

AGENDA
Cornwall Town Board
SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday, June 2, 2026
5:30 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Items:

1. Proposed July 4th Beer Garden

Adjournment

Cornwall Office of Emergency Management



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING – 2026 CORNWALL 4th of JULY

THURSDAY MAY 21, 2026 1:00PM – CORNWALL EMS CONFERENCE ROOM

PRESENT: Kurt W. Hahn, Director
Timothy McCarty, Deputy Town Supervisor
Phylis Murphy, Applicant – President Cornwall Independence Day Committee
Margaret Quinn, Applicant – Vice President Cornwall Independence Day Cmte.
Eileen Hartmann – Treasurer Cornwall Independence Day Cmte.
Tom Gschwind, Superintendent – Cornwall Highway Department
Joseph Gebert, Chief – Town of Cornwall Police
Michael Bigg, Chief – Cornwall EMS

UNABLE: Patrick Hines, Chief – Cornwall Fire Department (no comments received)
Paul Halayko – Owner, Newburgh Brewing Company (fully supportive)

APPLICATION: Biergarten Fundraiser to Support the Cornwall Independence Day Celebration

DISPOSITION: Public Safety Committee has discussed risk mitigation as summarized below. This event can be held safely with risk reduction strategies as outlined.

Summary:

The meeting reviewed a proposal from the Cornwall Independence Committee and Newburgh Brewery to run a fenced, ticketed beer garden on the town hall promenade during the Cornwall 4th of July celebration as a fundraising activity. Organizers presented two possible sites and the committee indicated a preference for the promenade location.

Operational controls described include ID checks at a single controlled entry, wristbands for verified patrons, a tented fenced area limiting capacity (largest tent ~20 by 20 feet), prohibition on removing beverages from the tent, server limits of two 16-ounce craft beers (~4–6% ABV) per person per transaction, and use of certified bartenders. Newburgh Brewery will operate sales and provide insurance naming the town and committee as additionally insured; town representatives Owen and Michael DiMartinez will review policy limits. Law enforcement stated

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a licensed controlled tent is preferable to uncontrolled public drinking, confirmed available policing resources, and noted certified bartenders reduce overservice risk.

Deputy Supervisor McCarty expressed liability concerns around permitting on-site alcohol at a large public event, citing risks from already-intoxicated attendees, crowd spillover incidents, and legal exposure to the town. The group agreed a designated person must have authority to immediately shut down the beer garden if public safety issues arise. Operational items still flexible or unresolved included proposed hours (ranges discussed: 12–9 p.m., 3–9 p.m., or earlier end times such as 8 p.m.), pricing (~\$10 per drink discussed informally), waste management, fencing logistics, and final town board approvals.

Meeting opening and proposal introduction

The meeting opened with procedural remarks and the committee introduced the proposed beer garden concept for the 4th of July as part of fundraising for the town's 250th celebrations; the idea was brought back after Riverfest provided operational information and the committee majority voted to pursue it.

* The committee proposed a fenced, tented beer garden on the town hall promenade operated by Newburgh Brewery as a fundraiser for the Cornwall Independence Committee.

Site options and layout overview

Organizers presented two site options—the promenade left of the town hall entrance behind a wall, and an alternate location behind the church near charging stations—and described the tented, fenced layout intended to keep all alcohol consumption inside the controlled area.

Entry controls, capacity, and service rules

The group discussed operational controls including ID checks at entrance, issuance of wristbands, a single entry/exit, occupancy limits inside the tent, a two-drink purchase limit, prohibition on taking drinks outside the tent, and the planned 16-ounce serving size.

* Organizers will require ID checks and wristbands and will limit capacity with a single

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controlled entrance and exit.

Insurance and administrative coordination

Newburgh Brewery indicated it will provide insurance naming the town and committee as additionally insured, and town representatives (including Owen and Michael DiMartinez) will review Newburgh's policy and the committee's policy to ensure required limits and endorsements are included.

