



# 2015-2016

## ANNUAL REPORT



**ROBERT B. DIXON**  
TREASURER  
2002-2013



**FRANCES NOLIN**  
TOWN CLERK  
2000-2014



**NANCY STADALNIK**  
TAX COLLECTOR  
1987-2009

## Dedications

### ROBERT B. DIXON

**Bob** started his career in the Air Force performing security work, concentrating on Russia. After finishing his degree at Syracuse University, he subsequently joined Irving Trust at 1 Wall Street, NYC, continuing his financial education at NYU graduate school at night. After Irving, he joined Ford, establishing international finance companies in South Africa and South America. He had additional senior financial positions at Gillette and Hertz.

While living in Boston, and working at Gillette, he met and married his wife Ann in 1969. They subsequently had two children. Kathryn, their daughter, has worked several places abroad and married Anek from Chennai India where



they now live along with their 16-month old son Ray. Bob and Ann's son Alexander, with his wife Kati, daughter Sophie age 14, and 12 year old son Charlie, lives in Greenwich and works in New York.

Bob lived abroad in Rio de Janeiro with his family while serving as Vice President of Citibank. Soon after his return to Larchmont NY, he accepted a position as CFO of a small public company and continued working in NYC and sailing on Long Island Sound. In 1993, Bob accepted a job as Executive VP of the Connecticut Development Authority and moved to Essex.

In 2001 he formed his own financial consulting firm. After he "retired" in 2004 he accepted a part time position as Treasurer of the Town of Essex. While he was Treasurer the position became full time as he hired financial people and automated the financial systems. During his time as Treasurer he also served as Treasurer of St. John's Church and the Heritage Cove Condo Association. He retired again in November 2013 leaving the Town with substantial financial reserves.

Now that he has retired, Bob has continued to enjoy boating, traveling, working out at the YMCA, as well as playing casual poker and bridge. He and Ann are still active

at St. John's and the Essex Yacht Club and they use Ann's travel agency business to plan and visit their daughter and family in India and travel to other parts of the world when they can. Soon they will be celebrating 47 years of marriage.

### FRANCES D. NOLIN

**Fran** grew up in Deep River, CT and graduated from Valley Regional High School. After graduation Fran went to work at R. R. Donnelley & Sons Company in Old Saybrook, CT. After 30 years she felt it was time for a change.

In 1992 Fran was active in the Essex Community Fund; which was a very rewarding experience.

After working in several capacities of office environments, Fran decided to take a chance on a second career. That was answering an ad as the Town of Essex for an Assistant Town Clerk. In 1998 she was hired and the rest is history.

In 1999 Fran decided to run in the election for the Town Clerk's position. After working in the office as the assistant, she felt that this was going to be her next home. Fran's love of history made this journey more

enjoyable. Having lived in the area all of her life and spending summers in Ivoryton was a plus.

How lucky can one get to have had Don Malcarne, Town Historian come with the job!

Some of the changes that took place were new shelving in the vault, and scanning land records and survey maps into the computer for the public to utilize.

Fran implemented an Intern Program from Valley Regional High School to participate in the everyday life of a municipality. She had hoped to get the younger generation involved and she couldn't have been more pleased, Glenn Holmes was the perfect intern. In November, 2013 Fran opted not to run for re-election.

Now her free time consists of reading and tending to her pet Alpacas; Dezel, Ryder, Pepe and Stevie. Fran credits her husband, Keith because of his understanding and support throughout her career as Town Clerk.



## *Dedications (continued)*

### **NANCY STADALNIK**

**Nancy** was raised in Deep River by her parents, Hap and Lillian Lindner, along with her twin sister Diane, and younger brother Tom. Her parents were the ones who instilled the value of family, friends, generosity, and a strong work ethic. Nancy graduated from Valley Regional High School where she loved playing sports. She played on the school's volleyball, basketball, and softball teams and was voted most athletic. After graduating from Valley, she went on to Stone College where she earned a secretarial degree. From there she started working at Armstrong Rubber Company and was the Secretary to the Corporate Attorney and Controller. It was at Armstrong where she met her future husband, David. They have been married for 51 years.



Nancy and David lived in Branford for a few years before deciding to move to Ivoryton in 1971. It was here that they made their home for over 40 years and raised their three children: Brian, Susan, and Cindy. Family has always been

Nancy's number one priority. She most enjoyed the summers when she could spend all day with her children doing activities such as swimming, fishing, and crabbing. She spent countless hours chauffeuring kids from one activity to another. Often times, the kids weren't even her own. She volunteered as a softball coach, a Girl Scout leader, room mother, and anything else that was needed.

Once her children were older, Nancy decided it was time to go back to work full time. She started working at the Essex Town Hall in the Selectman's Office as a Secretary. Two years later she was elected to the position of Tax Collector where she remained for the next twenty years. This turned out to be a good fit because Nancy likes dealing with numbers and has an easy going manner when dealing with the public. The tax office may not be everyone's favorite place to visit, but Nancy's positive attitude and friendliness made it enjoyable. Because of her friendly disposition, townspeople often came in to the office just to chat with her and often times brought her farm fresh fruits, veggies and baked goods (that doesn't usually happen when you take people's money for a living). Nancy was also a member of the Essex Ambulance Association and Republican Town Committee. After twenty-two years of working at the Essex Town Hall, Nancy retired so she could spend more time with her grandson. Besides spending time with her family, Nancy still enjoys knitting and fishing.



*Gazebo at Main Street Park*

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Building Permits .....	Building Department
Canoe and Kayak Permits .....	Selectmen’s Office
Death Certificates .....	Town Clerk’s Office
Dog Licenses .....	Town Clerk’s Office
Health Permits .....	Health Department
Marriage Licenses .....	Town Clerk’s Office
Mooring Permit Applications .....	Selectmen’s Office
Pistol Permit Applications .....	Selectmen’s Office
Septic Pumpout Tickets .....	Health Department
Social Services .....	Social Services Department
Sportsmen Licenses .....	Town Clerk’s Office
Transfer Station Stickers/Punch cards .....	Town Clerk’s Office

## Essex At A Glance

**Town Hall**  
**29 West Avenue**  
**Essex, CT 06426**  
[www.essexct.gov](http://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



### *For Your Information:*

**Ambulance Association**..... 860-767-7677

**American Red Cross** ..... 860-347-2577

**Animal Control** ..... 860-388-7082

**Connecticut River Estuary  
 Regional Planning Agency** ..... 860-388-3497

**Education:**

Essex Elementary School ..... 860-767-8215

John Winthrop Junior High ..... 860-526-9546

Valley Regional High School ..... 860-526-5328

Region 4 Central Office..... 860-526-2417

**Estuary Council of Seniors** ..... 860-388-1611

**Household Hazardous Waste Facility**

Hazardous Waste & Consumer Electronics  
 Collection, for more information and dates, call  
 860-581-8554 (Lower Connecticut River Valley  
 Council of Governments) or [www.essexct.gov/  
 departments/waste.html](http://www.essexct.gov/departments/waste.html)  
 or [www.rivercog.org](http://www.rivercog.org)

**Libraries:**

Essex ..... 860-767-1560

Ivoryton ..... 860-767-1252

**Police Services**..... 860-767-1054

**Post Offices:**

Centerbrook ..... 860-767-8730

Essex ..... 860-767-8476

Ivoryton ..... 860-767-8515

**Probate Court**..... 860-510-5028

**Public Works** ..... 860-767-0715

**Town Hall**

Telephone..... 860-767-4340

General Fax..... 860-767-8509

**Transfer Station & Recycling Center** . 860-767-1926

**Visiting Nurses, Lower Valley** ..... 860-767-0186

*A complete by department phone  
 number and email directory for  
 Town Government is printed on the  
 inside back cover.*

## 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 associations 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". WW 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. The tourist industry supplements the base of small businesses and retail establishments in town.



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## ***Elected Officials***

*As of October 26, 2016*

### **Town of Essex**

#### **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

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

#### **TOWN CLERK**

Joel Marzi

#### **TREASURER**

James D. Francis

#### **TAX COLLECTOR**

Megan D. Haskins

#### **BOARD OF FINANCE**

Keith M. Crehan, Chairman  
W. Campbell Hudson, Vice Chairman  
Donald Mesite  
Mary-Louise Polo  
Jeffrey D. Woods  
Vincent Pacileo, III

#### **BOARD OF EDUCATION—ESSEX ELEMENTARY**

Lon J. Seidman, Chairman  
Adam Conrad  
Don G. Fitton, Jr.  
Loretta T. McCluskey  
Carolyn Rotella  
Mark Watson

#### **BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS**

Mark S. Bombaci, Chairman  
Coral L. Rawn  
Keith Russell

#### **BOARD OF EDUCATION—REGION #4**

Christopher D. Riley  
Jennifer A. Clark  
Leigh Rankin

#### **JUDGE OF PROBATE**

Terrance Lomme

#### **REGISTRARS OF VOTERS**

Lois Ely  
John Heiser

### **State of Connecticut**

#### **GOVERNOR**

Dannel P. Malloy

#### **LT. GOVERNOR**

Nancy Wyman

#### **STATE COMPTROLLER**

Kevin Lembo

#### **STATE TREASURER**

Denise Nappier

#### **ATTORNEY GENERAL**

George Jepsen

#### **SECRETARY OF STATE**

Denise Merrill

#### **SENATOR 33RD DISTRICT**

Art Linares

#### **REPRESENTATIVE 36TH DISTRICT**

Philip J. Miller

### **Federal**

#### **PRESIDENT**

Barack Obama

#### **UNITED STATES SENATE**

Richard Blumenthal

Chris Murphy

#### **UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE**

Joseph D. Courtney

## Town Officials and Services (as of October 26, 2016)

### **ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER**

Jae Wolf

### **ASSESSOR'S OFFICE**

Jessica Sypher, Assessor  
Nancy Berryman, Assistant to Assessor

### **AUDITORS**

Mahoney Sabol & Company, LLP, Glastonbury

### **BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

David DeLeeuw, Building Official  
Darcy Roper, Administrative Assistant

### **CENTRAL REGIONAL TOURISM DISTRICT**

Jacqueline Hubbard

### **COMCAST CABLE T.V. ADVISORY BOARD**

Richard Stebbins

### **CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Kathleen Tucker, Chair  
Adrienne Forrest  
Frank Hall  
Richard Helmecki  
Jeffrey Lovelace  
Jerri MacMillian  
Mark Reeves  
Robert Ward

### **CONNECTICUT RIVER GATEWAY COMMISSION**

Claire Matthews  
Jerri MacMillian

### **CONSULTING ENGINEER**

Robert Doane, Jr.  
Doane Engineering, LLC

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

Lon Seidman, Chairman  
Edward Cook  
Elizabeth D'Amico  
Janet Peckinpaugh  
George Sexton, Planning Representative  
David Sousa  
David Winstead

### **EDUCATION—REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 4**

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

Ruth Levy, Ed. D Superintendent of Schools  
Kristina Martineau, Asst Superintendent  
Sarah Smalley, Director of Pupil Services  
Garth Sawyer, Business Manager  
Pam Murphy, Director of Technology

#### **ESSEX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Jennifer Tousignant, Principal  
Jennifer Nucci, Associate Principal

#### **JOHN WINTHROP JR. HIGH SCHOOL**

William Duffy, Principal  
Peter Foxen, Associate Principal

### **VALLEY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**

Mike Barile, Principal  
Carolyn Gbunblee, Associate Principal

### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

William Buckridge  
Stewart Schenck

### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL**

Judith Reynolds

### **ESSEX AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION**

Judith Reynolds

### **ESSEX FIRE ENGINE COMPANY #1**

Paul Fazzino Jr, Chief

### **ESSEX HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Janice M. Atkeson, Chair  
David C. Gephard  
Yolanda Lowe  
Richard W. Stebbins  
Rosemary A. Willis

### **FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

Kelly Sterner, Finance Director  
Dana Novorio, Assistant to the Finance Director

### **FIRE MARSHAL**

Keith Nolin, Fire Marshal  
Darcy Roper, Administrative Assistant

### **HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**

Jeffrey Going, Chairman  
Earl Fowler  
Eugene C. Schellens  
John Senning  
Walter Wiegert  
Joseph Zaraschi  
Terry Stewart

### **HARBOR MASTER**

Paul Riggio, Harbor Master

### **HEALTH DIRECTOR**

Lisa Fasulo  
Kerry Berardinelli, Administrative Assistant

### **INLAND WETLANDS AND**

### **WATERCOURSES COMMISSION**

Daniel Lapman, Chairman  
Ernest Cook  
Jim Hill, Zoning  
Jeffrey Lovelace, Conservation  
Fred Szufnarowski  
Andre Roussel  
Jim Leo  
Stephen Knauth

## *Town Officials and Services*

### **JUSTICES OF THE PEACE**

Susan W. Beckman .....860-767-9755  
 Matthew P. Cooper.....860-767-8462  
 Ann S. Dixon.....860-767-1339  
 Larry Freundlich.....860-767-2773  
 Earl Fowler.....860-767-2764  
 David W. Galligan .....860-767-1860  
 Bruce M. Glowac.....860-767-0650  
 Donna M. Hyde.....860-767-0061  
 Leslie Lupovich.....860-767-4953  
 Shelley H. Mack .....860-767-7812  
 Philip J. Miller .....860-767-7837  
 Christopher Morano.....860-767-0292  
 Norman M. Needleman .....860-767-9176  
 Stephen L. Phillips.....860-581-8130  
 Raymond A. Rubenbauer.....860-767-2514  
 Ruth Schumacher.....860-767-8030  
 Daniel J. Stypa.....860-767-2075  
 Kathleen McKinney Tucker .....860-767-0397  
 William P. Veillette .....860-767-8519

### **LANDFILL/RECYCLING CENTER**

Michael Birner  
 Wilbur Armstead

### **LIBRARIES**

#### **ESSEX LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

Richard Conroy, Library Director

#### **IVORYTON LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

Elizabeth Alvord, Library Director

### **LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

Alan Kerr

### **LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

#### **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

William Buckridge  
 Keith Nolin  
 Judith Reynolds

#### **MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY**

Mary Ellen Barnes

#### **PARK AND RECREATION**

Mary Ellen Barnes, Park and Recreation Director  
 Tim Lachance, Recreation Aide  
 Kaiulani Recchia, Recreational Aide

#### **PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

Robert Russo, Chairman  
 Thomas Clerkin  
 Anthony Mosa  
 James Rawn  
 Douglas Senn  
 Virginia Willetts  
 Edward Burleson  
 Peter Sarner

### **PLANNING COMMISSION**

Alan Kerr, Chairman  
 Erin Bogan  
 Thomas Danyliw  
 Ralph Monaco  
 George Sexton  
 Jane Siris  
 Gary Riggio  
 Robert Laundry  
 John Bairos

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

David Caroline, Director  
 Boris Churyk  
 Richard Gallacher  
 Ryan Welch

### **REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH BOARD**

Winifred Olson

### **REGISTRARS OF VOTERS**

Lois Ely  
 John Heiser

### **RESIDENT STATE TROOPER & ESSEX POLICE**

David Tretter, Resident State Trooper  
 James Paul Kenefick, Corporal  
 Todd Belcourt, Police Officer  
 Christopher McCarthy, Police Officer  
 Karen Reilly, Police Officer

### **CROSSING GUARD**

William Westerman, Crossing Guard

### **HARBOR PATROL**

Thomas Hogarty, Boat Operator  
 Mark Walter, Boat Operator  
 Richard Varricchio, Boat Operator  
 Wayne Vetre, Jr. Boat Operator

### **RETIREMENT BOARD**

Ellen Whaley-Wexler, Chair  
 Ethan Goller  
 Stacia Libby  
 Mary-Louise Polo

### **SELECTMEN'S OFFICE**

Norman Needleman, First Selectman  
 Stacia Libby, Selectman  
 Bruce M. Glowac, Selectman  
 Maria Lucarelli, Assistant to Selectmen  
 Betsy D'Amico, Administrative Assistant

## ***Town Officials and Services***

### **SOCIAL SERVICES**

Mary Ellen Barnes

### **TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE**

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

### **TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

Joel Marzi, Town Clerk  
Yvonne Roziak, Assistant Town Clerk

### **TOWN COUNSEL**

Attorney David M. Royston, Old Saybrook

### **TOWN HALL OPERATIONS**

Thomas Fitzgerald, Supervisor  
Mark Hiatt

### **TREASURER**

James Francis

### **TREE COMMITTEE**

Kenneth Bombaci  
Nancy Hudson  
Susan Malan  
John Molloy  
Mark Pratt  
Judith Saunders

### **TREE WARDEN**

August Pampel

### **VETERANS SERVICES**

Doug Haynes

### **WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY**

Susan Malan, Chair  
Wendy Arnold  
Eric Mineker  
Randel Osborne  
Leigh Rankin  
Mark Reeves  
Alvin Wolfram

### **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

Paul Greenberg, Chairman  
Phil Beckman  
William Timothy Furgueson  
William Veillette  
Ward Feirer  
Richard Rybak  
Barbara Sarrantonio  
George Wendell

### **ZONING COMMISSION**

Larry Shipman, Chairman  
Jim Hill  
William Reichenbach  
Susan Uihlein  
Alvin Wolfram  
Adrienne Forrest  
Jeffrey Lovelace  
Russell Smith

### **ZONING ENFORCEMENT**

Joseph Budrow, Zoning/Wetlands Enforcement Agent  
Darcy Roper, Administrative Assistant

## ***Animal Control Officer***

In the Town of Essex from June 2015 to June 2016, there were a total of 183 complaints investigated, 10 of which were dog bite incidents.

There were numerous bear sightings between the months of July and September 2015. A total of 29 sightings were in the Chester/Deep River/Essex area. It is recommended to keep pots and pans handy in order to scare off unwanted wild life and keep garbage cans covered and in a secure location. For your own safety, please do not attempt to approach any wild animal as their behavior can be unpredictable.

A few reminders, if you are experiencing a problem caused by wildlife please call DEEP at 860-424-3333. Relocation of rabies vector species (raccoon, skunk, fox) is prohibited under CT general statutes section 26-47(b) and 26-57. Please visit <http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?A=2723&Q=325944> for facts about rabies and prevention measures as well as for additional resources.

