Cornwall Historical Society on Pine Street will feature an exhibit of old games and dollhouses.
- 12:45 p.m.: The annual Memorial Day Carnival on the grounds of the UCC will start right after the program on the Green. Hosted by the church and the Cornwall Child Center, the carnival will provide entertainment, games, and food for all. Proceeds will add to the Child Center’s scholarship fund and benefit children through a variety of church donations.

Summer Session: The Cornwall Child Center plans to hold a morning program for five weeks in the CCS art room. Contact Director Pat Brehm to register (672-6989).

CCC Progressing: With the end of winter, the construction of the Cornwall Child Center’s new building is moving ahead. A successful auction, volunteer work, donated materials, generous contributions — all are greatly appreciated. This will actually be a community-built center for our children.

Sweeps Winners: There were 43 entries, and the winners are: first prize (framed Chronicle art) — Bob & Ginny Potter, Town Street; second prize (bound volume of the Chronicle) — Lydia Lansing, Bartlett, NH; third prize (dinner for two at Cadwell’s) — Robert Beers, Paris, France (transportation not included). Congratulations to the lucky winners! Don’t forget: The Chronicle always needs your support.

Library Friends Forming: Friends of the Cornwall Library will launch itself on Sunday, May 15, at 4 p.m. as a library support group. The organizing meeting will be in the Town Hall/Library. All 106 people who signed up to become members are urged to come. Everyone else with an interest in helping the Library is also urged to attend and become a member. A slate of officers will be presented for a vote, and articles of association and bylaws will be voted on. The Board of the new organization will want to hear all ideas for ways the Friends might support the Library.

Puzzled about Health Care Reform? Gain information by joining two classes, “Introduction to Health Care Reform” and “Health Care Reform Options,” at UCC at 11:30 a.m. on Sundays, May 15 and 22. At the introductory class on May 15, a videotape titled “Too Soon To Compromise” (part of a resource packet called “Ethical Choices: Reforming the Health Care System”) will be shown and discussed. Jean King, Executive Director of CT Interfaith Housing and Human Services Corporation, will be the speaker on May 22. She will explain proposals, legislation, and issues, and will answer questions. All are welcome at either or both classes. For more information, call 672-6840.

Kindergarten Registration for the 1994-95 school year will be held on May 10, 11, and 12, from 9 to 11 a.m. Any child turning five on or before December 31, 1994, is eligible. Parents should call the CCS office at 672-6617 to schedule a time for their child to visit the kindergarten room and meet Mrs. Darlene Wadhams, the teacher. Please bring a copy of your child’s birth certificate and official immunization record.

Hold That Rummage: Rummage sale items left too early on the Parish House steps have been a problem in the past. Please do not bring contributions to the Parish House before July 1. If absolutely necessary call Polly Calhoun (672-6205) or Priscilla Mauro (672-6969) to arrange delivery for emergency storing. No TVs or appliances will be accepted without prior approval from Thalia Scoville (672-6288) or Priscilla Mauro. In July donations of clean clothing, books, toys, linens, pictures, jewelry, nearly-new gifts, kitchen ware, furniture, etc., will be most appreciated. The annual sale will take place on July 30.

Story Hour: The Cornwall Library will host a weekly story hour for young children on Fridays at 10:30 a.m. for this cooperative event, with parents signing up to read and lead a short activity.

Plant Swap: A plant swap will be held again this year on Saturday, May 21, at 10 a.m. in the CCS parking lot. Bring along the perennials you don’t need. Trade them with your friends. Go home with some loot in your boot. It’s free, and it’s fun. Call Jamie Monagan (672-4815) or Cheryl Evans (672-0094) with questions.

The Regional Economy will be the subject of a program presented by the Northwestern Connecticut Economic Development Committee at Mohawk Ski Lodge on Wednesday, May 4, at 7:30 p.m. Mount Airy Associates will give an overview of the region’s Economic Plan. The public is invited to learn about the use of grant funds and other matters.

Covered Bridge Dance: On Sunday, May 29, the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department will sponsor the third annual Bridge Dance at the West Cornwall Covered Bridge — rain or shine. Proceeds will fund equipment and training for the firefighters.

The Cactus Rose Band will play country music for dancing from 6 to 11 p.m. The band will be in a new location on Lower River Road, freeing both the bridge and the street for dancing. Food will be served beginning at 5 p.m., and will include hot roast beef sandwiches.

Parking on the west (Sharon) side of the river will be at the NU parking lot north of the bridge, and on the east side at CCS and the Firehouse area. Shuttle buses will run between the parking areas and the bridge throughout the evening.

Advance tickets are $5 for adults ($7 at the gate) and $4 for youths ($5 at the gate). Children under 10 admitted free, with an adult. For ticket information call 672-4373.

Event accurately read.