What Is the Five-Year Plan?

Some time this fall or winter there will be a Town Meeting to vote on our first five-year plan. Once the five-year planning process is in place, there will be far fewer unpleasant surprises in the annual budget. We need to be clear about what the five-year plan is and how it will be developed so that we can understand what we will be voting on and maybe even have a say in what is presented to the town meeting.

Under a new law, the town will no longer be eligible for state aid for roads and a number of other categories unless there is a five-year plan passed by the voters. At present, the selectmen are gathering five-year spending proposals from the different town departments. Their Board of Finance, which has to recommend the plan before it can go to town meeting, that the plan should not be just a wish list. It should include all significant capital spending and most importantly it should propose where the money is to come from.

The first plan will cover the five years beginning July 1, 1992. Every year the town must come up with a new plan that drops the current year and adds a new one. The five-year plan is not a binding commitment. Only the annual budget meeting can authorize the town to spend money. But it will be a strong expression of intent. Everyone recognizes that there is a certain amount of guesswork, especially four or five years out. Nobody expects the building committee to come up with more than an educated guess about the cost of possible new town offices when they haven't even been able to start their feasibility studies. Also, as we know from the landfill problem, the state can come up with demands for capital spending that can't wait for four or five years.

But it would not be surprising if in future years the budget meeting looks very skeptically at grandiose new spending schemes that haven't been in the five-year plan for a reasonable amount of time.

If you have questions, call me at 672-6607.

- Hendon Chubb

News Highlights

Virginia (Ginger) Sullivan and Dody Clarke-Wolfe are last minute entries in the election for town clerk. Sullivan, a Democrat, will run on the fourth line as a petitioning candidate. Clarke-Wolfe, who was an unaffiliated voter, will run on the first line as a member of A Connecticut Party, the party established by Lowell P. Weicker Jr. in his run for Governor.

They will oppose incumbent Barbara Dakin, who received the endorsement of the Republican and Democratic caucuses.

The Cornwall Association is filing an appeal of the decision made at the last meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission in which P & Z approved of a change of use of the Ingvertsen’s Automotive location. The basis of the appeal is the Association’s disagreement with P & Z that a convenience store would be a less non-conforming use of this location than the current non-conforming allowances. The Zoning Board of Appeals
Montgomery Hare (behind umbrella) presents Polly Calhoun with a large and unusual birthday gift. Polly boarded the beast and rode it through the village, to the cheers of dozens of friends and neighbors.

- Photo by Dody Clarke-Wolfe
THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE
As an eleven year old child, saving the environment is very important to me. Everyone says the future is in our hands. As children, we should start now to clean up the environment for our future. The town of Cornwall has started recycling, but think of all the other ways we can clean up our world. For example, if we're in the car and see litter all over the road, instead of looking at it, let's pick it up. When we go for a walk we should pick up the litter along the roadside and around our house. Adults too. Instead of buying paper and plastic bags when shopping, go to our wonderful Yutzler's store and buy a reusable cloth bag.

There are many good actions we can take such as re-planting trees. Think about them. You may think this plan is only for Cornwall; the truth is, Cornwall is just our starting point! - Janna Kenniston

NOT THE LOADING, THE CUTTING*
Oh My! The Imp of Inaccuracy has struck again! At no time have we complained about "loading logs" - or logging - or loggers. All we have objected to is the logger's landing being located directly across the road from the Gyorosk's house and about 50 yards from mine. Whole trees, denuded of limbs, are skidded to this landing where they are cut into lengths, graded, moved and stacked to await loading; the firewood is cut in 18-24 inch sections and split. The noise emanating from these activities can be harrowing.

Torrington Area Health District measured the noise levels at 82-86 dBa; the TAHD limit is 61. OSHA regulations state that continued exposure to levels of 75-85 dBa constitutes a health hazard and can result in numerous physical and/or psychological problems. We're halfway through the sixth month and, believe me, instead of complaining about loading we rejoice anew at every truckload that leaves. The sad thing is that the whole unpleasantness could have been easily avoided by exercising a modicum of common sense and neighborly consideration in locating the landing elsewhere - not really an impossibility but merely less convenient.