We continue to promote responsible dog ownership by encouraging people to license as well as vaccinate their dogs. Keeping public safety in mind, we do recommend the use of a leash when away from your home to avoid an unwanted incident or unexpected encounter. As a reminder, the following is a list of possible infractions along with their associated fees:

- ◆ Failure to License a dog = \$75.00
- ◆ Nuisance dog = \$75.00
- ◆ Roaming dog = \$92.00
- ◆ Failure to vaccinate = \$136.00
- ◆ Failure to Redeem = \$75.00
- ◆ Impound fee = \$15.00 per day

To report a lost or roaming dog, a dog or cat bite incident, to file a complaint, or for any other concerns I can be reached 24/7 at 860-388-7082. Or feel free to email me at [jwolf@essexct.gov](mailto:jwolf@essexct.gov)



## ***Board of Finance***

The Essex Board of Finance operates as set forth in the State of Connecticut General Statutes. Responsibilities of the Board include the annual budget of the town, as well as necessary budget transfers and other supplemental appropriations, setting the 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, and the Finance Director, the Essex Board of Education and the Region 4 Board of Education in financial matters.

The Board of Finance is comprised of six members, each of whom holds 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 Keith Crehan and Jeffrey Woods whose terms expire in November 2017, W. Campbell Hudson and Mary-Louise Polo whose terms expire in November 2019, and Donald J. Mesite and Vincent Pacileo, III whose terms expire in November 2021.

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.

Keith M. Crehan  
Chairman

## Board of Selectmen

The Annual Report reflects the many activities of both our local government and other community based organizations throughout the Town of Essex. Preliminary figures for this fiscal year show that once again we exceeded our budgeted revenue numbers and came in under budget for expenditures, thus continuing to maintain a solid financial standing. The Board of Finance has set the property tax rate for 2016-2017 at 21.58 mills per \$1,000 of assessed value.

The Planning Commission completed its update of the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development, which will guide land-use decision making in Essex for the next decade. The Plan focuses on enhancing and connecting the Village Centers, encouraging appropriate economic development, and safeguarding the unique characteristics of our Town. Thank you to all the involved in this process and we look forward to working more cohesively among the Planning, Zoning,

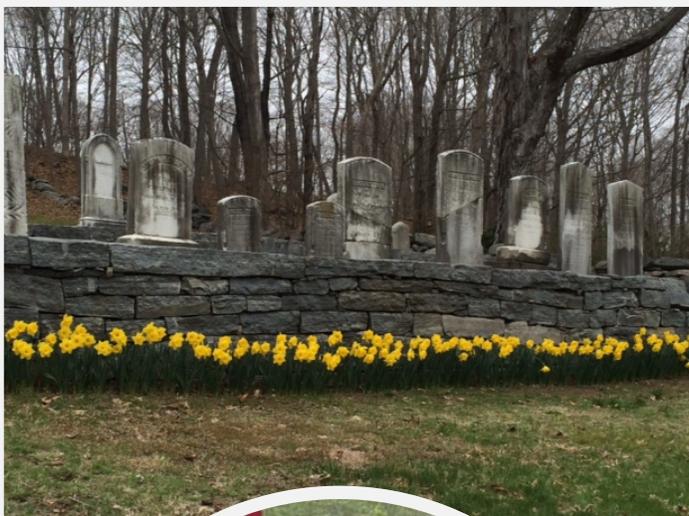
and Economic Development Commissions.

The Town has continued to move forward on the \$8 million Capital Improvement Initiatives. By the time the report is issued, the Essex Town Hall renovations will be finished, the Ivory Street bridge work will be well on its way to being done, the Safe Routes to School project will be finished, and the new public works garage will also be completed. In addition, all planned work at the elementary school will be finished.

Construction of Essex Place, a new 22-unit building for disabled and senior affordable housing in Centerbrook has begun and occupancy is expected sometime in 2017.

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

Norman Needleman  
First Selectman



## ***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.

Building permits are not required for improvements such as painting, shelving, and decorating.

All required Zoning and Health Department permits should be obtained prior to applying for a building permit.

In order to obtain a building permit, the applicant should submit the following to the Building Department:

- \* A completed building permit application with sign off from the Tax Department
- \* Copies of Zoning and Health Department permits when applicable
- \* Two sets of blueprints (for new buildings, additions, interior renovations)
- \* Proof of contractor licensure
- \* Proof of contractor worker's compensation coverage or appropriate waiver form if applicable
- \* Permit fee (fees are based upon building costs: current fee is \$20 for the first \$1,000 plus \$10 for each additional \$1,000 or any part thereof)

The Building Official reviews all submitted building plans to ensure compliance with current state building codes. All approved plans are 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.

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](http://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 Sanitarian, Zoning and Building Departments.

From July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, a total of 702

(558 residential, 144 commercial) building permits were issued for an estimated construction value of \$16,518,171.66. These numbers represent an all time high for the total number of permits issued and an 8 year high for construction value. Five permits were issued for new home construction. Two driveway permits were issued. A total of \$136,158.50 in permit fees was collected. One Demo Ordinance Fee of \$75.00 was collected.

David R. DeLeeuw  
Building Official

## ***Central Services Town Hall Operations***

During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the Essex Town Hall hosted over 500 events in the three meeting rooms. These rooms have been set-up and taken-down and cleaned and maintained by the custodial staff. This year the custodial staff has worked around the renovation of the second floor and a smaller auditorium so the offices on the second floor could be temporarily housed in the auditorium. The custodial staff also cleans the Main Street restrooms that are open year round for the visitors to downtown Essex and the Main Street park. The dedicated staff will continue to strive towards a more efficient and safe Town Hall Facility.

Citizens suggestions are always welcomed.

Tom Fitzgerald  
Custodial/Maintenance Services Manager



## Clean Energy Task Force

### Report on FY 2015-16 Town of Essex Sustainability Goals

#### Reduce electric consumption by 11% from the baseline year of 2010.

Results: During FY 2015-16 town electric consumption for the Essex Elementary School, municipal buildings and streetlights, was 705,838 kWh, down 19.1% from the 2010 CY baseline of 872,489 kWh.

#### Increase purchase of Clean Energy for town buildings to 18% for FY 2015-16.

Results: During FY 2015-16, 15.4% of the municipal building energy was purchased from clean, renewable energy sources (Community Energy).

#### Reduce heating fuel oil consumption by 5%.

Results: For FY 2015-16, 7,280 gallons (1,019 MMBtu) of fuel oil were consumed by town buildings, and 30,918 CCF of natural gas (3,122 MMBtu) were consumed by the Elementary School. Total consumption was 4,141 MMBtu, down 22% from the CY 2010 baseline of 5,314 MMBtu.

#### Increase the amount of recyclables in tons.

Results: In FY 2015-16 Essex recycled 734 tons of material, up 6% from the FY 2010-11 baseline of 691 tons.

#### Increase amount of household hazardous waste collected from FY 2010/11.

Results: For FY 2015-16, 223 houses participated in household hazardous (HH) waste collections, down 32% from the 330 homes participating in 2010/11. The estimated number of pounds of hazardous waste for FY 2015/16 was 5,080, a decrease of 23% from the 6,600 pounds received in 2010/11. The average household is estimated to contribute 20 pounds of HHW annually.

Oil based paints are no longer included in the HH counts because they are now disposed of through the PaintCare program at no cost to the town.

**Other accomplishments:** In April the town held an Energy Fair and LED Bulb Swap for residents, funded by a renewable energy award earned by the town. More than 230 Essex residents exchanged traditional incandescent light bulbs for high-efficiency LED bulbs, free of charge. Each LED replacement bulb will save homeowners approximately \$10 in annual energy costs and will last as long as 23 years.

Sources of Data: Electric- CL & P, Clean Energy Purchase-Community Energy, Fuel Oil- East River Energy, Natural Gas-Southern Connecticut Gas, Recyclables-CRRA and HHW-River COG, Connecticut Green Bank

## Conservation Commission

The key role of the Conservation Commission is to maintain and protect town owned preserves: Bushy Hill, Canfield-Meadow Woods and Viney Hill Brook Park (VHBP), ensuring that these properties are used properly and are accessible to the public.

Despite efforts by commissioners and volunteers to deconstruct the beavers' nightly buildup of debris, water drainage in Quarry Pond, VHBP, finally ceased. Water level reached 16" below the Eagle Scout Bridge (usually dry). Tree roots and vegetation surrounding the pond rotted while Broadwalk and Quarry Pond Trails flooded. The commission contracted with Beaver Solutions, LLC, to install an exclusion fence and flexible pond leveler. Once the main culvert was cleaned and equipment in place, water release was immediate and dramatic. The pond water level reached equilibrium after several days of drainage. Beaver Solutions, LLC inspected the equipment and culvert drains this spring. All are functioning well. Pond water level was assessed at normal. Trails remain passable and culvert pipes drain. Early morning maintenance workers sighted six beavers patrolling the pond. The beavers currently maintain two large lodges.

Our preserves attract lots of hikers, runners, and people with dogs. Commissioners met with Essex Land Trust representatives Nancy Rambeau and Robert Nussbaum, Animal Control Officer Jae Wolf, and First Selectman Norman Needleman to clarify on-leash and off-leash policies for the town owned preserves. By accepting State of Connecticut funding for the preserves, Essex is obligated to post "Dogs must be leashed" signage. Jae Wolf detailed town and state leash law statutes (example: dog leashes must be 7' or less).

Twenty participants, including two pre-school boys, celebrated the commission's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual New Year's Day hike and breakfast at VHBP. It took 45 minutes to traverse the trails.

Other actions:

Conservation Commission Bylaws amended.

Bushy Hill--cleared trees and vegetation around larger Wolf Tree; replaced pedestrian bridge boards; granted permission to Hands on the Land to use as a teaching classroom.

VHBP--built additional bog bridges; chain sawed and removed beaver gnawed trees; used "cut and paint" procedure on Autumn Olive trees invading wildflower meadow; hired professionals to spray and mow Phragmites and Japanese Knotweed.

Canfield-Meadow Woods--special thanks to Essex Land Trust for purchase of the kiosk.

Commissioners Adrienne Forrest, Frank Hall, Richard Helmecki, Jeffrey Lovelace, Jerri MacMillian (alternate), Mark Reeves, Kay Tucker, and Robert Ward meet the first Thursday of each month and contribute "sweat equity" in the preserves regularly.

Respectfully submitted  
Kay Tucker, Chair

## ***Economic Development***

The Economic Development Commission (EDC) continues our work and advocacy to help attract, grow, and retain businesses that are appropriate for our community. The EDC Commissioners are; Ed Cook (Vice Chair), Betsy D'Amico, George Sexton (Planning Commission Representative), Lon Seidman (Chair), Janet Peckinpaugh, David Sousa, and David Winstead.

This year our focus was to seek out from our residents and businesses their suggestions on what they seek from EDC. We held two public forums and heard of several key issues the community would like to see the commission work on:

- Helping bridge the gap between available spaces and bring in new companies/organizations.
- Help existing organizations to grow and stay in Essex.
- Be involved in the alignment of Planning and Zoning while promoting economic development
- Be a voice for existing organizations and prospective organizations to help make the regulatory compliance more streamlined and efficient
- Be the facilitator for economic growth.

Our Economic Developer Susan Malan continues to work to attract new businesses and to help existing businesses to grow and thrive. Susan works closely with our land use officials and has helped many current and prospective businesses navigate the local regulatory processes. She is also working with local officials to develop a simple FAQ guide to the permitting process for residents and businesses.

Susan attends regular meetings of the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce and other economic impact groups. The Middlesex County ED's have formed a group that meets monthly to work together to improve economic development in and around Middlesex County. She represented the commission on the Lower River Valley Council of Governments GrowSMART plan. To view the report please visit: [http://www.growsmartregion.org/uploads/5/5/4/8/55481699/growsmart\\_finalreport\\_020416.pdf](http://www.growsmartregion.org/uploads/5/5/4/8/55481699/growsmart_finalreport_020416.pdf)

Working with EDC member David Sousa, we helped to obtain another grant for the Ivoryton Farmers Market which continues to grow and brings many people to Ivoryton Village each Saturday morning in season. We also continue to advocate on behalf of appropriate economic development as well as seeking out new granting opportunities.

The EDC meets monthly on the second Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. – we welcome visitors and appreciate hearing ideas from Essex residents and business owners how we can foster appropriate Economic Development in Essex. You may contact Susan Malan directly at 860-767-4340 x 220 or [smalan@essexct.gov](mailto:smalan@essexct.gov)

Please visit our section of the EssexCT.gov website and send us a message.

Lon Seidman  
Chair



## ***Education***

### **Our Mission**

We, the schools of Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4, engage all students in a rigorous challenging and cohesive educational program. As a community of learners, we foster individual student achievement and empower students to excel in an environment of collaboration, responsibility and mutual respect. We prepare our students to be knowledgeable, involved citizens in a rapidly changing world.

### **Our Vision Statement**

Our schools endeavor to develop an educational program of excellence where all students achieve at high levels and best instructional strategies are pursued in an environment of inquiry, collaboration, support and trust.

## **Education**

### **Essex Elementary School**

Essex Elementary School, located on Main Street in Centerbrook, serves students from kindergarten through grade six who reside in the town of Essex and houses the Collaborative Preschool for Chester, Deep River, and Essex. It was first constructed in 1953 with additions in 1963, 1990, 2007, and a roof replacement in 2015.

Essex Elementary 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 in all content areas, we offer additional programming to enrich our student's elementary experience. Physical education, art, music, library and Spanish are among the classes offered. Chorus is offered to students in grades 3-6 and instrumental music lessons and ensemble are offered for students in grades 4-6. These programs are beneficial to the development of the whole child and provided through the Supervision District of the Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 Boards of Education.

Technology integration has been a focus in all of the Chester, Deep River, Essex, Region 4 Schools. Through this collaboration, students have access to computer labs, portable laptop and iPad labs, and classroom desktop computers. Our students in grades 4-6 will each have their own Chromebook for use in school providing a 1:1 environment for 2016-17. Innovative and engaging computer applications are infused into the curriculum to enhance twenty-first century learning and skills.

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

Our elementary students have access to many extracurricular activities such as Green Team, Student Leaders, Math Olympiads, Invention Convention, Chess Club, and Broadcasting Team. These offerings help to teach important life-long academic and social skills outside of the typical classroom.

The Essex Elementary School Foundation generously provides grants to teachers to support enrichment opportunities for our students. The Foundation also supports many programs such as World Cultures, Scientist in Residence, Author Visits, Engineering with LEGOs, and Bloom Art.

Our Social Development program promotes a culture, climate, and curriculum that enhances the social, emotional, and behavioral development of students. The Book of the Month program embeds our core values into the curriculum in each classroom and focuses on our School Promise which promotes *kindness, responsibility, respect, preparedness, and safety*.

Essex Elementary strives to provide strong programs that create a positive environment that fosters a lifelong love of learning and a sense of community.

Jennifer Tousignant  
Principal

## **Education**

### **Superintendent of Schools**

The Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 Schools engaged in developing higher order thinking skills across all grades in our five schools. These include meaningful and purposeful communication and collaboration, developing and constructing arguments based on evidence, age appropriate critical and creative problem solving, and obtaining digital literacy and information fluency. Our schools have been steadily working toward providing one-to-one technology for our students. Professional development opportunities for our educators has been ongoing in preparation for the 2016-2017 distribution of Chromebooks for students in grades 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. This will enhance and expand the teaching and learning process.

Our students from elementary through high school attended anti-bullying events that promote social/emotional awareness, acceptance, and respect for differences.

The 2015-2016 school year included numerous workshops with administration and the Boards of Education in preparation for the Strategic Planning Process set to take place during the 2016-2017 school year.

We are looking forward to a positive and productive 2016-2017 school year. We are very proud of our students, staff members, school, and community, who support our schools and provide us the necessary resources to graduate global citizens of the future. It is the combined efforts and positive communication between our schools, families, and community that make Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 Schools dedicated to the success of every student.

Ruth I. Levy, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
Chester, Deep River, Essex & Region 4

## Emergency Management

The Emergency Management Department (EMD) puts safety and well-being of residents as its highest priority. In FY 2015-16, the EMD reviewed and updated the Town's *Emergency Operation Plan* and Region 4 Board of Education and Essex Elementary School's *All-Hazards School Security and Safety Plan*. The EMD also participated in several preparedness activities, including: statewide Emergency Preparedness and Planning Initiative (EPPI) Exercise with regional and State partners, weekly radio checks with area EMDs, quarterly meetings with Valley Shore Emergency Management, and a "Recovery after a Disaster Strikes" webinar.

Thankfully, our community was not directly impacted by a significant hurricane, blizzard, or other severe weather event in FY 2015-16; however, the EMD remains ready to coordinate activities and local resources to mitigate effects of natural or man-made disasters. The Department is responsible for planning and coordinating local resources before a storm or other event, monitoring and responding to emergencies during the event (when possible), and reestablishing essential services after the event. These activities might include broadcasting essential information to help residents prepare for a storm, opening a community shelter, or supporting mandatory evacuations. Much of our work is done "behind the scenes" but residents typically see the direct effect of our planning efforts after an event in the form of clean-up work, restoration of communications, water and electricity service, essential demolition activities, restricted entry into flooded areas, debris cleanup, tree trimming, hazardous waste operations, and emergency response activities when needed. Although we cannot always predict when a disaster will occur, our goal is to always be prepared and respond efficiently to restore services and normalcy to our community.

The Emergency Management Department reminds residents to sign up for SAFER ESSEX – a telephone & email alert system which allows residents to receive vital, specific, and LOCAL information from Town Officials. Register for SAFER ESSEX on the Town of Essex website at <http://www.essexct.gov/>

Lastly, the EMD encourages residents to always have a preparedness plan to ensure the safety and well-being of you and your family. Please refer to the *Emergency Preparedness Guidebook* located on the Town of Essex Emergency Management webpage. Hardcopies of this guidebook are also available in the Essex Health Dept.

Be Well and Stay Safe.  
William Buckridge  
Director of Emergency Management Office

## Essex Housing Authority

Essex Court is an affordable public housing complex for the elderly 62 years or older and for mobile state certified disabled residents. It is located at 16 Main Street in Centerbrook and is governed under the Essex Housing Authority (EHA) and managed by DeMarco Management. The residents live independently in the 36 garden style apartments. They enjoy social time, a luncheon each week and a monthly event in the community room. The community room also has a full kitchen, a laundry room, a staff office and bathrooms. The community room has a generator should there be a power outage.

