New Tower Rews

New regulations affecting communications towers were approved by P&Z on April 10. The new rules replace all existing regulations of this kind. Based on a regional model, the latest regulations were written with the help of town planner Tom McGowan.

P&Z Chairman Rick Lynn is “very pleased” about the change; he feels it has helped the town by generating many specific new requirements for applicants, particularly in challenging applicants to prove that the equipment they seek to install is their only feasible alternative in terms of tower height, location, and visibility.

Especially gratifying to Lynn is the fact that the Connecticut Siting Council has sole jurisdiction in the area of “co-location.” This is telecommunications lingo for the requirement that communications companies share towers or other facilities with competitors where possible. Though the Siting Council cannot, in this instance, decide on applications, its co-location jurisdiction makes it a powerful recourse for the town, which can appeal to the council when companies balk at sharing facilities with rivals. The Siting Council, says Lynn, will also prepare maps of Cornwall showing areas already adequately equipped for wireless traffic.

One thing the new rules cannot do, under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, is prohibit or “have the effect of prohibiting” the provision of wireless services. Only actual experience with applications—none had been filed by April 10—will show how effective the new regulations are. All the same, Lynn believes “we are well positioned with respect to the applications and the potential involvement of the Siting Council.”

—Charles Osborne

Small Black Hope v. Adelgid

“The moment I see a white speck on our hemlocks, I get suspicious,” said John Scott of New York and West Cornwall. He had, over a period of four years, watched a hemlock in Central Park die after suffering an infestation of those “white specks” — egg masses that the dreaded hemlock woolly adelgid (pronounced uh-DEL-jid) lays on the undersides of branches. And now they were on his own trees on Wright Hill Road. “The landscape would be entirely changed without the trees,” he said.

The Scotts immediately got in touch with arborist Skip Kosciusko who, like John, regards the hemlock as one of the most beautiful of conifers. He suggested a course of both spraying with dormant oils and inoculating the trees with pesticides, because the adelgid kills 100 percent of untreated hemlocks.

“Since its first sighting in the state in 1985, it has spread to all of Connecticut. In Cornwall, about ten to twenty percent of our forests are hemlock. Losing them would have devastating consequences, not just aesthetic but ecological: erosion, fire hazard, warming of ground water, and loss of habitat. We have to contain these infestations.”

Pesticides are not practical in forest situations, but there are other means of containment. Dr. Mark McClure of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture knew that in Japan, the adelgid’s native land, densities were low. So Dr. McClure and a Japanese colleague identified and collected specimens of its natural predator there, a black lady beetle. The beetle feeds voraciously on all life stages of the adelgid, and has excellent potential for biological control. Since 1995, hundreds of thousands of these beetles have been released in infected forests in Connecticut.

A second source of hope is cold weather. “Up until this year,” said McClure, “Mother Nature has been against us. Mild winters have allowed infestations to flourish, particularly on trees weakened by drought. However, January’s cold snap set adelgids back in a big way. It’s the first year we’ve had a break. Sub-zero temperatures killed ninety-eight percent of the adelgids and not as many of the beetles. This is a great opportunity for the beetle to get the upper hand.”

Look at your hemlocks, says Skip, and call...
New CCS Principal Named

Peter Coope, assistant principal at Swift Junior High School, a 580-student school for grades seven and eight in Watertown, Connecticut, has been appointed the new principal at Cornwall Consolidated School. Coope, who will assume his duties July 1, has had both teaching and administrative experience with kindergarten through 12th grade classes. He says he is "really excited" about coming to CCS, where he will be able to watch the children develop throughout their elementary school years. He is also looking forward to the change to a small "community school," where he can be on a first-name basis with everyone involved with education. Coope lives in New Milford with his wife, who teaches fourth grade; his son continues the family tradition as an American history teacher.

The ten-member search committee that found Coope held two preliminary meetings. At the first, it received the resumes of candidates who qualified for the job (i.e., met the necessary certification requirements) and developed questions, each of which was asked of every candidate interviewed. At the second meeting, it selected those applicants whom the members wished to interview. After these interviews, the committee sent to the Board of Education the names of its three preferred candidates. The board, in turn, developed its questions and interviewed the finalists. At its April 12 meeting members voted enthusiastically to offer a contract to Peter Coope. Board of Education Chair Katherine Gannett says she and the other board members are looking forward to meeting, open to .