Mr. Dunn's hope that Cornwall does not become another Westchester or Fairfield County rates a hearty endorsement from me. We all know, too, that life does not exist in a vacuum. Perhaps we should face the fact that in a healthy society change is inevitable. Would it not be better if we were to resolve to embrace the good in it instead of vainly insisting on living in the past, no matter what? Not for a moment do I mean to imply that there is no good in the past - I am a Southerner, born and bred, and goodness knows no one has greater love and respect for the past and rural life than a bunch of Southerners - however, the words "good" and "past" are not necessarily always synonymous any more than "good" and "change" are. If we are suffering from growing pains - and we are - let us face them squarely and honestly and move forward as a community of people of diverse persuasions with a common goal - a better Cornwall for everyone. "Compromise" really isn't a dirty word.-Jane Goldman-Jones

*The Chronicle regrets getting the source of the noise wrong.

FAN MAIL
Dear Chronicle editors and contributors: You can have Vanity Fair and Newsweek. The Cornwall Chronicle is now my favorite read. Many thanks for the excellent reporting, good spirit and droll wit. The Chronicle is the best thing to happen to Cornwall since buttermilk and dancing on the green.

How did we ever live without you?
Keep up the good work!
With our thanks - Al and Kim Waller

NIGHT SKIING
That was extremely nice of Ezra Mager to write a letter of apology in the August Chronicle concerning the tornado debris along our roadside properties.

Our next "in-town" controversy, I believe, will probably be about night skiing at Mohawk Mountain Ski Area, which I am all for.

The Schoenknecht and Hedden families have always been very generous to the skiers of Cornwall, especially our school children. Both families have worked long and hard and, unfortunately, have suffered some major setbacks in recent years. The tornado of '89 did catastrophic damage to the ski area. Last summer an electrical storm struck the storage building at the top of the mountain, destroying snow-making equipment. In the past few winters relatively little snow has fallen, just to worsen the situation.

If these people feel night skiing is feasible, I say they should go for it. It will save area skiers a trip to Catamount, even Brodie, for a few hours skiing after a day's work.

I am a near neighbor of Mohawk Mountain Ski Area. I welcome this new venture, and wish all concerned a very successful, prosperous future.

- Ann Peterson

CABLE IN HAYSTACK
Are you happy with TV reception as it now is in Cornwall? We could have cable if Haystack Cable honored the terms of its franchise instead of complaining that our houses are too far apart.

For shut-ins and for those who can't drive, TV is another information resource, like the library, and people should have inexpensive access to both. We look to our selectmen to press the case for Cornwall with Haystack. If Haystack believes no one in town cares, Haystack will have no incentive to fulfill its contract.

If you feel as we do, please tell our selectmen.

- Paul and Ann Baren

A CARING TRADITION
I want to echo Ken Keskinen's sentiments about Val & Jim Lennie and the new Little Guild. Our house is right across from the "old" Little Guild so we feel we are "Guild people." Not too long ago we agreed to take a dog from a family in Danbury. She is a fine dog but was the wrong dog for us. Val & Jim helped us find her a perfect new home. They are continuing the caring tradition of a Cornwall "landmark." - Judy Bronner

BEYOND THE NUCLEAR DUMP
What's happening now that Cornwall has voted to become a Nuclear Free Zone? It's catching on. Salisbury was the first town in the Northwest corner to vote to be nuclear free. Then came Cornwall, with Kent and Winsted following soon after. Harwinton is looking into it and an informational meeting was held in Sharon on August 16 to consider the matter. The Northwest Nuclear Free Zone Committee has been meeting every two weeks in Cornwall and is providing information and advice to concerned citizens in the area.

This is not merely a NIMBY issue. The Committee's aim goes beyond the fear of a nuclear dump. We want to encourage the development and use of environmentally safe alternate sources of energy, including conservation. Currently we are educating ourselves about energy issues and investigating the possibilities for challenging the legislation that makes the state government responsible for nuclear waste rather than the generator of that waste. It's important and exciting work; we hope many will join us. Our next meetings are on Sept. 9 and 23 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Cornwall.

