



2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Members of the Follow the Falls team from left: Steve Knauth; Jim Denham; Jim Powers; Hank McInerney. Seated, Melissa Josefiak and Rebecca Russell, the project's liaison from Overabove. Inset: Sherry Clark.

**DEDICATED TO:
ESSEX HISTORICAL SOCIETY
& ESSEX LAND TRUST**

DEDICATION: ESSEX HISTORICAL SOCIETY & ESSEX LAND TRUST

The Town of Essex dedicates the 2022-2023 Annual Report to Essex Historical Society (EHS) and Essex Land Trust (ELT) in recognition of completing the *Follow the Falls* project. Led by the historical society and supported by the land trust, this collaborative effort started in 2016 and over the past seven years has recounted the history of this community and its connection to the Town's Falls River watershed. As the caretaker of the Town's history, Essex Historical Society dedicated significant time and resources in shepherding this project while Essex Land Trust was a committed participant given its appreciation for the environmental history of its preserves. Follow the Falls focuses on the three Essex Villages working from the mouth of the river in Falls River Cove in 2018, followed by Centerbrook in 2020, and concluding with Ivoryton in 2023.



landscape for more than 9,000 years. Ivory sourced through Africa and international markets placed the village in a global trade web involving Arab merchants, European colonization of Africa and trade of enslaved peoples. During the development of ivory manufacturing and the Industrial Revolution, nineteenth-century immigrants worked in its factories and

shaped the history of the village neighborhoods.

A project of this nature could only be successful with the participation of many interested parties. Each of the three published booklets lists the individuals and organizations who contributed time, knowledge, and financial support without which the project could not have been completed. The marketing firm Overabove played a significant role and donated its time and resources in producing the booklets.

The hard work of researching, organizing, writing, and editing the *Follow the Falls* booklets was due to a team led by Fred Szufnarowski (Project Leader), Melissa Josefiak (Director of EHS), Sherry Clark (EHS Past President), Jim Denham (representing ELT), Steve Knauth (who made notable contributions to the Ivoryton installment), Hank McInerney (President of EHS), and James Powers (project historian). Sadly, Fred Szufnarowski, to whom the Ivoryton installment was dedicated in honor of his steadfast dedication and leadership over the years, passed away due to illness as the project was completed.

Besides telling the story of Essex from its beginnings, the *Follow the Falls* project has endeavored to inspire the community to relish its common history. Knowing about our past not only enlightens us but also promotes our sense of place in the villages that comprise our town.

To view the three *Follow the Falls* installments, please visit EHS's website, www.essexhistory.org to view the online versions or contact EHS, 860-767-0681, ehs@essexhistory.org to purchase hardcopy versions.



The triple-spillway dam at Falls River Cove in Essex once powered a gristmill, saw mill and iron forge at the Williams Family Complex & Shipyard, 1689-1845.

The first installment of *Follow the Falls* explored the area's natural history, Indigenous lifeways, and European settlements and the harnessing of the river's waterpower.

The focus was the industrial development of Falls River Cove next to the Land Trust's Osage Trails Preserve. Few people know that this tranquil refuge was once a bustling industrial area that contained a major shipyard, gristmill, saw mill and iron works – collectively known as the Williams Complex & Shipyard, 1689-1845.

This second installment, *Centerbrook: Crossroad / Community / Change*, focuses on the village of Centerbrook and its role in the settlement and economic development of the community. Unlike the Williams Complex, which rests peacefully beneath the waters of Falls River Cove, the Centerbrook story is alive and continues to unfold. Every day thousands of people drive to, from and through Centerbrook seemingly unaware of its compelling, layered history. Over the years Centerbrook's story has served as one of adaptation, innovation, and resilience in the face of economic and social change. Flowing through the heart of it all is the Falls River.

Nearly three years in the making, the final installment, *Ivoryton: Ingenuity / Industry / Ivory*, captures our most comprehensive and diverse perspectives to date. Indigenous peoples hunted and fished in Ivoryton's



Comstock, Cheney & Co. dammed several Falls River sites in Ivoryton, such as the former Comstock Dam on Main Street, to power its facilities, manufacturing ivory products and piano 'actions,' an instrument's complex inner mechanisms.

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Town Hall Halloween 2022

FIRST SELECTMAN'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As we put closure to this fiscal year, I'm pleased to report that the Town of Essex is in good financial standing and continues to be recognized as a vibrant, desirable, and attractive community. We benefit from a well-qualified and dedicated staff as well as many talented

residents who volunteer their time and effort.

I would like to thank the Essex residents for unanimously supporting the annual budget. The \$26,522,194 combined Town and Board of Education budget plan for fiscal year 2023-2024 was approved by voters at our Annual Town Budget Meeting held May 8th. The total spending package includes the Town government budget, an appropriation for Essex Elementary School, and the Town's share of the Region 4 education budget. The real estate mill rate for the Grand List of 2022 has been set at 22.59, which is a decrease from the prior Grand List year.

The economy in Essex has been thriving with new businesses starting up and others relocating within Town. We welcome all the new growth and encourage all residents to support local businesses. Our Essex Board of Trade and the Ivoryton Alliance both remain strong and have organized many successful events that have contributed to the promotion of the Town and have enhanced the quality of life in our three villages.

The Town was awarded two grants this past fiscal year. The first is a \$500,000 grant through the Small-Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) for the Essex Civic Campus Enhancement project. Beginning next July, the project will consist of improvements to Hubbard Park: new fencing, additional parking, pedestrian pathways, new concessions, ADA compliant restrooms, and equipment storage along with

landscaping improvements. The second is a connectivity grant to extend the sidewalk from 5 River Rd. to 85 River Rd. The project will include a pedestrian bridge to cross the Falls River.

The Town has been working arduously on another STEAP grant to mitigate flooding and enhance the pedestrian environment in the Ferry Street area. We recently found out that the Town was awarded the grant. We will begin work on the Ferry Street project this coming spring.

To stay up to date with what's happening in our community, I encourage residents to sign up for the Essex News quarterly email newsletter and the emergency notification system, Safer Essex. You can subscribe to both services by going to our Town website at www.essexct.gov/home/pages/online-services.

It continues to be an honor and a privilege to serve as the First Selectman for the Town of Essex. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Selectman Stacia Libby and Selectman Bruce Glowac for their efforts this year as well as the many volunteers, local elected and appointed officials, and the Town of Essex staff.

Best,

Norm



Town Hall Halloween 2022

HISTORY OF ESSEX

The lower Connecticut River Valley was originally occupied by semi-agricultural indigenous people who enjoyed the bounty of the land and the Connecticut River. The area we call Essex today was referred to as Potapoug originally and for the first two hundred years or so of its history. Although the earliest colonists arrived from Old Saybrook to farm what is today known as Essex village, the earliest English population actually grew in Centerbrook. Centerbrook possessed two attractive features which captured the attention of settlers, a natural waterfall along the Falls River (ideal for the construction of several mills) and the richest farmland in the area. Hence, the construction of the first meetinghouse (1722) can be found in this section of town along Main Street.

As the seventeenth century passed, however, riverfront activity increased in importance. It was during this time that shipbuilding began to dominate the local economy. Ancient maps reveal a ropewalk, several blacksmiths, wharves and other businesses associated with the construction of ships. During the American Revolution, Essex's Captain Uriah Hayden constructed the State's first battleship, the "Oliver Cromwell" which went on to see significant action during the war. Shortly thereafter Essex developed into a regional leader in the construction of sailing vessels, building over 600 ships over the next century. Not surprisingly, Essex became a British target during the War of

1812 for its association with privateering. While the Town was spared, the burning of the fleet (a total of 28 vessels) on April 8, 1814, ranks among the most costly defeats of the entire war.

The nineteenth century brought about substantial changes to the already ancient town. While steamboat technology mounted a growing challenge to the traditional wooden sailing ships constructed along the riverfront, other industrial innovations led to the rise of a third village in the small town. The interior of Essex, marked by the steep hills threaded by the Falls River, proved ideal for the construction of mill ponds for water power. Under the innovative and entrepreneurial mind of Samuel M. Comstock, who later partnered with George A. Cheney, the village of Ivoryton grew into a national leader in the manufacture of piano actions and keyboards (among other ivory products). As the employer of thousands of immigrants, Ivoryton developed into a prototypical "company town". World War II allowed the factory to escape the throes of the Great Depression; however the decline in popularity of the piano shortly thereafter began the passing of yet another era. Since the departure of piano manufacture, Essex has in essence made its long history the center of its economy. The natural beauty of the land and water, coupled with the architecture and stories of the past have led to the development of Essex as a popular tourist destination in the State.



ELECTED OFFICIALS

TOWN OF ESSEX

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Norman M. Needleman, First Selectman
Stacia R. Libby, Selectman
Bruce M. Glowac, Selectman

TOWN CLERK

Joel Marzi

TREASURER

James D. Francis

TAX COLLECTOR

Megan D. Haskins

BOARD OF FINANCE

W. Campbell Hudson, Chair
Terry Stewart
Ethan Goller
Mary-Louise Polo
Vincent Pacileo III
Brian Weinstein

BOARD OF EDUCATION—ESSEX ELEMENTARY

Lon J. Seidman, Chair
Mark Watson
Cassandra Sweet
Nancy Johnston
Justin Pillion
Marjorie Russell

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

Keith Russell, Chair
Mark Bombaci
George Wendell

BOARD OF EDUCATION—REGION #4

Jennifer A. Clark
Katelyn Sandmann
Lon J. Seidman

JUDGE OF PROBATE

Jeannine Lewis

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Caitlin Riley
Barbara Ryan

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

GOVERNOR

Ned Lamont

LT. GOVERNOR

Susan Bysiewicz

STATE COMPTROLLER

Sean Scanlon

STATE TREASURER

Erick Russell

ATTORNEY GENERAL

William Tong

SECRETARY OF STATE

Stephanie Thomas

SENATOR 33RD DISTRICT

Norman M. Needleman

REPRESENTATIVE 36TH DISTRICT

Christine Palm

FEDERAL

PRESIDENT

Joseph R. Biden

UNITED STATES SENATE

Richard Blumenthal
Christopher S. Murphy

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

Joseph D. Courtney



TOWN OFFICIALS AND SERVICES

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICE

Caroline Fountain, Animal Control Officer

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Jessica Sypher, Assessor
Karen Abercrombie, Assistant to the Assessor

AUDITORS

Mahoney, Sabol & Company, LLP

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Bill DeMatteo, Building Official

CENTRAL REGIONAL TOURISM DISTRICT

Jacqueline Hubbard

CENTRAL SERVICES

Andrew Harrington, Building & Grounds
Superintendent
Kimberly Fair
April Lucarelli
Brigida Matute
Azra Bivic

COMCAST CABLE T.V. ADVISORY BOARD

Richard W. Stebbins

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Kathleen Tucker, Chair
Frank Hall
Richard Helmecki
James O'Brien
Mark Reeves
Elizabeth Stulga

CONNECTICUT RIVER GATEWAY COMMISSION

Claire Matthews
Misha Semenov, alternate

CONSULTING ENGINEER

Robert Doane, Jr., Doane Engineering

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Susan Malan, Chair
Peter Decker
Brian Weinstein
James Vineburgh
Thomas Nichols
Mary Ellen Barnes
Thomas Pinkowish

EDUCATION—REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 4 ADMINISTRATION

Brian J. White, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Sarah Brzozowy, Assistant Superintendent
Sarah Smalley, Director of Pupil Services
Robert Grissom, Finance Director

ESSEX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

David Kitzman, Principal

JOHN WINTHROP JR. HIGH SCHOOL

Melissa Morgan-Hostetler, Principal
Peter Foxen, Dean of Students

VALLEY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Mike Barile, Principal
Carolyn Gbunblee, Associate Principal

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Lisa Fasulo, Director
Maria Lucarelli, Support Staff

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL

Judith Reynolds

ESSEX AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

Judith Reynolds

ESSEX FIRE ENGINE COMPANY #1

Andrew Kressley, Chief

ESSEX HOUSING AUTHORITY

Janice M. Atkeson, Chair
DG Fitton
Gary Arnhold
Richard W. Stebbins
Barbara Rutigliano

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Tracey Celentano, Finance Director
Dana Novorio, Asst to the Finance Director

FIRE MARSHAL

John Planas, Fire Marshal

HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Terry Stewart, Chair
Jeff Going
John Senning
Susan Malan
Eugene C. Schellens
William Herlihy, alternate
Brian Weinstein, alternate

HARBOR MASTER

Paul Riggio, Harbor Master
David Fasulo, Deputy Harbor Master

HEALTH DIRECTOR / SANITARIAN

Lisa Fasulo, Health Director
Don Mitchell, Sanitarian
Vickie Han, Food Service Inspector

TOWN OFFICIALS AND SERVICES

INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION

Fred Szufnarowski, Chair
David Kirsch
Ernest Cook
Michael Furgueson
Noreen Brennan-Rowe
Carolyn Field, alternate
Lisa Krall, alternate

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Philip Beckman.....860-287-4965
Thomas Bellos860-767-2741
Mary Bowers.....860-575-9619
Pamela Carroll860-258-2685
Thomas Carroll860-258-0596
Heather K Chamberlain.....860-552-9529
Peter Decker.....860-767-9516
Ann S. Dixon.....860-767-1339
Keith Foster.....860-373-0043
Earl Fowler.....860-767-2764
Larry Freundlich.....860-767-2773
Krista Karch.....860-662-0635
Louisa R. Ketron.....860-767-7473
Shelley H. Mack.....860-581-3675
Philip J. Miller.....860-767-7837
Norman M. Needleman.....860-767-9176
John C. Stannard.....860-767-8051
Daniel J. Stypa.....860-767-2075
Kathleen McKinney Tucker.....860-767-0397
William P. Veillette.....860-767-8519

LAND USE—ADMINISTRATIVE

Darcy Roper
Kerry Berardinelli

LANDFILL/RECYCLING CENTER

Wilbur Armstead

LIBRARIES

ESSEX LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Ann Thompson, Library Director

IVORYTON LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Elizabeth Alvord, Library Director

LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Alan Kerr
Sandra Childress, alternate

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE

Lisa Fasulo
John Planas
Judith Reynolds

MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY

Mary Ellen Barnes

PARK AND RECREATION

Mary Ellen Barnes, Park & Recreation Director
Tim Lachance, Park & Recreation Assistant

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Brette Fitton, Chair
John J. Bean Jr.
Anthony Mosa
Daniel Needleman
Carolyn Field
Christopher Perry, alternate

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Russell Smith, Chair
Mark Reeves
Gary Riggio
Jane Siris
Robert L. Day III
Chris Riley
Peter Fleischer
Thomas Carroll, alternate
Jeffrey Lovelace, alternate
David Rosengren, alternate

PUBLIC WORKS

Ryan Welch, Director
Richard Gallacher
David Martin
Dwight Massey
Paul Mackenzie

PUMPOUT BOAT OPERATIONS

Joel Severance

REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Winifred Olson

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Caitlin Riley
Barbara Ryan

RESIDENT STATE TROOPER & ESSEX POLICE

Mark Roberts, Resident State Trooper
James Paul Kenefick, Corporal
Todd Belcourt, Corporal
Christopher McCarthy, Corporal
Jeffrey DePerry, Police Officer
Judson Howes, Police Officer
Robert Hart, Police Officer (PT)
Chris Reid, Police Officer (PT)

CROSSING GUARD

William Westerman

TOWN OFFICIALS AND SERVICES

HARBOR PATROL

William Rochette, Boat Operator
Mark Walter, Boat Operator
Richard Varricchio, Boat Operator

RETIREMENT BOARD

Peter Decker, Chair
Stacia Libby
Mary-Louise Polo
Kelly Sterner
Robert Parkerson

SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

Norman M. Needleman, First Selectman
Stacia R. Libby, Selectman
Bruce M. Glowac, Selectman
Maria Lucarelli, Assistant to Selectmen
Alyson Finnegan, Administrative Assistant

SOCIAL SERVICES

Mary Ellen Barnes

TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

Megan D. Haskins, Tax Collector
Lynne Skinner, Assistant to the Tax Collector

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Joel Marzi, Town Clerk
Yvonne Roziak, Assistant Town Clerk

TOWN COUNSEL

Sylvia K. Rutkowska, Esquire
David M. Royston, Esquire

TREASURER

James Francis

TREE COMMITTEE

Kenneth Bombaci
Robbie Marshal
Susan Malan
Glenn Jacobsen
Phyllis Pratt O'Neil
Matthew Winkler

TREE WARDEN

August Pampel

VETERANS SERVICES

Doug Haynes

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

William Timothy Furgueson, Chair
Barbara Sarrantonio
Phillip Schaller
Philip Beckman
Ward Feirer
Susan Feaster, alternate
Richard Rybak, alternate
George Wendell, alternate

ZONING ENFORCEMENT

Carey Duques, Zoning/Wetlands
Enforcement Agent



Resident State Trooper Mark Robert and Animal Control Officer Fountain at the annual 2022 Pet Food Drive.

SECTION II—DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICE

The Animal Control Office is staffed by one part-time Animal Control Officer who serves the Tri-Town community. Most of the calls for service to Animal Control regard wildlife. As always, please be mindful of wildlife and keep your distance. If you see wildlife acting strangely, such as walking in circles, walking into things, stumbling, acting overly aggressive or overly friendly, or dragging its hind end, please call Animal Control at the numbers below or the CT State Police Troop F in Westbrook at 860-399-2100. If you are experiencing an issue with nuisance wildlife, please direct your call to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) at 860-424-3333 or call a local Nuisance Wildlife Control Officer who is equipped and trained to deal with nuisance wildlife. If your concern is regarding orphaned wildlife young, please call the DEEP or a DEEP licensed wildlife rehabber. Please note that it is illegal to rehabilitate adult Rabies Vector Species (fox, raccoon, skunk). It is also illegal in the State of Connecticut to relocate any Rabies Vector Species under CT General Statutes sections 26-47(b) and 26-57.

Please remember to get your dogs licensed every June! Connecticut state law dictates that dogs over 6 months in age must be licensed in the town they reside and all dogs and cats over the age of 3 months must be vaccinated against rabies.

The Animal Control Office receives many calls per year regarding roaming dogs and dogs running into the road after pedestrians. Be advised that it is the owner's responsibility to always keep their dog under their control or an infraction ticket can be issued.

Please be courteous and clean up after your pet when out in public. There are numerous pet waste bag stations and trash bins provided by the Essex Parks and Recreation Department in our parks. There should be no reason to leave your pet's waste behind (bagged or not) and there is a Town Ordinance against doing so that is enforceable with an infraction ticket.

The Animal Control Office promotes responsible pet ownership by encouraging everyone to spay and neuter your pets. Spaying and neutering also prevents unwanted health issues later in life.

If you have any questions, please contact the Animal Control Officer Caroline Fountain at 860-767-4340 x160 or 860-391-7127. As a reminder, the following is a list of possible infractions along with their associated fees:

Failure to License a Dog: \$75	Nuisance Dog: \$75
Failure to Redeem: \$75	Roaming Dog: \$92
Failure to Vaccinate: \$136	Town Ordinance - Ordinance Concerning
Impound Fee/Day: \$15	Removal of Animal Waste: \$35



Adopted pets !

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

The Board of Assessment Appeals is composed of three elected citizens of Essex: Keith Russell, Chair; and Mark Bombaci and George Wendell, who hear and consider appeals of assessment valuations. The Board meets during the month of March to hear appeals to the Grand List of the prior October 1; i.e. appeals of the October 1, 2021 Grand List were heard in March of 2022. March hearings are for appeals of real estate, personal property and for motor vehicles on the Supplemental List (vehicles billed in January). Appeal applications are available at the Assessor's Office and, for March hearings, must be submitted by February 20.

Motor vehicles on the regular list (vehicles registered on the previous October 1 and billed in July) may be appealed at the Board's September meeting, after the July billing period.

There were no appeals at the September 2022 meeting nor were their any in March 2023.

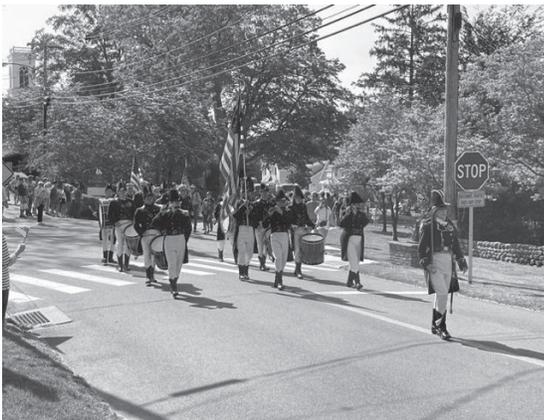
Keith Russell
Chair

BOARD OF FINANCE

The Essex Board of Finance operates as set forth in the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut. Responsibilities of the Board include the annual budget of the Town, as well as necessary budget transfers and other supplemental appropriations, setting the property tax mill rate, and publication of the Annual Town Report. Additionally, the Board selects independent auditors, arranges the annual municipal audit, and works closely with the Board of Selectmen, the Town Treasurer, the Finance Director, the Essex Board of Education, and the Region 4 Board of Education with respect to financial matters. Monthly financial reports are available on the Town website under the Finance Department.

The Board of Finance is comprised of six members, each of whom is elected to hold office for a 6-year term. Terms are staggered with two members elected at each biennial municipal election. No more than four of the board's members may be of the same political party. The current Board consists of Ethan Goller and Terry Stewart, whose terms expire in November 2023, W. Campbell Hudson, Chairman, and Mary-Louise Polo, Vice-Chairwoman, whose terms expire in November 2025, and Vincent Pacileo, III and Brian Weinstein, whose terms expire in November 2027. Regular meetings of the Board of Finance are held the third Thursday of each month at the Town Hall. Meetings are open to the public.

