



Cavendish Community and Conservation Association

Our Vision: *CCCA is committed to a vibrant Cavendish/Proctorsville community that supports its human and natural resources, building a legacy of health, integrity and vitality for future generations.*

www.CavendishCCCA.org

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OUR SPRING WALK IN THE WOODS TO FIND THE BEAVERS was a success except for one minor point – we never saw a beaver. No matter, there were beaver lodges and dams, and plenty of other wildlife and flora to inspect. The black flies had yet to swarm and the day was sunny and bright. We learned a lot about beavers and a whole lot more as Robin explains in her column below. The Walk and Talk Series sponsored by CCCA continues on June 12th and there will be more as summer arrives. We'd love to have you participate, so please plan to join us, have some fun and learn a bit about our natural environment as well.

CCF Announces Spring 2011 Grants

The Cavendish Community Fund has announced that it awarded grants to two local organizations in the Spring 2011 grant round for community oriented cultural and educational events. The Fund has distributed grants twice each year for the last five years and emphasizes community building as its primary consideration.

The first grant goes to the Cavendish Community Theater for its upcoming 2011 summer production. In honor of the 250th anniversary of the land grant to Cavendish, the 2011 play will revisit the Cavendish Chronicles from prior to the land grant through the Civil War. The play is in the process of being developed, but will provide music, dance, humor and a little mystery. This is the fifth play in since 2006 to be staged by the Cavendish players and the Fund has partnered with the group to sponsor several of the past theater events.

The second grant was awarded to the Proctorsville Volunteer Fire Department to defray expenses of their Junior Firefighter Training Program. The program applies to boys and girls in the community, ages 12-17. Those accepted into the program are issued firefighter gear and attend weekly training and education sessions and assist in routine duties. The program populates the department with young, capable, well-trained and knowledgeable firefighters, and engages the community, offering constructive direction and encouragement to young community members.

The Cavendish Community Fund sponsors educational, cultural and artistic projects, programs and events to benefit the citizens and residents of Cavendish. Anyone can apply for a grant so long as the project meets the criteria published by CCF on its website, www.Cavendishccca.org. Application forms and instructions are found on the website. The application deadline for the next grant round will be announced in the late summer.

For further information on applying, on eligibility or on any other aspect of the grant

program, or for help completing the application, please call Peter LaBelle at 226-7250 or Barbara Dickey at 226-7187.

Large New Housing Project Proposed for Cavendish

Recently USA Properties has notified the Town of Cavendish that it plans to seek permits to build a 250 unit housing project on 75 acres of land located along the Black River and on both sides of Carlton Road in Cavendish. The land, Lots 45 and 46 on the Town Tax Map, was formerly owned by Don Davis and once housed a lumber mill. It sits at the bottom of Hawk Mountain and is on the other side of the Black River from Route 131. The only access to the land is from Carlton Road so residents and visitors would have to cross a one-lane bridge across the Black River to get there.

In order to build at the density proposed, several four story buildings with 250 units, the developers would need permission to use both town water and town sewer. There is no town water or sewer near the site and since the location is downhill from the town sewage plant some pumping station would have to be constructed. There is no current engineering assessment as to the feasibility of such a plan and no permission has been granted to access these town services. The select board has requested that the developer pay for such an assessment but the developer has not yet paid forth the funds. At this time we have not seen an Act 250 application, which is necessary before any permission can be granted.



A Message from Robin

Spring and her gifts of flowering trees and shrubs, planted bulbs and wild flowers finally arrived with intermittent fits of snow, rain, hail and cold. The CCCA Conservation Committee has been active organizing its ongoing Walk and Talk series. The purpose of the series is to get to know the great diversity of wildlife in our environment, how they move about and what they need to sustain a healthy population. The first presentation in the series was a look at Wildlife Corridors. In the second presentation we began the process of identifying locations where wildlife has been seen in Cavendish. The third presentation took us out into the woods to observe a newly created beaver pond. The evening walk was magical! Wildlife biologist and Cavendish resident Tim O'Donoghue led us to what was essentially a flooded field in a secluded woodland area. The pond had attracted a great variety of other animals and included a central beaver lodge, a bank lodge and a muskrat lodge. Ducks nested in the surrounding trees, solitary pipers darted between the reeds and a Canadian goose sat on her nest in a clump of grasses in the middle of the water, safe from predators. And there were plenty of predators! Fresh bear scat marked the prowling of a black bear (bears do eat beavers!) Fox, owls and bobcat would all be drawn to a beaver pond in search of a meal. In fact Tim said he believed the beaver lodge was empty. The beavers, according to Tim, had run low on trees to eat and had to travel further from the pond for food, making them vulnerable to hunters. Beavers eat tree bark mostly, and in