Historical Agenda

A new furnace, installed in early April, will keep the Historical Society's Pine Street headquarters warmer later this fall—and earlier next spring—than ever before. Over the past winter, work continued on a photographic history of Cornwall. The society was delighted to accept an offer of design and production services from Joe Freedman of Cornwall Hollow Road. Jeremy Brecher of Yelping Hill has also volunteered to help with writing, research, and scholarship. In April, the first sleeves were rolled up for the unprecedented labor of cataloguing the society's possessions.

As days lengthen and flowers bloom, the history group is moving ahead in other directions:

- On Memorial Day, an exhibit of mirrors dated from 1720 to 1920 will open the Historical Society's regular season. The group hopes to display the work of one or more Cornwall artists during the summer or fall.

- The Society will be open Memorial Day from about 10 A.M. for much of the day. Thereafter until the Agricultural Fair in late September, the building will be open Wednesdays from noon to 3 P.M. And as usual, the building will be open Saturdays from 10 A.M. to noon.

- The Society will hold its annual meeting, open to all, on May 13 at 4 P.M. at the Town Hall.

New Immunization Rules

The State Department of Health has issued new rules for children attending Cornwall Consolidated School or the Cornwall Child Center. The new requirements:

- Children born January 1, 1997, or later must prove immunity to varicella (chicken pox) by either getting vaccinated or showing a physician's report that the child has had the disease.

- Students entering kindergarten must have had two doses of MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine.

- New seventh graders must have had at least one dose of Hepatitis B immunization, and a three-dose series must be completed before the student starts eighth grade. These students must also show proof of immunity to chicken pox with a written doctor's report or vaccination. Students over 13 must have had two doses; those under 13 need only to have had one dose.

For more information, call Martha Brunehl, school nurse, at 672-2939.

Welcome

Camilla Madeleine to Susan and Gregory Cho

Patrick James to Wendy and James Kennedy

Good-bye to Friends

Austin Beardsley
Paul H. Chamberlain, Jr.
Henrietta A. Cole
Robert M. Feely

Congratulations

Allen Herkimer III to Judith Zaino
Joshua Perlstein to Anna Dolan

Land Transfers

Constance H. Gloeckner to Catherine H. Noren and Brian Thomas, house and 10 acres at 30 Rattlesnake Road for $665,000.

Nancy B. and Clifford M. Lawrence, Jr., to Dudley H. and Mary R. Grimes, 20 acres on Ballyhack Road for $60,000.

Cornwall Post 9856 of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Inc., to Lennart Ahstrom, building at 18 Brook Road for $35,000.

Niki's Winning Ways

Cornwall has a running star in its midst. Her name is Niki Gyselaere, and she's proving just how good she is.

Niki is undefeated at HVRHS where she is a senior and trains under coach David Lindsay, whom she credits with much of her success. When asked what runner she most admires, Niki—without hesitation—says Mary Ann Jones, the Olympic gold medalist in the 100-meter dash.

Having won the Connecticut State "S" division 55-meter dash, Niki went on to finish second in the open divisions of both the state and All New England races at 55 meters. Her best time so far is 7.1 seconds.

From spring to fall Niki runs every day outside, and she trains indoors during the cold New England months.

She also competes in the long jump—15 feet, 11 inches is her best so far—and in the triple jump (more familiarly known as the hop-skip-and-jump) in which her best distance is 37 feet.

Niki says that for indoor running, shoes (spikes) are worn one-half size smaller than normal. Helps you run faster, she says, but can be hard on the feet.

"For Years to Come"

Two well-known Cornwall landmarks will be undergoing major repairs and improvements soon. The lovely North Cornwall...
MEETINGHOUSE ON TOWN STREET was built in 1826, with much of the work done by church members. The shingles were handmade and the chestnut logs were furnished by members of the parish. The building remains much as it was a century and a half ago, without an indoor toilet and lit primarily by candlelight. This has been a memorable place for weddings and candlelight services. To preserve the historic site, wood and shutters must be replaced, painting done, and an indoor bathroom installed.

The other landmark building, the Cornwall Village Meetinghouse, was built in 1842. Today the church and its adjacent Parish House serve as a meeting place and activity center for more than 20 organizations. It, too, is in need of repairs and expansion.

The two meetinghouses and the Parish House belong to the United Church of Christ in Cornwall. The capital program, with the theme of "For Years to Come," hopes to raise between $625,000 and $725,000 beginning this month. Construction will go on over the next three years. —Cynthia Bianchi

Events & Announcements

Caving in China: On Sunday, May 7, at 4 P.M. at the Cornwall Library, Ian Baron will give a slide lecture on the people, land, and life of China, seen through the experiences of a cave explorer. Ian has more than 12 years experience traveling, exploring, and working in China. He is a Fellow of the prestigious Explorers' Club of New York and Director of the China/USA Caves Project for the Cave Research Foundation and the National Speleological Society. There will be time for questions and refreshments will be served. The program is presented by the Friends of the Cornwall Library and admission is free.