W. Campbell Hudson
Chair



Memorial Day Parade 2023

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Essex Board of Selectmen forms the executive branch of Town government. The Board is comprised of three members who are each elected for concurrent two-year terms. As of fiscal year end 2023, the members include First Selectman, Norman M. Needleman, and Selectmen Stacia R. Libby and Bruce M. Glowac. The First Selectman serves as the full-time chief executive and administrative officer of the Town. The Board works collaboratively to provide the services the residents of all three villages expect from our municipal government while maintaining a fiscally responsible environment.

The purpose of the Board of Selectmen is to oversee policy, operations, and management of Town government, appointments to commissions, and shaping the Town budget. Some government decisions are forwarded to the Board of Finance, Town Meetings, or Referendums, where citizens have more direct input.

The Board meets twice monthly on the first Wednesday at 5:00 pm and the third Wednesday at 7:00 pm. These meetings are open to the public and an opportunity for public participation is scheduled for each meeting. In addition, the Board may meet for a special meeting as required to consider Town business.

For the fiscal year 2022-2023, the Board of Selectmen met for eighteen regular meetings and thirteen special meetings. The minutes of these meetings are available on the Town website at www.essexct.gov and are on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

The Board also sponsored multiple budget workshops in preparation of the annual town budget and held several public hearings on topics relevant to Town business and the interests of our citizens.

Respectfully,
Norman M. Needleman, First Selectman
Stacia R. Libby, Selectman
Bruce M. Glowac, Selectman



Downtown Essex

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Building permits are required for all new construction, foundations, additions, swimming pools, demolition, woodstove installation, structural alterations and/or renovations to existing buildings as well as for any change of use of a structure (i.e. retail to restaurant, office to retail, residence to office).

Building permits are also required for plumbing, heating/air conditioning, solar panels, electrical and mechanical work done to both new and existing residential and commercial buildings. Driveway Approach permits are required for new and/or relocated driveways.

Note that building permits are not required for such improvements as painting, shelving, and decorating.

If applicable, all required Zoning and Health Department permits should be obtained prior to applying for a building permit.

In order to obtain a building permit, visit www.essexct.gov, click Online Services, click Online Permitting, follow instructions in Permit Link software.

You may either attach electronically in Permit Link or provide paper copies delivered to our office of:

- * (1) Electronic set or (2) paper sets of blueprints (for new buildings, additions, interior renovations)

- * Proof of contractor licensure

- * Proof of contractor worker's compensation coverage or appropriate State of Connecticut waiver form if applicable

- * Permit fee (fees are based upon estimated value of labor plus materials: current fee is \$30 for the first \$1,000 plus \$10 for each additional \$1,000 or any part thereof). Payment may be made by credit card in Permit Link.

The Building Official reviews all submitted building plans to ensure compliance with current state building codes. If paper plans are provided, they will be marked with pertinent code information, dated with the review date and signed by the Building Official. One set of plans is returned to the applicant with the Building Permit and one set is retained in the Building permit file. If plans are submitted electronically, any comments made during the review process will be saved as part of the permit in our Permit Link system.

Once all permits have been obtained and construction has begun, there are a number of inspections required during construction. A list of required inspections is available in the Building Department and on our website at www.essexct.gov under Building/Required Inspections.

The Building Department issues a Certificate of Occupancy or Approval once all construction is completed, inspection requirements are met, and all required documents are received by the Health, Zoning, and Building Departments.

From July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, a total of 822 building permits were issued for an estimated construction value of \$20,510,957.59. While the number of permits issued is down from the 891 permits issued last year, the total value of construction is higher. The

total fees collected by the Building Department were \$221,176.01. Five permits were issued for new single family residential construction.

Bill DeMatteo
Building Official

CENTRAL SERVICES

The Town Hall maintenance & custodial staff maintains the building and the civic campus, always delivering a high standard of cleanliness that the employees and the residents have come to expect. The staff cleaned, set up, and broke down the conference rooms for the many organizations that utilize the building for meetings and events.

Maintenance has been tirelessly preserving our historic Town Hall building. This year the staff focused on repairing the woodwork around the windows, replacing pieces as needed, and painting, to ensure the building lasts for years to come. Additionally, we upgraded the existing lights to LED lights as they are more efficient and cost effective.

The staff also maintains the Main Street Park restrooms which are open year-round for the convenience of Essex residents and visitors. The restrooms require special care as it is a composting restroom. Please adhere to the instructions when using the facility.

We are dedicated to minimizing the impact of our footprint by ensuring that everything we do is more efficient and greener. Our dedicated staff will continue to strive towards a safe and efficient Town Hall facility. We always welcome suggestions from the residents.

Andrew Harrington
Building & Grounds Superintendent



Town Hall Holiday 2022

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Essex Conservation Commission held twelve monthly meetings, seven on-site work parties and a Boy Scout Workshop to make Bushy Hill, Canfield Meadow Woods, and Viney Hill Brook Preserves safe and enjoyable for visitors seeking passive recreation in our Town-owned properties.

Bushy Hill Preserve: A hazardous hemlock leaning over the Red Trail was cordoned off with staked signage alerting hikers to reroute. We submitted a tree removal grant application, courtesy of Guilford Savings Bank, and have been awarded up to \$750 for a licensed, professional landscape service to fell the tree. Neither commissioners nor the Essex Department of Public Works had the expertise or equipment for take down.

Canfield Meadow Woods: Essex Land Trust Stewards monitor and maintain this preserve and report all issues to the Conservation Commission. One prohibited activity reported: bicycle riders gouging and rutting the trails. After a steward encountered an “e-bike” user overtaking him on the trail, large NO BIKE signs were installed at both Dennison Road and Book Hill Woods entrances.

Viney Hill Brook: Commissioners reclaimed a water pathway that beavers had blocked with sticks, mud, leaves and debris that made portions of Broadwalk, the main trail artery, impassable. Upland water run-off and underground water seepage again drain into Quarry Pond, Wollock’s Pond, and, eventually, into the Mud River. The beavers have relocated to Wollock’s Pond, a larger body of water. Broadwalk is again accessible.

Other: A letter was sent to the CT River Gateway Commission supporting their proposal to reduce exterior light pollution. We encourage Essex residents to be mindful of how migratory patterns of birds and nocturnal cycles of other wildlife are affected by light.

Jeffrey Lovelace’s term (14 years of service) expired December, 2022. Elizabeth Stulga, newcomer to the Essex community, was appointed in April, 2023. Other commissioners are: Frank Hall, Richard Helmecki, Jim O’Brien, Mark Reeves and Kay Tucker.

Kay Tucker
Chair



ECC Town Report Photo Bushy Hill Preserve
Courtesy R Helmecki

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The Economic Development Commission is chaired by Susan Malan. Commissioners are Mary Ellen Barnes, Peter Decker, Tom Nichols, Tom Pinkowish, James Vineburgh, and Brian Weinstein. Robert Day III is the Zoning liaison.

During the last year we visited local businesses and occasionally held our meetings at business locations. Land Use Officer Carey Duques invited Susan Malan to meet with and share contact info with businesses exploring Essex to move or establish a business in town. We previously worked with UCONN students to develop safer pedestrian passage with a focus on Ferry Street. Though the project was approved it was stalled during the pandemic and we are now in the process of redeveloping either a temporary or permanent path for pedestrians. We are focusing on review of the PoCD for our input in the next update.

We continue to strive to help businesses locate and thrive in Essex. We invite the public to participate in our monthly meetings and share their thoughts on how we can better help businesses. EDC meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 4pm. If you would like to attend our meetings or host one, please contact Susan Malan by email at couper2006@gmail.com or call 860-767-5011. Our meeting agendas and minutes can be found online at www.essexct.gov.

Susan Malan
Chair





EDUCATION OUR MISSION

We, the communities of Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4, engage all students in a rigorous and collaborative educational program. We prepare our learners to be respectful citizens who are empowered to contribute in a globalized society.

ESSEX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Essex Elementary School serves students from kindergarten through grade six and houses the Collaborative Preschool for Chester, Deep River, and Essex.

EES is a school with high expectations for all. The focus on student learning and growth is a direct result of the district's efforts to enhance instruction by focusing on the individual needs of its students. In addition to focusing on the academic needs of students, we offer programming to enrich our students' elementary experience. PE, art, music, library and Spanish are among the classes offered. Chorus, instrumental music, and ensemble are offered for students in the intermediate grades. These programs are beneficial to the development of the whole child.

Technology integration has been a focus. Students have access to a wide variety of technological tools. Each student in grades K-6 has his own Chromebook providing a 1:1 environment. Innovative and engaging computer applications are infused into the curriculum to enhance twenty-first century learning. The school is also equipped with iPads, a brand new state-of-the-art STEM lab, and 3D printers.

We have an active PTO providing enrichment experiences for students through cultural arts, field trips, and opportunities for family involvement. Support from this organization is an integral part of the overall climate of the school community.

Our students have access to many extracurricular activities. These offerings help to teach important life-long academic and social skills outside of the typical classroom.

The EES Foundation generously provides grants to teachers to support enrichment opportunities for our students. Two of the most instrumental programs



funded through the Foundation this past year were our scientist in residence program with the Audubon Society and our historian in residence program with the Essex Historical Society.

Our Social Development program promotes a culture, climate, and curriculum that enhances the social, emotional, and behavioral development of students.

EES strives to provide outstanding academic programs creating a positive environment that fosters a lifelong love of learning and sense of community.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

We are proud to offer a wide range of learning experiences for the students of Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 Schools. It is our purpose to ensure that at the culmination of their K-12 education, every Region 4 graduate is college and career ready, and well prepared to successfully embrace the opportunities and challenges that await them in our ever-changing world.

We are very proud of our award-winning schools. We celebrate the many accomplishments of our students and staff alike, in the areas of academics, the visual and performing arts, athletics and citizenship.

Our schools have continued their focus on the development of curriculum and instructional practices that match national and state standards across content areas.

We recognize that our excellent schools are part of the fabric of our communities and attract families to our region. We continue to develop strong productive relationships with the towns we serve, and partner with those towns to provide innovative educational programming that ultimately has a positive impact on the regional economy. On behalf of our schools, administration, staff, and students, we thank you for your support and partnership in developing our students to become the citizens of tomorrow.

Brian J. White
Superintendent of Schools

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The role of the Essex Emergency Management Department is to ensure the Town is prepared for local emergency response operations and to coordinate with State and Federal agencies during large scale emergencies. This office continues to participate in monthly Regional Emergency Preparedness Team (REPT) meetings, Public Health Emergency & Response Planning (PHERP) meetings, annual Statewide Emergency Planning Preparedness Exercises (EPPI) and continuing FEMA and incident command trainings. Planning and preparing for All-Hazards strengthens our community's ability to respond and recover from natural or manmade disasters.

On May 11, 2023, the declaration of Civil Preparedness & Public Health Emergency for the COVID-19 Pandemic officially ended. Throughout the pandemic, the Emergency Management Office partnered with the Essex Health Dept, local first responders, and State agencies to procure and distribute COVID-19 test kits, surgical masks, N95 masks, cleaning supplies, etc. Thank you to the many, many residents and volunteers for their support and dedication to our community.

This department continues to offer free N95 masks at Essex Town Hall. Residents are encouraged to have a supply of masks readily available for use when Air Quality Index (AQI) reaches unhealthy levels. Essex experienced unhealthy air quality for several days in May 2023 due to smoke and airborne particulates from large Canadian wildfires.

Power outages, floods, snowstorms, extreme temperatures, poor air quality, and other hazardous events can and do happen. Residents should always be situationally aware, heed all alerts and warnings issued by local and state agencies, and be prepared to shelter in place for up to 7 days.

Residents are strongly encouraged to review the *Town of Essex Emergency Preparedness Guidebook* and determine their own family's needs prior to an emergency. If you or someone in your household has special needs which may require evacuation or shelter assistance during an emergency, please refer to the *Emergency Planning & Evacuation Registry Form for Citizens with Special Needs*. These documents are available on the Town of Essex website at www.essexct.gov.

The Emergency Management Dept continues to be positioned and prepared to respond to local, regional, and national emergencies which affect our community.

Lisa Fasulo
Director

ESSEX HOUSING AUTHORITY

Essex Court is an affordable public housing community for elder and disabled residents under the responsibility of the Essex Housing Authority. Our campus is located at 16 Main Street, Centerbrook. Each resident enjoys one of our 36 garden style apartments which allow easy access to the outdoors. Our Resident Services Coordinator (RSC) hosts monthly lunches, bingo and other social events in the campus community room and outdoor setting. Gatherings are open to all residents.

The community room at Essex Court is fully backed by a generator in the event of any power outage. Residents have full access to the community room, but in case of a power outage, the community room is easily accessible for all and may provide access to heat and food. Essex Housing Authority was awarded a grant that would allow us to install generators for each bank of buildings. The Grant also provides funds to build an outdoor space to accommodate all residents for meals and events. In addition, the community building will be expanded to make our laundry facility ADA compliant. All residential units will receive a new water heater and new HVAC systems. Work on this project began in June 2023.

Community organizations continue to generously support residents of Essex Court. Each year, the Essex Rotary Club in conjunction with Dr. Tobin, provide holiday meals for residents. Essex Coldwell Banker and the Essex Community Fund contribute funds each year. Our local Lutheran church has provided outreach services to residents, helping when needed.

Any funds received by community organizations are used to sponsor social events and entertainment for residents. Residents are most appreciative of all these services.

Essex Housing Authority and the site manager, DeMarco Management Company, strive to make Essex Court a desirable place to live for all residents. We offer a high quality, financially viable, housing opportunity for elders and disabled individuals in the community.

Applications are available and the wait list is currently open.

Commissioners: Janice Atkeson, Chairperson; Rick Stebbins, D.G. Fitton, Barbara Rutigliano; and Gary Arnhold, Resident representative.

Mary Mansour
Property Manager

FIRE MARSHAL

The Essex Office of the Fire Marshal is responsible for the enforcement of many of the sections found in Chapter 541 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as well as numerous codes that are promulgated under the provision of these statutes. The Essex Fire Marshal is required to annually inspect all buildings and facilities of public service and occupancies regulated by the Connecticut State Fire Prevention Code. The State Fire Prevention Code covers all occupancies except one- and two-family dwellings. One- and two-family dwellings may be inspected upon a complaint relating to life safety hazards.

Additional duties performed by The Office of the Fire Marshal include:

- Investigate the cause, origin, and circumstance of all fires within the jurisdiction, and report to the State Fire Marshal's office.
- Issue permits for the use, transportation, and storage of explosives in compliance with State Explosives Regulations.
- Investigate complaints concerning explosives, inspect explosive storage magazines, and spot-check all job sites where explosives are being used.
- Enforce statute regulating the installation and use of space heaters and inspect all flammable and combustible liquid storage tank installations for compliance with Connecticut Flammable and Combustible Liquids codes.
- Inspect and enforce the Connecticut Regulations concerning storage, use and transportation of liquefied petroleum gas and liquefied natural gas.
- Conduct site inspection of all fireworks and special effects displays for compliance with applicable State legislation and make the determination of the amount of fire protection and extinguishing equipment to be on site.
- Inspect all tents and portable structures for compliance with the Connecticut Fire Safety Regulations.
- Conduct review of plans and specifications for various occupancies and facilities being proposed within the town for compliance with the Connecticut Fire Safety code.
- Attend schools and seminars to keep abreast of the codes, regulations, and new technology.
- Provide safety tips and give advice to the public relating to fire safety and prevention.
- Upon receiving a complaint, inspect one- and two-family dwellings to ensure the statutory requirements regarding smoke detection and warning equipment are satisfied.
- Provide and approve open burn permits for town residents.
- Perform annual inspections for all establishments requiring initial or renewal liquor license permits.
- Approve and manage all fire department keyed access control systems in town.
- Utilize primary Licensed 107 Drone pilot for emergency incidents.
- Perform required National Fire Incident Data

management and emergency response data collection and submittals.

- Update and code National Fire Incident reporting data and submit to State and National agencies.
- Evaluate and generate pre-plan data for occupancies located in town. Pre-plan data is utilized by responding emergency personnel to aid in the mitigation of emergencies by providing important details about the occupancy and hazard contents.
- Work closely together with Emergency Management Director to establish and support Emergency Preparedness procedures and operations.
- Research and prepare grant opportunities for public safety training and equipment.

The Essex Office of the Fire Marshal requires permits for the following:

-Removal and installation of underground fuel storage tanks: There is a \$30.00 fee associated with this permit and may be obtained in the Fire Marshal's office. An inspection is required for the installation and removal of underground fuel storage tanks. July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023, there were 4 underground fuel tank removal permits/inspections.

-Tent/event permit requirements: There is a \$30.00 fee associated with each tent/event permit. The Fire Marshal inspects tents prior to the event and also determines the extent of fire protection needed based on the size of the tent and occupancy. July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023, there were 8 tent permits/inspections completed.

-Explosives permits: There is a \$60.00 fee for a blasting permit. Blasting permits may be obtained at the Fire Marshal's office as well as guidelines for submitting applications. July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023, there were no blasting permit issued.

-Open burn permits: There is no charge for open burn permits. Permits may be obtained at the Office of the Fire Marshal. Open burning is limited to the burning of brush only, on residential property upon which the permittee resides. Only brush (defined as shrubs, vegetation or prunings, the diameter of which is not greater than three inches at the widest point) may be burned. Burning on property not zoned as residential is prohibited. Further regulations are detailed on the permit. July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023, there were 15 burn permits issued.

Total revenue for permits issued by the Office of the Fire Marshal from July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023, was \$360.00.

For additional information please contact Darcy Roper or Kerry Berardinelli in the Fire Marshal's Office.

John A. Planas
Fire Marshal

HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

The Harbor Management Commission (HMC) maintains the two Federal Anchorages in Essex (the Main anchorage off the village and the Meadows anchorage) with marker buoys that designate the areas which allow anchoring or mooring within the anchorages without requiring anchor lights. Both anchorages are designated on NOAA charts.

Additionally, we manage the navigation channel markers in the coves and we mark the two derelict rock piers at the southern end of Thatchbed Island.

There is a continuously changing array of boats that need care in mooring placement. Our Harbor Master, Paul Riggio, and his Deputy, David Fasulo, manage mooring locations to position similar vessels together.

HMC also manages the Bushnell Street small vessel storage area. Vessels may be stored here from April through November with an annual permit. There is a limit of 75 vessels between the three racks.

HMC utilizes the OnLine Mooring web and mobile based harbor management software (onlinemooring.com) to process mooring, small vessel, and wait list applications. Wait lists can be found on the HMC website at www.essexct.gov.

In addition to Bushnell, the HMC manages 10 other Public Access points for the town. Public Access comes in different forms. The foot of Main provides a boat launch along with temporary docking at the Town Dock. Mack Lane and Main Street Park have ramps and floats. Little Point Street, Collins Lane, Nott Lane, Scholes Lane, Novelty Lane, Ferry Street and the Turtle Creek Sanctuary offer visual and limited physical access. Parking is very limited at most points.

The HMC is continuing efforts to update the Essex Harbor Management Plan to address evolving needs of the Essex boating and waterfront community. An updated plan has been drafted by the Commission and is currently under review by the U.S Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

The purpose of the Harbor Management Plan is to control the health of our harbor while maintaining access and usage within the limitations of our environment and the rights of property owners.

Other harbor activities include the relocation of two rock piles at the entrance of South Cove that have become navigation hazards. The rocks will form part of a barrier for the eventual deposit of harbor dredge material from Middle Cove and the channel along the Essex waterfront.

The HMC is not financed through the annual Town Budget, except through annual installments to the Harbor Sinking Fund. Annual expenses and other operating costs are paid through user fees from Mooring Permits, Bushnell storage permits and rarely, occasional DEEP regulatory fines.

Regular meetings of the HMC are held on the 4th Thursday of each month except in November and

December when they are held on the 3rd Thursday and are open to the public.

Terry Stewart
Chair

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Essex Health Dept focuses primarily on the environmental factors which affect the health and well-being of those who live, learn, work and age in our community. These activities include ensuring safe & adequate drinking water, managing wastewater & sources of pollution, investigating nuisance complaints, preventing foodborne illness and outbreaks, tracking communicable diseases in the community, etc. These local activities often go unnoticed because they are proactively managed, and issues are resolved before they rise to the level of emergency. The Health Dept is also involved in the broader social determinants of health facing our nation such as public health preparedness, climate change, PFAS in drinking water, healthy housing, and substance abuse.

In January 2023, CT adopted regulations which reduce the threshold defining child lead poisoning. New thresholds require health department intervention at blood lead levels of $\geq 3.5\text{ug/dL}$ (down from 5ug/dL) and epidemiological investigation at blood lead level $\geq 10\text{ug/dL}$ (down from 15ug/dL). The Health Dept continues to educate residents and contractors about utilizing lead-safe work practices when renovating homes constructed prior to 1978 in effort to prevent child lead poisoning.

In February 2023, CT adopted the FDA Food Code which replaces the Connecticut Food Code. All food service establishment owners, operators, staff, and health depts in CT are required to comply with the FDA Food Code which involves a variety of changes in time-temperature parameters for controlling pathogens, food labeling/consumer advisories, food safety certifications & demonstration of knowledge, frequency of inspections, etc. The Health Dept continues to work with these establishments as we all navigate a new process and collectively work to ensure the health and safety of the public.

The Health Dept completed 110 plan reviews, 12 new septic system installations, 31 soil tests, 23 septic system repairs and issued 8 new well permits. Food service inspections, daycare, salons/barber inspections, and public pool inspections were also done. The health dept distributed radon test kits, followed up with reminders to deploy the kits, and provided remediation guidance to those whose homes had high levels of radon.

The Essex Health Department continues to be positioned and prepared to respond to local, regional, and national public health emergencies which affect our community.