* Newburgh Brewery committed to providing insurance naming the town and committee as additional insured, pending review by town representatives.

* Beer service will be limited to 16-ounce craft beers at roughly 4–6% ABV with a two-drink purchase limit and no removal of drinks from the tent.

* Law enforcement stated a licensed, controlled beer tent is easier to manage than uncontrolled public drinking and said resources are available to respond.

Public-safety and enforcement perspectives

Police leaders described past experience managing beer tents without major issues, noted that controlled tenting may reduce uncontrolled public drinking, affirmed available law-enforcement resources, and emphasized certified bartenders to limit overservice.

Liability concerns and council feedback

Deputy Supervisor McCarty raised liability concerns due to event size, the presence of already-intoxicated attendees, and potential post-event incidents that could expose the town legally; supporters countered with examples of successful implementations elsewhere and framed this as a trial fundraiser.

* Several town officials expressed strong liability concerns due to the size of the event and the presence of already-intoxicated attendees.

Operational flexibility, shutdown authority, and closing remarks

The group discussed flexible operating hours (options included ending earlier such as 8 p.m.),

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pricing estimates, waste pickup and extra garbage cans, the need for a second layer of fencing if required, and confirmed the ability to immediately shut down the tent with an individual (Phylis) volunteered to enforce closure if problems occur.

* The group agreed there must be an explicit, immediate shutdown authority if the beer garden creates safety problems.

Action Items:

* Cornwall Independence Committee will require ID checks at the beer garden entrance and issue wristbands to verified patrons, enforcing a single controlled entry and capacity limits

* Newburgh Brewery will provide insurance coverage naming the town of Cornwall and the Cornwall Independence Committee as additionally insured

* Town Council and Attorney will review Newburgh Brewery's insurance policy to confirm required coverage limits and endorsements

* Highway Department will add extra garbage cans to the beer garden area and coordinate fencing logistics if the beer garden is approved

* Biergarten will shut down immediately if public-safety or intoxication problems arise, ample law enforcement staffing for the annual Independence Day Celebration.

Cornwall Independence Day Committee – July 4th Beer Garden Proposal

Location – Town Hall Promenade

- Enclosed area will be fenced/roped off with entrance on the walk way – one way in and one way out.
- There will be a person checking ID and issuing wrist bands – when the person leaves the wrist band is taken so it can not be given to someone else. There will be no readmissions without proof of age.
- Hours of operation will be 2 pm till 9 pm. (The fireworks start around 9:30-9:45)
- Bartenders are provided by Newburgh Brewery
- Newburgh Brewery will provide the Town of Cornwall and the Cornwall Independence Committee with insurance as additional insured.
- Beverages are served in 16 oz cups and two beers sold to a person at a time.
- Beer will be 5-6 % alcohol craft beer.

Safety Meeting:

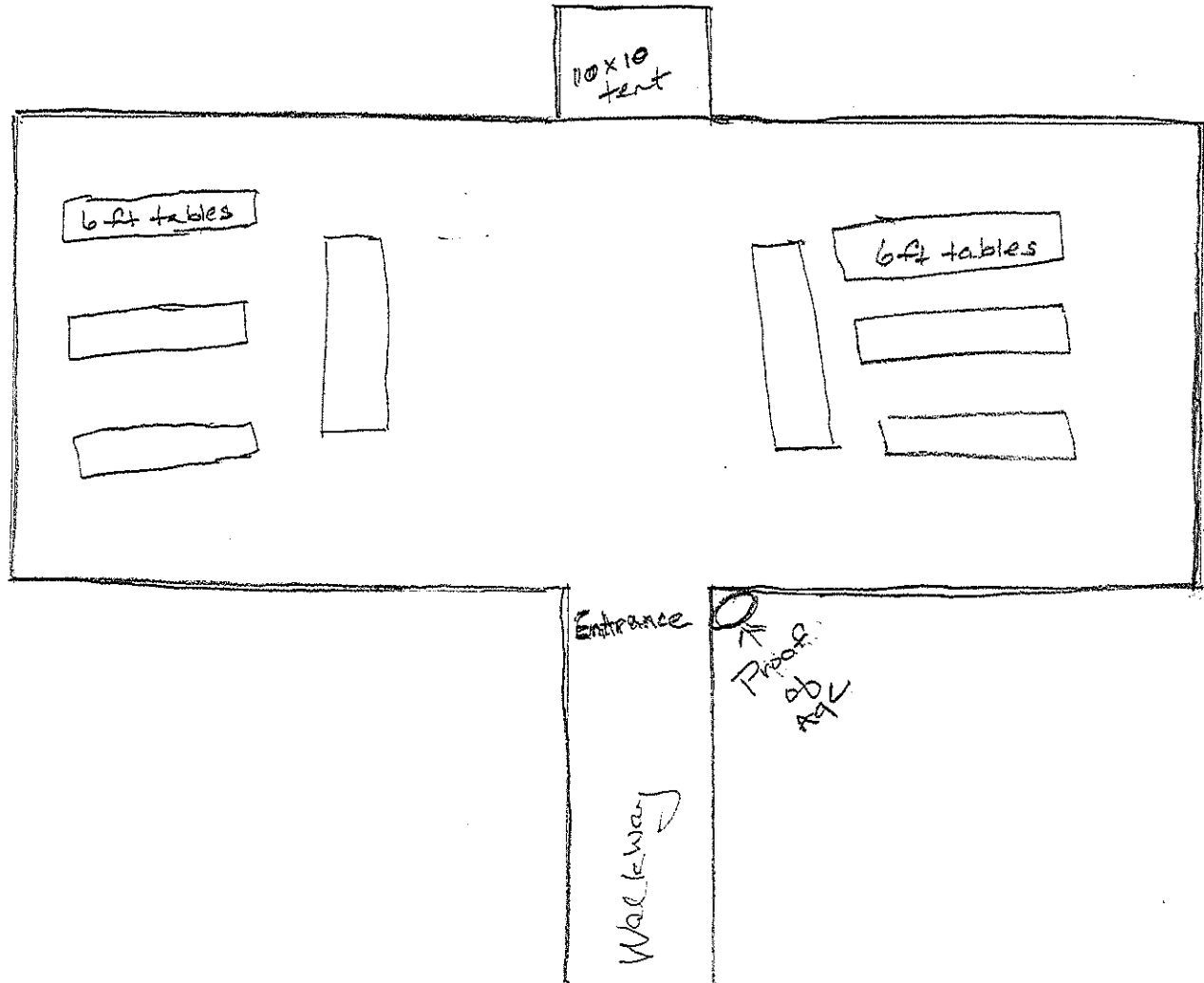
In attendance – Kurt Hahn – Director of Emergency Management, Chief of Police Joseph Gebert, Tom Gschwind – Superintendent of Highway, Michael Biggs – Director of Emergency Medical Care New Windsor/Cornwall, Councilman Tim McCarty, Cornwall Independence Day Committee Board Members – Phyllis Murphy – President, Margaret Quinn – Vice President and Eileen Hartmann – Treasurer.

Details were discussed and all services expressed that they did not see a problem with it and we were handling responsively. Michael Bigg shared that communities surrounding Cornwall included this experience at their town events without issue. Councilman McCarty expressed his concerns and all the other services, police, EMS, building and grounds and emergency management all were in favor of the Beer Garden.

This is a new adult experience to be added to our July 4th celebration and has been requested by the public. The Cornwall Independence Day Committee will be receiving a donation from the Newburgh Brewery as part of our fundraising efforts.

Town Hall in Rear.

Newburgh Brewery Tent



8 - 6 foot tables
w/ 6 chairs
48 seats.

← rope/fencing
+ bunting
all around

Entrance

Proof of Age

Walkway

Main Street