Ten Local Bike Riders will pedal 100 miles through the tri-state area on May 13 for the benefit of the La Casa project. Money raised will subsidize a June 21 journey south for 32 members of the community, who will build two houses for homeless families in northern Mexico. They will also distribute food. In 1999, besides building a house, the group distributed rice, beans, carrots, and oranges to nearly 200 families. To sponsor a rider, or for more information, call 672-6018.

Spring Frolic No. 2: The Cornwall Library is planning another fabulous party at Mohawk Ski Lodge on Saturday, May 13. This year the $30 admission will include champagne, other drinks, and all the dessert you can eat from Cornwall's gourmet cooks. A $50 ticket will add a pre-dance dinner invitation. Chaperoned young people, 12 to 18, get to dance for $10, dinner and dance for $20. The time has been advanced to 8 to 11 P.M. So, combined with the lowered ticket price, even more people will come. (continued on page 4)

LETTERS TO THE CHRONICLE

ON THE TRAIL OF THE BLUEBIRD

Have you seen the many bluebird nest boxes set out in pairs around town? In Cornwall Village along Pine Street and Bolton Hill Road, and in the Great Valley, or adjacent to the North Cornwall Church, and up in the cemetery on Rattlesnake Road, or trying to hold their own with the wonderful sculptures out in Marie and Tim Prentice's meadow? They are part of the Northeast Connecticut Bluebird Trail, and their presence has helped rebuild the regional population of eastern bluebirds from a status of "species of special concern" back upwards to "uncommon." Folks in town have probably put up bluebird nest boxes here and there since the late 1800s, but the concept of a "trail" of nest boxes placed in excellent bluebird habitat only had its origin in Illinois during the 1920s when bluebirds there were quite rare.

I had a hand in creating our regional trail project in 1979 while working for National Audubon, and we've had several pairs of nesting bluebirds at the Hammond property in Cornwall since that time. In 1986 we established the rest of the trail section in North Cornwall/Wall Hollow, and in the spring of 1990, following the tornado, Laurie Does of Marvelwood School and I set up the trail in Cornwall Village, trying to find something positive in the greatly changed landscape by encouraging bluebirds to nest in the newly created open vistas.

All in all, there are some 240 nest boxes on our regional trail and there is a committee of volunteers who monitors the nest sites during the breeding season. Our bluebirds are BACK and are doing well! In fact, I had four pairs nesting in our boxes within a 200-yard radius of the Cornwall Library last June, and that's not counting the bluebirds that Nancy and John Callahan must have had, too. If you want to learn more about working with Bluebirds, join Celia Senzer on a walk to see bluebirds in Cornwall on May 20 (see page 4). —Art Gingert

GUY SHOPPERS

Decades of the history of feminism were crystallized for me on an April trip to a Litchfield drugstore. Phila, my wife, had broken her ankle badly on a recent vacation and was too crippled to go shopping. Through some weeks of her recovery I demonstrated basic competence in grocery shopping, or so I thought. Discussing Phila's ankle with a woman acquaintance, I told her about the grocery store forty years ago, and heard her take on male shopping patterns: "Guys," she said, "just get what they want and forget about what anybody else needs or wants."

Still, Phila was happy and things seemed to be going okay. Then, when the mascara ran out, I was faced with a real challenge. I was given the spent cases of two kinds of Maybelline mascara, Illegal Lengths and Fall N' Soft, and instructed to match the cases with the replacement items. Not hard after all.

The woman at the checkout gave me a grin as she made my change. "You went shopping for somebody else today," she said. Trying, I guess, to sound ironic and nonchalant, I growled, "Yeah, for once," and gave her a grin. But she was no longer smiling. —Charles Osborne

END OF A JOURNEY

It is so hard to believe that after months of preparation and anticipation my second trip to Accra, Ghana, has come to an end. As with my first trip, I had a wonderful time working with the children at the Christ Faith Foster Home.

Unfortunately the two crates of goods that I shipped were unable to reach Ghana during my time there. I have signed them over to my host father, who will present them on my behalf at the end of the month. He will be sending me pictures of the children and all of the items that you in Cornwall so graciously donated. As soon as I have received the pictures I will be anxious to share them with all of you as well as the pictures that I have taken.