Once again, The Essex Community Fund provided a grant for the Resident Services Program. This program helps residents get counseled on support services they may be eligible for, and also on social events. The Rotary Club of Essex continues to provide Thanksgiving Meals for residents that are in need. Coldwell Banker Essex Branch gave a grant again this year for a major meal event with some music plus a birthday remembrance for each resident. A group of students from Valley Regional High School came to us for their community day of giving. Nurses of the Lower Valley come regularly to check blood pressures and they always hold a Flu Clinic here. Many other businesses, organizations, and individuals, such as Agnes Waterman owner and cook from the former Aggies Village Restaurant also donate their time and talents to the residents. The residents, the staff and the Commission are most grateful for the strong community support that is received year after year.

EHA, the Property Manager, and DeMarco Management strive to make Essex Court desirable for residents, financially viable, and an asset to our community. Housing applications are accepted year round at this point, and we continue to work off of the wait list to fill any vacancies.

After four years of development for plans, approvals, and securing financing, Essex Elderly and Affordable Housing, Inc.(EEAH) and our partner, Women's Institute for Housing and Economic Development (WIHED) broke ground for the new facility, Essex Place, this past spring.

The new facility is 22 units of affordable housing for seniors, adjacent to Essex Court. The need for additional affordable housing in Essex has been demonstrated by the long waiting list for Essex Court over the last five years. Occupancy of Essex Place is anticipated the summer of 2017 and the process for applications will announced in the spring of 2017.

EEAH and WIHED are most grateful for the support of the Town and surrounding property owners for their expeditious cooperation for permits, leases and easements and to our funders, particularly our local Essex Savings Bank for the FHLB loan.

## Fire Marshal

The Fire Marshal's Office is responsible for investigating all fire related incidences that Essex Fire Engine Co. No. 1 responds to, as well as any follow-up inspections. The office is also responsible for submitting the mandated National Fire Incident Reports (NFIRS) to the Bureau of the State Fire Marshal's Office.

Annual inspections of all buildings and facilities of public service, all buildings and facilities used for manufacturing and all occupancies regulated by the Fire Safety Code are required by the Fire Marshal in order to determine the degree of compliance with the fire safety requirements of Connecticut General Statutes Chapter 541 as authorized by Section 29-305 of the Statutes.

Annual inspections by the Fire Marshal are also required for all establishments looking to obtain and/or renew their liquor licenses. It is the applicant's responsibility to contact the Fire Marshal's Office in order to set up an appointment for this inspection.

A permit and inspection are also required from the Fire Marshal's Office for the removal of an underground fuel storage tank. There is a \$30.00 fee for this permit and it may be obtained in the Fire Marshal's office. Upon removal of the tank, the Fire Marshal looks for any soil contamination and completes a report stating the results of the inspection. This report then becomes a permanent part of the property file. From July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, there were 7 underground fuel tank removal permits/inspections.

Tent events require a permit and inspection from the Fire Marshal. There is a \$30.00 fee for each tent/event permit. The Fire Marshal inspects tents prior to the event and also determines the extent of fire protection needed at the tent for all social events; except those tents on the property of one (1) and two (2) family residences where no admission is charged. From July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 there were 27 tent permits/inspections.

The Fire Marshal also issues blasting permits to licensed blasting contractors. There is a \$60.00 fee for a blasting permit. From July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, there were 4 blasting permits issued.

The open burning of residential brush (limited to 2" and under in diameter) requires a burning permit signed by the Fire Marshal. There is no charge for this permit; however there are specific terms and conditions under which this permit is issued. Information on open burning/burning permits is available in the Fire Marshal's Office. From July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 90 burning permits were issued.

For any of the above permits please see Darcy Roper or Kerry Berardinelli in the Fire Marshal's Office.

Total income from permits issued by the Fire Marshal's Office from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 was \$1,620.00.

Keith C. Nolin, Fire Marshal

## Harbor Management Commission

Essex Harbor is defined as the waters from the main river channel to the east, north to Deep River, south to Old Saybrook and the on the westward side of the coves around the village.

The primary focus of the Harbor Management Commission (HMC) is the maintenance of the anchorages -- Main, Meadows and the Coves (Main and the Meadows are Federally approved anchorages). We have upgraded our anchorage markers and their ground tackle. We have a permit to remove two derelict structures (rock piers) in the area that was the southern end of Thatchbed Island, but have been unable to complete the project because of a lack of funding.

HMC also manages the Public Access points, including Bushnell access where we offer small vessel storage during the boating season for \$25 per vessel. This has proven to be a popular option and has resulted in a wait list for getting a permit. Vessels may be stored from April 1 to November 30. Removal is required should we be faced with a hurricane or other extreme weather. Applications are available online on or after March 1.

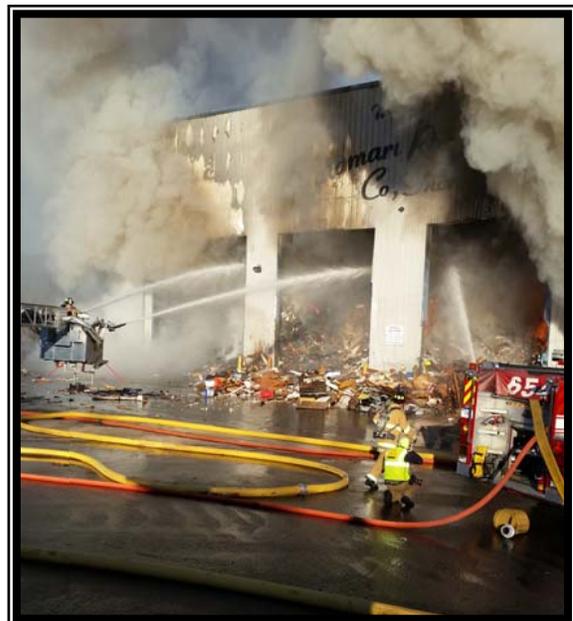
HMC funding comes from usage fees such as Mooring Permits and Small Vessel Storage permits at Bushnell Access. We are not part of the Town Budget.

The Harbor Plan is being reviewed with a target to update it. It was originally approved in September, 1991.

All pertinent data is available at the Essex website [www.essexct.gov](http://www.essexct.gov), including permit applications, Harbor Plan, meeting minutes, et al.

All meetings are open and public comment is welcomed.

Jeff Going, Chairman



## Health Department

Essex has a full-time Local Health Department that is responsible for upholding the Regulations of CT State Agencies and enforcing CT Public Health Code and local ordinances. The Health Dept.'s mission is to create a healthy environment for its residents through promotion of essential public health services, prevention of epidemics and disease, protection against environmental hazards, and promotion and encouragement of healthy behaviors. The Health Dept. uses local public health statistics to provide residents with targeted health education materials and general information aimed at supporting a healthy community. The Health Dept. is actively involved with local and regional partners in emergency response and preparedness planning.

The majority of services involve environmental health. This includes inspections of food service establishments, temporary events, daycares, salons, public swimming pools and bathing areas, responding to complaints or addressing a variety of environmental hazards. Lead poisoning prevention activities, asbestos and radon awareness, private drinking water well safety, and promoting healthy home renovation and maintenance projects are just a few of the activities that contribute to a healthy community. The health department has the legal authority to levy fines and penalties for public health code violations and to grant and rescind license permits (such as for food service establishments or septic systems).

**Essex Wastewater Management Ordinance:** The Villages of Centerbrook, Essex, and Ivoryton are *not* served by public sewers and each of the approximately 2900 developed parcels is served by private on-site septic systems. Continued maintenance of these systems is the responsibility of the property owner; however, the Health Dept. is responsible for enforcing the Ordinance. The purpose of the Ordinance is to prevent sewage from contaminating surface waters and groundwater and to keep the Town in good standing with CT Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). The Health Dept. works with property owners toward compliance with the Ordinance and sends pumpout reminder postcards to property owners who were due or overdue for their 5-year septic system maintenance.

## Inlands Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

The Essex Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission is chaired by Dan Lapman. With Mr. Lapman are Fred Szufnarowski (vice-chairman), Jim Leo (member at large), Stephen Knauth (member at large), Jim Hill (Zoning Commission liaison), Jeff Lovelace (Conservation Commission liaison), Bill Cook (alternate), and Andy Roussel (alternate).

The Commission, along with its enforcement official, regulates all proposed activities within a wetland, watercourse, or waterbody and on the land within 100 feet of those areas. Wetlands are defined in the regulations in accordance with CT General Statutes. The Commission meets the second Tuesday of the month in the Town Hall.

During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the Commission conducted seven site inspections and issued twenty-five inland wetland permits. The majority of the permits involved activities within upland review areas. The Inland Wetlands Officer issued two permits for activities within upland review areas.



<u>Food Service &amp; Other Inspections</u>		<u>Complaints / Site Investigations</u>	
Restaurant/Stores/Cafeterias	105	Nuisance Complaints	22
Temporary Food Service Events	31	Sewage Complaints	3
Public Bathing Areas	11	Vector Testing (Ticks)	8
Public Pools	5	Rabies Testing (Bats)	0
Well Permits Issued	6	Dead Birds	0
Day Cares	3		
Salons	10		
<u>On-Site Sewage Disposal Activities</u>			
New Septic System Permits	7		
Septic System Repair Permits	34		
Soil Tests (Number of Lots Tested)	35		
B100a Compliance (additions, conversions, accessory structures)	114		
Orders Issued	1		

## Park and Recreation 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 swimming hole. We also accomplished many parks improvement projects this past year. Most notable, construction was completed on a new awning at Viney Hill Brook Park in coordination with Bogaert Construction and the Essex Lions Club, which will provide shelter and a nice new area for picnicking.

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 including 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 scheduled and issued Park Use Permits for various park and facility use each year.

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, Essex Eggstravaganza, Summer Concerts Series, and Essex Go Bragh. We were fortunate to have the support of a number of local businesses and residents.

The Park and Recreation Commission meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at Essex Town Hall, we welcome hearing from the public on questions or concerns on our operations and how we may assist you. Friend us on Facebook! 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.



## Planning Commission

The Planning Commission is responsible for the development and implementation of the municipal Plan of Conservation and Development (PoCD) and for the review of subdivisions. The Planning Commission also advises the Board of Selectmen regarding municipal projects and the Zoning Commission regarding changes to zoning maps or regulations.

The Planning Commission is composed of five regular members and three alternates. Alan Kerr was elected as chairman in December, and George Sexton was elected Vice-Chairman. Thomas Danyliw, Ralph Monaco, and John Bairos are the other full members. Alternates are Erin Bogan, Jane Siris, and Gary Riggio. Mr. Bairos, Mr. Riggio, Ms. Bogan, and Ms. Siris are all in their first year as Commissioners, filling seats due to the resignation of Commissioners Linda Herman, Carla Feroni, Bob Laundry, and John Ackermann. John Guskowski of CME Associates continues to serve the Commission as Consulting Town Planner. During the fiscal year 2015-2016, the Planning Commission undertook the following efforts:

- Completed a comprehensive revision to the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development. The Plan was the result of numerous public forum sessions and over two years of Commission effort in research and writing, culminating with the document's public hearing and adoption on October 8, 2015. This Plan will guide Planning, Zoning, Economic Development, and Conservation efforts for the next decade, and can be found on the Town's website ([www.essexct.gov/planning](http://www.essexct.gov/planning));
- Conducted, with participation of a Senior Landscape Design Studio at UConn, a design study of the Route 9 Gateway area, including the Essex Steam Train property and surrounding parcels. An exhibition of the design concepts was held at the Steam Train in April;
- In furtherance of the Transportation Study, completed work on a Main Street Investment Fund grant to develop a "Shared Street for the Arts" in the center of Ivoryton Village. Ribbon cutting for these sidewalk and streetscape enhancements was completed in July, 2015;
- Continued progress on Phase I of sidewalk improvement design for new sidewalk and repair sidewalk near Essex Elementary School funded through Safe Routes To School program. Construction began in June, 2016 and was completed in September;
- Began implementation of the Plan of Conservation & Development via a proposed re-write of the Zoning Regulation concerning Accessory Apartments. The public hearing on this amendment was in August, 2016.

Alan Kerr, Planning Commission Chairman; and John Guskowski, Town Planner

## Probate Court Saybrook District

The last year has been particularly challenging for the Probate Court. There were substantial cuts to the state budget which affected all state agencies. The Probate Courts were one of the most effected departments. The Legislature cut the entire Probate Court System budget from approximately thirty-two million dollars to zero dollars, and raised the fees, under the premise that the courts could self-sustain with the higher fees. The prior cap on estate fees was twelve thousand five hundred dollars. The problem with this program was that the system is then dependent on the fees generated by large estates which could have been hundreds of thousands of dollars each. However, those people with large estates, have the means to either leave the State, or do sophisticated estate planning to substantially reduce their tax exposure. What was left out of this analysis was that the people most affected by these cuts were societies' most vulnerable. Although, generally not thought of as a social service agency, the Probate Courts handle many social issues, such as protection of the elderly, protection of children and protection of those children and adults with intellectual disabilities by the appointment of guardians. This, of course is in addition to protecting widows, widowers and families through the estate process. Often, many town and state agencies will turn to the probate court as a quick, efficient and less costly approach to protect these vulnerable members of our society.

After much discussion and late nights in Hartford, the Legislature voted to restore six and a half million dollars to the Probate Court budget. They have also capped the maximum fee on estates at forty thousand dollars. As a result, although we have had to make substantial cuts we are still able to provide these valuable services to the public. Although the state pays for the salaries and benefits of the judge and staff, the nine towns in the Saybrook District pay for the supplies, office equipment and office space for the court. In the last six years we have been able to keep the town budgets the same with no increases. The Saybrook District Court has recently received its third excellent review by the Probate Court Administrator's Office. I am privileged to have an excellent staff who possess not only extensive experience, but a very positive attitude towards helping the public.

Terrance D. Lomme  
Probate Judge

## Public Works

It is the responsibility of this department to maintain much of the Town's infrastructure and keep our streets safe, attractive, and people-friendly. This includes weather-related responses, roadway clean-up, citizens' concerns, and special event support.

The summer and fall seasons kept the crews busy mowing Town properties and overgrowth along our road sides. Other projects included street sweeping, tree trimming, drainage repairs, cleaning catch basins, patching, chip sealing and paving roadways, curb resets, and doing sidewalk repairs and replacement.

A new roof was installed on the existing 3,500 sf Public Works garage and we broke ground on the new four bay garage as part of the Capital Improvement Initiative. This additional building will provide more secure storage for equipment that was previously kept outdoors.

The Safe Routes to School grant awarded to the Town this year allowed for sidewalk replacement on Main Street from Essex Elementary School all the way down to Bracket Lane. Work on this project will be finished by the time this report goes out.

In addition, Town road conditions were assessed and scheduled repairs to pot holes, sink holes, and other roadway damage spots were completed.

We are always on the lookout for cutting costs while continually striving to improve the services we deliver in a prompt, courteous manner.

David Caroline  
Director of Public Works



## Pumpout Boat Program

Essex plays a major role in keeping the waters of the Connecticut River clean. We facilitate the Lower Connecticut River Pumpout Boat Program.

The Pumpout Boat Program, under the Federal Clean Vessel Act is a funded program that “concerns itself with preserving the delicate balance of marine life in our coastal waters”. For us, that means the Connecticut River and its estuaries in particular. This year, Connecticut received the highest grant of all the states, and we, locally, are putting it to good use. Our program is the second largest Connecticut Pumpout Boat Program. The largest program (Long Island Soundkeeper) covers western Long Island Sound including portions of New York.

This is a free service to boat owners. The pumpout boat program provides for their holding tanks to be pumped out

with subsequent offloading into upland disposal facilities that then transfer the material to sewage treatment plants.

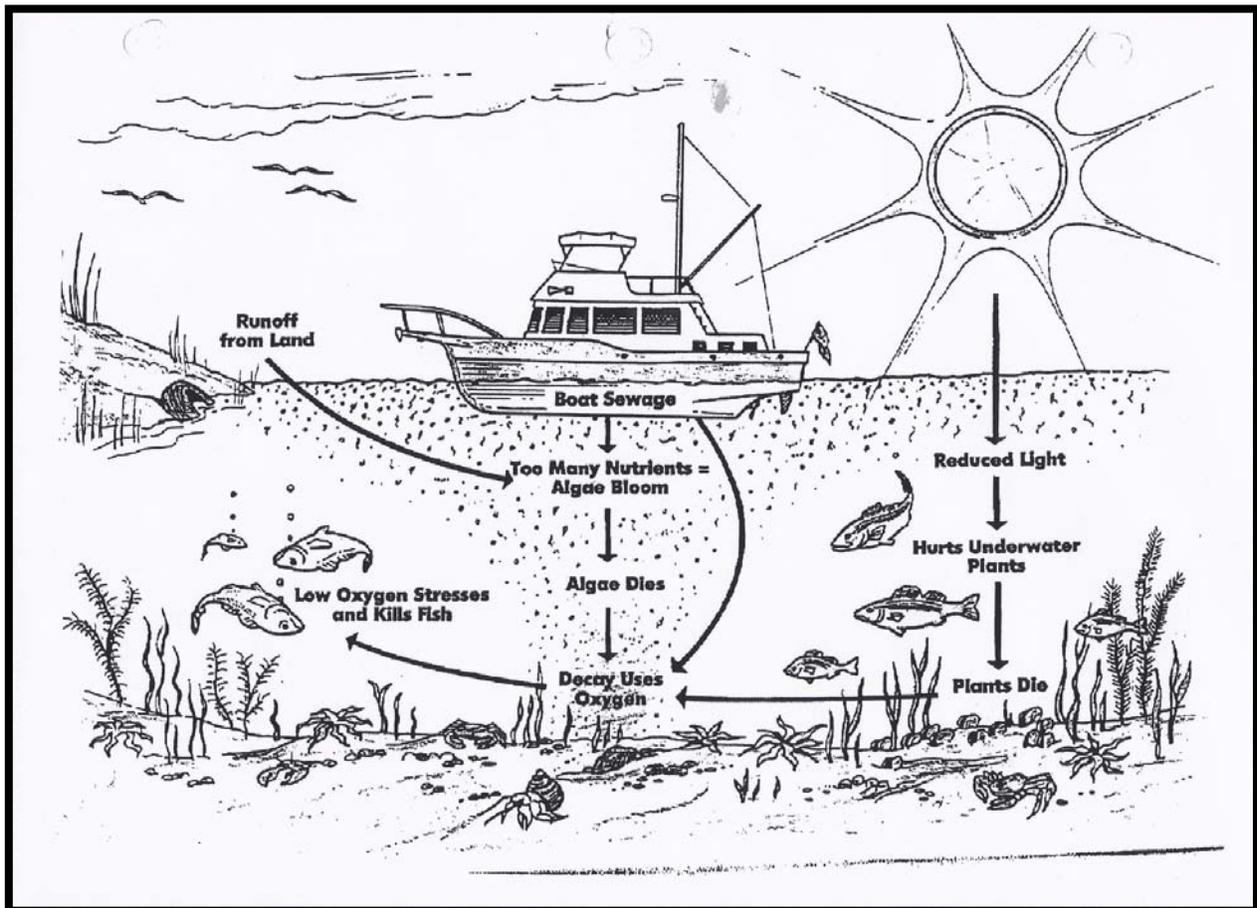
The 2016 Boating Season has been a record year for us which kept 100,000 gallons of material from entering the River and its tributaries.