- Marie Prentice
Ticket Toppers to Take Test
The October Chronicle will publish the answers to the following questions, to be asked to our First Selectman and Planning & Zoning candidates.

Readers: we would also like to receive your answers to any of the questions and will print the most interesting.

For First Selectman candidates:
1. Why do you want to be First Selectman?
2. If elected would you run again in 1993?
3. Which should have the greater priority, a new Town Hall or road reconstruction?
4. What is your plan for roads?
5. What is your preferred solution to the Town Hall problem?
6. Do you think it is important to get cable TV into Cornwall?
7. What is your favorite: a) Machine, b) animal, c) TV show?

To P & Z candidates:
1. Do you think zoning in Cornwall is too restrictive, not restrictive enough, or just about right?
2. Do you agree or disagree with the P&Z decisions approving the operation of a kennel, a sawmill, a convenience store?

Convenience OK'd by P & Z
Under discussion at the P & Z's August meeting was the proposed change of Ingvertsen's Automotive to a convenience store. The limitations on signs, lights, white color, designated parking, retained trees, etc. that were stipulated on the site plan were examined. The application was approved 5-1 with John Frost dissenting. The consensus of the majority found the proposed plan less non-conforming than the extent of uses now allowed.

A hearing on Lawrence Stevens' application for a permanent sawmill on Cream Hill will be held at the next regular meeting of the P & Z, Sept. 9 at 7:30. The saw has been monitored by TAHD at its proposed location and found to be within acceptable decibel readings.

If you would like us to mail a monthly Chronicle to an out-of-town address, send a $10 contribution to the address on the coupon below.

You don't have to cut up your Chronicle by sending the coupon. Just send your name and mailing address with your check. Other contributions, larger or smaller, are welcome.

Architects and Asbestos
The Municipal Building Committee is now in the architect selection phase. The architect chosen will develop a feasibility study to include a new building design, a renovated Rumsey, and possibly an addition to the gymnasium for town office space. We need to recommend someone with sensitivity for the community architecturally as well as philosophically, a good designer of new buildings, and someone who can work with a committee of fourteen. The asbestos samples have been taken from the library building, Rumsey Hall, and the gymnasium. We should have the results from those tests soon. - Rita Quinn

New Finance Board Members
At a special meeting of the Board of Finance held on August 1 Carol Lugar was elected to fill the vacancy left by Scoville Soule's resignation. K. C. Baird was appointed as alternate to the Board until the election. The board expressed appreciation for the Volunteer Fire Dept. were discussed, as funds were not included in the 1991-1992 budget for this purpose. The Board agreed to recommend to the Selectmen that this expense be paid from the Fire Dept. Operation & Maintenance line item.

Events & Announcements
250th Anniversary Book: The First Church has published a collection of reminiscences, history and pictures that brings Cornwall's Congregational heritage to life. Rare first editions can be purchased from the Cornwall Historical Society, the UCC Church offices, or the two libraries. Read of a church built from the lumber of faith, good humor, and a few knotty planks of controversy to keep things interesting.

Three Choirs Welcome Singers: All adults from high school students to senior citizens who love to sing are welcome to join the choir at the United Church of Christ, which will begin its fall rehearsals on Sunday, September 1 at 8:45 a.m. The Adult Choir sings every Sunday at the 10:00 a.m. service.

Crop Walk: The Northwest CT Crop Walk for the Hungry will be Sunday, Sept. 29 - rain or shine. This year the route will take us through ten miles of Falls Village scenery and every step will raise funds for local families. Walkers ask sponsors to pay any amount they choose for each mile on the route. The money goes straight to where it will do the most good: to local organizations running food pantries and kitchens.

It isn't often that we get a chance to act directly to help. This isn't like dropping a check in an envelope and never knowing what happens next. This is real and it matters that we walk on Sunday, Sept. 29. Please call Lisa Lansing at 672-2659 and ask for your walking papers.

CORNWALL RESIDENT