Wish there were words to express how thankful I am to all of you for your support. The difference you have made to the children is tremendous. —Heather Dinneen

A DOVE IN THE HAND

With the coming of spring there is increased activity among the birds outside the kitchen window. Our lunch was interrupted the other day by a loud thump, which left a wet spot on the glass door. Our Our local woodpecker was after the nest of a European swift, which had dug when I noticed how easily the feathers had been ground. In a small pan over medium heat put olive oil, chopped onion, and carrot. Wish there were words to express how thankful I am to all of you for your support. The difference you have made to the children is tremendous. —Heather Dinneen

In a small pan over medium heat put olive oil, chopped onion, and carrot. Put in bird and brown on both sides. Reduce heat to low, add rice wine and chicken broth. Cover and simmer until tender, adding wine and broth as needed to keep from sticking. Serve one small person. —Marc Simont
(continued from page 3)  

people will be able to attend. Ram Miles with Advanced Phunk will play blues, rock, and old-time favorites. For more information call Co-chair Jessica Fowler at 672-2849.

Shiny Beer Cans and Soggy Paper in the bushes been hurting your eyes lately? Join the Cornwall Association and Park and Rec. for Sprucing Up for Spring on Saturday, May 20. Meet at 9 a.m. in Cornwall Bridge to get gloves and bags donated by Northwest Lumber and a roadside route assignment. Come back to the Triangle by noon to share refreshments and tales of the road. We'll have a dumpster there and trucks cruising the routes to pick up full bags and heavy items. Tell your neighbors to hold the date. Let's double our participation again this year! Call Deirdre Fischer for more information at 672-1123.

Tracking the Bluebirds: Celia Senzer, who has been monitoring the bluebird boxes in North Cornwall for the past four years, will show us bluebirds in their nests if feasible, and explain how the boxes have helped them to flourish in our region. We meet at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 20, and travel by foot and by car for two hours. Space is limited so call early for information and to reserve a place: 672-0283 or 672-6899. Children are welcome. Sponsered by Park and Rec. (see Letters, p.3).

Health Care Talks: The Taconic Learning Center will continue its Monday evening series, Issues in Health Care, mediated by the Rev. Scott Cady, pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Cornwall and chaplain of Sharon Hospital.

Remaining sessions (Sharon Hospital Board Conference Room, 7 to 8:30 p.m.) will cover: Visiting Nurse and Homescare (May 1 and 8); Mental Health (May 15 and 22); Advocacy (May 29); Philanthropy (June 5).

Participants will get a chance to find out about the effects of recent legislation and what patients can expect in the current healthcare world.

Admission is free, but pre-registration is required. Call 435-2922.

Money Matters

It's a pleasure to hear Moneybags give his treasurer's report at the Chronicle's annual meeting. He often opens by singing a few lines from his favorite song, the one in Cabaret that goes: "Money money money makes the world go round...." And unlike Alan Greenspan, he has spending under firm control. But we have noticed a definite drop off in contributions lately, and so we need you to send in a check now to get him back in a harmonious mood.

Wildflowers in Cornwall: Come with us on Sunday, May 7, as we follow botanist Ronald Aakjar on a search for spring wildflowers in their different habitats. There are over a thousand species of plants in the Northeast so you are sure to be surprised and delighted by our diverse finds. We will start from North Cornwall Church promptly at 2:30 p.m. and explore our town by foot and by car for two hours. Call 672-0283 to reserve a place. Rain date: May 14. Sponsored by Park and Rec.

Harpischord Concerts: Brother Randall Horton will perform works by Bach on Saturday, May 20, at 4 p.m. at the North Cornwall Meetinghouse. Poet Stephen Pridham will read. Brother Randall plays a concert harpsichord given to him last year by Mary Schieffelin who owned the instrument for many years. The $10 admission will support outreach by the Chapel of All Saints. For information call Ann Gold at 672-6077.

A Bake Sale will be held on Saturday, May 13, from 9 a.m. to noon to benefit Extras For Kids. Mother's Day dessert hunters and others are directed to either of two locations: Baird's porch in Cornwall Bridge or Berkshire Country Store in West Cornwall. On hand will be an array of confections ranging from amaretti tortes to cakes to chocolate for every craving. If you want to bake and donate your own favorite dessert, bring it to either location at 9 a.m. on May 13.

Yes, I want the Chronicle to continue. Here is my tax-deductible contribution of $ ____________________________

Name ________________________________

Address ______________________________

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☐ Please mail the Chronicle to the out-of-town address above; a $10 contribution will be appreciated.

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E-MAIL: spenbar@discovernet.net

FAX: (860) 672-6327

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