Our service area is the boating community from the East Haddam Bridge to (but not into) Long Island Sound. Our three pumpout boats provide service from Memorial Day through the end of October. Though, if the weather cooperates, we will start earlier and run longer. In July and August the service is six days a week. In the spring and fall we are in service weekends only. There are eight employees including regular and part time workers.

We are doing our part to keep our waters clean and safe.

*Joel P. Severance, Program Manager*

## Lower Connecticut River Pumpout Boat Why it is important to off-load to a Pumpout Boat for off-loading into a landside sewer system



## Registrars of Voters

The Registrars of Voters are elected officials of the Town, whose duty is to administer the election process according to State Statute and under the direction of the Secretary of the State.

The registrars have the responsibility of keeping the Registry List current at all times. They receive applications from new voters, admit those who qualify and add their names to the Registry in a timely fashion. Removals from the list are made due to death and electors moving out of town. The Annual Canvas is required by State Statute and was carried out January. Changes of address, removals and other corrections were made.

The help of all electors in this process is greatly appreciated. As of August 30, 2016, there were 4,760 registered voters in the Town of Essex. This number is broken down as follows: Democrats-1590: Republicans-1412: Unaffiliated-1712: Other-46.

On November 3, 2015 we held the Municipal Election, April 26, 2016 we held Presidential Primaries for both Democratic and Republican Parties. May 3, 2016 we held the Region 4 Budget Referendum and on May 13, 2016 we held an audit for the Presidential Primaries.

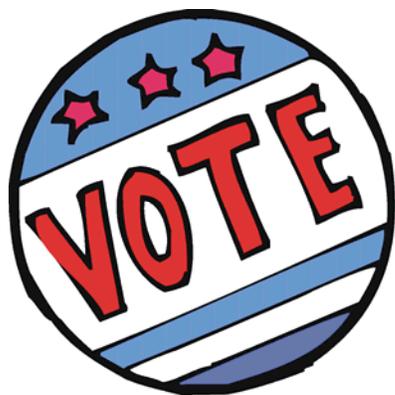
Due to new State legislation, Registrars now must be certified. This entails attending 8 classes with quizzes following and then a final exam. As of this writing, we have attended 7 classes and waiting for the 8<sup>th</sup> class to be scheduled. May 12, 2016 we hosted a Moderator certification/re-certification class with 35 attendees.

Essex has always been known for its high voter turnout, especially in comparison to the statewide averages. We encourage all eligible voters to get out and vote!

If you are not registered, please register to VOTE—it is easy and there are various options available to register, including in person at Town Hall, by mailing a registration card and on-line thru Secretary of the State's site—<https://voterregistration.ct.gov/olvr/>

We wish to thank and commend the moderators and poll workers for their dedication and effort in conducting the election process. Working together the election process has been efficient and with good spirit.

Lois A. Ely and John V. Heiser  
Registrars of Voters



## Resident State Trooper / Essex Police

Policing and public safety in the Town of Essex is the responsibility of the Essex Resident Trooper's Office. The Resident Trooper's office is located in the Essex Town Hall, and consists of three full time certified Police Officers, and one part time certified Police Officer. In addition, there are three part time Harbor Patrol Officers who are responsible for the operation of the Essex Police boat. It can be found patrolling the Connecticut River, along the Essex shoreline, Friday through Sunday during the boating season.

Supervision of police personnel is the responsibility of the Resident State Trooper. The Resident State Trooper is provided to the Town by the Connecticut State Police. The State of Connecticut supplies a certified sworn Trooper and patrol vehicle. In addition it provides the use of the State Police infrastructure, and state facilities to the Town. The Essex Animal Control Officer also falls under the supervision of the Resident Trooper.

For the reporting year 2015-2016 the Resident Trooper, and Essex Officers have been responsible for a variety of tasks not limited to motor vehicle and criminal complaints. It has been a priority to maintain an active role in the community, providing police personnel for public events such as parades, fun runs, and organized town events. The department in conjunction with other Town Agencies has taken part in Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE), safety talks, and car seat inspections. For the reporting year the Resident Trooper's Office and State Police have responded to 9066 calls for service as compared to 7915 the previous year. Below is a list of calls personnel responded to. The Resident Trooper's Office is committed to addressing public safety issues, and police related concerns as quickly as possible, thereby making Essex a safer community to live and work.

Statistic	Total
Total Calls for Service	9066
Total Accidents with Report	88
Total Accidents without Report	7
Total Fatal Accidents	0
Total Fatalities	0
Total Serious Injury Accidents	0
Total Minor Injury Accidents	5
Total Noninjury Accidents	79
Total Accident DWIS	1
Total Onsite DWIS	5
Total DWIS	6
Total Other Reportables	107
Total Nonreportables	6945
Total Motorist Assists	147
Total Citations Primary Charge	1174
Total Citations All Charges	1174
Total Warnings Primary Charge	435
Total Warnings All Charges	778
Total Seatbelt Citations Primary Charge	64
Total Seatbelt Citations All Charges	235
Total Seatbelt Warnings All Charges	147

## Retirement Board

The Essex Retirement Board (ERB) acts as the fiduciary and administrator of the Town’s three retirement benefit assets: Town of Essex Retirement Plan, Town of Essex Police Retirement Plan, and the Town of Essex Merit Service Retirement Plan (a LOSAP plan) for Volunteer Firefighters. The role of the ERB is to primarily perform a fiduciary and oversight function over the Town’s retirement and merit service plans in order 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 F. Ellen Whaley – Wexler, term expiration November 2020. Current at large members are: Ethan Goller, term expiration November 2016; Stacia Libby and Mary-Louise Polo, term expiration November 2018. There is one vacancy.

The ERB meets monthly, generally on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Town Hall at 5 pm. The 2015–2016 annual schedule, agendas and minutes are posted on the Town’s website.

The fund balances at the close of the 2015-2016 fiscal year were: \$3,555,768 for the Defined Benefits Retirement Plans for Town Employees and Police, and \$792,111 for the Merit Service Retirement Plan for Volunteer Firemen Town contribution to each plan of \$354,740, and \$67,899 respectively.

Copies of the Town plans, amendments, investment portfolio, RFP’s/proposals, Board minutes, audit and actuarial reports are available to the public for inspection either on the Town website or at the Town of Essex – Finance Office upon request.

Ellen Whaley-Wexler  
Chair

## Social Services

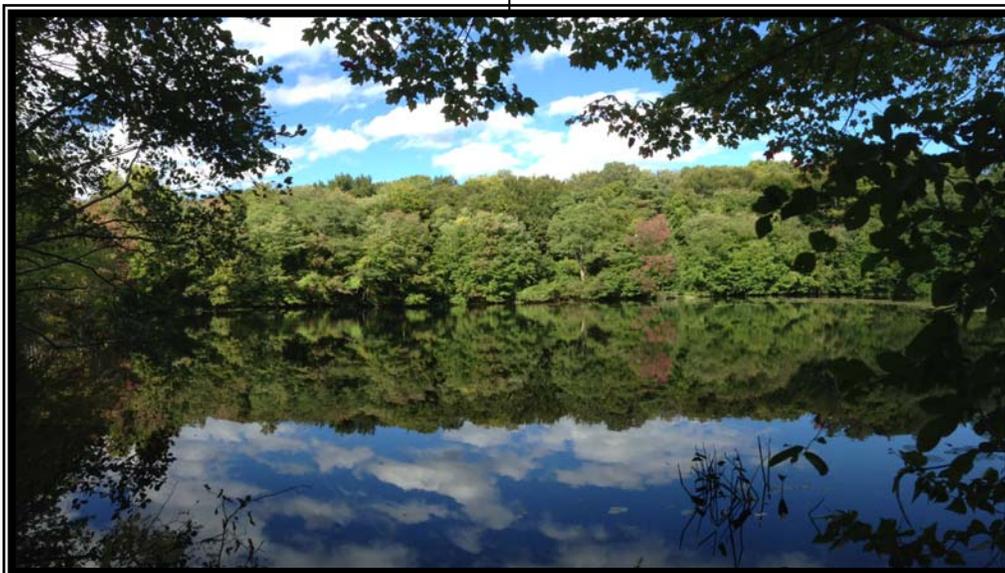
Town of Essex Department of Social Services mission is to enhance the quality of life and self-sufficiency of people in need of financial and social services. We provided leadership, advocacy, planning and delivery of many services in partnership with public and private organizations.

Essex Social Services is dedicated to providing 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 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, along with the Essex Community Fund, who is a major donor to our Essex Emergency Assistance Fund, which assists local residents with fuel, food, shelter and other emergency services.

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



## Town Clerk's Office

This past fiscal year the Town of Essex had four public hearings, twelve Town Meetings and a Region 4 District Budget Referendum. The Town Clerk's office received a \$3,000 grant from the Connecticut State Library for the scanning of land records in an ongoing effort to make our complete set of documents searchable by electronic means.

The following list of recordings for the 2015 – 2016 fiscal year for the Town of Essex:

- ◆ Birth Certificates, 31
- ◆ Death Certificates, 79
- ◆ Marriage Licenses, 66
- ◆ Dog Licenses, 684 with 4 Kennels,
- ◆ Survey Maps 8,
- ◆ Trade Names, 25
- ◆ Land Recordings, 1,401

Monies distributed by the Town Clerk to the State of Connecticut:

- ◆ Dog License Fees, \$6,005
- ◆ Marriage Surcharge Fees, \$1,580
- ◆ Preservation Fees – State Library, \$3,262
- ◆ State Treasurer Fees, \$66,079

Monies to the General Fund:

- ◆ Conveyance Tax, \$169,056.30
- ◆ Town Clerk Fees, \$124,125.01

This office issues the following:

- ◆ Dog License,
- ◆ Sports License,
- ◆ Marriage License,
- ◆ Trade Name Certificates,
- ◆ Punch Cards and Dump Stickers.

The following request forms may be printed off our website:

- ◆ Absentee Ballot Applications,
- ◆ Birth Certificates,
- ◆ Marriage License and Death Certificates
- ◆ current list of our Justices of the Peace.

### Veterans:

Please note that by September 30<sup>th</sup> you need to file your DD-214 (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 continued support.

Joel Marzi, Town Clerk  
Yvonne Roziak, Assistant Town Clerk

## Town Counsel

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016 this office handled the many miscellaneous matters customary for Town operation, such as Town Meeting calls, questions relating to Ordinances, responses to several Freedom of Information requests, interpretation of statutes, review and approval of town contracts and the like.

Litigation during the year was minimal. In January 2016, a suit was filed by a tenant against a landlord regarding a health hazard at a residential property in Ivoryton. The Essex Health Department became involved, only as a party required to be given notice under the applicable statute. The matter was resolved by a Stipulated Judgment in February 2016.

A dispute exists regarding whether the westerly end of Evans Lane is a public highway. The Board of Selectmen has sought to obtain a private settlement in lieu of litigation. To date, a settlement has not been reached.

The Town also has had several Building or Health Code violations which required local enforcement action. These have been or are being resolved to place the properties in compliance.

There is no pending or threatened litigation of any kind against the Town, or its officials, which would have any negative effect upon the Town, its reputation or financial condition.

A Code of Ethics Ordinance was adopted, with the Board of Selectmen designated as the Ethics Board in the event of a complaint. The Ordinance describes conduct which would constitute a violation of the Code and the procedures for processing a Complaint. The Board of Selectmen designated Town Counsel to act as Review Committee to make an initial determination as to whether there was probable cause to pursue the Complaint. No complaints have been submitted. The Review Committee is also authorized to provide advisory opinions under the ordinance and has issued one such opinion.

David Royston



\* Designed by TownMapsUSA.com

## 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, grants and private donations. During the period of 2015-2016 we have planted eight trees with financial help from a 2016 America The Beautiful grant, awarded to the Essex Tree Committee by the State of Connecticut.

The tree type and locations are as follows: One Red Sunset Maple (*Acer rubrum* 'Franksred') at the Ivoryton Club, one Red Sunset Maple (*Acer rubrum* 'Franksred') and one London Plane (*Platanus x acerifolia*) near corner of Carriage Lane and River Road, one Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*) at 147 Dennison Road, one Princeton Elm (*Ulmus americana*) at Hub-Plane Trees Street Ivoryton, nue.

The Essex as an ex-officio members ap-for terms of meetings per

Tree Committee is composed of the Town Tree Warden member and a minimum of two to a maximum of six pointed by the Board of Selectman to serve without pay three years duration. The Essex Tree Committee has six year.

Augie Pampel, Chairman



## ***Water Pollution Control Authority***

The WPCA completed the internal work necessary toward developing a new town-wide Wastewater Management Plan and has received RFQ's. We are now in the process of interviewing the candidate companies to determine if we will proceed with the RFP process.

The development of a new Wastewater Management Plan will provide valuable information about our current and future needs/requirements and will also avail the Town to understanding what types of technological advancements have been developed that may aid in localized, community based systems, if necessary in our more densely populated areas.

The Water Pollution Control Authority meets the third Monday of each month at 5:00 p.m. on the second floor of the Essex Town Hall. Visitors are welcome.

Susan Malan, Chair, Commissioners: Wendy Arnold, Eric Mineker, Randel Osborne, Leigh Rankin, Mark Reeves, Alvin Wolfram.

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## ***Zoning Board of Appeals***

The Essex Zoning Board of Appeals is chaired by Paul Greenberg. With Mr. Greenberg are Tim Furgueson, Ward Feirer, Barbara Sarrantonio and William Viелlette. Alternate Members are Phil Beckman and George Wendell. Attorney Michael Wells serves as legal counsel for the Board.

There are times when residents propose 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. It is hoped that the variances are granted because of a true land-based hardship that would make development in full accordance with the zoning regulations extremely difficult. Variances granted should allow development to be in harmony with their general purpose and intent, after due consideration for conserving the public health, safety, welfare, convenience and property values.

During the 2015-2016 fiscal year there were a total of twenty-six public hearings held before the ZBA. The Board granted twenty-five variances and denied one. The Board also approved one location for an automobile service station.

## ***Zoning Commission***

The Zoning Commission is chaired by Larry Shipman and has eight seats. With Mr. Shipman are Susan Uihlein, Alvin Wolfram, William Reichenbach and Jim Hill as regular members with Jeff Lovelace, Russ Smith and Adrienne Forrest serving as alternates. The Commission meets on the third Monday evening of each month. Attorney Peter Sipples serves as legal counsel for the Commission.

The Zoning Commission is responsible for the continuous review, updates and administration of the Essex Zoning Regulations. Revision updates to the Zoning Regulations are made periodically to conform to State Statutes and to changing concerns regarding development in Essex. In addition, the Commission reviews applications for Special Exceptions and Coastal Area Management site plans. The Commission can also modify past approvals.

During the 2015 – 2016 year the Commission held eleven public hearings. It approved seven special exceptions or site plan reviews. Also, three petitions to amend the zoning regulations and/or change a map boundary. Also, there was one approval to modify a Coastal Area Management application.

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## ***Zoning Enforcement***

The Zoning and Wetlands Enforcement Official carries out a multi-faceted position within the Land Use department. With the zoning and wetlands regulations as guidance, this individual administrates the daily activities that pertain to the various land use boards and commissions in Town. Also, all questions, concerns and requirements of the Town's residents regarding their properties are handled by the official.

The official 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 as well as State and Federal statutes. The enforcement official serves as a conduit to the land use boards and commissions. Staff will guide all applicants through the process of getting their plans and ideas heard in hopes of getting the necessary approvals.

The official coordinates activities with other Town departments such as engineering, public works, the building and health departments.

During the 2015 – 2016 fiscal year the Zoning Official approved 152 zoning permits and 2 administrative wetland permits.

# Town of Essex

## 2015 Annual Report

### Financial Information

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Financial data concerning the government of the Town of Essex is public information. The reports presented here are prepared to inform our taxpayers.

The financial information included in these reports is un-audited; however, it has been prepared by the Finance Department with reasonable care.

Once complete, the Town's official Audit Financial Statements prepared by our outside audit firm of Mahoney Sabol & Company, LLP will be available for review at the office of the Town Clerk and posted on the Town website [www.essexct.gov](http://www.essexct.gov) under the Finance Department webpage.