the summer they feed on grasses and reeds around the pond. Standing at the water's edge we were moved by the beauty and stillness of the pond. The goose curled on her nest, a mallard circling above, the peepers beginning their evening trills, and the sense of both the fragility of life and the promise of renewal that comes with spring.

On June 12th we will be walking with Alma Beals of the Ascutney Audubon society to take a look at the habitat of nesting migratory birds and later, in August we will enjoy a presentation on butterflies, dragonflies and insects. As we move into the fall and winter we will take a look at deer and deer yards in our area, moose and bears. If you see a moose, bear, fisher cat or bobcat, please call Tim or myself, and let us know where the animal was spotted. Of particular importance are animals that are seen crossing or alongside a road. We always advertise the time and place for our Walk and Talk series, but if you would like to be on a calling list to be reminded of the next presentation call us at 226-7736 and let us know.

Wishing everyone a wonderful spring!
Robin Timko.

Sustainability Committee Update and New Projects

The Committee has been busy over the winter and spring months with a variety of activities. Recently Karen Wilson and Cheryl Leiner attended a workshop presented by Efficiency Vermont entitled "K-12 Roadmap: Reducing School Energy Costs through improved Efficiency." The presentation's primary goal was to demonstrate the need for Vermont school Energy Audits. Based on the results of an Audit a school could select a project; develop a proposal; present the proposal to the decision makers; define the scope of work and prepare a budget; and request to move forward. Thus, the audit is the first step and the committee is now exploring options for the audit.

The remainder of the discussion dealt with paying for energy projects in K-12 schools including the pros and cons of different financing options and the feasibility of financing efficiency projects vs the cost of waiting.

As a result of the workshop, the committee is again looking into the possibility of installing solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on the roof of the school. This plan was raised in 2010, but shelved for lack of financing.

Cavendish is not alone in pursuing a variety of energy saving and producing projects. Last month Peter LaBelle and Cheryl Leiner attended the Upper Valley Energy Committee Roundtable in White River Junction. Representatives of about 40 town committees from all around the Upper Valley, including New Hampshire towns, attended and shared information on recent projects and activities. Several towns are pursuing increased street lighting efficiency, enhanced energy efficiency in schools and municipal buildings, identifying alternate energy sources and the challenges of finding funding for future projects.

Meanwhile, the committee also met with hydro power specialists to determine the feasibility of generating electricity from the wastewater discharge at the sewage treatment plant. Although the idea had some promise, the volume of water generated by a town as small as Cavendish is inadequate to justify the cost of installing the generating equipment and connecting it to the current system. So that plan has been abandoned. However, the committee did focus on the potential at the wastewater treatment site for solar power. There is a south facing slope that could provide adequate space for multiple PV panels that could offset a considerable amount of the power needed to run the plant.

In other activity, the committee is exploring the possibility of replacing streetlights in both villages with new, LED technology. The LED streetlights that have been developed in the last few years provide lighting similar to that currently used, but at a far reduced cost. Neither Ludlow Electric (for Proctorsville) nor CVPS (for Cavendish) now provide these lights, but Green Mountain Power has been installing these lights in many towns and if the demand increases we anticipate that this might become a reality for Cavendish. To that end, the committee recently completed a streetlight survey and mapped the grid in each village.

The committee is always looking for projects

and would welcome suggestions and assistance. Call Peter LaBelle at 226-7250 or Cheryl Leiner at 226-7820.

We are Looking for Some Digital Expertise

CCCA needs help from someone with the expertise to maintain databases and websites. The work would require a minimum time commitment and can be done from anyplace – even out of state. If you can spare a couple of hours each month and know computers, please call Robin at 226-7736

Join Us as a Member of CCCA!

Dues are a nominal \$35 per year for full membership. In order to join CCCA, please fill out the information below and send with a check payable to Cavendish Community and Conservation Association to:

CCCA
P.O. Box 605
Cavendish, VT 05142

Name: _____

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