Lisa Fasulo
Director of Health

INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION

The Commission and Town lost a friend and esteemed member with the passing of Fred Szufnarowski in July 2023. The Commission was Chaired by Fred Szufnarowski until December 2022. During the past fiscal year there has been much transition of commissioners; Michael Furgueson, Vice-Chairman until December 2022 became Chairman at that time, Andy Roussel (member until April 2023), Ernest "Bill" Cook, David Kirsch, (now current Vice Chair) served as regular members and Noreen Brennan-Rowe (April 2023 became a regular member), Carolyn Field, and Lisa Krall (appointed in April 2023) as alternate members. The Commission meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at Essex Town Hall.

Carey Duques, the Town's Land Use Official, staffs the IWWC and works with Bob Doane the Wetlands Enforcement Officer (WEO)/Town Engineer, to review the wetland applications and projects. The Commission regulates all activities occurring in inland wetlands or watercourses and within a 100-foot upland review area.

During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the Commission conducted 6 site walks and issued 6 wetland permits. In addition, the Inland Wetlands agent issued 15 administrative approvals for activities within the upland review area. Two referrals were made to the Zoning Board of Appeals for variances requested for work within 100 feet of the coastal jurisdiction line of the Connecticut River. The IWWC addresses violations as they occur and is in litigation with one specific property owner that completed work in a wetlands and in the 100 foot upland review area without permits. A total of 6 Cease and Desists were issued in the last fiscal year. One is outstanding but the other 5 have filed the necessary permits and are in compliance. The Commission actively engages the community through an outreach program to educate residents about the

value of the Town's inland wetlands and watercourse resources and helps them navigate the IWWC's regulations and permitting process.



Groundhog Day Parade 2023

PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT/COMMISSION

The Essex Park and Recreation Department, working under the direction of the Park and Recreation Commission, strives to provide safe and aesthetically pleasing parks to the residents and visitors of Essex as well as enriching recreational programs for youth and adults. Residents and visitors are offered approximately 90 acres of parkland that includes: 9 park areas, a state-of-the-art playground, eco-friendly restrooms, 3 park shelters, a walking path, 2 fishing piers, basketball court, tennis court, 3 baseball and softball fields, a dog park, and picnic area. We also accomplished many park improvement projects this past year. The most notable is the picnic area at Sunset Pond. With the support of the Essex Police Union, The Paul Foundation, and the Town of Essex Department of Public Works, a new slate patio was installed along with a stone fire grill and Adirondack chairs.

The department provides many recreation programs for people of all ages. These programs are offered in a wide range of interests including Youth Sports, Youth Camps, Adult Sports, Fitness, Special Interest, and After School Enrichment. In addition, activities are also provided by the department indirectly through partnerships with various organizations (Essex Little League Baseball, Valley Soccer Club, Ticks Lacrosse, Essex Land Trust, Essex Board of Trade, Ivoryton Alliance), and many other community groups. Furthermore, many local organizations are issued "Park Use Permits" each year for their events in the various parks and facilities.

A further priority of the department is bringing to the community a variety of special events. This past year we held the Ivoryton Village Pumpkin Festival, introducing a Costume Parade to kick off the festival. We celebrated the return of the Essex Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt and hosted ten summer concerts. We were fortunate to have the support of several local businesses and residents.

The Park and Recreation Commission meets six times a year at Essex Town Hall. We welcome hearing from the public on questions or concerns about our operations and how we may assist you. During the past fiscal year, we achieved our goal of quality parks and programs and continually strive to make Essex a great place to live, work, and play.



Mary Ellen Barnes
Park & Recreation Director

Friend us on Facebook!

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) is comprised of seven regular members and three alternates. The following people were members of the Planning and Zoning Commission in 2022-2023: Russ Smith, Chairman; Jane Siris, Vice Chair; Mark Reeves, Robert Day, Gary Riggio, Chris Riley, and Peter Fleischer as Regular Members; and Jeffrey Lovelace, Thomas Carroll, and David Rosengren as Alternate Members. Larry Shipman serves as legal counsel to the PZC. The Commission meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at Essex Town Hall.

Carey Duques, AICP, CZEO, is the Town's Land Use Official and Zoning Enforcement Official. Ms. Duques staffs the Planning and Zoning Commission and works with John Guskowski, AICP, CZEO, the Town's Consulting Planner, on land use projects including implementation of actions identified in the Plan of Conservation and Development (PoCD), grant applications, subdivision applications and amendments to the zoning regulations.

Since July 1, 2022, the Planning and Zoning Commission has approved 9 Special Exceptions, 1 Special Exception modification, and 1 Site Plan modification. One 3-lot subdivision was approved at 63 South Main Street. Two text amendments were approved: cannabis cultivation and sales and medical marijuana dispensary and production and specific to the Gateway Conservation District standards regarding light pollution. One map amendment to rezone the Heritage Gateway as Rt 9 Gateway Special Development District was approved. The text amendment to rezone 45 Main Street in Ivoryton to Rural Multi-family (RUM) from Village Residence (VR) was denied.

The Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) formed a Regional Housing Committee. Ms. Duques, Mr. Guskowski, and Mr. Rosengren joined the committee as representatives of PZC.

Implementation of the actions in the PoCD is ongoing.

Carey Duques, Certified Zoning Enforcement Official
John Guskowski, Consulting Planner

PROBATE COURT SAYBROOK DISTRICT

The Saybrook District Probate Court serves the nine towns of Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme, Old Saybrook, and Westbrook, which have a combined population of approximately 62,000. Judge Jeannine Lewis presides over hearings, and is supported by six staff members including Sharon Tiezzi, Chief Clerk, Marge

Calltharp, Stella Caione, Helene Yates, Jackie Craco, and Rose Nolin.

The court is located on the second floor of the Old Saybrook Town Hall, 302 Main Street, Old Saybrook, and is open from 8:30 am—4:30 pm Monday through Friday. Paperwork for children's matters can be filed in the Old Saybrook location; however, all hearings for children's matters, with the exception of name changes, are heard by Judge Lewis at the Connecticut Children's Regional Probate Court located at 1501 East Main Street, Meriden. Utilizing this court location enables families to benefit from the services of social workers, called Family Specialists, who assist in developing custody and visitation arrangements that provide healthier outcomes for children and their families. Additionally, the judge travels to the homes or residences of persons who are unable to appear in court due to infirmity or disability.

During the reporting year, the Saybrook District Probate Court administered matters with respect to the following areas of the law: 1,843 decedent's estates; 399 conservatorships; 183 trusts; 170 guardianships of the intellectually disabled; 25 children's matters including termination of parental rights, temporary custody appointments, Special Immigrant Juvenile Findings, parentage claims, and guardianships; 55 name changes; 39 compromise of claims/appointments of a guardian of the estate of a minor; and 9 adoptions. The court also performs many administrative functions, and processed 135 fee waivers for indigent individuals to allow full access to its services regardless of ability to pay.

Court hearings take place in person, fully remotely, utilizing the Webex video conferencing platform, or using a hybrid of the two. In addition to the daily work of the court, during the reporting period, Judge Lewis published several short articles for the Events Magazine entitled "Probate Fees 101" and "Do I Need Probate if All of the Estate Assets are Jointly Held?"; spoke at Valley Regional High School to parents and social workers on the topic of how the Probate Court serves persons with intellectual disability; participated in the Haddam/Killingworth Senior Information Expo; spoke on the topic of non-financial elder abuse at the University of Connecticut School of Law; presented on the topic of Do Not Resuscitate orders, advanced health care directives, and the roles of Power of Attorneys and conservators to the Haddam Ambulance Association; provided training to the fourteen Probate Judges who were newly elected in 2022 on the topic of conservatorships, and spoke on the topic of non-financial elder abuse at the Connecticut Association of Probate Clerks May 2023 meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS

The Department of Public Works maintains the Town's infrastructure including its roads, right-of-ways, and properties. Keeping our streets and assets safe is our top priority but we also understand the importance of keeping our town clean and attractive. Safety includes responding to weather-related incidents such as snow and ice control, roadway storm clean-up, residents' concerns, and special event support.

Every season our crew is kept busy on tasks ranging from drainage maintenance and repair, road preservation and reconstruction, sidewalk maintenance and replacement, street sweeping, snow plowing, tree trimming and mowing of Town parks and road edges. The Town contains 42 miles of road, which can be challenging for our small crew, so we thank and appreciate all those who maintain their frontage. Keeping vegetation trimmed to the edge of the road or beyond is critical for maintenance and safety. Please maintain your landscaping so it does not impact our sidewalks and roads.

This year's paving program was the final restoration of a two-year water main project on New City St, Riverview St, Foxboro Rd, and Maple Ave. Kings Ln was also repaved to complete repaving of the neighborhood. The total linear distance of paving was 1.15 miles. Contributions from the Connecticut Water Company helped fund half of the paving project cost. Drainage improvements were also made including restoring and replacing over 35 catch basins. Having a paving program and working with the CT Water company is essential to our capital planning and budgeting.

Our pavement preservation and maintenance program is dedicated to extend the life of our roads which are about 15- 20 years old or half way through their life cycle. The best practice applications used for pavement preservation include drainage enhancements, repaving sections of pavement, crack repair and Chip Sealing. Chip Sealing is a waterproof layer of liquid asphalt with a stone wearing surface. It allows us to provide a quality road surface free from potholes and cracks. This year we were able to prepare and install 2.5 miles of Chip Sealing on Town roadways.

In the sidewalk department we were able to replace a short section of sidewalk on Riverview St as part of the paving project. The remainder of the sidewalk budget was encumbered into 2023 - 2024 for new sidewalks on Comstock Ave. We are very proud to have such a walkable town with 10 miles of sidewalk. As a reminder please be very cautious and alert as a pedestrian. Wearing bright colored clothing helps significantly improve motorist visibility.

Looking ahead we have many projects in the planning phase. Raising the road on Ferry St approximately 18 inches to relieve the flooding issue has become more of a priority. We are also planning to add a sidewalk on Ferry St to improve pedestrian safety. We received a Community Connectivity Grant award for the extension of sidewalks on River Road. The River Rd sidewalk project began this past summer.

The project includes sidewalks, a pedestrian bridge over the Falls River and improvements to the intersection of Book Hill Rd. The Town is also planning improvements to Hubbard Field which include new bathrooms, a concession building and an improved parking area. This will be funded through a STEAP Grant for the summer/ fall of 2024.

It is our job to continually monitor and assess the condition of our infrastructure. We must also be prepared for harsh unpredictable weather conditions. These weather scenarios are dangerous, and abusive to our roads and utilities. Please be very cautious during storm events, stay home or find a safe location where you are least likely to become a liability. If you need to go outside, make yourself visible and communicate with friends and family.

Our capital planning is updated each year and we continue to be ahead of expectations. We have a plan and the resources to evaluate and maintain our assets. Our crew is knowledgeable and thinks ahead to accomplish improvements effectively. The goal is to work in a methodical and diligent way to provide services which preserve the character and safety of our town. Please bring any concerns to our attention as they are very important to us and we will respond with courteous service and action.

Ryan Welch
Director of Public Works

PUMPOUT BOAT PROGRAM

The Town of Essex manages the Pumpout Boat Program for the Lower Connecticut River. This program is funded through the Federal Clean Vessel Act (CVA) Grant Program in Connecticut. The 2022-2023 Pumpout Boat Season was a very busy time for our pumpout boats. Boaters flocked to their boats since boating is considered a safe social distancing practice during the COVID-19 pandemic and boating is considered one of the safest, most enjoyable things you can do during the summer. Since the pandemic, there has been a huge demand for our boats to pump out waste tanks.

The Pumpout Boats operate and cover the area from the East Haddam Bridge to Long Island Sound, but not into the Sound. The offload sites range from Deep River to Old Saybrook and the DEEP Dock in Old Lyme. The gallonage collection was significant and the Town of Essex received another accolade from the State of Connecticut for the efforts in keeping the Connecticut River clean this season. First Selectman Norman Needleman received recognition from the State of Connecticut for the great job Essex is doing in keeping the waters clean from waste.

Joel P. Severance
Pumpout Boat Program Manager

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

The Registrars of Voters are responsible for administering municipal, state, and federal elections in the Town of Essex, and maintaining a centralized voter registration list. By state law, there are at least two Registrars, one from each of the two major political parties. Essex has one Republican and one Democratic Registrar of Voters.

The following elections and referenda were held during the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year:

- August 9, 2022: Democratic Primary for the Secretary of State and Treasurer. Voter turnout was 20.82%.

- August 9, 2022: Republican Primary for the Secretary of State, Treasurer, and United States Senator. Voter turnout was 22.32%.

- November 8, 2022: State Election, and a question on the ballot to amend the Connecticut Constitution. Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to permit the General Assembly to provide for early voting? The question passed with a 2,206 yes to 1,203 no vote. Voter turnout was 71.5%.

- May 2, 2023: The Region 4 Bonding Initiative and Budget Referendum.

The Region 4 2023-2024 budget passed with a 486 yes to 103 no vote, and the bonding initiative passed with a 437 yes to 150 no vote. Voter turnout was 11%. In the second half of the fiscal year, the Registrars completed an annual canvass to remove voters who have moved within or out of town. This canvass is conducted each year to maintain current, concise voter rolls in Town.

Barbara Ryan and Caitlin Riley
Registrars of Voters

RESIDENT STATE TROOPER/ ESSEX POLICE

Policing and public safety in the Town of Essex is the responsibility of the Essex Resident State Trooper's office. The Resident State Trooper's office is in the Essex Town Hall and consists of four full-time Essex Police Officers and three part-time Essex Police Officers. Supervision of police personnel is the responsibility of the Resident State Trooper. The Resident State Trooper is provided to the town under contract with the State of Connecticut. In addition to the Resident Trooper and his patrol vehicle, the Town of Essex benefits from the use of the State Police infrastructure, radio system, detention facilities, reporting and filing systems, as well as many other law enforcement support services. Supervision of the two Tri-Town Animal Control Officers is also the responsibility of the Resident State Trooper.

In addition to the police and animal control officers, there are four part-time Harbor Patrol boat operators. The police boat can be found patrolling the Connecticut River, coves, and marinas on a regular, seasonal basis. When in operation on the river, the

police boat can be reached on Channel 16 of the Maritime radio or via State Police Troop F in Westbrook.

For the reporting year 2022-2023, the Resident State Trooper and Essex Police Officers have investigated an array of different criminal, motor vehicle, and maritime complaints. In addition, they have responded to a variety of calls for service. A priority of the Resident State Trooper and Essex Police is to maintain an active role in the community, and you likely notice police personnel at public events such as parades, road races, and organized town events.

The Resident State Trooper and Essex Police Officers have participated in the 4 Wellness program for Essex Elementary School 6th Graders (in partnership with Tri Town Youth Services), coordinated safety presentations, and participated in several in-person and video-based community meetings.

The Resident State Trooper is also one of the State Police Community Trust Liaison officers and actively engages community members and guests in conversation, fosters positive interactions with youth around town, and creates and attends various public programs and events like pet food drives, prescription drug takebacks, a bicycle safety rodeo, and touch-a-truck displays.

For this reporting year, the Resident State Trooper's Office, Essex Police Officers, and State Troopers patrolling town and Route 9 responded to 8,622 calls for service. It should be noted that activity levels vary from year-to-year for many reasons. Of note, the number of reported stolen vehicles has increased since last year, aligning with the previous reporting years. This metric does not account for the instances of overnight rummaging of unlocked vehicles (also down from last year). The Essex Resident Trooper reminds everyone to please continue to heed the warning to lock your cars, hide your valuables, and take your keys. The Essex Resident Trooper also urges you to drive safely around town. Enforcement efforts have increased this past year in response to the national trend of unsafe operation. Please help by being mindful of your speed.

List of calls personnel responded to during 2022-2023:

Statistic	Total
Total Calls for Service	8,622
Total Nonreportable Events	7,067
Total Criminal Complaints	94
Total Stolen Motor Vehicles	8
Total Accidents with Report	92
Total Accidents without Report	4
Total Fatal Accidents	0
Total OUI's	6
Total Onsite OUI's	5
Total Accident OUI's	1
Total Motorist Assists	93
Total Citations Primary Charge	148
Total Warnings Primary Charge	1,159
Total Seatbelt Citations	36
Total Seatbelt Warnings	0
Total Marine/Boating Enforcement	93

Continued on next page

RESIDENT STATE TROOPER/ ESSEX POLICE

Continued from previous page

The Essex Resident State Trooper's Office is committed to addressing public safety issues and police-related concerns as quickly as possible, thereby keeping Essex a safe community in which to live, work, and play.

TFC Mark Roberts
Resident State Trooper

RETIREMENT BOARD

The Essex Retirement Board (ERB) acts as the fiduciary and administrator of the Town's three non-ERISA retirement benefit plans: Town of Essex Retirement Plan, Town of Essex Police Retirement Plan, Town of Essex Merit Service Plan (a LOSAP plan) for Volunteer Firefighters, and the Other Post Employment Benefit Plan (OPEB). The role of the ERB is to primarily perform a fiduciary and oversight function over the Town's retirement and merit service plans to ensure effective and fair oversight of the plans, their investments, funding, procedures, and distribution of benefits to eligible employees and volunteer participants. The ERB is authorized under terms consistent with the plans; to consist of at least three (3) members but not more than five (5) and members are appointed by the First Selectman for the purpose of administering the Plans. The current Chairperson is Peter J. Decker, term expiration November 2026. Current at large members are Stacia Libby, Mary-Louise Polo, term expiration November 2023; Kelly Sterner, term expiration November 2025; Robert Parkerson, term expiration November 2026. The ERB meets monthly, generally on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Town Hall at 5 pm. The 2022-2023 annual schedule, agendas and minutes are posted on the Town's website. The fund balances at the close of the 2022-2023 fiscal year were: **\$6,772,563** for the Defined Benefits Retirement Plans for Town Employees and Police, and **\$1,342,068** for the Merit Service Retirement Plan, and **\$205,974** for the Other Post Employment Benefit Plan.

Peter J. Decker
Chair

SOCIAL SERVICES

The Town of Essex Department of Social Services mission is to enhance the quality of life and self-sufficiency of people in need of financial and social services. We provide leadership, advocacy, planning and delivery of many services in partnership with public and private organizations.

Essex Social Services provides services with respect, compassion, and accountability, committing to not only the delivery of integrated social services but focusing on meeting basic human needs and promoting services that foster self-sufficiency and economic independence. We serve as your bridge. We connect you to the essential resources of the community. These resources provide the support you may need, such as food, shelter, educational and employment opportunities, personal safety, and access to health care services. The available services are diverse and support all ages.

Essex Social Services has a long-standing tradition of collaborating with community partners to enhance services to town residents. Our partners, along with many others, include the Shoreline Soup Kitchen, The Community Renewal Team, The Salvation Army, The Estuary Council, FISH, Child and Family Services, Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley, Operation Fuel, and the Essex Community Fund, which is a major donor to our Essex Emergency Assistance Fund, assisting residents with fuel, food, shelter, and other emergency services.

In addition, we coordinate the many generous efforts and contributions of our local churches, civic organizations, businesses, and individuals on behalf of the children and families of this community with our CHANGE FOR CHANGE drive that supports our Holiday Gift Card Program.

The Department of Social Services will continue to strive to seek out new ways to improve and enhance operations and to expand activities to better meet the needs of the community while maintaining a positive, compassionate, and cost-efficient environment.

Mary Ellen Barnes
Social Services Representative



Sustainable Essex Annual Toy Swap

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Essex is one of the world's special places. As residents we are all stewards of its unique natural landscape and can make positive decisions about how to live in a way that will benefit and sustain our community. The Sustainable Essex Committee (under the umbrella of Sustainable CT) is comprised of Essex residents committed to strategies that balance meeting the needs of today without compromising the quality of life for future generations. Essex is one of nine towns in Connecticut that achieved Silver Status in 2023, the highest level of certification currently offered by Sustainable CT.

Activities and Achievements

Grant Award

The CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) awarded the Town \$37,077 to help install two additional EV chargers -one at the Town Hall and one on Main Street, Ivoryton.

Decreasing Waste

Annual Swap and Repair - In November, community members dropped off and welcomed home toys, games, and children's books at our second pre-holiday Toy Swap. In March, the community took advantage of our second Repair Café. Many items were repaired thanks to our talented team of volunteers.

Food Scrap Composting - According to the EPA, food waste comprises 24.3% of total U.S. Municipal Solid Waste. Sending food waste to landfills or incinerators is costly and releases greenhouse gases. The Town contracts with a company called Blue Earth to transport the food scraps that residents bring to the Town transfer station to Quantum Biopower in Southington. The scraps are composted and the methane produced is converted to energy. The program is successful, with recent collections topping 4,000 lbs/month. In September 2022 Sustainable Essex helped Essex Elementary School implement its own food scrap program and collections approached 2,000 lbs/month. This fall food scrap composting began at all Region 4 schools -made possible by the generosity of tri-town residents and a generous match from Sustainable CT.

Victory Gardens -This year we instituted a process for residents to share home garden produce with the Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantry.

Thin Film Plastics - Essex and Ivoryton libraries have collection boxes to recycle your thin film plastics which the committee then transports to collection points.

NexTrex recycles the plastics to make decking and furniture.

Educational Programs

Library Programs - Essex architect, George Penniman, presented "Passive House technology" in February. Chet Arnold of Essex presented "Threats to Our Local Waterways and Strategies for Protecting them" in June.

Environmental Cleanup - From Source to Sea in October to Earth Day in April, we provide volunteer opportunities for the community to work together cleaning up unsightly litter that damages our environment.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

This past fiscal year the Town of Essex held the following meetings: 16 Town Meetings, 3 Public Hearings, One Municipal Election and One Regional District #4 Budget Referendum.

The following is a list of recordings for the 2022-2023 fiscal year in the Town of Essex including Centerbrook and Ivoryton:

Birth Certificates	34
Death Certificates	77
Discharges	5
Dog Licenses	637
Land Records	1,093
Marriage Licenses	53
Maps & Surveys	11
Trade Names	17

Monies disbursed by Town Clerk to the State of Connecticut:

Sports License Fees	\$ 581
Marriage Surcharge Fees	\$ 2,050
Preservation Fees – State Library	\$ 3,261
Land Records – State Treasurer	\$ 54,207

Monies to the General Fund:

Conveyance Tax	\$248,103
Town Clerk Fees	\$ 92,328
Dog Fees	\$ 640

The land records are on our public computers in the Town Clerk's office for your search as well as for printing the documents. You can also subscribe to the Connecticut Town Clerk Portal which is open 24/7 at <https://connecticut-townclerks-records.com>. You can also access a new search engine called RecordHub at <https://recordhub.cottsystems.com>.