# Town of Essex 2015 Annual Report Finance Report

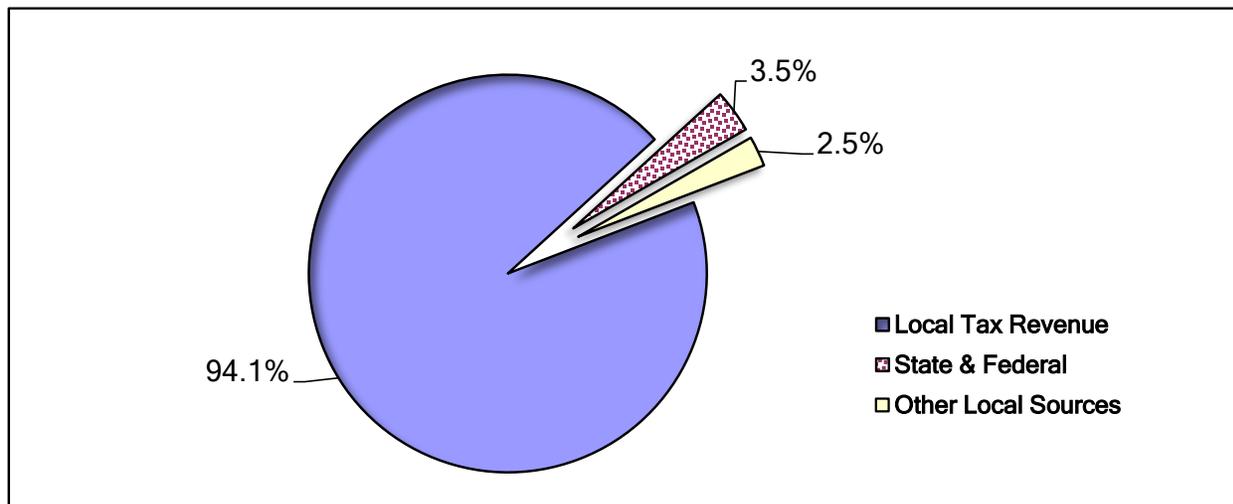
## Historical Data - Revenue

*(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			
2015-16*	1,036,820,170	0.51	21,833,424	2.38	99.00	21.08	847,059	542,900	23,223,383
2014-15	1,031,550,311	(7.93)	21,720,417	4.62	99.04	20.99	804,577	568,480	23,093,474
2013-14	1,120,431,426	0.02	21,326,486	5.85	98.69	18.99	827,756	747,553	22,901,795
2012-13	1,120,189,036	0.33	20,761,480	5.47	98.97	18.47	894,632	785,568	22,441,680
2011-12	1,116,538,776	0.57	20,147,562	6.55	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
2007-08	1,015,492,968	0.83	17,239,184	4.94	98.91	16.90	919,922	1,277,775	19,436,881
2006-07	1,007,137,952	0.83	16,427,178	6.19	98.80	16.20	1,339,615	1,043,556	18,810,349
2005-06	998,805,274	1.54	15,468,996	4.69	99.01	15.50	851,787	920,468	17,241,251
2004-05	983,668,278	47.38	14,775,573	10.27	99.33	14.90	1,332,303	904,384	17,012,260
2003-04	667,428,769	1.15	13,399,154	9.62	98.79	20.00	823,407	691,617	14,914,178

\* Budgeted figures

### FY 2014-2015 Revenue Breakdown



# Town of Essex 2015 Annual Report

## Finance Report

### Historical Data - Expenditures

*(figures are actual unless otherwise noted)*

Fiscal Year	Selectman's Expenditures			Education Expenditures				Total Essex Expend.	% Increase
	Town Admin.	% Increase	Debt Pmt (P & I)	Elementary School	Regional District 4	Total Education	% Increase		
2015-16*	6,547,807	1.46	908,881	7,603,101	8,192,147	15,795,248	0.50	23,251,936	0.99
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
2007-08	5,517,313	(2.57)	747,662	6,316,505	6,435,906	12,752,411	6.30	19,017,386	4.40
2006-07†	5,662,807	13.51	555,953	5,995,035	6,001,990	11,997,025	5.81	18,215,785	7.89
2005-06	4,988,816	(4.19)	557,512	5,717,309	5,620,692	11,338,001	1.32	16,884,329	(0.57)
2004-05†	5,206,907	27.69	583,091	5,570,964	5,619,374	11,190,338	6.80	16,980,336	16.30

\* - 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	Merit Service Retirement Plan for Volunteer Firemen	Merit Service Retirement Plan for Police
<b>Fund Balance at Beginning of Fiscal Year</b> (market value)	\$ 2,749,272	\$ 785,938	\$ 620,567
<b>Contributions:</b>			
From General Fund and Members	219,040	84,999	78,519
<b>Income:</b>			
Net Investment Income	170,109	48,292	36,624
<b>Total Beginning Balance, Contributions &amp; Income</b>	\$ 3,138,421	\$ 919,229	\$ 735,710
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
Retirement Benefits Paid	196,259	88,917	86,433
Administration	10,984	10,089	5,427
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	207,243	99,006	91,860
<b>Fund Balance at End of Fiscal Year</b> (market value)	\$ 2,931,178	\$ 820,223	\$ 643,850
Number of participants in plans	70	81	7
Retired	23	21	3
Active	33	51	3
Vested before terminating	14	9	1

# Town of Essex 2015 Annual Report

## Finance Report

### Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Revenues

REVENUE SOURCE	FY 2013-2014	Fiscal Year 2014-2015			FY 2015-2016
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget
<b>TAX COLLECTION</b>					
Property Taxes	\$ 21,226,985	\$ 21,578,339	\$ 21,591,685	\$ 13,346	\$ 21,783,424
Interest and Lien Fees	99,501	50,000	128,732	78,732	50,000
<b>Total Tax Collection</b>	<b>21,326,486</b>	<b>21,628,339</b>	<b>21,720,417</b>	<b>92,078</b>	<b>21,833,424</b>
<b>STATE &amp; FEDERAL</b>					
Tax Relief Totally Disabled	184	-	179	179	-
Veterans Tax Relief	3,050	3,962	3,404	(558)	3,962
Education Cost Sharing Grant	389,143	389,697	378,225	(11,472)	389,697
Town Aid Road Grant	215,748	215,656	215,183	(473)	215,183
LOCIP	41,869	40,351	40,043	(308)	40,043
PILOT Grant	23,882	23,079	26,034	2,955	25,714
Homeowners Tax Relief	30,149	36,000	33,312	(2,688)	35,000
Transit District	429	428	382	(46)	578
Municipal Revenue Sharing	31,237	-	-	-	-
Pequot Grant	11,463	10,293	13,555	3,262	13,030
Municipal Grant in Aid	70,111	70,111	70,111	-	74,547
Miscellaneous State and Federal	10,491	15,000	11,976	(3,024)	10,000
<b>Total State &amp; Federal</b>	<b>827,756</b>	<b>804,577</b>	<b>792,404</b>	<b>(12,173)</b>	<b>807,754</b>
<b>LOCAL REVENUES</b>					
Interest Income	5,654	4,800	5,995	1,195	7,200
Miscellaneous Permits	6,146	2,500	5,039	2,539	3,500
Phone "Access Line" Tax Share	28,382	35,175	26,757	(8,418)	32,500
Transfer Station Fees	76,812	70,000	92,592	22,592	80,000
Building Permit Fees	136,690	120,000	153,200	33,200	125,000
Circuit Court Fines	2,451	6,000	2,587	(3,413)	6,000
Gas Tax Refunds	-	805	-	(805)	805
Zoning Permits	9,694	7,100	11,404	4,304	7,100
Zoning Board of Appeals	3,000	2,160	2,600	440	2,160
Planning Commission Receipts	930	2,500	100	(2,400)	2,500
Conveyance Tax	142,573	105,000	154,213	49,213	110,000
Park and Recreation	6,765	4,500	2,260	(2,240)	4,500
Miscellaneous Receipts	111,104	15,000	27,108	12,108	15,000
Town Clerk Fees	145,167	115,000	132,080	17,080	115,000
Inland Wetlands Permits	1,900	1,440	3,340	1,900	1,440
Regional Recycling Fees	59,966	69,000	60,115	(8,885)	62,000
Health Department Fees	10,319	7,500	9,115	1,615	7,500
<b>Total Local Revenues</b>	<b>747,553</b>	<b>568,480</b>	<b>688,505</b>	<b>120,025</b>	<b>582,205</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE ALL SOURCES</b>	<b>\$ 22,901,795</b>	<b>\$ 23,001,396</b>	<b>\$ 23,201,326</b>	<b>\$ 199,930</b>	<b>\$ 23,223,383</b>

# Town of Essex 2015 Annual Report

## Finance Report

### Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Expenditures

DESCRIPTION	FY 2013-2014	Fiscal Year 2014-2015			FY 2015-2016
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget
<b>BOARD OF SELECTMEN</b>					
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>					
Selectmen	\$ 173,866	\$ 184,795	\$ 183,926	\$ (869)	\$ 192,828
Assessor	103,838	110,381	105,642	(4,739)	113,220
Central Services	217,561	231,442	231,442	-	212,617
Elections	33,794	47,604	46,771	(833)	47,249
Probate Court	3,460	3,460	3,460	-	3,460
Tax Collector	100,028	103,783	101,658	(2,125)	107,169
Town Clerk	174,708	171,866	171,866	-	157,607
Finance	152,858	155,040	155,040	-	166,303
Zoning Enforcement Agent	61,848	63,700	63,700	-	65,242
Fringe Benefits	839,769	900,733	855,085	(45,648)	950,142
General Insurance	163,723	181,643	172,831	(8,812)	189,643
Legal Services	75,746	122,608	122,608	-	74,500
Public Restroom Facilities	19,660	19,250	18,662	(588)	20,250
Technology	157,388	170,889	165,039	(5,850)	182,298
Board of Assessment Appeals	1,358	1,340	(238)	(1,578)	1,340
Board of Finance	36,362	48,147	36,596	(11,551)	110,500
Clean Energy Task Force	2,070	1,000	574	(426)	-
Conservation Commission	5,240	9,475	9,430	(45)	10,525
Economic Development Comm.	5,689	14,100	12,789	(1,311)	14,100
IWWC Commission	3,738	8,144	5,974	(2,170)	7,880
Park & Recreation	178,053	178,843	171,081	(7,762)	169,118
Park & Recreation Comm.	-	-	-	-	2,200
Planning Commission	58,590	59,899	58,913	(986)	61,617
Tree Committee	3,000	5,004	5,004	-	6,000
Zoning Board of Appeals	5,023	5,611	5,303	(308)	4,700
Zoning Commission	32,002	32,996	32,996	-	31,568
<b>Total General Government</b>	<b>2,609,372</b>	<b>2,831,753</b>	<b>2,736,152</b>	<b>(95,601)</b>	<b>2,902,076</b>
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>					
Ambulance Association	19,442	12,634	12,634	-	12,158
Animal Control	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	10,000
Building Department	79,797	96,232	96,232	-	93,745
Emergency Management	16,191	19,436	19,436	-	21,400
Emergency 911	99,798	99,896	99,896	-	118,098
Fire Department	307,700	325,700	315,700	(10,000)	325,150
Fire Marshal	52,314	46,707	46,689	(18)	47,810
Harbor Patrol	11,479	29,100	18,763	(10,337)	29,100
Police Services	323,177	331,186	268,427	(62,759)	371,150
Resident State Trooper	119,933	126,804	126,804	-	129,523
Water	150,297	152,255	148,472	(3,783)	154,428
<b>Total Public Safety</b>	<b>1,190,128</b>	<b>1,249,950</b>	<b>1,163,053</b>	<b>(86,897)</b>	<b>1,312,562</b>

continued on next page

# Town of Essex 2015 Annual Report

## Finance Report

### Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Expenditures *(continued)*

DESCRIPTION	FY 2013-2014	Fiscal Year 2014-2015			FY 2015-2016
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget
<b>HEALTH AND WELFARE</b>					
Estuary Transit	\$ 15,378	\$ 16,147	\$ 16,147	\$ -	\$ 17,358
Health Department	115,336	122,296	117,318	(4,978)	135,984
Transfer Station	252,829	263,246	235,320	(27,926)	265,270
Sanitary Waste Commission	1,502	800	-	(800)	-
Social Services	92,826	102,919	98,595	(4,324)	103,134
Visiting Nurses	60,795	66,874	66,850	(24)	66,874
Water Pollution Control	1,327	2,800	1,157	(1,643)	2,600
Total Health and Welfare	539,993	575,082	535,387	(39,695)	591,220
<b>LIBRARIES</b>	372,000	379,300	379,300	-	390,559
<b>HIGHWAYS &amp; TRANSPORTATION</b>					
Highways	873,799	943,565	943,565	-	858,902
Town Garage	43,218	47,049	47,049	-	35,600
Total Highways and Transportation	917,017	990,614	990,614	-	894,502
<b>DEBT SERVICE</b>					
Principal Payments	550,000	570,000	570,000	-	650,000
Interest and Fiscal Charges	274,749	284,369	284,369	-	258,881
Total Debt Service	824,749	854,369	854,369	-	908,881
<b>CAPITAL AND SINKING FUNDS</b>	645,845	630,040	630,689	649	456,889
<b>GRANTS &amp; SPECIAL APPROPR.</b>	15,000	19,276	18,178	(1,098)	-
<b>TOTAL BOARD OF SELECTMEN</b>	7,114,104	7,530,384	7,307,742	(222,642)	7,456,688
<b>EDUCATION</b>					
Elementary School	5,420,451	5,551,765	5,412,858	(138,907)	5,426,832
Reg. School Operating	7,313,597	7,252,388	7,252,388	-	7,367,332
Reg. Supervision District	2,130,583	2,190,548	2,190,548	-	2,176,269
Reg. Bond & Interest	768,175	860,101	860,101	-	824,815
Total Education	15,632,806	15,854,802	15,715,895	(138,907)	15,795,248
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	\$ 22,746,910	\$ 23,385,186	\$ 23,023,637	\$ (361,549)	\$ 23,251,936

### Fiscal Year End Revenue Excess/(Deficit)

DESCRIPTION	FY 2013-2014	Fiscal Year 2014-2015			FY 2015-2016
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 22,901,795	\$ 23,001,396	\$ 23,201,326	\$ 199,930	\$ 23,223,383
Total Expenditures	22,746,910	23,385,186	23,023,637	\$ (361,549)	23,251,936
Excess (Deficit) of Revenues over Expenditures	\$ 154,885	\$ (383,790)	\$ 177,689	\$ 561,479	\$ (28,553)

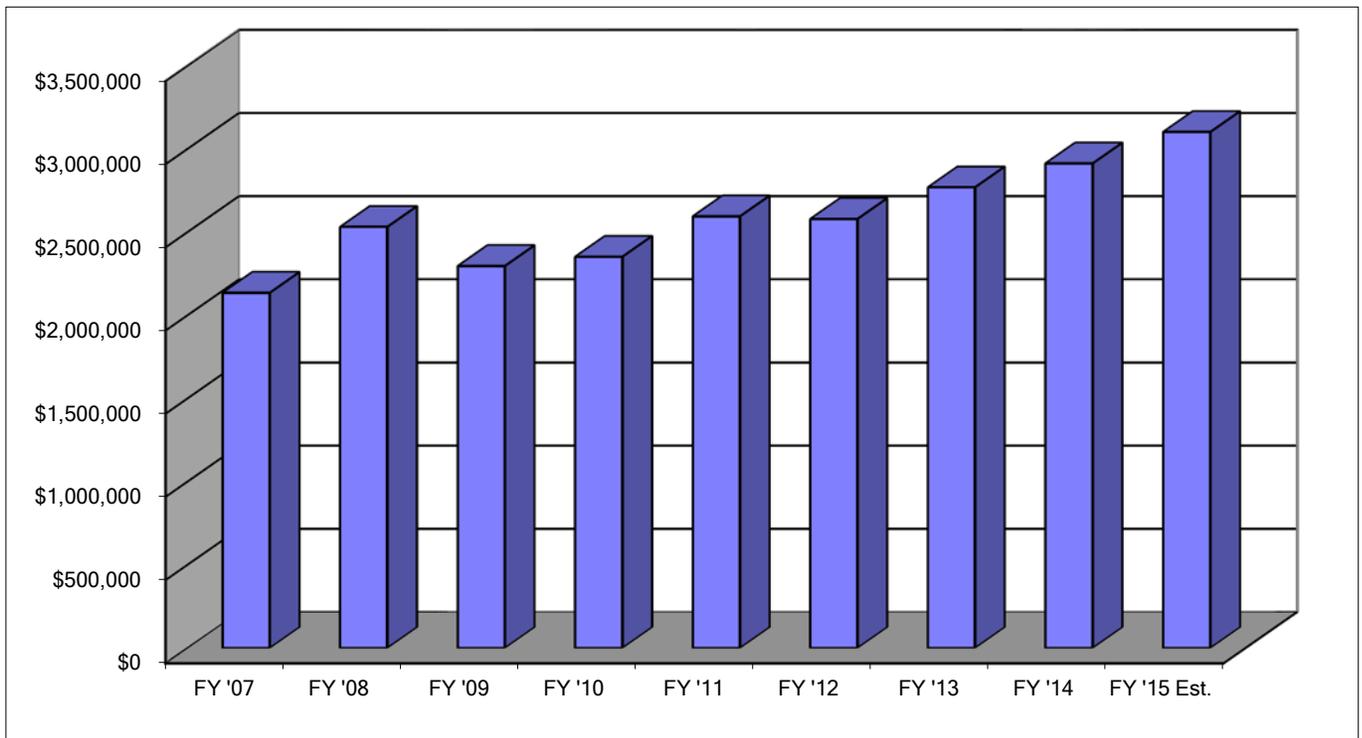
# Town of Essex 2015 Annual Report

## Finance Report

### Capital Project Sinking Fund Balances

Fund Name	Beginning Balance at 7/1/2014	From General Fund	Interest Rec'd. /Other	Expenditures	Ending Balance at 6/30/2015
Fire Truck	\$ 517,791	\$ 140,000	\$ 626	\$ -	\$ 658,417
Trucks & Equip.	2,780	-	21,231	-	24,011
Constable Cars	56,484	20,000	31	44,406	32,109
Assessor Revaluation	111,387	10,000	-	-	121,387
Wastewater Study	80,657	20,000	96	-	100,753
Harbor Patrol Boat	32,920	3,000	34	-	35,954
Park & Recreation	62,894	36,500	49	47,430	52,013
Municipal Property	79,197	50,000	80	44,968	84,309
Open Space	250,638	20,000	67	200,000	70,705
EES Capital Improv.	174,615	40,000	94	6,368	208,341
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 1,369,364</b>	<b>\$ 339,500</b>	<b>\$ 22,308</b>	<b>\$ 343,172</b>	<b>\$ 1,388,000</b>

### Unassigned Fund Ending Balance by Fiscal Year



# Town of Essex 2015 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
2014	2015-16	178	189	367	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%
2003	2004-05	316	240	556	342	549	891	356	39.96%
2002	2003-04	317	237	554	329	528	857	338	39.44%
2001	2002-03	333	225	558	331	575	906	334	36.87%
2000	2001-02	342	227	569	318	564	882	314	35.60%
1999	2000-01	327	224	551	347	494	841	329	39.12%

\*Total includes Pre-K and out of district placements

### Regional School District #4 Budget History

	Actual 2011-2012	Actual 2012-2013	Actual 2013-2014	Budgeted 2014-2015	Adopted 2015-2016
Region. School District 4 Expenses	\$13,928,129	\$14,093,360	\$14,641,624	\$14,888,543	15,492,247
Supervision District Expenses	<u>1,266,582</u>	<u>1,360,166</u>	<u>1,471,058</u>	<u>1,572,013</u>	<u>1,658,586</u>
Total Operating Expenses	15,194,711	15,453,526	16,112,682	16,460,556	17,150,833
Revenue	177,077	273,543	275,532	297,447	531,541
Debt Service	<u>2,024,324</u>	<u>1,865,845</u>	<u>1,663,438</u>	<u>1,916,875</u>	<u>1,860,625</u>
Total Billings - Region-wide	17,041,958	17,045,828	17,500,588	18,079,984	18,479,917
Total Billings-Essex Share	7,406,315	7,701,887	8,081,772	8,112,489	8,192,147
Increase from Prior Year (\$) - Region	291,196	3,870	454,760	579,396	399,933
Increase from Prior Year (\$) - Essex	267,878	295,572	379,885	30,717	79,658
Increase from Prior Year (%) - Region	1.74%	0.02%	2.67%	3.31%	2.21%
Increase from Prior Year (%) - Essex	3.75%	3.99%	4.93%	0.38%	0.98%
Number of Student	982	973	1,007	994	988
Total Operating Exp / Student**	\$ 15,473	\$ 15,882	\$ 16,001	\$ 16,560	\$ 17,359

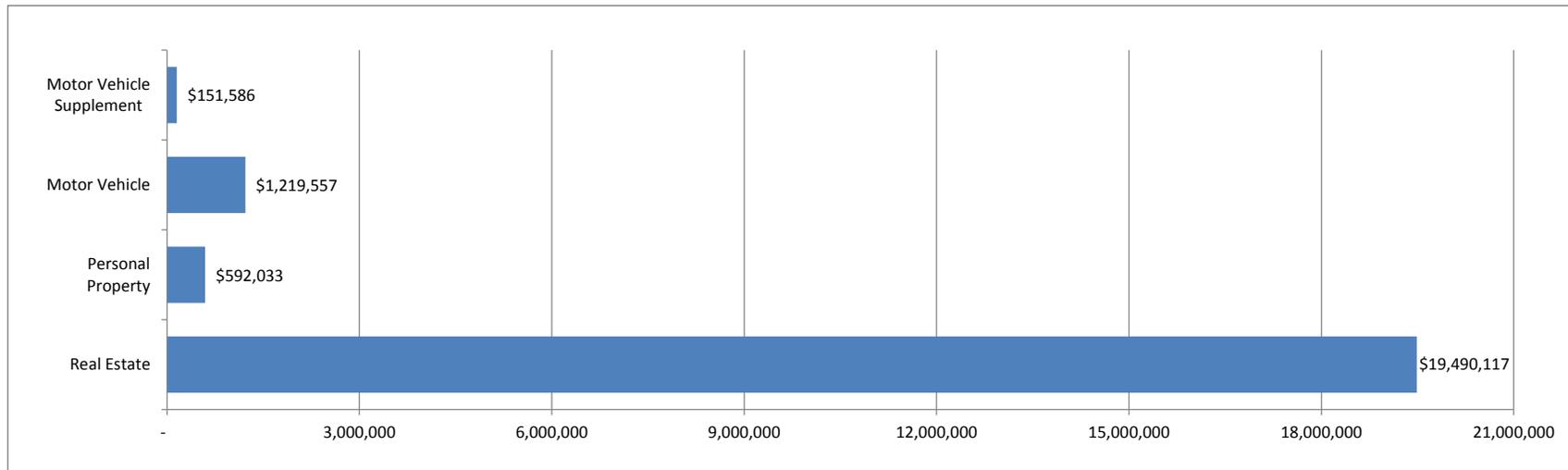
\*\*This number does not represent the Net Current Expenses per Pupil (NCEP) reported by the CT Department of Education which excludes Special Education and other costs

## Town of Essex 2015 Annual Report Tax Collector's Report

### Schedule of Property Taxes by Grand List Year June 30, 2015

GRAND LIST YEAR	UNCOLLECTED TAXES 6/30/2014	CURRENT YEAR LEVY	Lawful Corrections		Transfers To Suspense	Balance To Be Collected	COLLECTIONS			TOTAL	UNCOLLECTED TAXES 6/30/2015
			Additions	Deductions			TAXES	INTEREST	LIEN FEES		
2013		21,743,211	11,218	94,018	-	\$21,660,411	21,392,865	60,356	72	21,453,293	267,546
2012	267,325	-	3,902	1,498	-	269,729	132,579	27,356	816	160,751	137,150
2011	139,200	-	2,986	465	37,375	104,346	48,062	26,466	312	74,840	56,284
2010	33,240	-	-	-	-	33,240	18,234	6,759	168	25,161	15,006
2009	16,452	-	-	-	-	16,452	9,037	4,664	120	13,821	7,415
2008	11,357	-	-	-	-	11,357	3,725	3,813	72	7,610	7,632
2007	5,962	-	-	-	-	5,962	53	57	24	134	5,909
2006	794	-	-	-	-	794	51	64	24	139	743
2005	760	-	-	-	-	760	49	70	24	143	711
2004	729	-	-	-	-	729	47	75	24	146	682
2003	431	-	-	-	-	431	45	80	24	149	386
<b>Total</b>	<b>476,250</b>	<b>21,743,211</b>	<b>18,106</b>	<b>95,981</b>	<b>37,375</b>	<b>\$22,104,211</b>	<b>21,604,747</b>	<b>129,760</b>	<b>1,680</b>	<b>21,736,187</b>	<b>499,464</b>

**FY 2015 Collections for Grand List 10/1/13 by Type**



# Town of Essex 2015 Annual Report

## Assessor's Report

### 2014 Grand List Annual Report

	REAL ESTATE	
	Grand List Year 2013**	Grand List Year 2014
Gross	\$ 943,433,000	\$ 944,181,000
Exemptions:		
Veteran's	\$ 1,255,190	\$ 1,008,000
Veteran's Additional	168,000	174,000
Vet. Add. Reimb.*	554,450	456,750
Disability	39,960	11,000
Blind	9,000	9,000
Other	537,280	-
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$ 940,869,120</b>	<b>\$ 942,522,250</b>

	PERSONAL PROPERTY	
	Grand List Year 2013**	Grand List Year 2014
Gross	\$ 39,785,864	\$ 42,490,863
Exemptions:		
Farm & Mechanics	\$ 23,890	\$ 26,080
Manufacturers*	10,170,250	11,046,170
Misc.	500	1,863
Solar Energy/Pollution Control	5,593	-
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$ 29,585,631</b>	<b>\$ 31,416,750</b>

	MOTOR VEHICLES	
	Grand List Year 2013**	Grand List Year 2014
Gross	\$ 63,187,280	\$ 64,717,000
Exemptions:		
Veteran's	\$ 176,690	\$ 167,200
Veteran's Additional	66,200	67,840
Disability Reimb.	1,000	2,000
Disability	30,960	30,910
Other	-	-
Manuf. Truck Reimb.*	1,816,870	1,567,880
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$ 61,095,560</b>	<b>\$ 62,881,170</b>

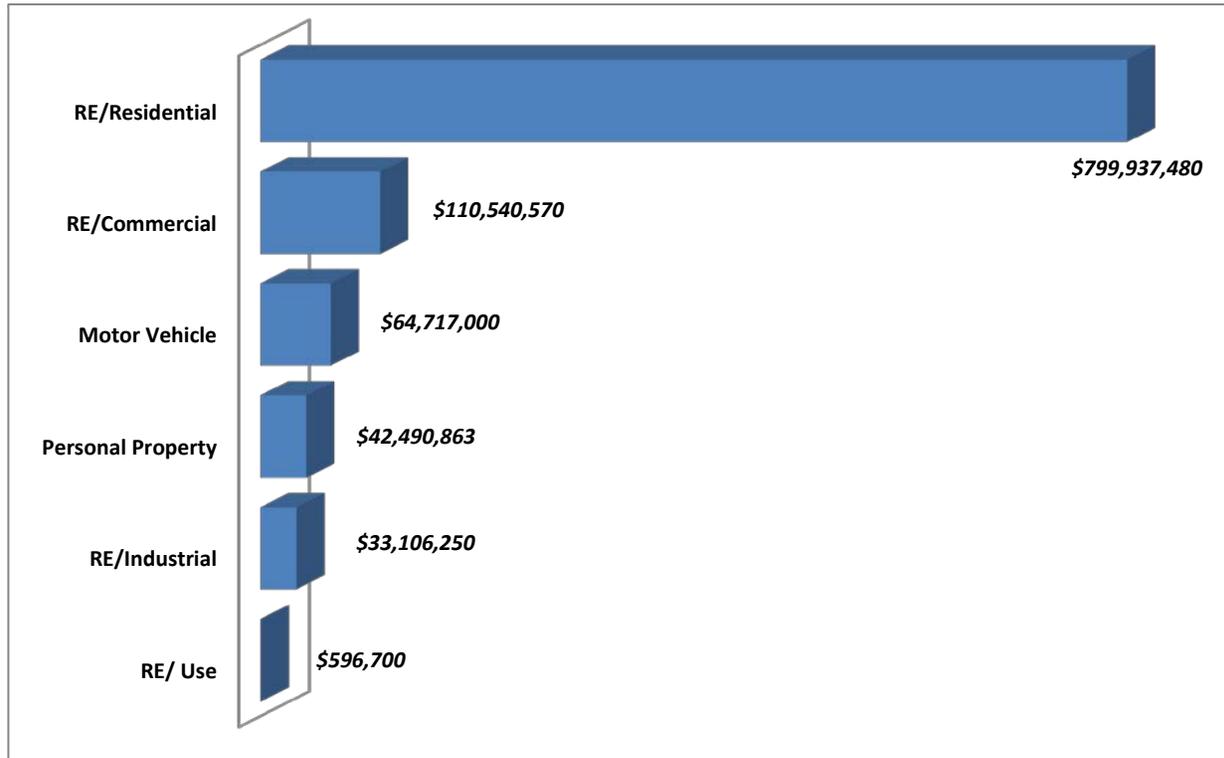
	TOTALS	
	Grand List Year 2013**	Grand List Year 2014
Gross	\$ 1,046,406,144	\$ 1,051,388,863
Exemptions:		
Veteran's	\$ 1,431,880	\$ 1,175,200
Veteran's Additional	234,200	241,840
Vet. Add. Reimb.*	554,450	456,750
Blind	9,000	9,000
Disability	71,920	43,910
Other	567,263	27,943
Manufacturer & Truck*	11,987,120	12,614,050
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$ 1,031,550,311</b>	<b>\$ 1,036,820,170</b>

\*No longer being reimbursed by State of Connecticut

\*\*Revaluation Year

# Town of Essex 2015 Annual Report Assessor's Report

## Grand List 2014 Assessment by Category



## Comparative Grand Lists - Net Taxable

Item	Grand List Year 2013	Grand List Year 2014	Increase/ (Decrease)
Real Estate	\$ 940,869,120	\$ 942,522,250	\$ 1,653,130
Personal Property	\$ 29,585,631	\$ 31,416,750	\$ 1,831,119
Motor Vehicle	\$ 61,095,560	\$ 62,881,170	\$ 1,785,610
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,031,550,311</b>	<b>\$ 1,036,820,170</b>	<b>\$ 5,269,859</b>

## Tax Revenue Comparison

	Grand List Year 2013	Grand List Year 2014
Net List	\$ 1,031,550,311	\$ 1,036,820,170
Mill Rate	20.99	21.08
Grand List Tax Revenue	\$ 21,652,241	\$ 21,856,169

# Town of Essex 2015 Annual Report Assessor's Report

## Gross Top Ten Taxpayer Accounts

#	Taxpayer	Primary Activities	10/1/2014	
			Assessed Value	# of accts
1	Essex Meadows, Inc	Health Care Living Facility	\$ 22,875,400	1
2	Lee Company	Manufacturing	14,820,920	4
3	Conn Light & Power Co.	Public Utility	6,875,610	1
4	SKR Partners LLC	Real Estate Development	5,708,900	7
5	River Properties Inc.	Real Estate Development	3,597,210	4
6	Griswold Inn LLC	Inn & Restaurant	3,378,640	6
7	Essex Savings Bank	Financial Services	3,355,950	6
8	Cline Stephen R. Successor	Real Estate Development	3,319,200	5
9	Clark Herbert T III	Real Estate Development	2,760,140	28
10	Macbeth Ventures LLC	Real Estate Development	2,759,500	2
Total			\$ 69,451,470	

Historical Mill Rates	
Grand List Year	Mill Rate
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
1995	13.20
1994	12.25
1993	11.75
*Revaluation	

Important Annual Dates for the Assessor's Office		
February	1	We begin accepting applications for the Elderly Homeowner/Circuit Breaker Program and Additional Veteran's Benefits.
May	15	Deadline to file for the Elderly Homeowner/Circuit Breaker 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.

## **Ancient Order of Essex Weeders**

Since its founding as a nonprofit organization in 1981, Ancient Order of Essex Weeders have devoted their time and energy to the beautification of the gateway into Essex. The Weeders are comprised primarily of individuals in retirement who continue to work on behalf of our community in the spirit of volunteerism that helps make Essex such a wonderful place to live. Many of the Essex Weeders actively participate in other organizations around town as well. Our group plants, waters, and maintains the flowers and shrubs that mark the intersections of Routes 153 and 154 leading into the center of Town. We also care for the flowers planted by the Garden Club around the “silent policeman” at the top of Main Street in Essex Village.

The Essex Weeders have always relied upon the generosity of several individuals and civic organizations who enable our work to continue. The Essex Garden Club provides us with hundreds of annuals each year. Likewise, our mulch has been generously donated by our good friends the Bombaci's. Traffic cones, and safety vests have been provided to us 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 buy plant food, fertilizer and replacement plantings and shrubs. Their assistance has become especially important in the aftermath of an accident in January of 2016 that caused extensive damage to mature shrubs.

We remain an inclusive and social group who are always happy to welcome new members into our fold!

Ray Coyle  
Lead Weeder  
Ancient Order Of Essex Weeders



## **Child & Family Agency of Southeastern Connecticut**

The mission of Child & Family Agency of Southeastern Connecticut is to promote the well-being and development of all children and their families, in particular to give priority to the unmet needs of children lacking physical, emotional and intellectual care and nurturing.

Our Family-Child Mental Health Services address a broad range of needs for families in crisis or living with mental health illnesses. Victimization counseling is a major service of Child & Family and focuses on the psychological needs of sexual and physical abuse victims and their families. Our Essex Child Guidance Clinic at 190 Westbrook Road in Essex works with children, adolescents and families with a wide range of needs from school adjustment issues, family conflict, behavioral health concerns and at risk acting out behaviors. Our clinicians can provide individual or family therapy, and psychiatric evaluations as needed. In addition, the in-home intensive therapy service address the needs of young people with more serious behavioral health issues with several treatment models designed to address the needs of the family.

A full range of psychiatric, psychological and psycho-social assessment services are available to children and their families as well as to Essex and Region #4 Schools and community groups. Child & Family serves children birth to eighteen years of age and their families. Our Essex Child Guidance Clinic provided home and office based counseling services to over 1,850 children and their family members this past fiscal year. Our agency is host to the Valley Shore Collaborative, community members, families and mental health providers who focus on the unmet needs of the children in our community.

Last year, over 18,000 children were served in 79 towns in Child & Family Agency's service region. Child & Family has over 190 staff - social workers, teachers, psychologists, nurse practitioners, administrators, and support staff - dedicated to helping children at 28 service centers. A nonprofit agency with a \$12 million budget, program funding comes from private, State, United Way and federal sources. Fees for service reflect costs. A sliding scale assures that no one will be refused service for financial reasons.

The Essex Auxiliary of Child & Family Agency promotes fund raising and advocacy programs to benefit the services and capital projects of the Agency. We encourage and welcome new members. The Auxiliary meets the third Tuesday of each month (September–June) at the Essex Yacht Club at 6:30pm. Visit our website at [www.childandfamilyagency.org](http://www.childandfamilyagency.org) to learn more call Pat Mackensie Thompson, Auxiliary Chairperson, or Lynn Fairfield-Sonn, Director of Development.

Submitted by: Lynn Fairfield-Sonn, Director of Development, Child and Family Agency of SE CT

## **Connecticut River Gateway Commission**

The Lower Connecticut River Valley was recognized by the Connecticut General Assembly in 1973 as one of the State's most important natural, recreational and scenic areas. In 1974, the Commission was established and became operational with membership from eight towns, two regional agencies and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.

The Gateway Conservation Zone is 30 miles long and includes portions of its eight member towns (Chester, Deep River, East Haddam, Essex, Haddam, Lyme, Old Lyme and Old Saybrook, including the Borough of Fenwick) within view of the river. The Nature Conservancy has designated the lower Connecticut River as one of its "Last Great Places"; the river's tidelands were recognized as an "internationally significant" habitat for waterfowl under the terms of the international Ramsar Convention; the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior has recognized the Lower Connecticut River Valley as "one of the most important ecological landscapes" in the United States; and in 1999, the River was designated as one of 14 American Heritage Rivers by the President of the United States.

The Gateway Commission concentrates much of its attention on the protection of the valley's scenic qualities. Since its inception, the Commission has worked with others to acquire over 1,000 acres of land through purchase or donation of scenic easements, development rights and fee simple titles.

The Commission is also empowered to adopt common zoning standards for height, setback and lot coverage, which member towns adopt and enforce within the Gateway Conservation Zone. The Commission reviews and acts on zone changes, regulations changes and variance applications affecting land within the Conservation Zone referred to it by local boards and commissions. No zone change or change in regulations affecting land within the Conservation Zone can become effective without the Commission's approval.

Members as of June 30, 2016 include: Margaret Wilson of Chester; Nancy Fischbach and Kate Cotton of Deep River; Harvey Thomas of East Haddam; Claire Matthews and Jerri MacMillian of Essex; Susan R. Bement of Haddam, J. Melvin Woody and Emily Bjornberg of Lyme; Peter Cable and Suzanne Thompson of Old Lyme; Madeline Fish and Belinda Ahern of Old Saybrook; Raul de Brigard of RiverCOG; and David Blatt of the Connecticut DEEP (Commissioner's Representative). Fenwick Borough has been designated an ad hoc member and is represented by Borough Warden Fran Adams.