We issue annual stickers (every December) and punch cards (anytime) to the Town Transfer Station.

Don't forget, when you reach the age of 65 you are entitled to a FREE Sports License annually.

VETERANS...Please note that by September 30th you can file your DD214 (Discharge) with this office in order to receive the Veteran's Exemption.

Our office is open daily from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. As always, we thank you for your support.

Joel Marzi, Town Clerk
Yvonne Roziak, Assistant Town Clerk

TOWN COUNSEL

As reported in the 2022 Annual Report, the firm of Dzialo, Pickett & Allen, PC formed a successor firm known as Arch Law Group, LLP. Attorney Rutkowska is a partner in the new firm and Attorney David M. Royston remains counsel to the firm and practices from its Old Saybrook office at 63 Main Street.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the firm handled the many miscellaneous matters customary for Town operation, including review and approval of Town contracts and review of responses to Freedom of Information Requests, and the like.

Litigation during this fiscal year consisted of two matters. The first was a lawsuit brought by Evan Blum, the owner of property at 158 Main Street in Ivoryton, known as the "Piano Factory". Commencing in March 2018, the Town Fire Marshal and Building Inspector declared the building unsafe and undertook various actions to enforce their Orders. In December 2020, Mr. Blum brought a counter-lawsuit in Superior Court on seven Counts, claiming the actions of the Town of Essex, its Building Inspector, Fire Marshal, and First Selectman, were in Violation of Various Federal Civil Rights, alleging Negligence and Infliction of Emotional Distress, and seeking monetary damages. After substantial Discovery, the lawsuit was scheduled for trial in June 2022. Rather than proceed to trial, the lawsuit was Withdrawn by the Plaintiff, without any payment by the Town and without any admission or finding of misconduct by the Building Inspector, the Fire Marshal, or the First Selectman.

The second still pending matter is an enforcement action by the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission Enforcement Officer, as authorized by the Commission, to remediate the disturbance of wetlands on property at 32 Birch Mill Trail, and the wetlands and pond on the adjacent property of Southwinds Association, Inc. This matter was tried in the Superior Court in April 2023. The trial was completed, and the matter is awaiting completion of post-trial briefing and the decision of the Superior Court.

There are no actions pending or threatened not covered by insurance which would have any negative effect upon the Town's financial condition.

Attorneys Sylvia Rutkowska
& David M. Royston

TREE COMMITTEE

The Essex Tree Committee was established in 1990 to inventory, preserve, and replace our priceless resource of street trees. Funding for the plantings comes from the Town and private donations. During the period of 2022-2023 we planted 12 trees bringing our total of trees planted since 1993 to 355.

The type and location are as follows: three Eastern Redbuds (*Cercis Canadensis*) at 1 Laurel Road, one Eastern Redbud (*Cercis Canadensis*) on Andrews Road, one Red Sunset Maple (*Acer Rubrum*) at 42 West Avenue, one Paper Bark Maple (*Acer Griseum*) at 58 North Main Street, one Red Sunset Maple (*Acer Rubrum*) at the Essex Elementary School, one October Glory Red Maple (*Acer Rubrum*) at 25 Kings Lane, one Red Sunset Maple (*Acer Rubrum*) at Sunset Pond, one Red Oak (*Quercus Rubra*) at Cobblestone Court, one Red Sunset Maple (*Acer Rubrum*) at 7 High Street, one October Glory Red Maple (*Acer Rubrum*) at the Corner of Clark Lane and Maple Avenue.

The Essex Tree Committee is composed of the Town Tree Warden as an ex-officio member and a minimum of two to a maximum of six members appointed by the Board of Selectman to serve without pay for terms of three years duration. The Essex Tree Committee has five meetings per year.

Augie Pampel
Chair/Tree Warden



WORKSITE SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Safety and Health Committee is composed of members from Region 4, Essex Elementary School, Essex Town Hall, Transfer Station, Park and Recreation, Public Works, Police, Fire Marshal, Health, and the Fire Department, who meet quarterly in order to promote health and safety in places of employment.

The purpose of this committee is to bring employers and employees together in a non-adversarial, cooperative and effective effort to promote safety and health at each worksite.

The duties of the committee include sharing ideas on anything safety related and discussing any accidents and preventative and training programs in order to reduce hazards in the workplace.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Essex Zoning Board of Appeals has five regular members and three alternate members. The ZBA Chair is William Timothy Furgueson and includes regular members Barbara Sarrantonio, Ward Feirer, Philip Schaller, and Phil Beckman. Alternate Members are Richard Rybak, George Wendell, and Susan Feaster. Attorney Sylvia Rutkowska serves as legal counsel for the Board.

There are times when residents would like to complete activities such as building expansion, shed placement, pool location or uses of buildings that do not comply with the zoning regulations. The Zoning Board of Appeals has the authority to grant variances to those regulations. The applicant is asked to provide a true land-based hardship that would make development in full accordance with the zoning regulations extremely difficult.

During the 2022-2023 fiscal year there were a total of 20 applications before the ZBA. The Board granted 16 variances, denied three, and dismissed one for lack of jurisdiction due to untimeliness. The ZBA and staff have been working to educate the public about the permitting process through public outreach in local newspapers and e-news articles.

ZONING ENFORCEMENT

The Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO) carries out a multi-faceted position within the Land Use Department. With the zoning regulations as guidance this individual administrates the daily activities that pertain to the applicable land use boards and commissions in Town. Carey Duques, the Land Use Official and ZEO, works with residents to answer questions about their proposed development and how to maneuver the application process.

The ZEO performs inspections, investigations, enforcement, and administrative duties to assure that residential, commercial, industrial, and other properties comply with the Town's zoning and wetland regulations. The ZEO serves as a conduit to the land use boards and commissions. There is also coordination with the other departments in the Land Use Office including Health, Engineering, Building, Public Works, and Fire to ensure compliance with all local regulations. Staff will guide all applicants through the process of getting their plans and ideas heard in hopes of getting the necessary approvals. Supervision is given to administrative staff as necessary.

During the 2022– 2023 fiscal year the Zoning Official approved 145 zoning permits and 15 administrative wetland permits. As the Land Use Official and Zoning Enforcement Officer Carey Duques staffs the Planning and Zoning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission.

Carey Duques
Land Use Official and
Certified Zoning Enforcement Officer



Ivoryton Pumpkin Festival 2022

SECTION III—COMMUNITY & SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

ANCIENT ORDER OF WEEDERS

Since its founding by Robert Swain as a non-profit organization in 1981, The Ancient Order of Essex Weeders has devoted its time and energy to the beautification and maintenance of the gateway into Essex. Our group plants, waters, and maintains the flowers and shrubs at the intersections of Routes 153 and 154. Our seasonal work schedule is Thursday mornings.

The Weeders is also a social organization. We gather for coffee every Thursday year-round. During the summer, we enjoy the outside seating at Olive Oyl's and we always have a summer party. This year it was held at the Pettipaug Yacht Club. We also have an annual holiday party at one of our members' homes.

The Essex Weeders has benefitted from the generosity of several individuals and civic organizations who enable our work to continue. The Essex Garden Club provides us with many annuals each year and mulch has been generously donated by our good friends the Bombacis. In addition to financial support, Herb Clark has installed a spigot near the south island beds specifically to water the plants. Discounts have been provided by Riggio's Garden Center and Scott's Farm. Traffic cones and safety vests have been provided by the Town. Private donations from generous individuals and local service clubs are also integral to our efforts. It is only through their help that we are able to water, buy fertilizer, and replace plants and shrubs as needed.

During the last year we made progress by having two women join our previously "all men's" group. And we are always ready to welcome new members!

Our website can currently be viewed at <https://essexweeders.weebly.com/>. We are starting the process of updating the site and using a different host.

Richard Levene
Treasurer

CONNECTICUT RIVER GATEWAY COMMISSION

The Connecticut River Gateway Commission works to preserve the lower river's unique scenic, ecological, scientific, and historic value, and to prevent deterioration of the natural and traditional riverway scene.

Its membership is comprised of representatives from eight towns, including Essex, along with Chester, East Haddam, Deep River, Haddam, Lyme, Old Lyme, and Old Saybrook; the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments; and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

Current officers are Suzanne Thompson, Old Lyme, Chair; Melvin Woody, Lyme, Vice Chair; C.

William Webb, Old Saybrook, Secretary; and Diane Stober, Old Saybrook, Treasurer.

The Gateway Commission was established by the General Assembly in the spring of 1973, and 2023 represents its 50th anniversary. In reflection of its accomplishments over the decades, the Commission received an "Excellence in Conservation Organization Award" from the Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC). State representative Devin Carney (23rd District) and Irene Haines (34th District) presented the Commission with an Official Citation from the General Assembly. The congratulatory citation was co-introduced to the legislature by Sen. Martha Marx (20th District), Sen. Norm Needleman (33rd District) and Rep. Christine Palm (36th District), in conjunction with Representatives Carney and Haines.

During the fiscal year, the Gateway Commission provided \$60,000 in matching funds to assist the Old Saybrook Land Trust in acquiring 11 acres of land on Ayers Point. The Commission also provided \$5,000 to the Haddam Land Trust to assist in its purchase of the 8.1-acre Kaye parcel.

A new brochure outlines ways the Commission might partner with land trusts or town agencies.

The Commission works cooperatively with land use commissions, planning and zoning enforcement officials to strike an even-handed balance between preservation and development. During the year, the Gateway Commission reviewed numerous regulation changes and variance applications referred to it by member towns.

One regulatory change concerned light pollution. Excessive night lighting has been shown to affect our health and dramatically harm nature. The Gateway Commission held a public hearing on a new lighting standard in May 2023. In asking its member towns to update their zoning regulations, language on light pollution was included for their adoption.

The Commission is committed to working with its river partners. It supported the 10th annual Tour de Lyme, organized by the Lyme Land Trust, the Connecticut River Conservancy "Source to Sea Cleanup", and the CLCC's annual conference.

The Gateway Commission launched an expansive new website in 2023. Visit ctrivergateway.org.

J. H. Torrance Downes
Deputy Director

Commission receives excellence in conservation award on its 50th anniversary from Connecticut Land Conservation Council at Gillette Castle reception



CONNECTICUT RIVER MUSEUM

The Connecticut River Museum offers many opportunities for families to spend time together. We are grateful to our local community, our member households, and the tens of thousands of visitors from across the state and beyond who have visited the Museum to learn and to experience the Connecticut River.

This was a busy year for the Museum with several excellent exhibitions. We are always delighted to host the annual holiday *Train Show* – a treat for visitors of all ages and a New England tradition that will celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2023. *Watercraft at Work* showcased over 25 paintings, prints, and photographs from the Museum’s collection to explore the working history of the Connecticut River. We were excited to have *Water/Ways*, a traveling exhibit developed by the Smithsonian Institution. *Water/Ways* explored the myriad relationships between people and water, including its effect on the environment and climate.

This season, the Connecticut River Museum was delighted to inspire river stewardship as thousands of people sailed aboard *Onrust* and cruised on *RiverQuest*. Those aboard *Onrust*, a replica of Adriaen Block’s 1614 vessel, imagined what early journeys up the river might have felt like more than 400 years ago while hoisting sails or singing shanties. While cruising aboard the eco-friendly *RiverQuest*, visitors learned about the ecology, history, and wildlife of Connecticut River while enjoying the beautiful scenery.

A highlight of every year, we welcomed the community to join us for music on the lawn during *Shanties & Sails* in June and *Thursdays on the Dock* in July and August. Our lecture series, *Live from the Boathouse*, welcomed dozens of people monthly for informative talks by authors, historians, and environmentalists. Our education department served more than 3,500 students from across the state including a cohort from Essex Elementary School, a partnership we look forward to growing.

Finally, we welcomed a new Executive Director, Elizabeth Kaeser, who brings some 20 years of experience in museums and nonprofits to the role. With this critical position filled, planning is underway for the Museum’s 50th Anniversary Year which will kick off in the Fall of 2023. This is a great time to get more involved. Become a Museum Member or a volunteer.

Whether you like planning events, maintaining old boats, or stewarding our great river, we would like to meet you! Find out more at our website, www.ctrivermuseum.org.

Elizabeth Kaeser
Executive Director



ESSEX AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

The Board of Directors and members of Essex Ambulance would like to thank our residents, local businesses, and the Town of Essex for their continued support.

Our personnel responded to 994 requests for assistance last year, including medical emergencies, cardiac arrests, traumatic injuries, and mental health emergencies. We helped at events, fire scenes, and responded to requests for mutual aid in our surrounding communities. We had a busy year!

This year our crews attended required training to increase their knowledge and skills for responding to mental health emergencies. The training has provided them with enhanced skills and the ability to better recognize patients in crisis. These skills will enhance their ability to effectively care for our patients.

We are anticipating the delivery of a new ambulance which will replace our 1996 Horton and we recently took delivery of a new Stryker stretcher system which incorporates enhanced safety features for moving and loading our patients, benefiting the patients and our crews. Without the assistance of the Town of Essex these acquisitions would not have been possible and we truly appreciate their assistance and support.

We would like to thank everyone who responded to our fund drive. Your donations have a direct impact on our day-to-day operations and will allow us to upgrade aging equipment. Our funding is acquired through donations, memorial gifts, billing, and Town assistance. Without the support of our residents and the Town we would be unable to continue to serve the needs of our community.

If you are a certified Emergency Medical Responder or Emergency Medical Technician and would like to make a difference in your community, contact us or ask one of our members for more information. The work is challenging but rewarding.

Throughout the pandemic our organization faced unprecedented challenges, our crews remained committed to caring for our community and we want to express our sincere appreciation to them and their families for their commitment to the health and safety of our community. Thank you and best wishes for a healthy and safe year.

D.G. Fitton
President, Board of
Directors
Judi Reynolds
Chief of Service

ESSEX BOARD OF TRADE

Incorporated in 1999, the Essex Board of Trade (EBOT) is a non-profit organization managed by a volunteer board of directors and comprised of 100+ business members operating in the three villages of Essex – Essex, Centerbrook, and Ivoryton. Our guiding principle is “One Town/Three Villages” with a mission to support local business through marketing and special events that create a vibrant community for businesses, residents, and visitors to enjoy and thrive in.

EBOT operates under the brand name *Experience Essex* to represent the vitality and full range of unique attributes and experiences – boating, specialty shopping, restaurants, lodging, museums, theater, galleries, historic architecture, etc. – available to all. Our *Experience Essex* website attracts 11,000+ visitors a year with the majority of traffic going to the Special Events page. Our Instagram handle is @experienceessex.com and it’s a constant visual and informative update on “what’s happening” in Town.

EBOT enhances primary streetscapes with seasonal décor and organizes many of the Essex events which are:

- Essex Ed Parade honoring Groundhog Day
- Daffodil Days celebrating Essex Foundation’s 30,000+ daffodil blooms
- American Flags from May–August on Main Street, Essex & Centerbrook
- Annual Sidewalk Sale
- Scarecrow FestiFall
- Girls Night Out
- Holiday Lights and Garlands on Main Streets, connecting Essex, Centerbrook & Ivoryton

Highlights for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 include:

- Annual tree donation to the Essex Tree Committee, as part of our streetscape beautification program including seasonal decorations.
- In October, EBOT increased the entertainment value of the Scarecrow FestiFall with a *Hocus Pocus* themed event and LIVE characters - “The Sanderson Sisters” – who flew in for photo opportunities with event attendees.
- In November, *The-E-List* shopping event, “Ladies Night,” was sponsored by EBOT to jumpstart the holiday shopping season, following a tradition of annual “Ladies Night” shopping events.
- In June, EBOT launched an *Alfresco Essex* summer advertising campaign to emphasize outdoor experiences including alfresco dining and shopping, boating, sightseeing, walking & biking
- Behind the scenes, EBOT has streamlined the new member on-boarding process, implemented quick links for website event postings and organization updates as well as improved digital correspondence to members.

Looking forward, EBOT will continue focusing on content and design of the website to be the window to our community for residents and visitors alike.



The red and blue Experience Essex logo on a white back-drop speaks to the rich history of Essex. The blue takes on additional significance symbolizing the river and tributaries that connect our three villages. Our logo serves as a source of pride for local businesses and residents, with a fresh appeal to attract visitors.

ESSEX COMMUNITY FUND

Essex Community Fund (ECF) has a long and rich history of positive impact and commitment to our Community as evidenced by almost seven decades of consistent community-based support and service. While we support a broad range of locally based non-profits, our primary focus has always been on the health of our residents, youth and adult enrichment programs, and addressing emerging needs that our residents face.

All annual donations (100%) that ECF receives from our donors stay within our community to serve the residents of our three villages. ECF continuously identifies, brings awareness to and gathers additional financial and volunteer support for emerging community needs. With the help of ECF’s volunteer Board and others, we work in partnership with local non-profit organizations, churches, companies and the Town of Essex. Through these collaborations, ECF is able to support existing or new programming that addresses the issues confronting our citizens.

Evening of Giving – In April of this year we were fortunate to be able to celebrate and reconnect with our grant beneficiaries at our Evening of Giving. Over 20 grants were distributed to local non-profit organizations that support the residents of our community.

Many of our donors contribute year after year. They endorse ECF’s stewardship of their donations, whatever the size, and entrust ECF to ensure that their donations provide our local non-profits with the support they need to best serve the residents of Essex, Ivoryton and Centerbrook. **ECF would like to thank our donors, for without your support, this vital work would not be possible.**

For more information on Essex Community Fund, please visit our website at www.essexcommunityfund.org.

Jean Schneider
Treasurer

ESSEX FIRE ENGINE CO. #1

The Essex Fire Engine Co. #1 has provided fire and rescue services to the town of Essex since 1833 and responds to calls for structure fires; vehicle fires; brush fires; vehicle rescues: marine searches, fires and rescues; mitigation of hazardous material events; ice rescues; land search operations; and any kind of EMS situation that exists. Our department is 100% volunteer and our members put in thousands of hours per year in emergency operations and training. Many of our members are EMTs or EMRs that handle the emergency medical calls that we respond to with the area ambulance associations. These members must recertify every two to three years to keep their certifications current, which results in even more training hours. Our members responded to nearly 600 emergency calls this year.

We have emerged from the pandemic that has lasted for the past few years, and we look back on those times with guarded optimism as the COVID numbers seem to be rising again throughout some parts of the country. The fire department continues to move forward with our replacement of equipment and additions of new techniques and tools. Our new heavy rescue truck has begun fabrication at the Pierce Manufacturing factory as I write this report and we expect delivery in October of this year. This vehicle will offer us a much more efficient rescue truck with more room for additional equipment used in all types of rescue scenarios.

The ranks of the volunteer fire service nationwide have been shrinking in numbers for the last twenty years and Essex is no different. We have a need for more volunteer firefighters and are always looking for new members. We will provide you with all the firefighting gear you will need and all the exciting training anyone could want. Please give some thought to joining your local volunteer fire department. We meet every Wednesday evening from 7 -9pm at Fire Headquarters on Saybrook Road for work nights or training, Feel free to come down and see what we do. You can contact us at www.membership@essexctfd.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/essexctfire/.

Andy Kressley
Chief of Department
Essex Fire Engine Co. #1

ESSEX GARDEN CLUB

The Essex Garden Club (EGC) has served and beautified the villages of Centerbrook, Essex, and Ivoryton for the past seventy-one years. EGC has 110 very active members (women and men) who live within our communities and enjoy a common interest in gardening (we are always looking for new members to help and inspire us).

We had our most successful May Market ever on May 13. The weather was beautiful and even more stunning was the fantastic spirit and sense of

community celebrated by all, as together, we achieved a banner year.

This year we fulfilled our mission statement by promoting educational and charitable projects. With the help of generous grants from The Kitchings Foundation, the Essex Savings Bank, and from our annual May Market, we provided more than \$20,000 in scholarships to students pursuing environmental science related careers and camperships to children participating in programs offered by the Essex Park and Recreation Department and The Incarnation Center.

We provided roses and perennials which were planted by the Ancient Order of Weeders on the islands at the intersections of Routes 153 and 154. Additionally, EGC planted over 140 roses, sedum and Russian sage throughout our communities and annuals in front of the Centerbrook, Essex and Ivoryton post offices and the Essex Town Hall. During the winter holidays, EGC members decorated window boxes and planters to give our villages a unique flair, lending an old-fashioned New England holiday spirit.

We made significant donations to the Essex and Ivoryton Libraries and to the Essex Tree Committee.

Throughout the year we foster, participate, and develop partnerships with other non-profit organizations in our community.

Dagmar E. Miller
President

ESSEX HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Essex Historical Society's (EHS) Board of Directors, volunteers and staff continue our active, collaborative approach to history. Essex's only historic house museum, Pratt House (19 West Ave), welcomes visitors two weekend afternoons each summer, staffed by trained, knowledgeable guides. EHS's offices and library at the Hills Academy History Center (22 Prospect St) welcome in-person and online visitors year-round, as our Collections volunteers answer dozens of research questions.

EHS offers a variety of public programming, including group tours, community events and activities in the Town's three villages. Our popular Walking Tours lead hundreds of walkers through Essex Village, Centerbrook, Ivoryton, the Prospect St/West Ave neighborhood and River View Cemetery.



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ESSEX HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Continued from previous page

We continue to work with Essex Land Trust on our multi-year Follow the Falls Project as we prepare to launch the final leg of our journey, Follow the Falls: Ivoryton with a 90-page book featuring 150+ images, produced by our marketing partner, Overabove. While we work with over 30 collaborators in any given year, EHS intensified our programming with Essex Library, including a provocative lecture for Black History Month, a StoryWalk with the Children's Department, and a maritime talk in conjunction with the CT Sea Music Festival.

EHS expanded our family and youth programming by providing tours for Essex Parks and Recreation Summer Camp as well as the Connecticut River Museum (CRM) Summer Camp. We worked with CRM to produce the well-received Celebrating the Connecticut River's Indigenous People with the Nehantic Native Nation and Elnu Abenaki.

EHS provided a series of live, online lessons in grades 4, 5 and 6 serving 140 students monthly, supported by the Essex Elementary School Foundation. Using inquiry-based learning with objects, documents and images from EHS's collections, we complemented the Social Studies curriculum while developing hands-on activities. The school year ended with field studies at Pratt House, Hills Academy, and walking tours of Centerbrook or Ivoryton. EHS was also pleased to work with students in grades 3, 4 and 5 in the Westbrook school system.

EHS expanded our staff in 2022, hiring Andy King as Membership and Programs Coordinator, and welcomed the assistance of two interns and over 50 volunteers (over 15 new this year!), who ensure we serve our mission.

Our social media outlets keep growing, thanks to some fun online features, such as "Find It Friday". Please visit www.essexhistory.org to learn how we can share the town's rich history with you!

Melissa Josefiak
Director

ESSEX LAND TRUST

The Essex Land Trust (ELT) is in its 54th year of building corridors of open space to preserve the small-town character of our 3 villages. We own and manage 657 acres of open space including 107 acres along the ecologically important Falls River— 23 preserves with 33 miles of trails. We maintain 3 pollinator gardens and are helping to restore the devastated American Chestnut with our 50-sapling orchard in Cross Lots. Our preserves are open from dusk to dawn and provide incredible opportunities for all to enjoy the great outdoors.

Our Programs & Events Committee organized a diverse set of activities:

- Earth Day cleanup at Great Meadows with the VRHS Environmental Club
- 45 VRHS Warriors in the Community partnered with our stewards working at 4 preserves
- Our annual participation in the Essex Elementary Arbor Day event
- Collaborated with the Essex Library on Earth Day and a Book Walk for children with their parents
- Successfully piloted 3 "Hike and Happy Hour" events
- Led another well-attended Millrace hike focused on the history of Ivoryton
- Organized paddles in the North Cove and around Nott Island
- Continued our well attended, free Annual Concert in the park
- Decorated our tractor and marched in the Ivoryton 4th of July parade
- Led Fall cleanups at 3 of our preserves
- Organized a Board Meet & Greet at Osage

In the past year we electrified the Cross Lots Barn and replaced most of our gas-powered tools with battery-operated equipment. We remain committed to the removal of invasives, and our bird and pollinator stewards and volunteers continue to protect our wildlife habitats.

As an all-volunteer, non-profit organization we rely on the generosity of our sponsors and members to fulfill our mission. Becoming a member of the ELT is a great way to support local environmental and conservation causes. Annual Family Memberships start at \$35. Our members receive our Woods & Waters Bulletin published three times a year as well as eblasts on upcoming events. Members also receive our Trail Guide and our new 12-panel color brochure focused on local wildlife. For more information about the ELT and to learn about volunteer opportunities go to www.essexlandtrust.org and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Jeff Croyle
President



Paddle photo 2022

ESSEX LIONS CLUB

The Essex Lions Club is proud to have served the Town of Essex for over 73 years. During this past year, the Lions were able to support their vision-related organizations. Contributions were made to the CT Lions Eye Research Center, Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation, and the CT Low Vision Center. We paid for eye exams and eyeglasses for Essex residents who could not afford them and donated eyeglasses are collected at the Town Hall year round. During our annual "Night of Giving" we made donations to numerous organizations such as the Essex and Ivoryton libraries, the Essex Ambulance Association, the Essex fire Department, and the Shoreline Soup Kitchen just to name a few.

During the year we hold multiple fundraisers. The ever popular Essex Lions Lobster Bake is held on the first Saturday of August. We have our annual Thomas the Tank Engine food concession at the Valley Railroad. At the Ivoryton Pumpkin Festival we serve free hotdogs and at Ivoryton Illuminations we have a concession stand. This year we are able to continue to hold the majority of our fundraising events and our Eye Charities Letter will go out to the community in November. As always, we hope to get an excellent response. We are continuing to accept vehicle donations as an additional charity fundraising endeavor. The club looks forward to another year of service, and thanks to all who generously donate in many ways to help us in our continued efforts to support our community.

The Essex Lions Club meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the Essex Veterans Memorial Hall. The club does not meet during the months of July and August. The public is welcome to join us at any time. For further information e-mail: lionsevents@bogaertconstruction.com.

Bruce Lawrence
Treasurer

THE ESTUARY COUNCIL OF SENIORS, INC.

The Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc. (ECSI) is a non-profit regional senior center located at 220 Main Street in Old Saybrook with congregate cafe sites in Killingworth, Lyme/Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, and Clinton. Since 1974, the ECSI's mission has been to promote quality of life, community involvement, and independent living for people aged 50 and over. Last year ECSI provided over 85k nutritious meals including over 65k home delivered Meals On Wheels, and over 17k congregate meals, 390 rides to medical outpatient appointments outside the nine-town Estuary Region. Also, 2,100 individuals received free preventative health screenings, and participated in social and exercise programs.

In addition to our essential senior services, ECSI

is a fun place for mature residents to exercise, dance, play cards, go on trips together, get a massage or facial, hear an interesting lecture, attend an art exhibit, get a haircut, take a painting class, join a book club or writers group, volunteer, shop at the Thrift Shop, use our fitness center, or just sit and enjoy our beautiful view. ECSI has a lovely, large facility that welcomes senior residents of the Estuary shoreline region. All in all, we had over 100,000 visits to our center in the reported timeframe for meals, activities, support and fun.

During the reporting period for the Town of Essex, the Estuary served 28 residents a total of 4,876 home delivered meals and an additional 52 residents joined us for 971 congregate meals. Our Emergency Medical Outpatient Transportation provided 5 individuals with 43 rides to medical appointments. We had over 5,000 visits to the center by a total of 51 residents of Essex.

ECSI is funded in part by contributions from the generosity of the nine towns in the Estuary Region, Senior Resources Agency on Aging with Title III funds made available under the Older Americans Act, grants, donations, and fund-raising efforts. I would like to thank the Town of Essex for your continued support of our programs.

For information and schedules of our services and programs, please call 800-388-1611 weekdays from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. or visit our website at www.yourestuary.org. If you do not already receive our monthly newsletter, please call us and we'll be happy to add you to our mailing list or send it electronically. The newsletter is also downloadable from our website. We are pleased to continue to serve the residents of Essex and be an integral part of services for seniors in the Estuary Region.

Stan Mingione
Executive Director



Ivoryton Pumpkin Festival fun!

ESTUARY TRANSIT DISTRICT

The Estuary Transit District (ETD) was formed in 1981 by the nine towns of the Connecticut River Estuary region with a mission of providing local, coordinated public transportation for all residents of the area. The nine towns have now grown to twelve and include Clinton, Chester, Deep River, Durham, Essex, Killingworth, Lyme, Middlefield, Middletown, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, and Westbrook. Service is operated under the name River Valley Transit.

The Estuary Transit District is governed by a board of directors. Each member town appoints representatives who serves in a voluntary capacity to adopt policy, set budgets and conduct long term planning for the district. Regular board meetings are held on the first Friday of every month at 9:00 a.m at the Estuary Transit District. All meetings are open to the public.

ETD offers multiple transportation services in the region, operating 66,000 hours of service over 1.3 million miles annually. Twelve routes serve the main corridors of the region and provide connections to public transit providers serving the surrounding regions. ADA paratransit service is provided along fixed routes for people with disabilities. Seasonal ParkConneCT service is provided to and from Hammonasset beach.

Door-to-door service is provided throughout all member towns as well as Durham, East Haddam, and Haddam through its Dial-A-Ride service. XtraMile on-demand service serves areas in Old Saybrook and Middletown. ETD also provides a taxi voucher program to provide half price taxi trips to seniors and people with disabilities.

ETD's services are subsidized by federal, state and local funding. This allows for inexpensive fares of \$1.75 for routes, \$.85 for people with disabilities, and \$3.50 for Dial-A-Ride and ADA paratransit. Students of participating state colleges and universities may ride any route for free with a UPass. ETD also receives a Title III grant through the area agency on aging which allows area senior citizens to ride Dial-A-Ride on a donation basis in lieu of the fare.

After several years of planning, Middletown Area Transit became part of ETD on July 1, 2022, nearly doubling the size of the district. All service was rebranded as River Valley Transit in April 2023. Service redesign and expansion is planned for FY 2024 to enhance transportation options in the region.

During the year, ETD began several projects that will enhance the customer experience. This includes expanding real-time bus information to the entire fleet, new fare discounts and fare collection system, a new website with enhanced customer tools and improved software for XtraMile to improve the service's performance.

Joseph Comerford
Executive Director

FISH

(FRIENDS IN SERVICE HERE)

FISH was founded in Essex in 1970 to provide free rides to medical appointments for residents of Essex, Deep River and Chester. Residents of our three towns wanting rides and having no other means of transportation may call 860-388-2693 up to noon the day before their appointments (Friday noon for a Monday ride) to schedule a ride for the following day. The destinations are within the triangle of Middletown to the north, Guilford to the west and New London to the east.

During the Coronavirus, we drove intermittently throughout 2021 and early 2022. We started giving free rides again in April 2022. Our initial ride volume was 20 to 30 rides per month. Ride volume increased steadily through 2022 and into 2023 to a level in June 2023 of 90 rides per month, similar to pre-pandemic levels.

Our Officers and Directors for 2023 are: Henry May, President; Mary Samburg, Secretary; and Barbara Ryan, Treasurer. In addition, Jack Frost is a Director working with new drivers and Bob Mountz is a Director At Large. Tony Carrano is our Scheduler, and John Heiser and Pat Callahan are our Dispatchers as well as Assistant Secretaries.

The modest budget for FISH is funded by grants from the Essex Community Fund, the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, the Essex Rotary, the Essex Savings Bank, the Town of Essex, the Deep River Community Health Committee, the Town of Chester, and other organizations, as well as by contributions from our drivers and riders.

Henry May
Driver and President



IVORYTON PLAYHOUSE

The Ivoryton Playhouse has been producing theatre in the village of Ivoryton for over 93 years. Built in 1911 as a recreation hall for workers at the Comstock Cheney piano factory, it was, and remains, the heart of the village. Katharine Hepburn first set foot on our stage in 1931 and ignited a spark that has burned brightly ever since. For almost a century, Ivoryton Playhouse has been an artistic beacon, lifting the spirits of our family, our community and our visitors.

The Playhouse is a year-round professional theatre that produces six professional shows a year, showcasing talented directors, actors and musicians from all over the country. The theatre is owned and operated by the Ivoryton Playhouse Foundation, Inc., a Connecticut non-stock corporation with Section 501(c)(3) status. Still recovering from the effects of Covid on our business, the Playhouse managed to bring over 63% of our audience back during this time and increased revenue to over \$2 million.

Summer 2022 burst into life with a fabulous production of Leiber & Stoller's *Smokey Joe's Café*.

Audiences sang along to the classic tunes including "Love Potion # 9", "Hound Dog" and "Stand By Me". We followed this with an audience favorite, *Ring of Fire, The Music of Johnny Cash* – one of the most successful shows in the past 20 years. We first produced this show in 2011 but Hurricane Irene wiped out a week of performances so we were thrilled to finally bring it back for full run! Our fall brought us back to the roaring twenties with F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. We were able to offer special daytime matinees of this show for schools and were delighted to have



students see the play and meet the cast after the performance for a Q & A. At the last performance of *Gatsby*, the Board hosted a *Gatsby* Gala fundraiser for the Playhouse, which was a roaring success! Our 2022 season closed with a wonderful little musical comedy, *The Winter Wonderettes*. The show was set in a local hardware store so we teamed up with our friends at Essex Hardware to decorate the set and to give the show a real New England feel!

After our long winter's nap (cleaning, painting and generally taking care of the old building), we opened our 2023 season in April with a heartwarming comedy, *The Legend of Georgia McBride*. Elvis and Drag Queens soon chased away those winter blues and spring was bustin' out in sequins and sparkles in Ivoryton! Tony award nominated Mia Dillon* and Tony award winner James Naughton* made their way to the Ivoryton stage in May for a critically acclaimed production of *On Golden Pond*. Directed by Brian Feehan, this show offered a tender and honest glimpse inside a long and enduring marriage – a rare gift.

We hope to see you back at the Ivoryton Playhouse again this year for music, laughter and a great night

out! To learn more about the Ivoryton Playhouse, please visit www.ivorytonplayhouse.org.

* Denotes member of Actors Equity

Jacqueline Hubbard
Artistic/Executive Director



LIBRARIES:

ESSEX LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

After three years at Essex Library, Deborah Smith accepted a position at another library in July 2022. After conducting a competitive, national search, the Board of Trustees selected Essex Library's Assistant Director for Public Services, Ann Thompson, to become Executive Director in November 2022. We welcomed librarians Dee Brennan in January 2023 and Anastasia Wilson to our team in May 2023. Ellen Miller was promoted to Adult Services Librarian after receiving her M.L.S. degree this spring. We continued partnering with Valley Regional High School to provide employment for two current students and two graduates this year.

In response to patron feedback on our service hours, we expanded them by opening an hour earlier, at 9 a.m., Monday-Saturday in January 2023. The library welcomed nearly 40,000 in-person visits in the 2022-2023 fiscal year (FY23), an increase of 32% over the previous year. Circulation of physical items saw a jump of 20% over that of FY22, to almost 50,000 items. Our collection of downloadable digital items from our Libby service nearly doubled, to over 14,000 downloads.

We continued offering programming on Zoom for those with mobility or transportation concerns. One event was televised: we co-hosted the Candidate's Forum with the Brainerd Library prior to the 2022 election. New interest groups for adults launched this year include Needlework, Genealogy, and a Writer's Group. They joined our six book groups that meet regularly through the year. We launched a Seed Library and gave away nearly 450 envelopes of vegetables, herbs and flowers. The number of weekly story hours for toddlers was increased to meet the enthusiastic demand. STEAM programming for younger patrons was also popular on Saturdays.

All our programs and services are free and open to the public. In recognition of a Strategic Plan initiative to lower barriers to access, the Board voted to eliminate overdue fines at their May 2023 meeting. We continued to offer free 24/7 WIFI and Notary Public services, along with quiet work and meeting spaces. Our librarians provided reference help with school and job resources and provided assistance with accessing state and federal information. We collaborated with the Region 4 Backpack Lunch Initiative and Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries on multiple food drives this year and, in partnership with Sustainable Essex, collected hundreds of pounds of recyclable plastics.

The library engaged widely with and is grateful to our local partners including: 211 Childcare, Alzheimer's Association Connecticut Chapter, Centerbrook Architects, Community Music School, CT Chapter of Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Connecticut DEEP, Connecticut Humane Society, Connecticut Valley Camera Club, Connecticut State Library, Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center, Eastern Connecticut Ballet Company, Essex Elementary School, Essex Fire Department, Essex Garden Club, Essex Historical Society, Essex Land Trust, Essex Meadows, Essex Park & Recreation, Experience Essex, Hartford



HealthCare, Ivoryton Library, Ivoryton Playhouse, League of Women Voters of SE Connecticut, Regional School District #4, SCORE-Southeastern Connecticut Chapter, Social Security Administration, Southeast Connecticut World Affairs Council (SECWAC), Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge, Sustainable Essex, Sweet P's, Tri-Town Youth Services, UConn Extension Service – Middlesex County, Visiting Nurses-The Lower Valley, and Yale Science In The News.

Ann Thompson
Executive Director



Friends' Mini Golf Fundraiser

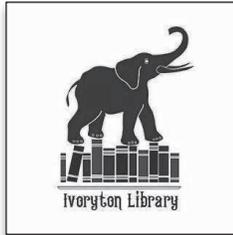


Nutcracker Demonstration with Eastern CT Ballet



Toddler's ABC's

IVORYTON LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



The beginning of the 2022-2023 FY started with the end of our Summer Reading program and the first collaboration between Ivoryton and the other three tri-town libraries, bringing the Chinese acrobat Li Liu to entertain families. Generous grants from the Peach Pit Foundation and the Community Fund of Middlesex County allowed us to bring in Li Liu and other multicultural performers to the library.

Throughout the year, Children’s Librarian Elizabeth Bartlett held 2 weekly story times and held many programs during school breaks to commemorate holidays and other special days like Read Across America Day, PI Day, and Earth Day.

Road construction provided the melody for a few months, with a strong bass line, but was done in time for us to partner with the Essex Board of Trade to collect and install decorated brooms as part of FestiFall. And the Haunted Library reopened for the Pumpkin Festival. We also morphed our Diversity Book Discussions into a bi-monthly book club called #OwnVoices, held every other month, September –May, on the third Tuesday of the month at 7pm. This joins our other two book clubs, Tea and Murder and Facts and Fibs (biographies and memoirs).

Other programs for adults included Hispanic Heritage, Zoom classes on retirement and social security, several adult Craft Nights and two 4-week writing workshops.

In November we made the difficult decision to remove the beautiful but problematic dappled willows from the back garden and installed a row of privets, gaining over 10% additional lawn space. The row will grow into an easy to maintain living fence for shade and security.

At the New Year, we sent out a survey asking for suggestions on how to make the library better for you. Any and all answers were requested, and two responses stood out: Better access in the front and Sunday hours. To address the first: we have long wanted to build better steps for easier entry for our patrons with limited mobility. There are roadblocks, but we are working with an architect, a contractor, the Town, and the state to make this happen.

Fingers crossed. Sunday hours were much easier to achieve. We’ve hired Sharyn Nelson, an Ivoryton resident and avid reader to work Sundays 12-3pm. This means the Ivoryton Library is now open 7 days a week. Please visit, if you haven’t already, for the best book recommendations.

Elizabeth Alvord
Executive Director



The library of things.

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS— VALLEY SHORE, CT INC.

Literacy Volunteers Valley Shore (LVVS) is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit agency dedicated to tutoring area residents to read, write and speak English to help them improve their life and work skills. This year we tutored 12 students from Essex and benefitted from the good work of 28 volunteers from the Town including 17 tutors. Overall, LVVS tutored more than 237 students. In addition to the 19 New Tutor Training Workshops, LVVS held quarterly Tutor Continuing Ed sessions with other state literacy agencies to reinforce ESL techniques.

The number of hours our tutors spent with students this year also increased. Number of client contacts through this fiscal year:

- 11,322 hours of tutoring (includes independent study hours); a 3% increase in hours/tutor vs. last FY
- 4.6 hrs/mo per student vs 4.5 last FY and 5.8 pre-Covid
- 614 Student Independent hours (more than doubled over last FY)
- 573 hours of Non-Tutoring Administrative support

Some of the key initiatives this past fiscal year include the following:

- Encouraged tutors to continue to work on student goals, such as those under English Language Proficiency. We are excited that one student achieved citizenship this year.
- Promoted student independent study to increase time exposed to English.
- Supported local organizations involved in the resettlement of families from countries experiencing very difficult times. Specifically, 14 of the 43 new students (42%) this fiscal year were from Afghanistan, Ukraine, and Cuba.
- Conducted information sessions about our services at community sites, such as the Henry Carter Hull Library in Clinton.

For the next Fiscal Year, LVVS would like to support its tutors and students through the following initiatives: updated technology and improved submission of goals & start up a monthly student conversation group.

Joanne Argersinger
Office Manager



LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT

RiverCOG, one of Connecticut's nine Councils of Governments, is governed by the chief elected/ executive officials of its 17 member municipalities: Chester, Clinton, Cromwell, Deep River, Durham, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme, Middlefield, Middletown, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Portland, and Westbrook. RiverCOG is responsible for planning of regional land use, transportation, emergency preparedness, environmental conservation, economic development, and homeland security. RiverCOG also provides services such as household hazardous waste collection and now serves as the county-equivalent government for federal purposes.

Projects in FY23:

- Finalization and adoption of the first Regional Housing Plan in 2023.
- Work began on its first Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs), a federally recognized economic development plan.
- Began work on the Aquatic Invasive Species grant program to abate Hydrilla in the CT River and continued to support federal efforts on this front
- The region continued to work with the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) and their Resilient Connecticut 2.0 project.
- Continued to host and staff the Lower Connecticut River Land Trust (LCRLT), the Regional Agriculture Council (RAC), and the Connecticut River Gateway Commission (CRGC)
- Continued work as the fiduciary agent for the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) Region 2 of the state's emergency planning efforts through grants provided by the federal government
- Offered Household Hazardous Waste and paper shredding collections from April to October as a free service to residents of the region.
- Staffed the Regional Planning Committee (RPC) and aided in interpretation of regional land use referrals
- Served as the area's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and were involved in many transportation-related projects through State and Federal funding
- Hosted compost bin/rain barrel sales
- Continued work with State GIS Office and GIO on standards for GIS coding and annual reporting
- Development of web-based regional data dashboards utilizing ArcGIS Online framework
- Received Thriving Communities grant from the federal government and started work on transit-oriented development planning

- Continued working with CTDOT on LOTCIP, TAP, TRIP, Community Connectivity and other types of projects throughout the region

Samuel S. Gold
Executive Director

ROTARY CLUB OF ESSEX

Rotary International has a broad and diverse global reach with 1.2 million Rotarians belonging to more than 35,000 clubs in over 200 countries. We have partnered with Rotary Clubs in the U.S. and the Rotary Foundation in a worldwide campaign to raise funds for fighting disease, providing clean drinking water, expanding access to quality medical care and sanitation, supporting education, and growing local economies. To learn more about Rotary International, go to the About Rotary | Rotary International website.

The Rotary Club of Essex was chartered in 1955. We are one of 35,000 clubs in Rotary International, a service organization founded in 1905. Through Rotary International, we are dedicated to causes that build international relationships, improve lives, support peace efforts, and create a better world.