For more information, contact River COG Deputy Director and Gateway staff J. H. Torrance Downes at (860) 581-8554 or at [tdownes@rivercog.org](mailto:tdownes@rivercog.org). Contact information can also be found on the web at [www.ctrivergateway.org](http://www.ctrivergateway.org).

## **Connecticut River Museum**

The Connecticut River Museum (CRM) had a successful 2016. The annual Train Show by artist Steven Cryan once again delighted thousands of people over the winter and EagleWatch thrilled visitors with the River's winter wildlife. In April the exhibit *Invaders: They Come by Air, Land and Water* opened to resounding success. The exhibit explores invasive species to the River Valley through original art by Michael DiGorgio, dynamic images and artifacts, videos by WFSB Channel 3 Eyewitness News, and a learning laboratory. It will begin to travel in 2017 to River Valley communities. The multi-year Myths and Legends Project continued as CRM actively collected a broad range of stories from up and down the River. Some of these will appear in the theatrical production *Haunted River* on October 28 and 29. (For more information on this project visit [CTRiverMythsandLegends.org](http://CTRiverMythsandLegends.org).)

A wide variety of public programs took place throughout the year. These included: lectures and workshops that explored the history and culture of the Valley; guided and self-guided paddles along the River; community events such as the Rotary Club of Essex's Annual Shad Bake, Dogs on the Dock, Burning of the Ships and RiverFare; community boat building; River cruises aboard the 1906 schooner *Mary E*; and theatrical programs *Theater Along the River* and the free public concert series *Thursdays on the Dock*.

School and youth programs broke records and included children from across the State and beyond. Some disembarked in yellow school buses while others arrived in cars as home-schoolers. No matter how they arrived, they studied through hands-on and on-water programs the unique history and environment of New England's Great River. There were also a range of vacation workshops and popular Summer Adventure Camps that explored such topics as archeology, Native American history and culture, maritime arts, colonial life, and much more. Approximately 900 disadvantaged children received free or reduced admission to Museum programs.

CRM is the only museum dedicated to the study, preservation and celebration of the cultural and natural heritage of the Connecticut River and its Valley. It is located at 67 Main Street, Essex and includes the 1878 National Register Steamboat Dock, the 1813 Hayden Chandlery (and research library), and the 18<sup>th</sup> century Samuel Lay House (open for special events and private parties). CRM is a 501 (c)(3) organization and is supported through membership and private donations. For more information please visit it online at [www.ctrivermuseum.org](http://www.ctrivermuseum.org) or call 860-767-8269.

## **Essex Ambulance Association**

We would like to thank our residents and businesses for their continued support, without you we would not be able to continue to serve our community. Equally important we thank our members and their families for their commitment to the health and safety of our residents and visitors to our town.

Our members responded to 878 calls last year, including medical emergencies, traumatic injuries, cardiac arrests and psychiatric emergencies. We also responded to provide assistance at fire scenes in Essex, emergency medical response as requested to our mutual aid towns and assisted at many local civic functions and events.

This year we have faced a new challenge, with the increasing incidence of overdose emergencies statewide our members have been specially trained in the administration of Naloxone, all of our ambulances now carry the lifesaving drug. Training requirements have steadily increased with the inclusion of new skills and interventions allowing our members to deliver more definitive care.

Our members are required to be currently certified as Emergency Medical Responders or Emergency Medical Technicians, in addition they will now be required to complete training and testing by year end on new Statewide Emergency Medical Services Protocols, which have been developed to standardize prehospital treatment statewide.

Funding is obtained through donations, memorial gifts and billing. We receive assistance from the Town to help offset worker's compensation insurance costs, and we are grateful for that assistance and support. The members of the Board of Directors and Corps would like to thank everyone for their support, without your assistance we would be unable to continue to operate.

We are always looking for exceptional people to join our Corps. The challenges are many but if you think you might be interested in being a member contact us at our headquarters or ask one of our members for information. The satisfactions of helping a neighbor are immeasurable.

Once again, special thanks to all our supporters and best wishes for a healthy and safe year.

Judi Reynolds EMT/EMSI,  
Chief of Service

## **Essex Art Association**

The Essex Art Association, a nonprofit art gallery in existence since 1946, is housed in a historic, sunny yellow building near the center of Essex. Since the building is unheated, the gallery is seasonal but very active during the warmer months. Initially founded as a place for artists to share and sell their work, EAA has continued that tradition. The Association is known for its friendly atmosphere, welcoming all artists to participate, and inviting the public to attend openings and visit the gallery at no charge.

Traditionally our season begins in April with an inspirational exhibition of artwork by the students from Valley Regional High School. Five more exhibitions make up EAA's schedule between May and September. Two of the exhibitions are juried shows, accepting 80 artworks from many submissions. Two of the exhibitions are open shows where all work is accepted and hung "salon style," from chair rail to ceiling. The fifth show is an exhibition of Elected Artists' work only. During the month of October, the gallery is rented to EAA members for personal use, such as exhibitions of their own art work.

Between the beginning of July 2015 through the end of June 2016, several special events took place. The Essex Art Association once again collaborated with the Essex Steam Train and Riverboat, holding an art exhibition that ran from mid-November through much of December at the Valley Railroad Company. In December the bi-annual "Chilly, Cheap & Chili" event was held. EAA members provide artworks for sale under \$200 and attendees are treated to cups of various kinds of chili made by those same EAA members. In addition, the Essex Corinthian Yacht Club invites EAA members to display artwork at the Yacht Club several times a year.

In January a new president and treasurer were installed as well as three new Council members.

EAA relies on volunteers from its members and the community with operating revenue generated from bequests, membership dues, sales, rental income, and donations. The support of the Essex community is recognized and appreciated.

### **EAA Council Members:**

Chip Rutan, President  
Pam Carlson, Vice-President  
Nancy King, Secretary  
Barbara Morrissey, Treasurer  
Elin Dolle, Member  
Bob Gantner, Member  
Susan Malan, Member  
Peggy Price, Member  
Cathy Puccio, Member  
Kay Brigante, Co-Administrative Director  
Anne Coffey, Co-Administrative Director

## Essex Board of Trade

The Essex Board of Trade (EBoT) is a local business organization comprised of representatives from the following industries: manufacturing, banking/financial management, real estate, legal, health & wellness, food & beverage, arts and entertainment, tourism, lodging, and retail, as well as a multitude of professional services. Our membership, now totaling over 90, is comprised primarily of "for profit" businesses, but also boasts a number of "nonprofit" organizations in the membership. From its inception, first as the Essex Merchants Group, then incorporated in the mid 90's as the EBoT, the mission was to bring businesses together from all three villages to "engage in camaraderie throughout the township".

Both membership and special events committees meet regularly to plan member networking opportunities, as well as coordinate seasonal events. The purpose of the EBoT events and group advertising is to consistently build public awareness both at the State level, as well as throughout New England and the Tri-State area of our shoreline town, and thus increase economic traffic throughout the three villages.

The Board of Directors meet monthly, and the General Membership meet the third Friday of every month at the Essex Corinthian Yacht Club.

At these meetings the membership receives updates of our events and promotions; updates from our town elected officials on plans within local government; discuss the business climate and trends, as well as occasionally hear from guest speakers on their areas of expertise, who offer information on topics of importance to our membership.

We are very active online and on social media. You can find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/EssexBOT/](http://www.facebook.com/EssexBOT/). Our new website, [www.essexct.com](http://www.essexct.com) was designed by local web designers, Dreamscapes. It was launched this summer and is an excellent resource for both the community and visitors, highlighting local members and listing events going on in the three villages throughout the year. The EBoT events, both in the past and those ongoing include, The Essex Ed Parade, The Winter Eagle Festival, Potted Garden Tour, Sidewalk Sale Days, Town Wide Tag Sale, Evening of The Villages, Scarecrow Festival, Dogs on the Dock, the decorating for the holidays, as well as the Holiday Stroll. Networking events for members are also open to the public and take place on the first Thursday of each month.

We rely primarily on the volunteerism of our membership to make the events that we have successful. By working together we can more effectively promote the importance of the sense of community and doing business locally. By working on collaborative promotions, we can attract more visitors to our area to enjoy our natural beauty, our local attractions and help boost our small economy.

All businesses and non profits in the town are welcome to join and take advantage of the many benefits of being part of this great community. Membership in the Essex Board of Trade is good for the town, good for your business and good for you!

Adam Caulkins and Jacqueline Hubbard  
Presidents

## Essex Community Fund

The Essex Community Fund (ECF) is having a busy 67<sup>th</sup> season making your donations matter more. Established in 1949, ECF is on the oldest and most unique organization in Essex. Our mission continues to be to enhance the quality of life of the residents of Centerbrook, Essex, and Ivoryton. This is accomplished by identifying community needs, providing financial support and forging partnerships with local nonprofits organization. By maintaining a "pulse on the community " ECF can focus on the collective good of our villages with the programs and organizations that keep us healthy, safe and vibrant. We invest in all areas that make a community great: education, basic needs, health, wellness and community programming.

At our annual Day of Giving in April, ECF was proud to honor and distribute funds to 25 local nonprofit organizations all serving our community. This is the heart of the Community Fund, supporting those who provide us the best level of services possible. ECF continues to maintain the *Bridge Fund*, a tool managed through Essex Social Service department which helps navigate short term and immediate financial needs for residents and families facing emergency or crisis situations as a prelude to established services. ECF is proud to be working with the Essex Police Department at our annual holiday Stuff a Cruiser to benefit the Shoreline Soup Kitchen, supporting the Park and Recreation department at the Essex Go Braugh Parade as well as Ivoryton Alliances Illuminations.

The Essex Community Fund primary support comes through annual fundraisers as well as Spring and Fall mailings. This year ECF was very generously donated the decommissioned Essex street signs that are being auctioned off throughout the Fall on eBay. Grants are distributed annually in the spring. ECF a public charity exists solely thanks to the ongoing generous financial donations made by Essex citizens and business. The funds volunteer board is made up of eight local residents keeping the expenditures to a minimum while allowing the fullest extent of your contribution to be disturbed to local non – profits and programming in our community. The board reviews these organizations annually and works diligently to stay abreast of the changing needs of our villages.

## **Essex Fire Engine Company No. 1**

The fiscal year 2015 – 2016 has continued to be a very busy one for the volunteers of the Essex Fire Engine Co. # 1. This year our members again responded to more than 800 requests for assistance. These requests encompassed medical emergencies, structural fires, rescues, marine emergencies, hazardous materials emergencies and public service requests.

In addition to these requests, our volunteers put in countless hours maintaining equipment in a state of readiness, storm preparation and standby, public events and training. Keeping with the tradition of excellence, members again went well above the mandated levels of training. This year members completed Firefighter 1 & 2 courses. Some became certified as Emergency Medical Responder and Emergency Medical Technician. On top of these certifications our volunteers continued to advance and hone their skills in specialized rescue techniques and advanced firefighting skills and tactics. One such scope is continued training for Rapid Intervention, special training and skills solely designed around the location and rescue of trapped, lost or injured firefighters.

We continue to make great progress with the construction of our training facility. Still completely funded through private donations, our members are dedicating even more of their time towards building a facility that will ensure our department is afforded every opportunity to train. We are already seeing great return on this investment in the quality of training we are able to conduct at the site. Just recently the department began conducting live fire trainings in the building. The ability to immerse our members in realistic scenarios will increase member proficiency resulting in a higher level of safety for firefighters and the public alike.

Time continues to take its toll on our fleet of apparatus. As the equipment ages the cost of maintaining a state of readiness continues to increase and brings forth a question of reliability. Staying true to its past, the Town continues its commitment to public safety and combats this problem with the purchase of two new Pierce fire engines. In an almost 3 year process a committee of firefighters evaluated the needs of our department and designed these new engines to not only fill the role of today but into the future. These state of the art pieces of apparatus bring us to a whole new level of firefighter safety with independent front suspension for improved handling and braking, rollover protection and front and side curtain airbags.

Now, more than ever before, the demands of the volunteer fire service continue to put great strain on our members. The pressures of today's economic climate allow for less and less available time for members to commit. The demands placed on members can be overwhelming. Yet despite these hardships, our volunteers continue to rise to the challenges before

them. But they need help. We are in need of firefighters, vehicle operators, emergency medical responders, even folks interested in helping out with administrative tasks. I implore you to help us by volunteering some of your time. Please stop by and spend some time with us, see if the rewarding life of helping those in need is the right fit for you.

Paul Fazzino Jr.  
Chief of Department  
Essex Fire Engine Co. # 1

## **Essex Garden Club**

The Essex Garden Club is a nonprofit organization whose mission is civic beautification, conservation, and education. Its membership is open to residents of Centerbrook, Essex, and Ivoryton.

This past year, the garden club helped maintain Main Street Town Park, Dickinson Park, the Foot of Main Street Island, and South Main Street Island. Our members divided perennial plants to fill in various beds, pulled many, many weeds, and pruned plants. We paid to have all beds edged and mulched, among other jobs. EGC cut many different greens and decorated the town for the winter holidays. Annual plants were purchased and delivered to various places in Essex and Centerbrook, including the Essex Fire Department, Essex Landfill and Recycling Center, the Ancient Order of Weeders to plant the islands on Rt. 154. Members planted, watered, and maintained the four planters in front of Town Hall, four planters around the Silent Policeman, and two large pots at the entrance to Main Street Town Park. A monetary gift was given to the Ivoryton Village Gardeners for plant material to support their planting in this community.

The Essex Garden Club awarded two \$1,000 scholarships to a freshman college and a graduate student specializing in environmental studies. For the Summer Youth Programs, four camperships to Bushy Hill Nature Center were awarded for a total of \$2,160 (each was a two week program) and fifteen camperships for Park and Recreation Programs were awarded for a total of \$1,875 (each was a one week program). Recipients for both camperships were anonymous and all were residents of Centerbrook, Essex, and Ivoryton.

Our club also sponsored programs for the two libraries, donated books to both, and provided weekly flower arrangements to the Essex Library. Also, we assisted and funded many junior activities.

This was all made possible by the community supporting our annual May Market and by purchasing our garlic salt made with a secret recipe.

Barbara Burgess  
President

## Essex Historical Society

Living up to our mission statement of “Engaging and Inspiring the Community, Essex. Ivoryton. Centerbrook.”, Essex Historical Society’s Board of Directors, volunteers and staff sought different ways of interacting with new audiences as we celebrated our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015.

EHS celebrated “A Dickinson Year” by developing new programs centered on the history of the E. E. Dickinson Witch Hazel Co. We published a new illustrated booklet on the history of the company written by Eve Potts, hosted more than 200 people for a Benefit Stroll of former Dickinson properties, brought our popular vintage auto tour to the former Dickinson grounds and produced a wonderful lecture on Dickinson’s marketing genius, given by Brenda Milkofsky. EHS was pleased to dress “Essex Ed” groundhog in keeping with the Dickinson theme!

The year’s capstone project was working with our good friends at Valley Rail Road to refurbish the nearly-intact Yellow Label Mill on Rt. 153. With a new roof, signage, repaired windows, fresh paint and several stabilizing repairs, the Yellow Label Mill welcomed an enthusiastic crowd to its opening day in May, 2016.

The year also saw many popular programs return: September’s Tri-Town Vintage Base Ball Game; our Annual Meeting at the lively Essex Firehouse Co. #1; opening Pratt House on Thanksgiving Weekend to coincide with Trees-in-the-Rigging and welcoming more than 500 visitors through the Pratt House as part of the biennial Holiday House Tour.

EHS continues to host favorite programs such as the Strawberry Social, Annual Preservation Award and winter lecture series, while fostering collaborative partnerships with Essex Meadows, the Connecticut River Museum, Essex Elementary School and Ivoryton Library, among many others. We expanded our Walking Tour program to include one of Ivoryton, in addition to our ones of Essex Village and Prospect Street, to “take history to the streets.”

EHS’s volunteer Collections Team at Hills Academy (22 Prospect Street) answers online and in-person research inquiries addressing the historic people, places and events of all three villages.

The Town’s only historic house museum, The Pratt House (19 West Ave.), welcomes many visitors and school programs, all with free admission, weekends, June through September. Pratt’s historic landscapes include the kitchen gardens maintained by Essex Garden Club and its back field contains a Community Garden.

Please visit our website, [www.essexhistory.org](http://www.essexhistory.org) for more info. Thank you for all of the community support!

Melissa A. Josefiak  
Director

## Essex Land Trust

**Membership:** Essex Land Trust membership continued strong with 380 household memberships in 2015. Notably, our Conservators for Life have reached an all time high of 141 or 37% of our membership. With 13% of Essex households being members of the Land Trust, we are grateful for the support we receive from the community. The Land Trust also benefits from the support of 21 local businesses.

**Land Acquisitions:** A number of new properties, totaling 150 acres, were added to the Land Trust’s holdings. These included: the Essex portion of The Preserve, Johnson Farm, Pond Meadow, Morgana’s Place, a 6.6-acre segment on Great Meadow, and 5.68-acres donated to the Land Trust by Ted Zito.

**Financial Report:** Expenditures reached \$158,000. The main cost drivers included parking lots, fencing, kiosks, signage, and trail development in addition to ongoing costs such as mowing, tree removal, and treatment for invasives on several properties. Finally, recurring core expenses include insurance, accounting, communications, programs and membership. Funding of these expenses is derived from various sources: membership dues, donations, grants and income from our dedicated restricted Stewardship Accounts and investment portfolio.

**Programs:** The annual program of events included lectures, hikes and outdoor experiences. Our lectures featured talks about Black Bears, Butterflies and Osprey. Our hikes included properties such as Heron Pond, Viney Hill, Falls River, Osage Trails, The Preserve, our new Pond Meadow property and The Millrace. Other events included a Winter Raptors birding trip, the inauguration of Morgana’s Place pocket park, Arbor Day tree planting program at Essex Elementary School and a well-attended canoe/kayak paddle in North Cove.

**Stewardship:** Tom Rutherford and his team of Twenty-eight Stewards and their volunteer helpers continue to oversee our 24 properties checking on them regularly and making sure that trails remain in good condition. Some of the major projects completed were: building a Bog Walk and Bridge in Pond Meadow (special thanks to Daniel Ryan for leading a scout team in building the bridge); establishing a butterfly landscape in Cross Lots; building a parking lot for Johnson Farm, along with creating trails to explore this new property; lastly, the annual Valley Regional High School Community Service day was a big help in working on various properties.