We are also committed to providing support for local needs. During this last year, The Rotary Club of Essex Scholarship Foundation provided approximately \$28,000 in scholarships. Aside from two scholarships of \$3000/year for 4 years to a college student, this is the second year in which we have been able to award a scholarship to a trade school student. Qualified applicants are members of non-Rotarian families, living in Centerbrook, Essex, or Ivoryton. The application is available on our website, www.essexrotary.com or can be obtained directly from any of our members.

During the last year we have been able to support numerous local charities including FISH, Literacy Volunteers, Essex Library, Essex Elementary School, Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley, Essex Fire Department, Essex Veterans, and Ivoryton Library. We recognize the important works done by these groups in our community.

Funds for our mission are raised primarily from our widely anticipated annual Shad Bake. This event was cancelled in 2020 & 2021 due to the pandemic. We successfully hosted an online version in 2021 that proved very successful thanks to donations from individuals and businesses, many of whom have been regular supporters of our efforts. This year we were able to bring the Shad Bake to a new location, Essex Island Marina. We would like to give a special thanks

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ROTARY CLUB OF ESSEX

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to our volunteers and sponsors who helped to make this such a success. We look forward to continuing this annual community event.

We meet every Tuesday at 6:15 pm at Scotch Plains Tavern. The fellowship created through spending time together, locally and visiting other clubs around the world, strengthens our organization and expands the reach of the services we provide.

If you are interested in learning more about Rotary, join us at a meeting, look at our website, www.essexrotary.com, visit the Rotary International website at <https://www.rotary.org/>, or email rlvene2@comcast.net. We are always looking for individuals who will help us improve our world and be inspired by our Rotary motto, "Service above Self".

Tim Tobin
President

SHORELINE SOUP KITCHENS AND PANTRIES

Founded 34 years ago in Essex, the mission of Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries (SSKP) is to provide food and fellowship to those in need and to educate our community about hunger and poverty.

Any resident of Essex in need may come to a free grocery distribution once a week at any one of our 5 food pantries. All residents of Essex are also welcome to free lunches and dinners at 8 local sites serving meals prepared by our volunteers. Three of these meal sites are in Essex (The First Baptist Church in Essex, St. John's Episcopal Church in Essex, and Trinity Lutheran Church in Centerbrook). Serving 11 shoreline towns, including Essex, all of SSKP's sites are hosted by local faith communities. We employ only a small staff, operating with the assistance of committed and hard-working community volunteers.

In 2022 we shared 1.7 million pounds of food through our five pantries. All those who attended received fresh meat, bread, fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs, dairy, and canned and packaged foods. Essex residents who attend are not required to prove need; all those in our 11-town service area can simply come and receive food. Many local families continue to struggle with food insecurity. The total number of people registered at one of our pantries last year was 8,881. As of June 2023 we registered 8,721 of our neighbors.

This past year we experienced higher attendance at our pantries than at the height of the pandemic, as the economic support programs that began during Covid ended, and utility bills and the cost of basic needs increased. Many residents in Essex continued to need help. Last year we registered 200 Essex residents at one of our pantries - 58 Essex residents, 43 Centerbrook residents, and 99 Ivoryton residents.



Clinton pantry March 2023

The Town's annual funding of \$6,000 provides much-needed food for Essex families who are struggling. Last year the Town of Old Saybrook granted SSKP \$10,000 through the American Rescue Plan Act to help purchase a new refrigerated food truck with a hydraulic lift gate. This new truck will arrive soon, enabling us to safely deliver more food for needy families. On behalf of all the residents of Essex we serve, we are truly grateful for this generous support.

Find out more about SSKP and our mission at shorelinesoupkitchens.org or call (860) 388-1988.

Claire Bellerjeau
Director of Development & Communications

THE ESSEX FOUNDATION

The Essex Foundation had another active year of community stewardship, partnership, and financial support for initiatives large and small that benefit all Essex residents. Last July, the Foundation's Board of Directors approved a matching gift campaign to fund the Essex Veterans Memorial Hall expansion project. Thanks to a tremendous outpouring of community support the \$100,000 goal was reached in six short months. Community contributions hit the \$50,000 mark in March, triggering the Foundation's \$50,000 match and a celebratory check presentation at the Hall in Centerbrook. The Foundation also helped the Ivoryton Playhouse step up in style and safety with a \$15,000 grant to fund the design and installation of new steps, handrails, and landing at the front entrance of the theater. The project was initiated to improve patron safety while keeping within the period styling of the historic 1911 building. The Backpack Program was another grant recipient, with \$2000 awarded to the volunteer organization that provides students identified by school social workers at Essex Elementary, John Winthrop and Valley Regional High School with nutritious food on weekends, during school vacations or when other resources are not available. The award was used to purchase food items such as cereal, oatmeal, breakfast bars, milk, juice, tuna, peanut butter, jelly, pasta, sauce, apples, and soup.

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THE ESSEX FOUNDATION

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Sarah Moore of Middlesex Health/The Mayer Center accepts a \$10,000 grant award from The Essex Foundation board members Cheryl Harger, Jim Clark, Jay Tonks, Judy Bombaci, Herb Clark, Strickland Hyde, and Bruce Glowac.

The Essex Foundation also answered a call for support from Middlesex Health's The Mayer Center, a comprehensive service provider for children and adolescents with developmental challenges, such as autism, sensory processing disorder, speech disorders and cerebral palsy. The Foundation's \$10,000 grant helped fund equipment for the sensory gym at the new state-of-the-art facility in Essex. In June, the Foundation continued to honor the memory and bequest of the late Elizabeth Callender and her sister Mary by awarding a memorial scholarship to Tabitha Hardgrove of Ivoryton. The \$3000 grant will support her environmental studies at Rochester Institute of Technology. The Essex Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to making a difference in the lives of Essex residents. It is funded through donations from the community and strives to fill needs not met by other organizations or sources. In general, funds are granted for special purposes that usually require quick action and have an immediate impact, such as buildings, equipment, land, and programs, but not to recurring expenses. More information can be found online at www.theessexfoundation.org or by emailing contact@theessexfoundation.org.

Bruce Glowac
President



Members of The Essex Foundation Board and Essex Veterans Memorial Hall share a celebratory moment after the presentation of a \$100,000 gift to the Hall funded by community donations that were matched by the Foundation.

TRI-TOWN YOUTH SERVICES

Tri-Town Youth Services served 241 unduplicated youth who participated in: VRHS Peer Advocates (14); Girls' Circles and "Tag In" social skills group (110 elementary and JWMS youth); Babysitter Training and Job Bank (49) and Summer Programs (18). Due to the on-going behavioral health impacts of the pandemic, TTYSB's Clinical Department carried its largest caseload, providing Counseling Services to 38 youth, including the successful pilot of school-based mental health services at John Winthrop Middle School. TTYSB provided comprehensive Case Management to school avoidant youth (8) and youth referred to the Juvenile Review Board (4). We supported our community's healing and social-emotional skills development through education programs and events. Participants reported increased knowledge and skills acquisition, especially around problem-solving, relationship skills (communication and conflict resolution) and stress management. Youth place a high value on having inclusive, confidential groups with their peers. Their feedback and suggestions are incorporated into our youth program and support group designs. Some highlights from the past year included:

- 4 Wellness 6th Grade Prevention Program: 107 students educated

From January to April, all 6th graders in Region 4 participated in classroom lessons facilitated by Faith Sprigg, Program Director. Lessons included building wellness habits, internet safety and cyber responsibility, maintaining healthy friendships and introductions to the negative impacts of underage drug and alcohol use.

Continued on the next page

TRI-TOWN YOUTH SERVICES

Continued from previous page

- Peer Advocates Training Program: 14 Valley students trained

Peer Advocates was facilitated by Faith Sprigg, Program Director and Brad Pitman, Valley Social Worker. Students completed a year-long curriculum consisting of lessons on human development, mental health, listening and communication skills and QPR suicide prevention. Students were trained to be accessible sources of support and encouragement to their peers throughout the school year.

- Mental Health Awareness Month: 752 people engaged

This year's focus was on supporting mental health and overall wellness through social media marketing and newsletter campaigns, designed to reiterate available resources and tools available to youth and their families throughout Mental Health Awareness month in May.

- Parent Education with Women's Wellness Group: 14 people engaged

This year, we offered two series of Women's Wellness, which supported families in our three towns through parent education and experiential self-care skill building. We previously piloted this last year, with great success and demand from the community. While this program doesn't have direct youth participation, the benefits of this program positively impact the youth in our community.

Tri-Town would not be able to provide these programs and services if it were not for the support we receive from the Town of Essex and the generosity of the donors and volunteers in this community. Thank you for prioritizing the needs of children, teens, and families throughout this year and beyond.

Melanie Meyer
Interim Executive Director

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL HALL

Our members are involved in many of the events in the Essex community. One of the most visible is the Memorial Day Parade. We also are responsible for putting out almost 800 flags on the graves of deceased Essex veterans in the three cemeteries in the town.

In past years we have provided veterans with financial assistance for those down on their luck. In some cases, it just involved a helping hand around their homes.

The members of the Essex Veteran's Memorial Hall have had the pleasure of residing in the beautiful old schoolhouse in Centerbrook since 1946. We strive to maintain and retain the beauty and character of this historic building while making renovations when needed to ensure that the local and state regulations and safety codes are met.

We offer our meeting room at no charge to any 501c civic group whenever it is available. When financially feasible we provide scholarships to the sons and daughters of local veterans graduating from high school.

We were heavily impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and have been struggling to maintain our presence in Essex. We are constantly seeking ways to be a good neighbor and to lend a hand to the residents of Essex whenever possible. Anyone looking for a friendly place to visit or to bring a guest, please stop by. It is as simple as signing in on our guest book.

Arthur Davies
President

VISITING NURSES OF THE LOWER VALLEY

Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley (VNLV) is a non-profit organization dedicated to home and community-based health care. In FY 2022 - 2023, we received 264 referrals for home care in our service area: 19.2% of those home visits were to patients in Essex, Centerbrook, and Ivoryton. Despite the continued pandemic, home health clinicians still provide the exceptional care patients and their families expect, allowing them to remain in the comfort of their homes while they heal. We continue to assist our patients in developing emergency preparedness plans in the event they need to evacuate or shelter in place. Flu shot clinics were held by appointment at our location as part of our wellness program. We distribute monthly health promotion newsletters via email and health messages via FaceBook. We continue to value our community and provide the services needed to keep individuals and families in their homes.

We are the parent organization of Lower Valley Care Advocates whose staff provides private care services for surgical recovery, caregiver respite, and home management. Special programs are designed to help the frail, elderly, terminally ill, disabled, and clients with dementia, remain in the comfort of their own homes. All staff members are carefully screened, trained and bonded, and are expert at determining just what services are needed to achieve optimum health and safety at home. Please call 860-767-2695 for more information.

Our staff wishes to acknowledge the commitment of our volunteer board of directors: Judy Heiser, D G Fitton, and Sarah Manco from Essex; Ted Heiser, Susan D Murphy, and Peg Lieberman from Chester; Rueben Manning, President, from Scotland; and Bob Sampson, from Mystic. And, a special thank you to all Essex, Ivoryton, and Centerbrook residents who support the work of VNLV.

Please visit our website www.visitingnurses.org or call us at 860-767-0186 for service information or flu clinic dates and locations.

Susan Maxwell, MSN, RN, C-COS
Executive Director

SECTION IV— TOWN MEETING MINUTES

**Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
July 6, 2022
Meeting Room A**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:55 PM. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance, the latter via Zoom. Finance Director Tracey Celentano was also in attendance. Kelly Sterner was elected Moderator. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately twenty-two (22) people in attendance both in person and via Zoom.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a transfer in the amount of \$100,000 to the Trucks and Equipment Sinking Fund (032) for future Public Works Capital Equipment Purchases. Said funds will be transferred from the following accounts:

Capital & Equipment Leases (10496-508100)
\$25,000
Public Works Equipment (10496-508125)
\$25,000
Reserve for Encumbrances (10000-29260)
\$50,000

**SECONDED: Norman Needleman
Yea 20 Nay 0**

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 to be allocated from the American Rescue Plan Act Funds for all eligible full-time employees (\$500 each) and part-time employees (\$250 each); excluding boat operations, board clerks, poll workers, terminated and seasonal employees.

A question was asked concerning the frequency of this type of compensation and Norman Needleman responded that this was to be a single occasion.

**SECONDED: Doug Senn
Yea 18 Nay 0**

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount of \$30,000 to be allocated from the American Rescue Plan Act Funds for the Essex Veterans Memorial Hall due to the impact of the Covid pandemic.

**SECONDED: William Young
Yea 21 Nay 0**

MOTION TO CLOSE: Norman Needleman

**SECONDED: Stacia Libby
All in favor**

Meeting adjourned at 5:03 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Marzi
Town Clerk

**Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
August 17, 2022
Meeting Room A**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 6:59 PM. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance. Finance Director Tracey Celentano was also in attendance. Kelly Sterner was elected Moderator. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately nine (9) people in attendance both in person and via Zoom.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectman of Peter Fleisher as a regular member to the Essex Planning and Zoning Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December 2023.

**SECONDED: Stacia Libby
All in favor**

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2021-2022 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$15,000 for the Assessor Revaluation Sinking Fund as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

**SECONDED: Bruce Glowac
Yea 7 Nay 0**

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2021-2022 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$200,000 for the Bridges/Infrastructure Sinking Fund as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

**SECONDED: Norman Needleman
Yea 7 Nay 0**

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2021-2022 Town

TOWN MEETING MINUTES

of Essex Budget in the amount of \$50,000 for Public Works Ground Maintenance & Repairs as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

SECONDED: Bruce Glowac
Yea 7 Nay 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2021-2022 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$165,000 for the Radio Tower Upgrade and New Radios as recommended and approved by Board of Finance.

SECONDED: Stacia Libby
Yea 7 Nay 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2021-2022 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$300,000 for the Capital for Road Reconstruction, Chip Sealing and Sidewalks as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

SECONDED: Bruce Glowac
Yea 7 Nay 0

MOTION TO CLOSE: Bruce Glowac
SECONDED: Stacia Libby
All in favor

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Marzi
Town Clerk

Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
October 5, 2022
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 6:56 PM. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance. Finance Director Tracey Celentano was also in attendance. Bruce Glowac was elected Moderator. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately nine (9) people in attendance both in person and via Zoom.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 from the Revaluation Sinking Fund for the 2023 revaluation as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

SECONDED: Stacia Libby
Yea 6 Nay 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 to be allocated from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for the upgrades to the Town Hall Auditorium to include audio and video equipment.

SECONDED: Stacia Libby
Yea 5 Nay 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$65,000 to be allocated from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for digitalizing the Land Use Department.

SECONDED: Stacia Libby
Yea 5 Nay 0

MOTION TO CLOSE: Norman Needleman
SECONDED: Stacia Libby
All in favor

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Marzi
Town Clerk

Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
October 19, 2022
Meeting Room B

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 6:57 PM. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance. Finance Director Tracey Celentano was also in attendance. Kelly Sterner was elected Moderator. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately eight (8) people in attendance both in person and via Zoom.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the fiscal year 2021-2022 budget in the amount of \$45,939 to the Town Clerk Department as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

SECONDED: Stacia Libby
Yea 8 Nay 0

TOWN MEETING MINUTES

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the fiscal year 2021-2022 budget in the amount of \$51,938 to the Police Services Department as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

SECONDED: Bruce Glowac
Yea 8 Nay 0

MOTION TO CLOSE: Bruce Glowac
SECONDED: Stacia Libby
All in favor

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Marzi
Town Clerk

**Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
November 9, 2022
Meeting Room B**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:55 PM. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance. Finance Director Tracey Celentano was also in attendance. Kelly Sterner was elected Moderator. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately sixteen (16) people in attendance both in person and via Zoom.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2022-2023 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$130,000 to be allocated from the unassigned funds to the Grants Funds (026) for the municipal match for the STEAP Grant Essex Civic Campus Enhancements, Phase II project as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

SECONDED: Stacia Libby
Yea 13 Nay 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2022-2023 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$50,000 to be allocated from the unassigned funds for the acquisition of a Stryker stretcher for Essex Ambulance Association as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

SECONDED: Bruce Glowac
Yea 13 Nay 0
MOTION TO CLOSE: DG Fitton

SECONDED: Judy Reynolds
All in favor

Meeting adjourned at 4:59 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Marzi
Town Clerk

**Town of Essex
Annual Town Meeting
November 21, 2022
Town Hall Auditorium**

First Selectman Norman Needleman called the Annual Town Meeting to order at 7:10 PM. Vincent Pacileo was elected Moderator. Stacia Libby was in attendance as well as Board of Finance chair James Francis. Town Clerk, Joel Marzi, read the call of the meeting. There were approximately ten (10) people in attendance including viewers on zoom.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To accept the Statement of Town Accounts, report of the Town Treasurer and the report of the Superintendent of Schools, as printed in the 2021-2022 Annual Town Report.

Second: Stacia Libby **ALL IN FAVOR**

It was decided to consolidate the nominations of all appointments into a single vote rather than by individual approvals. This would be done after the call of each candidate followed by any discussion.

Second: Ethan Goller **ALL IN FAVOR**

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Jeffrey Going** as a regular member to the Harbor Management Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2022 to December 1, 2025.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Eugene C. Schellens** as a regular member to the Harbor Management Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2022 to December 1, 2025.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Brian Weinstein** as an alternate member to the Harbor Management Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2022 to December 1, 2025.

TOWN MEETING MINUTES

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Carolyn Field** as a regular member to the Park and Recreation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2022 to December 1, 2025.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **John J. Bean Jr.** as a regular member to the Park and Recreation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2022 to December 1, 2025.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Christopher Perry** as an alternate member to the Park and Recreation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2022 to December 1, 2025.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Ward Feirer** as a regular member to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Term to run from December 1, 2022 to December 1, 2025.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **William Timothy Furgueson** as a regular member to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Term to run from December 1, 2022 to December 1, 2025.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Gary Riggio** as a regular member to the Planning & Zoning Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2022 to December 1, 2025.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Jane Siris** as a regular member to the Planning & Zoning Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2022 to December 1, 2025.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Thomas Carroll** as an alternate member to the Planning & Zoning Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2022 to December 1, 2024.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Jeffrey Lovelace** as an alternate member to the Planning & Zoning Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2022 to December 1, 2024.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **David Rosengren** as an alternate member to the Planning & Zoning Commission. Term to run from December

1, 2022 to December 1, 2024.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **Frank Hall** as a regular member to the Conservation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2022 to December 1, 2025.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **Thomas Pinkowish** as a regular member to the Economic Development Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2022 to December 1, 2024.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **Mary Ellen Barnes** as a regular member to the Economic Development Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2022 to December 1, 2024.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **Thomas Nichols** as a regular member to the Economic Development Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2022 to December 1, 2024.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **Susan Malan** as a regular member to the Economic Development Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2022 to December 1, 2024.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **David Kirsch** as a regular member to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2022 to December 1, 2025.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **Noreen Brennan-Rowe** as an alternate member to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2022 to December 1, 2025.

Second: James Francis **ALL IN FAVOR**

Upon the motion of **Norman Needleman** seconded by **Stacia Libby**, meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Joel Marzi
Town Clerk

TOWN MEETING MINUTES

**Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
December 7, 2022
Town Hall Auditorium**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:55 PM. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance as well as Finance Director Tracy Celentano. Kelly Sterner was elected Moderator. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately sixteen (16) people in attendance both in person and via Zoom.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$133,000 from the Fire Department Sinking Fund for the purchase of Bauer compressor equipment as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

**SECONDED: Ethan Goller
Yea 13 Nay 0**

**MOTION TO CLOSE: Bruce Glowac
SECONDED: Stacia Libby
All in favor**

Meeting adjourned at 4:58 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Marzi
Town Clerk

**Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
January 18, 2023
Meeting Room A**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 6:57 PM. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance, the latter via Zoom. Finance Director Tracey Celentano was also in attendance. Kelly Sterner was elected Moderator. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately seven (7) people in attendance both in person and via Zoom.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Claire Matthews as a regular member to the Gateway Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to September 2024.

**SECONDED: Norman Needleman
Yea 5 Nay 0**

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Misha Semenov as an alternate member to the Gateway Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to September 2024.

**SECONDED: Norman Needleman
Yea 5 Nay 0**

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds to be used to support the Social Services Assistance Fund.

**SECONDED: Bruce Glowac
Yea 5 Nay 0**

**MOTION TO CLOSE: Stacia Libby
SECONDED: Bruce Glowac
All in favor**

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Marzi
Town Clerk

**Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
January 23, 2023
Meeting Room A**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 5:02 PM. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance, the latter via Zoom. Finance Director Tracey Celentano was also in attendance. Kelly Sterner was elected Moderator. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately fourteen (14) people in attendance both in person and via Zoom.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$440,000 from the Fire Department Sinking Fund for the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) Air-Paks as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

TOWN MEETING MINUTES

SECONDED: Stacia Libby
Yea 13 Nay 0

MOTION TO CLOSE: Stacia Libby
SECONDED: Bruce Glowac
All in favor

Meeting adjourned at 5:04 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Marzi
Town Clerk

**Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
February 15, 2023
Meeting Room A**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:56 PM. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance, the latter via Zoom. Finance Director Tracey Celentano was also in attendance. Stacia Libby was elected Moderator. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately seven (7) people in attendance both in person and via Zoom.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$12,000 from the Municipal Property Sinking Fund for the purchase of furniture for the finance department as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

SECONDED: Bruce Glowac
Yea 4 Nay 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 to be allocated from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds to the Public Works Department for additional tree work.

SECONDED: Bruce Glowac
Yea 4 Nay 0

MOTION TO CLOSE: Bruce Glowac
SECONDED: Norman Needleman
All in favor

Meeting adjourned at 5:01 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Marzi
Town Clerk

**Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
March 15, 2023
Meeting Room A**

Selectman, Stacia Libby called the Town Meeting to order at 6:59 PM. Selectman Glowac was also in attendance as well as Finance Director Tracey Celentano. First Selectman Norman Needleman arrived a few into the meeting. Kelley Sterner was elected Moderator. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately ten (10) people in attendance both in person and via Zoom.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Noreen Brennan-Rowe as a regular member to the Essex Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December 2025.

SECONDED: Stacia Libby
Yea 8 Nay 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Lisa Krall as an alternate member to the Essex Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December 2025.

SECONDED: Bruce Glowac
Yea 8 Nay 0

MOTION TO CLOSE: Bruce Glowac
SECONDED: Stacia Libby

All in favor

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Marzi
Town Clerk

TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
April 12, 2023
Meeting Room A

Selectman Libby called the Town Meeting to order at 4:55 PM. Selectmen Glowac was also in attendance. Jeff Going was elected Moderator. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately six (6) people in attendance both in person and via Zoom.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve the transfer of a sum in the amount of \$30,000 from the Wastewater Sinking Fund (Fund 036) to the Bridges/Infrastructure Sinking Fund (Fund 047) as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

SECONDED: Bruce Glowac
Yea 5 Nay 0

MOTION TO CLOSE: Kelly Sterner
SECONDED: Bruce Glowac
All in favor

Meeting adjourned at 4:57 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Marzi
Town Clerk



Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
May 3, 2023
Meeting Room A

Selectman Stacia Libby called the Town Meeting to order at 4:45PM. First Selectman Norman Needleman Selectman Glowac were not in attendance. Finance Director Tracey Celentano was also in attendance. Kelly Sterner was elected Moderator. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately six (6) people in attendance both in person and via Zoom.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$27,748 to be allocated from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds to Tri-Town Youth Services Bureau, Inc.

SECONDED: Stacia Libby
Yea 4 Nay 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$40,500 from the School Capital Sinking Fund for capital projects at the Essex Elementary School as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

SECONDED: Stacia Libby
Yea 4 Nay 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Elizabeth Stulga as a regular member to the Conservation Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December 2024.

SECONDED: Stacia Libby
Yea 4 Nay 0

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Stacia Libby
SECONDED: Joel Marzi
All in Favor

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Marzi
Town Clerk

TOWN MEETING MINUTES

**Town of Essex
Annual Town Budget Meeting
May 8, 2023
Meeting Room A**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman, called the Town Meeting to order at 7:32 PM. Kelly Sterner was elected Moderator. Selectmen Norman Needleman, Stacia Libby and Bruce Glowac were in attendance as well as Treasurer Jim Francis and Tracey Celentano, Director of Finance. Town Clerk Joel Marzi read the call of the meeting. There were approximately forty-one (41) people in attendance.

The following Resolution was Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To make the necessary appropriations as prepared and recommended by the Board of Finance for the support of schools, highways and the general government and other necessary objects in an amount of \$26,522,194.

Registered electors of the Town of Essex and United States citizens, eighteen years or older, owning taxable property assessed at \$1,000.00 or more on the last completed grand list of the Town are eligible to vote at this town meeting.

SECONDED: Jim Francis

All in Favor

The following Resolution was Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To determine and designate, pursuant to Sections 12-142, 12-144 and 12-144a, of the Connecticut General Statutes, that taxes levied on said budget will be due and payable as follows:

- a) All Motor Vehicle tax bills will be due and payable in full on July 1, 2023
- b) All real estate and personal property tax bills \$100.00 or less will be due and payable in full on July 1, 2023.
- c) Real Estate and personal property tax bills over \$100.00 may be paid in two installments with one half due on July 1, 2023 and one half due on January 1, 2024.

SECONDED: Norman Needleman

All in Favor

**MOTION TO ADJOURN: Bruce Glowac
SECONDED: Stacia Libby**

All in Favor

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Marzi
Town Clerk

**Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
May 24, 2023
Meeting Room A**

Selectman Libby called the Town Meeting to order at 6:01 PM. Selectman Glowac was also in attendance along with Finance Director Tracey Celentano. Stacia Libby was elected Moderator. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately six (6) people in attendance both in person and via Zoom.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Misha Semenov-Leiva as a regular member of the Gateway Commission to fill an unexpired term. Term to run from the date of this meeting to September 2024.

**SECONDED: Stacia Libby
Yea 3 Nay 0**

**MOTION TO CLOSE: Bruce Glowac
SECONDED Stacia Libby
All in Favor**

Meeting adjourned at 6:03 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Marzi
Town Clerk

SECTION V - Financial Information

Town of Essex 2022-2023 Annual Report

Finance Report

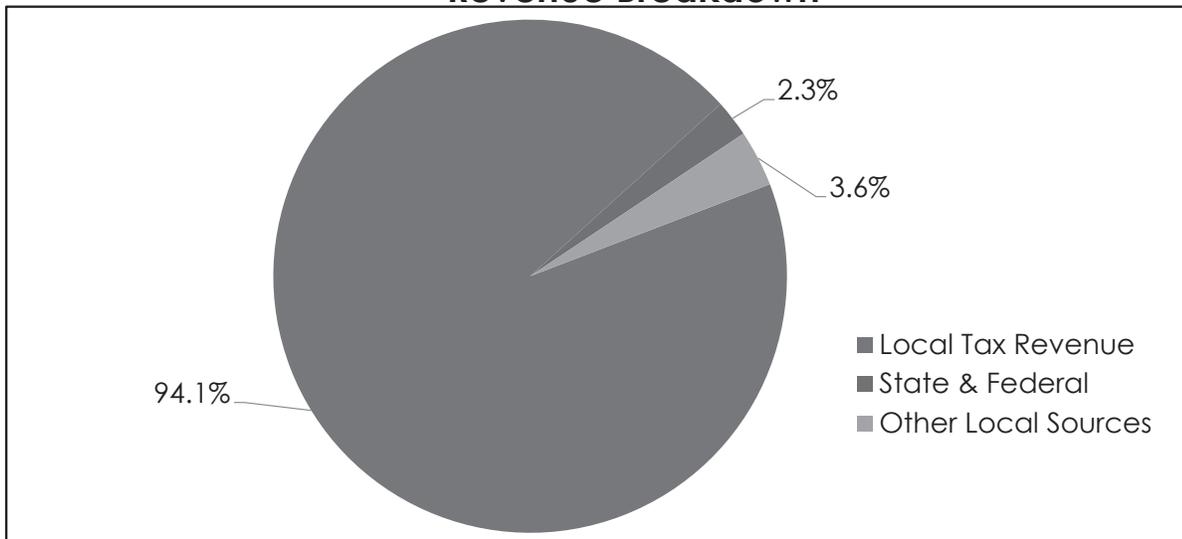
Historical Data - Revenue

(figures are actual unless otherwise noted)

Fiscal Year	Assessor and Tax Collector						Other Revenue		Total Revenue
	Grand List		Adjusted Tax Levy				State & Federal	Local Sources	
	Net Taxable \$	Annual Incr. %	Amount \$	Annual Incr. %	Collected On Time %	Tax Rate Mills			
2023-24*	1,118,676,106	1.26	25,270,893	1.64	100.00	22.59	452,521	572,200	26,295,614
2022-23	1,104,755,939	2.01	24,864,335	1.25	99.39	22.65	615,768	937,862	26,417,965
2021-22	1,083,003,798	0.99	24,557,742	4.20	99.53	22.43	604,591	1,324,175	26,486,508
2020-21	1,072,369,339	0.91	23,567,069	1.44	99.06	21.81	568,372	1,233,309	25,368,750
2019-20	1,062,738,700	1.05	23,232,129	0.28	99.00	21.65	452,638	925,276	24,610,043
2018-19	1,051,675,920	0.67	23,168,279	(0.05)	98.90	21.85	449,653	965,451	24,583,383
2017-18	1,044,700,428	0.41	23,179,381	3.02	99.05	21.96	468,951	988,362	24,636,694
2016-17	1,040,470,701	0.35	22,498,997	2.15	98.89	21.58	560,049	818,718	23,877,764
2015-16	1,036,820,170	0.51	22,025,102	1.36	99.05	21.08	714,155	689,425	23,428,682
2014-15	1,031,550,311	(7.93)	21,730,417	1.89	99.04	20.99	792,404	688,487	23,211,308
2013-14	1,120,431,426	0.02	21,326,486	2.72	98.69	18.99	827,756	747,553	22,901,795
2012-13	1,120,189,036	0.33	20,761,480	3.05	98.97	18.47	894,632	785,568	22,441,680
2011-12	1,116,538,776	0.57	20,147,562	2.35	99.02	17.98	741,531	581,334	21,470,427
2010-11	1,110,265,319	(0.31)	19,684,655	4.10	99.16	17.63	802,863	503,727	20,991,245
2009-10	1,113,762,454	8.16	18,908,813	4.50	98.80	16.95	897,178	542,978	20,348,969
2008-09	1,029,770,435	1.41	18,093,950	4.96	98.72	17.60	1,127,338	743,094	19,964,382

* Budgeted figures

FY 2022-2023 Revenue Breakdown



Town of Essex 2022-2023 Annual Report

Finance Report

Historical Data - Expenditures

(figures are actual unless otherwise noted)

Fiscal Year	Selectmen's Expenditures			Education Expenditures				Total Essex Expend.	% Increase
	Town Admin.	% Increase	Debt Pmt (P & I)	Elementary School	Regional District 4	Total Education	% Increase		
2023-24*	8,213,355	(8.62)	1,111,609	8,378,172	8,819,058	17,197,230	4.13	26,522,194	(0.69)
2022-23†	8,988,024	9.63	1,203,747	7,965,576	8,548,841	16,514,417	(1.32)	26,706,188	1.98
2021-22†	8,198,534	4.67	1,253,663	7,775,659	8,959,784	16,735,443	5.29	26,187,640	4.83
2020-21†	7,832,830	3.19	1,253,878	7,582,124	8,312,696	15,894,820	2.50	24,981,528	2.76
2019-20†	7,590,655	1.09	1,211,612	7,173,247	8,334,539	15,507,786	(2.16)	24,310,053	(0.45)
2018-19†	7,508,460	3.22	1,060,151	7,200,903	8,650,035	15,850,938	(1.86)	24,419,549	(0.17)
2017-18†	7,274,090	7.13	1,036,483	7,430,471	8,721,064	16,151,535	1.21	24,462,108	3.14
2016-17†	6,790,149	1.66	968,896	7,503,288	8,454,525	15,957,813	1.12	23,716,858	1.49
2015-16	6,679,061	3.50	908,881	7,588,815	8,192,147	15,780,962	0.41	23,368,904	1.50
2014-15†	6,453,373	2.61	854,369	7,603,406	8,112,489	15,715,895	0.53	23,023,637	1.22
2013-14†	6,289,526	2.13	824,579	7,551,034	8,081,772	15,632,806	2.60	22,746,911	2.17
2012-13†	6,158,576	4.25	869,741	7,534,205	7,701,887	15,236,092	2.91	22,264,409	3.04
2011-12	5,907,651	7.14	895,238	7,400,069	7,405,135	14,805,204	3.91	21,608,093	4.49
2010-11	5,513,713	(1.36)	917,916	7,109,503	7,138,437	14,247,940	2.09	20,679,569	2.13
2009-10	5,589,745	(6.56)	701,808	7,074,443	6,882,305	13,956,748	3.32	20,248,301	0.21
2008-09†	5,981,962	8.42	716,198	6,783,586	6,724,040	13,507,626	5.92	20,205,786	6.25

* - Budgeted figures

† - Includes STEAP Grants &/or Special Appropriations

Pension Trust Funds

Town Employees, Volunteer Fire Department & Police Department

	Defined Benefits Retirement Plan for Town Employees/ Plan for Police	Merit Service Retirement Plan for Volunteer Fire Responders
Fund Balance at Beginning of Fiscal Year (market value)	\$ 6,104,422	\$ 1,248,057
Contributions:		
From General Fund and Members	460,515	60,656
Income:		
Net Investment Income/(Loss)	183,144	36,000
Investments Market Value - Gain/(Loss)	523,942	102,142
Total Beginning Balance, Contributions & Income	\$ 7,272,023	\$ 1,446,855
Operating Expenses		
Retirement Benefits Paid	487,962	99,155
Administration	11,267	5,633
Total Operating Expenses	499,229	104,788
Fund Balance at End of Fiscal Year (market value)	\$ 6,772,794	\$ 1,342,067

Town of Essex 2022-2023 Annual Report

Finance Report

Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Revenues

REVENUE SOURCE	FY 2021-2022	Fiscal Year 2022-2023			FY 2023-2024
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget
TAX COLLECTION					
Property Taxes	\$ 24,428,115	\$24,692,585	\$24,758,664	\$ 66,079	\$ 25,220,893
Interest and Lien Fees	129,627	50,000	105,670	55,670	50,000
Total Tax Collection	24,557,742	24,742,585	24,864,335	121,750	25,270,893
STATE & FEDERAL					
Veterans' Tax Relief	2,426	3,962	2,438	(1,524)	3,962
Education Cost Sharing Grant	120,341	103,926	134,648	30,722	103,926
Town Aid Road Grant	215,815	215,735	215,566	(169)	215,566
LOCIP	40,852	40,765	40,983	218	40,779
PILOT Grant	13,150	10,393	14,430	4,037	10,393
Municipal Revenue Sharing	79,220	74,547	158,094	83,547	74,547
Misc. State and Federal	132,788	3,348	49,609	46,261	3,348
Total State & Federal	604,591	452,676	615,768	163,092	452,521
LOCAL REVENUES					
Interest Income	3,422	15,000	26,445	11,445	20,000
Miscellaneous Permits	3,254	3,500	4,638	1,138	3,500
Phone "Access Line" Tax Share	17,459	20,000	20,656	656	20,000
Transfer Station Fees	81,635	80,000	103,770	23,770	80,000
Building Permit Fees	192,101	125,000	219,919	94,919	125,000
Circuit Court Fines	1,165	4,000	1,710	(2,290)	4,000
Planning & Zoning Permits	5,164	9,600	6,490	(3,110)	9,600
Zoning Board of Appeals	898	2,160	1,296	(864)	2,160
Conveyance Tax	313,866	110,000	249,090	139,090	90,000
Park and Recreation	0	2,000	0	(2,000)	2,000
Miscellaneous Receipts	454,372	25,000	98,384	73,384	25,000
Town Clerk Fees	170,239	115,000	108,538	(6,462)	85,000
Inland Wetlands Permits	2,332	1,440	2,622	1,182	1,440
Regional Recycling Fees	49,258	62,000	42,022	(19,978)	62,000
Health Department Fees	13,155	7,500	12,418	4,918	7,500
Local PILOT	15,857	35,000	39,865	4,865	35,000
Total Local Revenues	1,324,175	617,200	937,863	320,663	572,200
TOTAL REVENUE ALL SOURCES	\$ 26,486,508	\$ 25,812,461	\$ 26,417,965	\$ 605,504	\$ 26,295,614

Town of Essex 2022-2023 Annual Report

Finance Report

Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Expenditures

DESCRIPTION	FY 2021-2022	Fiscal Year 2022-2023			FY 2023-2024
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget
GENERAL GOVERNMENT					
Selectmen	\$ 207,813	\$ 264,693	\$ 203,302	\$ (61,391)	\$ 284,670
Assessor	125,687	134,006	129,297	(4,709)	146,913
Central Services	204,779	241,351	241,110	(241)	242,128
Elections	37,393	48,560	45,885	(2,675)	51,411
Probate Court	3,166	3,460	3,166	(295)	3,460
Tax Collector	131,856	134,730	134,730	(0)	137,014
Town Clerk	228,151	195,288	195,288	0	189,716
Finance	227,715	240,214	239,638	(576)	237,695
Fringe Benefits	1,154,037	1,209,720	1,176,788	(32,932)	1,206,744
General Insurance	178,195	200,900	183,932	(16,968)	209,500
Legal Services	52,190	107,727	107,727	(0)	68,000
Public Restroom Facilities	13,564	17,506	17,506	0	16,125
Technology	253,072	265,876	242,659	(23,217)	308,699
Board of Assessment Appeals	597	1,330	110	(1,220)	1,330
Board of Finance	31,916	51,790	37,120	(14,670)	117,000
Conservation Commission	13,830	14,524	14,524	0	12,125
Economic Development Comm.	576	1,850	601	(1,249)	1,950
IWWC Commission	2,018	1,992	1,992	0	2,640
Land Use Administrative	280,313	303,663	298,428	(5,235)	316,552
Park & Recreation	181,596	206,336	205,096	(1,240)	215,805
Park & Recreation Comm.	619	1,100	446	(654)	1,100
Tree Committee	7,000	7,005	7,005	-	7,000
Zoning Board of Appeals	3,967	3,200	1,041	(2,159)	3,200
Planning & Zoning Commission	-	1,350	-	(1,350)	1,350
Total General Government	3,340,050	3,658,171	3,487,392	(170,779)	3,782,127
PUBLIC SAFETY					
Ambulance Association	31,668	52,202	52,202	(0)	56,700
Animal Control	12,500	15,000	15,000	-	15,500
Building Department	83,874	93,950	93,950	(0)	88,923
Emergency Management	11,648	19,700	12,465	(7,235)	19,700
Emergency 911	123,706	128,011	127,897	(114)	131,100
Fire Department	379,989	394,885	389,885	(5,000)	405,768
Fire Marshal	52,402	54,012	53,829	(183)	56,702
Harbor Patrol	36,335	41,409	41,409	(0)	37,700
Police Services	509,398	497,277	471,961	(25,316)	508,500
Resident State Trooper	176,553	186,129	159,736	(26,393)	189,134
Water	186,646	198,018	198,018	0	214,100
Total Public Safety	1,604,719	1,680,593	1,616,352	(64,241)	1,723,827

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Town of Essex 2022-2023 Annual Report Finance Report

Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Expenditures *(continued)*

DESCRIPTION	FY 2021-2022 Actual	Fiscal Year 2022-2023			FY 2023-2024 Budget
		Budget	Actual	Variance	
HEALTH AND WELFARE					
Estuary Transit	\$ 20,825	\$ 21,245	\$ 21,145	\$ (100)	\$ 21,885
Health Department	146,771	188,040	165,559	(22,481)	200,293
Transfer Station	257,567	265,972	263,761	(2,211)	284,344
Social Services	93,238	95,498	87,958	(7,540)	96,534
Visiting Nurses	66,874	68,546	68,546	0	68,546
Total Health and Welfare	585,275	639,301	606,970	(32,331)	671,602
LIBRARIES	432,198	443,059	443,059	-	455,243
HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION	1,001,990	991,240	991,240	(0)	1,015,556
DEBT SERVICE					
Principal Payments	1,015,000	963,968	963,968	-	891,978
Interest and Finance Charges	238,663	239,779	239,779	0	219,631
Total Debt Service	1,253,663	1,203,747	1,203,747	-	1,111,609
CAPITAL AND SINKING FUNDS	1,234,302	1,630,000	1,629,911	(89)	565,000
GRANTS & SPECIAL APPROP.	-	213,100	213,100	-	-
TOTAL BOARD OF SELECTMEN	9,452,197	10,459,211	10,191,771	(267,440)	9,324,964
EDUCATION					
Elementary School	5,528,667	5,760,828	5,669,195	(91,633)	5,825,227
Reg. School Operating	8,338,980	8,490,890	8,218,412	(272,478)	8,510,456
Reg. Supervision District	2,246,992	2,383,815	2,296,381	(87,434)	2,552,945
Reg. Bond & Interest	620,804	330,429	330,429	-	308,602
Total Education	16,735,443	16,965,962	16,514,417	(451,545)	17,197,230
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 26,187,640	\$ 27,425,173	\$ 26,706,188	\$ (718,986)	\$ 26,522,194

Fiscal Year End Revenue Excess/(Deficit)

DESCRIPTION	FY 2021-2022 Actual	Fiscal Year 2022-2023			FY 2023.-2024 Budget
		Budget	Actual	Variance	
Total Revenue	\$ 26,486,508	\$ 25,812,461	\$ 26,417,965	\$ 605,504	\$ 26,295,614
Total Expenditures	26,187,640	27,425,173	26,706,188	\$ (718,986)	26,522,194
Excess (Deficit) of Revenues over Expenditures	\$ 298,868	\$ (1,612,712)	\$ (288,223)	\$ 1,324,490	\$ (226,580)

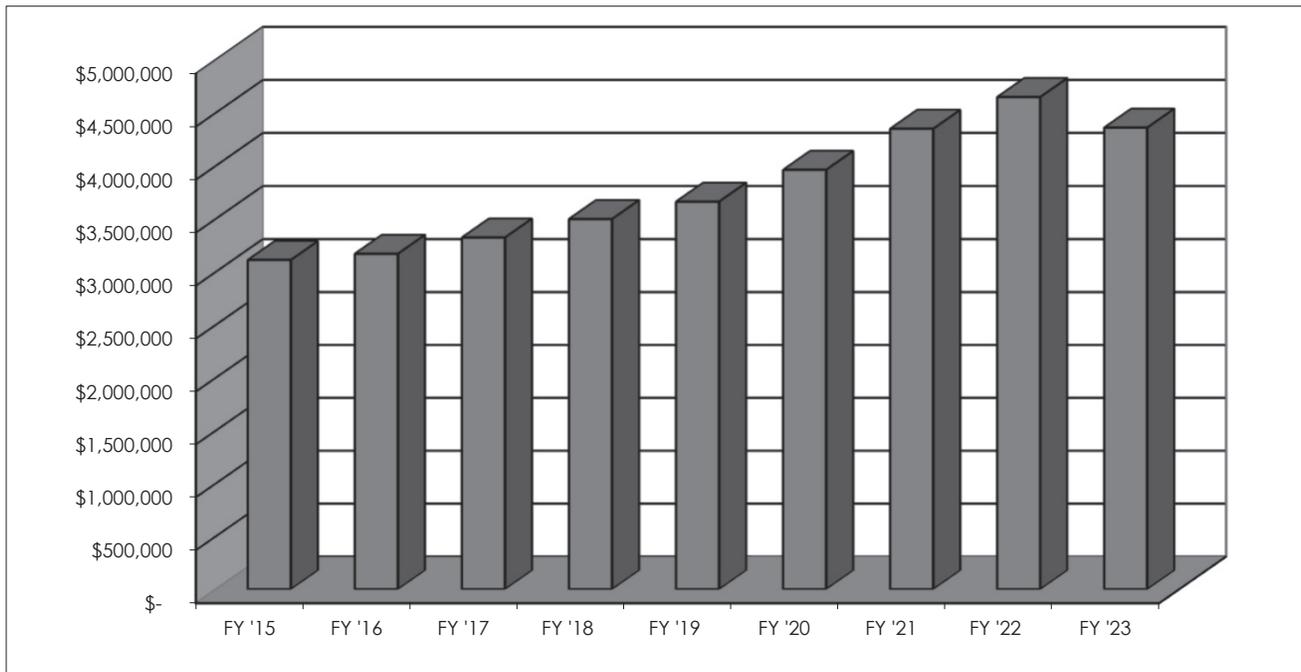
Town of Essex 2022-2023 Annual Report

Finance Report

Capital Project Sinking Fund Balances

Fund Name	Beginning Balance at 7/1/2022	From General Fund	Interest Rec'd. /Other	Expenditures	Ending Balance at 6/30/2023
Fire Department	\$ 1,223,421	\$ 195,000	\$ 3,486	\$ -	\$ 1,421,907
Trucks & Equip.	102,912	-	253		103,165
Police Vehicles	102,175	15,000	288	-	117,463
Assessor Revaluation	138,186	30,000	-	12,603	155,583
Wastewater Study	130,631	-	(29,753)		100,879
Harbor Patrol Boat	65,183	5,000	173		70,355
Park & Recreation	169,359	10,000	44,067	1,880	221,546
Municipal Property	235,614	20,000	518		256,132
Open Space	180,248	10,000	468		190,716
EES Capital Improv.	245,154	60,000	679	28,843	276,990
Technology	35,010	10,000	111		45,120
Harbor Management	59,817	5,000	-		64,817
Infrastructure/Bridges	217,134	230,000	31,173		478,307
Ambulance Assoc.	88,422	15,000	254		103,676
Totals	\$ 2,993,267	\$ 605,000	\$ 51,716	\$ 43,326	\$ 3,606,657

Unassigned Fund Ending Balance by Fiscal Year



Town of Essex 2022-2023 Annual Report Finance Report

School Enrollment

Student Count on Oct. 1st	For Budget Year	Essex Elementary			Regional School District #4				
		K - 3	4 - 6	Total	Junior High	High School	Total*	Essex Share	% of Total
2022	2023-24	143	123	266	238	515	753	304	40.37%
2021	2022-23	136	122	258	240	505	745	343	41.63%
2020	2021-22	144	131	275	249	562	811	353	41.38%
2019	2020-21	146	134	280	244	597	841	345	39.75%
2018	2019-20	146	152	298	260	598	929	381	41.01%
2017	2018-19	150	149	299	289	608	946	418	43.68%
2016	2017-18	152	158	310	327	597	969	432	44.58%
2015	2016-17	183	148	331	335	617	946	420	44.40%
2014	2015-16	184	193	377	332	631	988	438	44.33%
2013	2014-15	194	213	407	357	617	994	446	44.87%
2012	2013-14	214	237	451	366	623	1007	465	46.18%
2011	2012-13	245	232	477	338	618	973	434	44.60%
2010	2011-12	275	244	519	364	608	982	425	43.28%
2009	2010-11	297	251	548	354	618	985	419	42.54%
2008	2009-10	312	247	559	332	617	962	403	41.89%
2007	2008-09	322	235	557	341	620	961	397	41.31%
2006	2007-08	309	241	550	358	597	955	392	41.05%
2005	2006-07	317	246	563	350	598	948	381	40.19%
2004	2005-06	306	238	544	326	538	864	343	39.70%

*Total includes Magnet school and out of district placements

Regional School District #4 Budget History

	Budgeted 2019-2020	Budgeted 2020-2021	Budgeted 2021-2022	Budgeted 2022-2023	Adopted 2023-2024
Region. School District 4 Expenses	\$ 17,102,304	\$ 17,349,183	\$ 18,130,600	\$ 18,461,588	\$ 18,919,420
Supervision District Expenses	<u>2,002,146</u>	<u>2,275,358</u>	<u>2,307,272</u>	<u>2,429,851</u>	<u>2,425,370</u>
Total Operating Expenses	19,104,450	19,624,541	20,437,872	20,891,439	21,344,790
Revenue	249,487	249,487	285,681	493,499	409,816
Debt Service	<u>1,468,225</u>	<u>1,539,200</u>	<u>1,500,250</u>	<u>793,800</u>	<u>909,600</u>
Total Billings - Region-wide	20,323,188	20,914,254	21,652,441	21,191,740	21,844,574
Total Billings-Essex Share	8,334,539	8,312,693	8,960,506	8,821,319	8,819,058
Increase from Prior Year (\$) - Region	20,323,188	591,066	738,187	(460,701)	652,834
Increase from Prior Year (\$) - Essex	8,334,539	(21,846)	647,813	(139,187)	(2,261)
Increase from Prior Year (%) - Region	2.63%	2.91%	3.53%	-2.13%	3.08%
Increase from Prior Year (%) - Essex	-365.00%	-0.26%	7.79%	-1.55%	-0.03%
Number of Students	929	868	811	745	753
Total Operating Exp / Student**	\$ 20,565	\$ 22,609	\$ 25,201	\$ 28,042	\$ 28,346

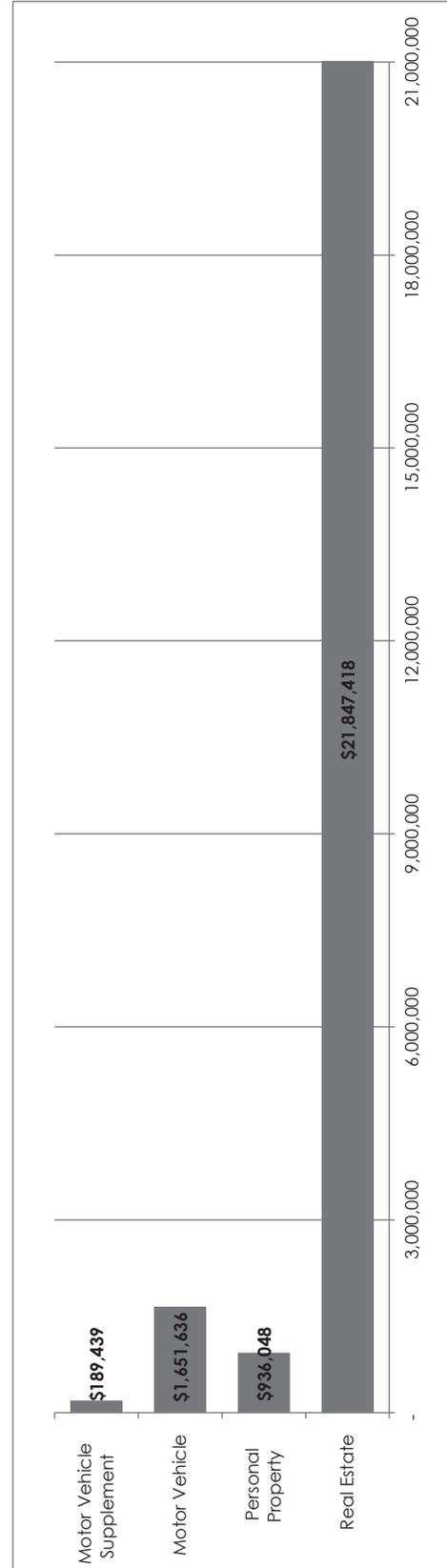
**This number does not represent the Net Current Expenses per Pupil (NCEP) reported by the CT Department of Education which excludes Special Education and other costs

Town of Essex 2022-2023 Annual Report Tax Collector's Report

Schedule of Property Taxes by Grand List Year June 30, 2023

GRAND LIST YEAR	UNCOLLECTED TAXES 6/30/2022	CURRENT YEAR LEVY	Lawful Additions	Corrections Deductions	Transfers To Suspense	Balance To Be Collected	COLLECTIONS			LIEN FEES	TOTAL	UNCOLLECTED TAXES 6/30/2023
							TAXES	INTEREST	TOTAL			
2021	-	24,843,225	21,789	32,208	-	24,832,806	24,624,542	56,286	72	24,680,900	208,264	
2020	170,172.54	-	8,432	1,468	-	177,137	66,129	13,012	264	79,405	111,008	
2019	99,833	-	2,275	-	-	102,108	21,032	8,621	144	29,797	81,076	
2018	38,362	-	-	-	28,267	10,095	3,430	1,764	96	5,290	6,666	
2017	37,639	-	-	-	-	37,639	2,192	3,558	48	5,798	35,447	
2016	35,375	-	-	-	-	35,375	5,270	6,823	24	12,117	30,105	
2015	20,304	-	-	-	-	20,304	9,430	4,832	24	14,285	10,874	
2014	10,167	-	-	-	-	10,167	1,127	4,373	-	5,500	9,040	
2013	3,598	-	-	-	-	3,598	-	-	-	-	3,598	
2012	4,219	-	-	-	-	4,219	-	-	-	-	4,219	
2011	5,286	-	-	-	-	5,286	-	-	-	-	5,286	
2010	3,357	-	-	-	-	3,357	-	-	-	-	3,357	
2009	3,247	-	-	-	-	3,247	-	-	-	-	3,247	
2008	4,990	-	-	-	-	4,990	-	-	-	-	4,990	
2007	3,137	-	-	-	-	3,137	-	-	-	-	3,137	
Total	439,688	24,843,225	32,497	33,676	28,267	25,253,467	24,733,151	99,267	672	24,833,092	520,316	

FY 2023 Collections for Grand List 10/1/21 by Type



Town of Essex 2022-2023 Annual Report

Assessor's Report

2022 Grand List Annual Report

	REAL ESTATE	
	Grand List Year 2021	Grand List Year 2022
Gross	\$ 974,750,030	\$ 981,863,430
Exemptions:		
Veterans'	\$ 913,500	\$ 885,000
Veterans' Additional	90,000	84,000
Vet. Add. Reimb.*	434,250	421,500
Disability	13,000	13,000
Blind	6,000	6,000
Other	-	-
Net	\$ 973,293,280	\$ 980,453,930

	PERSONAL PROPERTY	
	Grand List Year 2021	Grand List Year 2022
Gross	\$ 65,158,890	\$ 71,280,167
Exemptions:		
Farm & Mechanics	\$ 25,120	\$ 6,341
Manufacturers*	22,939,550	25,705,520
Misc.	118,471	122,560
Solar Energy/Pollution Control	-	888,040
Net	\$ 42,075,749	\$ 44,557,706

	MOTOR VEHICLES	
	Grand List Year 2021	Grand List Year 2022
Gross	\$ 94,966,280	\$ 101,466,410
Exemptions:		
Veterans'	\$ 231,120	\$ 201,180
Veterans' Additional	69,280	71,960
Disability Reimb.	1,000	1,000
Disability	19,400	52,850
Other	6,000	1,552,770
Manuf. Truck Reimb.*	5,252,570	5,922,180
Net	\$ 89,386,910	\$ 93,664,470

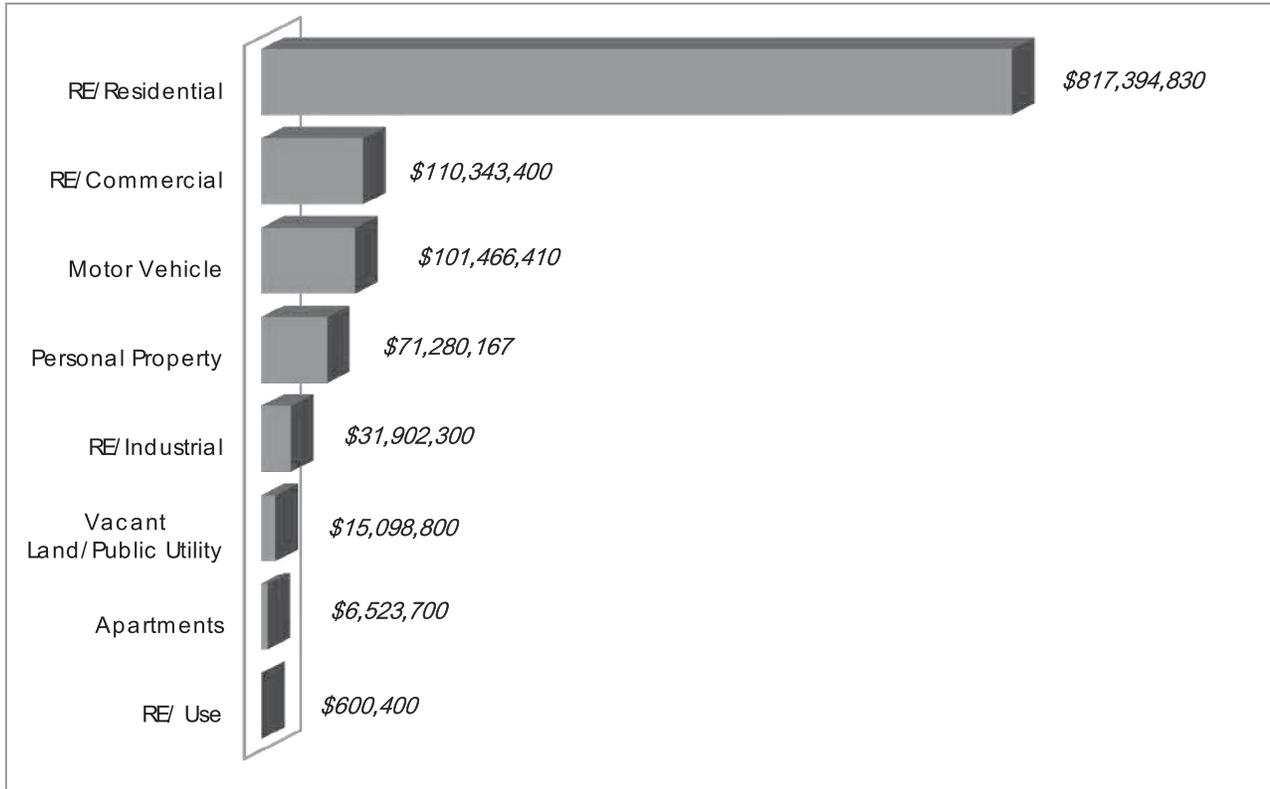
	TOTALS	
	Grand List Year 2021	Grand List Year 2022
Gross	\$ 1,134,875,200	\$ 1,154,610,007
Exemptions:		
Veterans'	\$ 1,144,620	\$ 1,086,180
Veterans' Additional	90,000	84,000
Vet. Add. Reimb.*	503,530	493,460
Blind	6,000	6,000
Disability	33,400	66,850
Other	149,591	2,569,711
Manufacturer & Truck*	28,192,120	31,627,700
Net	\$ 1,104,755,939	\$ 1,118,676,106

*No longer being reimbursed by State of Connecticut totally exempt.

Town of Essex 2022-2023 Annual Report

Assessor's Report

Grand List 2022 Assessment by Category



Comparative Grand Lists - Net Taxable

Item	Grand List Year 2021	Grand List Year 2022	Increase/ (Decrease)
Real Estate	\$ 973,293,280	\$ 980,453,930	\$ 7,160,650
Personal Property	\$ 42,075,749	\$ 44,557,706	\$ 2,481,957
Motor Vehicle	\$ 89,386,910	\$ 93,664,470	\$ 4,277,560
Total	\$ 1,104,755,939	\$ 1,118,676,106	\$ 13,920,167

Tax Revenue Comparison

	Grand List Year 2021	Grand List Year 2022
Net List Real Estate/Personal Property	\$ 1,015,369,029	\$ 1,025,011,636
Mill Rate	22.65	22.59
Net List Motor Vehicle	\$ 89,386,910	\$ 93,664,470
Mill Rate	19.5	22.59
Grand List Tax Revenue	\$ 24,741,153	\$ 25,270,893

Town of Essex 2022-2023 Annual Report

Assessor's Report

Gross Top Ten Taxpayer Accounts

#	Taxpayer	Primary Activities	10/1/2022	# of
			Assessed Value	
1	Essex Meadows, Inc	Health Care Living Facility	\$ 25,185,190	11
2	Conn Light & Power Co.	Public Utility	11,634,470	1
3	Lee Company	Manufacturing	7,870,280	4
4	SHM Dauntless LLC	Marina	5,399,070	7
5	Connecticut Water Co.	Public Utility	4,533,010	1
6	Essex Savings Bank	Financial Services	4,469,270	9
7	Griswold Inn LLC	Inn & Restaurant	3,552,900	5
8	Carlson Landing LLC	Real Estate Development	3,272,700	3
9	Stephen R. Cline Successor	Real Estate Development	3,038,200	7
10	Macbeth Ventures LLC	Real Estate Development	2,779,400	2
Total			\$ 71,734,490	

Historical Mill Rates	
Grand List Year	Mill Rate
2022	22.59
2021	22.65
2021**	19.50
2020	22.43
2019	21.81
2018*	21.65
2017	21.85
2016	21.96
2015	21.58
2014	21.08
2013*	20.99
2012	18.99
2011	18.47
2010	17.98
2009	17.63
2008*	16.95
2007	17.60
2006	16.90
2005	16.20
2004	15.50
2003*	14.90
2002	20.00
2001	18.25
2000	16.75
1999*	16.75
1998	14.50
1997	14.00
1996	13.50
*Revaluation	
**Motor Vehicle	

Important Annual Dates for the Assessor's Office		
February	1	We begin accepting applications for the Elderly Homeowner/Circuit Breaker Program and Additional Veterans' Benefits.
May	15	Deadline to file for the Elderly Homeowner/Circuit Breaker Tax Benefit Program and local options.
June	1	Deadline for all commercial property owners to file the annual income and expense forms.
September	1	The filing period for PA 490 land, farm, forest and local option open space begins
October	1	Deadline by which Veterans must file their DD214, honorable discharge. (Only needs to be done once)
October	1	Deadline for low-income Veterans to file for their additional exemption.
November	1	All business Personal Property Declarations must be filed or postmarked by this date to avoid the 25% penalty.

Essex Town Department Directory

Telephone Number 860-767-4340 (unless otherwise noted)

Selectmen's Office

Norman M. Needleman—First Selectman, x114.....needleman@essexct.gov
Maria Lucarelli, x112.....mlucarelli@essexct.gov
Alyson Finnegan, x145.....afinnegan@essexct.gov

Animal Control Officer

Caroline Fountain, x160.....cfountain@essexct.gov

Assessor

Jessica Sypher—Assessor, x124.....jsypher@essexct.gov
Karen Abercrombie, x123.....kabcrcrombie@essexct.gov

Building Department and Fire Marshal

Bill DeMatteo —Building Official, x117bde Matteo@essexct.gov
John Planas—Fire Marshal, x146.....jplanas@essexct.gov

Finance and Treasurer

Tracey Celentano—Finance Director, x122.....tcelentano@essexct.gov
Dana Novorio, x116.....dnovorio@essexct.gov
James Francis—Treasurer.....jfrancis@essexct.gov

Health Department

Lisa Fasulo—Health Director, x118.....lfasulo@essexct.gov
Don Mitchell—Sanitarian, x151.....dmitchell@essexct.gov

Land Use—Administrative

Darcy Roper, x144.....droper@essexct.gov
Kerry Berardinelli, x119.....kberardinelli@essexct.gov

Landfill/Recycling Center—860-767-1926

Wilbur Armstead, x163.....barmstead@essexct.gov

Park and Recreation

Mary Ellen Barnes—Director x110.....mbarnes@essexct.gov
Tim LaChance, x148.....tlachance@essexct.gov

Public Works—860-767-0715

Ryan Welch—Director, x161.....rwelch@essexct.gov
Richard Gallacher, Dave Martin, Dwight Massey, Paul Mackenzie, Joe Lucarelli

Registrars of Voters

Caitlin Riley, x142.....criley@essexct.gov
Barbara Ryan, x142.....bryan@essexct.gov

Resident State Trooper and Essex Police—860-767-1054

Mark Roberts—Resident State Trooper, x130.....mroberts@essexct.gov
Todd Belcourt—Corporal.....tbelcourt@essexct.gov
Christopher McCarthy—Officer.....cmccarthy@essexct.gov
Jeffrey DePerry—Officer.....jdepery@essexct.gov
Robert Hart—Officer.....rhart@essexct.gov
Judson Howes - Officer.....jhowes@essexct.gov
Chris Reid - Officer.....creid@essexct.gov

Social Services

Mary Ellen Barnes, x201.....mbarnes@essexct.gov

Tax Collector

Megan Haskins—Tax Collector, x120.....mhaskins@essexct.gov
Lynne Skinner, x121.....lskinner@essexct.gov

Town Clerk

Joel Marzi—Town Clerk, x129.....jmarzi@essexct.gov
Yvonne Roziak, x128.....yroziak@essexct.gov

Town Hall Operations

Andrew Harrington, x136.....aharrington@essexct.gov

Tree Warden—860-388-7209

Augie Pampel.....apampel@essexct.gov

Zoning Enforcement

Carrie Duques—Enforcement Agent, x115.....cduques@essexct.gov

www.essexct.gov

Town of Essex
29 West Avenue
Essex, CT 06426
www.essexct.gov

Middlesex County
2nd Congressional District
33rd Senatorial District
36th Assembly District

Hours of Operation
Town Hall
Monday-Friday, 9 am to 4 pm

Transfer Station & Recycling Center
Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 7 am to 3 pm