**Board Membership:** We want to thank three departing Board members for their many hours of dedication and commitment to the Land Trust: Kathy Katz, Rob Hernandez, and Bill Grover. New members elected to the Board include: Goody Lelash, Chet Arnold, Barbara Burgess and Geoff Furtney.

Jim Denham  
Communication Director

## **Essex Lions Club**

The Essex Lions Club is proud to have served the Town of Essex for over 66 years. During this past year, in keeping with the Lions support of vision-related organizations, contributions were made to the CT Lions Eye Research Center, Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation, and the CT Low Vision Center. We also paid for eye exams and eyeglasses for Essex residents who could not afford them. During the past year, the Club made donations to various organizations including the Essex and Ivoryton libraries, the Essex Fire Department, and the Essex Ambulance Association, as well as donations to the Shoreline Soup Kitchen and the Tri-Town Youth Service Bureau.

During the year, we hold three major fundraisers. The always 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. Finally, we send out the Essex Eye Charities letter to the community and, as always, get an excellent response. The Club looks forward to another year of service, and thanks all who so 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 Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Pattaconk Inn in Chester. The public is welcome to join us at any time. The Club does not meet during the months of July and August.

Bruce Lawrence  
Treasurer

## **Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc.**

The Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc. (ECSI) is a nonprofit regional senior center located at 220 Main Street in Old Saybrook with café sites also in Killingworth, Lyme/Old Lyme and Old Saybrook. Since 1974, the ECSI's mission has been to promote senior's quality of life, community involvement, and independent living. Last year the ECSI provided over 71,906 nutritious meals including nearly 51,821 home delivered Meals On Wheels, and over 20,085 congregate meals, 366 rides to medical outpatient appointments outside the nine-town Estuary Region. Also, 1,678 individual received free preventative health screenings, and participated in social and exercise programs too numerous to count. Our "Choices" senior counseling position that helps seniors connect with other services available to them in the community as well as navigate the Medicare/Medicaid and Prescription Drug programs has been busier than ever especially at open enrollment time.

In addition to our essential senior service, 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, or use our fitness center. ECSI has a lovely, large facility that welcomes residents of the Estuary region 50 years old or better. All in all we had over 104,229 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 25 residents a total of 4,031 home delivered meals and an additional 64 residents joined us for 1,366 congregate meals. Our Emergency Medical Outpatient Transportation provided 3 individuals with 4 rides to medical appointments. We had a total of 8,483 visits by a total of 810 people overall to the center from residents of Town 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 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.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul J. Doyle, Executive Director



## ***Estuary Transit District***

The Estuary Transit District (ETD) was formed in 1981 by the nine towns of the Connecticut River Estuary region. The nine towns include Clinton, Chester, Deep River, Essex, Killingworth, Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, and Westbrook. ETD's mission is to provide local, coordinated public transportation for all residents of the area. To meet this goal, ETD operates public transit via the 9 Town Transit (9TT) service.

The Estuary Transit District is governed by a board of directors. Each member town appoints one representative, each having a weighted vote based on the population of the town he or she represents. Towns receiving contracted services appoint a non-voting member. The directors serve in a voluntary capacity to adopt policy, set budgets and conduct long term planning for the district. Regular board meetings are held on the third Friday of every other month at 9:30 A.M. at the Estuary Transit District. All meetings are open to the public.

9TT's four deviated fixed routes serve the main corridors of the region and provide connections to public transit providers serving the surrounding regions. The routes include the Old Saybrook to Madison Shoreline Shuttle, the Old Saybrook to Chester Riverside Shuttle, the Old Saybrook to Middletown Mid-Shore Express, and the new Old Saybrook to New London Southeast Shuttle. Free connections are offered onto the New Haven, New London/Norwich, Middletown, and Hartford area bus services.

In addition to the deviated fixed routes, 9TT provides door-to-door service throughout all nine towns of the Estuary region as well as the towns of Durham, East Haddam, and Haddam through its Dial-A-Ride service. As with all of 9TT's services, the Dial-A-Ride service is open to all persons with no age or disability restrictions.

ETD's services are subsidized by federal, state and local funding. This allows for inexpensive fares of \$1.50 for deviated fixed routes and \$3.00 for Dial-A-Ride. ETD also receives a Title III grant through the area agency on aging which allows area senior citizens to ride any ETD service on a donation basis in lieu of the fare. More than 107,000 passenger trips were provided during the fiscal year, more than doubling the annual trips provided just seven years ago. Though ETD has continued to grow senior ridership, 80% of all trips are made by persons below 60 years of age, and over half of all trips are employment related.

ETD was notified that it was successful in obtaining funding for new fixed-route service between Madison and Middletown. The service will begin in the 2016-2017 fiscal year. Funding was also received for a needs assessment and site selection for a new operating and maintenance facility for the district. The study will be completed in the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

ETD's federal funding sources are changing from rural to urban, which will require new administrative responsibilities and brings new federal requirements. This change will also provide new access to federal funding opportunities.

Joseph Comerford  
Executive Director

## ***FISH (Friends in Service Here)***

FISH was founded locally in 1970 to provide free rides to medical appointments for residents of Essex, Deep River and Chester. The FISH logo originated during the World War II bombings in London. A London household with available food and a place to sleep would place a fish symbol, a reference from the Bible, in the house's front window to let displaced people know that free food and a place to sleep were available. There are other FISH groups throughout the country, but no central organization.

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 appointment (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.

In calendar 2015, FISH provided 783 round-trip rides to the residents of our three towns. Essex residents accounted for 493 or 63% of the total. Of our 53 drivers, 40 are residents of Essex.

The modest budget for FISH is funded by grants from the Essex Community Fund, the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, the Rotary Club of Essex, the Essex Savings Bank, 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 Foundation, Inc.

The history of the Ivoryton Playhouse is based in community. Built in 1911 as a recreation hall for the workers of the Comstock Cheney piano factory, it was, and still remains, the heart of the village. Today, over 100 years later, the Playhouse is still proudly centered in the community - the village of Ivoryton that is so much a part of our history and the Shoreline community who so generously support our mission and programs.

The Playhouse has grown from a largely summer stock theatre into a thriving year-round professional theatre producing seven professional shows a year, showcasing talented directors, designers, 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.

In 2015, the annual revenue of the Ivoryton Playhouse exceeded \$1.5 million. We enjoyed increased numbers in subscriptions, memberships and sponsorships and our shows were some of the best ever produced.

Summer 2015 began with a production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's classic *South Pacific* starring world renowned American bass-baritone David Pittsinger. *South Pacific* is still considered to be among the greatest musicals of the twentieth century and our production was the ticket to have with most performances sold out. In August, the Playhouse transported audiences to 1950s *Memphis* and the places where rock and roll was born – the seedy, underground dance clubs, radio stations and recording studios. This high energy musical exploded onto the Ivoryton stage and audiences were captivated from the first “fantastical” number.

Our September show arrived fully fanged and demanding blood with the deviously delicious Broadway and Hollywood sci-fi smash musical *Little Shop Of Horrors*. And finally, our 2015 season closed with *Liberace!* – a moving and highly entertaining tribute to

the performer and musician famous for his charm, flamboyance and glamour followed in December by our holiday production *I'll Be Home For Christmas*.

In April 2016, the Playhouse opened its 2016 season with *The Road: My Life with John Denver* - a Connecticut premiere event that was a captivating celebration of the life and music of the legendary folk musician. *Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks* tangoed and cha chaed its way into our hearts in May and June featured a truly magical production of *The 39 Steps* – a fast-paced whodunit with four extremely talented actors playing over 150 characters.



In addition to producing great entertainment, the Ivoryton Playhouse welcomed partnerships with local nonprofits including Essex Community Fund, Community Foundation of Middlesex County, Valley Shore YMCA, HOPE Partnership, and the Coalition on Housing and Homelessness among others. We also welcomed 1,500 school children from Middlesex County to attend performances of a brand new musical called *Polkadots: The Cool Kids Musical* – a production that is now set to tour the northeast.

To learn more about the Ivoryton Playhouse, please visit [www.ivorytonplayhouse.org](http://www.ivorytonplayhouse.org).

## Ivoryton Village Alliance

The Ivoryton Village Alliance was formed in 2010 when a group of nonprofits, community groups and businesses got together to revitalize Ivoryton and create a sense of community for the residents living in the village.

Now in its sixth year, the Alliance sponsors several popular events. The Farmer's Market is held on the green every Saturday from the middle of June until the middle of October. The Independence Day Parade is the first Saturday in July. The Pumpkin Festival, which arrives at the end of October, is sponsored by the Essex Park and Rec and supported by the Alliance. The year finishes with the Ivoryton Illuminations which is held the first Saturday in December.

The 11th annual Independence Parade this year was our biggest ever. Led by bagpipers and Hershey the pig (see the picture), the local groups escorted a great number of local vintage cars through the village. John Senn was this year's Grand Marshal. He just celebrated 50 years as a member of the Essex Fire department

The Farmer's Market continues to increase in popularity. Last year it was ranked number 80 among the top 100 Most celebrated Farmers Markets in American Farmland Trust's "I love My Farmers Market Celebration". Over 25 vendors sell locally grown produce while being entertained by local bands.



The Pumpkin Festival was enjoyed by all. It offered music, family activities and free refreshments. The horse and carriage ride is always very popular.

Finally, there is the Ivoryton Illuminations. At this event, community groups (including Lions Club, Rotary Club of Essex, local churches, and Boy Scouts among others) promote their work, and businesses, contribute activities such as crafts or live performances, and, of course, Ivoryton's famous flying Santa delights children of all ages. Thanks to Jay Wilcox,

one of the largest living Christmas trees in Connecticut is beautifully decorated as passers by enjoy the over 350,000 lights dancing to music. The light show is on for the whole of December.



Today the Alliance has over 35 members and is more committed than ever to promoting the Village of Ivoryton in positive ways.

To learn more about the Ivoryton Village Alliance, please visit [www.ivorytonalliance.org](http://www.ivorytonalliance.org)



## Libraries

### **Essex Library Association**

Like many other nonprofit organizations, the Essex Library found it more challenging than ever this past year to maintain the funding it needs to provide the materials and services that our patrons have come to expect from us. However, we were able meet our expenses thanks in large part to our most successful Annual Appeal ever. We were also the beneficiary, once again, of generous gifts from corporate sponsors including Guilford Savings Bank, which paid for a new overhead projection system in our Program Room. Movies can now be shown, and program presenters can run PowerPoint without the need for a cumbersome cart and wires.

As hard as it might seem to believe, it has been ten years since the Library reopened after its most recent renovation. Shortly after that the great recession hit, which forced us to defer some much needed maintenance. This year we began to reverse that trend by repainting all of the wooden trim on the building's exterior. The vestibule has also been repainted, and new carpeting installed in that space, as well as in our Program Room and the hallway leading to the Children's Room.

Our programs continue to attract large crowds. We presented 460 of them last year that were attended by over 11,000 people. Popular adult offerings included a talk by a Master Gardener from White Flower Farms that drew 87 people on a chilly April Sunday. The Centerbrook Architects Lecture Series began its ninth season in September of 2016 and newer series such as lectures by Professor Chuck Timlin and "Authors in Conversation" have developed a steady following.

Miss Jessica and Miss Heather in the Children's Department continue to work their magic in order to bring interesting and creative programs to the younger set. Science Lab, Pollination Station and Digital Photography are just a few of the fun and educational events they put together. Summer Reading was a huge success. Over 1,000 reading logs were distributed, and some 85 children and parents attended a fun filled party at the end that included pizza and cake.

As always, we are extremely grateful for the financial support we receive both from the Town of Essex and our patrons, as well as the countless hours of volunteer help that so many people provide. It would be impossible for us to serve as "the community center for lifelong learning and cultural enrichment" without it.

Richard Conroy  
Director

### **Ivoryton Library Association**

Highlights of the year at the Ivoryton Library:  
We love being part of the village and town we call home. Village-wide events we held or in which we participated: 4th of July Parade, Run Local/ Read Local 5K Run/Walk, the Haunted Library at the Ivoryton Village Pumpkin Festival and Letter Writing to Santa and Soldiers at Ivoryton Illuminations in December. This year we welcomed iCRV Radio to Ivoryton and our director now appears weekly on Library Chat Thursday mornings.

The Children's Room hosted year-round weekly story times, Music with Margie bi-monthly programs, Third Friday Movies, and several summer programs. The Summer Reading included visits from the Yard Goats mascot, Essex Fire Department, Kim Kleiman & Kempo Karate and JudiAnn from Dancin' with Hoops. We held weekly summer story times at Essex Island Marina and Essex Park and Recreation camps.

For adults, we offer our classes in Italian, French and Spanish during the school year, and year-round Mystery Book Club, Tea and Murder. Our meeting rooms are frequently used for tutoring and meetings of various local organizations. We even hosted a birthday party this year. Please contact us with inquiries on the use of these spaces.

Many thanks to our Local History Committee: Betty Austin, Mary Catherine Colburn, Betty Johns, Jean Johnson, Shirley Malcarne, Marie Negrelli, Wini Olson and Doreen Schwab. This group continues to organize and update our local history collection of records, photographs, papers, newspaper clippings and artifacts. Visits and queries for information and materials on the ivory trade came from Washington DC, Colorado, Los Angeles and London, England. Our latest program in May visited The Ivoryton Homefront during WWII and was very well attended. Look for our next program in early 2017.

We are very grateful for the support shown us by the Town of Essex and our patrons and members. We supplemented this support with various fundraisers, including our annual Used Book Sale, Tag Sale, Run Local/ Read Local, now called the Ivoryton Pumpkin Chase, in October and the joint fundraiser with the Essex Library at the Ivoryton Playhouse as well as our annual membership appeal.

Staff:  
Elizabeth Alvord (Director)  
Elizabeth Bartlett  
Jean Johnson

## ***Literacy Volunteers—Valley Shore, CT Inc.***

Literacy Volunteers Valley Shore (LVVS) is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit agency dedicated to tutoring area residents to read, write and speak English to help them improve their life and work skills in our community. This year we tutored 10 students from Essex and benefitted from the good work of 24 volunteers from the town. Overall, LVVS tutored more than 195 students, spending 10,858 hours of volunteer's time to deliver 9,562 hours of instruction.

We have much work to do still as there are an estimated 409 adults between the ages of 18 and 64 who lack the life and work skills necessary to attain and maintain meaningful employment residing in Centerbrook, Essex, and Ivoryton who we have not yet been able to reach, according to data obtained from Connecticut's Adult Literacy Leadership Board.

As illustrated by a student's own story, written in her own hand, Literacy Volunteer tutoring can bring personal and significant growth in a short period of time.

This student has been in our program for a number of years and writes, "In the United States of America you have to have a good knowledge of the English. In my personal opinion if you want: prosperity, security, recognition, tranquility and personal growth, you need to learn as much as you can, I would say we need to learn English language down to smallest detail. As parents we need to do the shopping, help our children with their homework or even talk to a policeman.

Knowing English also gives me some recognition as a person who is bilingual and smart enough to speak two languages. Knowing a second language also gives me the opportunity to have a better quality of life by having the option of better pay in different fields of work."

John J. Ferrara  
Executive Director

## ***Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments***

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

Current officers for RiverCOG are Bonnie Reemsnyder (Old Lyme), serving as Chairperson, Michael Maniscalco (East Hampton) as Vice-Chairperson, Noel Bishop (Westbrook) as Secretary, and Carl Fortuna (Old Saybrook) as Treasurer.

Fiscal year 2016 was a year of changes for RiverCOG. It was Sam Gold's first full year as Executive Director, during which he established himself, learning from the chief elected officials and staff, while at the same time bringing to RiverCOG new management techniques, best practices, and projects.

RiverCOG continued a legacy of political engagement with the state and federal government on the behalf of our member municipalities, including a new tradition of holding a COG meeting with the region's legislators at the state capitol in Hartford during the legislative session.

The agency saw a number of staffing changes in the past year with long-time serving Deputy Director Jeanne Davies stepping down after fifteen years with RiverCOG and CT River Estuary RPA. Jeanne is now Executive Director of the newly formed CT Resource Conservation and Development District. Jeremy DeCarli is now East Hampton's Town Planner and Erin Bogan left RiverCOG to start her own business. RiverCOG also welcomed a new planner, Jon Curtis, a recent Master's of Urban Planning graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. Torrance Downes

was promoted to Deputy Director and Nate Hougrand to Associate Planner.

Under state statute, RiverCOG through its Regional Planning Committee (RPC), reviews proposed zoning text and map changes that affect property within 500 feet of municipal boundaries and subdivisions which touch or cross town lines, as well as municipal plans of conservation and development. The RPC includes a representative and alternate from each Municipal Planning Commission in the region. The RPC is working with staff on the first Regional Plan of Conservation of Development for the Lower Connecticut River Valley Region. This plan will be a regional land use policy document that guides regional efforts. The Regional Plan is expected to be completed in 2017. RiverCOG also received a grant from UConn and the state Department of Housing for a regional resiliency and long term disaster recovery plan. The Resiliency Plan work is being incorporated into the Regional Plan work and public involvement process.

RiverCOG also conducts regional transportation planning as a federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (RiverMPO). As an MPO, RiverCOG is responsible for programming federal and state transportation funds provided to the region by the U.S. and Connecticut Departments of Transportation. RiverCOG hosts and staffs various regional initiatives and commissions including: the Connecticut River Gateway Commission, the Shoreline Basic Needs Task Force, the Land Trust Exchange, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the Regional Agricultural Commission, the RiverCOG Strategic Economic Growth Committee and other groups as space and time permits. RiverCOG completed a regional economic strategic plan for the region GrowSmart. This plan, received wide praise throughout the region and will set the stage for future regional economic development planning.

## ***Rotary Club of Essex***

Founded in 1905, Rotary is an international organization with a broad and diverse global reach. There are 1.2 million members belonging to more than 32,000 clubs in over 200 countries. Local clubs, which share a passion for both community service and friendship, are the heart of Rotary. The Rotary Club of Essex was chartered in 1955 and currently has 40 active members. 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. Our Rotary motto is "Service above Self" and is epitomized by our Club's activities.

During the last year we have provided dictionaries for Essex Elementary, donations to Essex Town Social Services, Ivoryton Illuminations, the Essex Foundation, Bristol Veteran's Club, Middlesex County Community Foundation, Essex Historical Society, CT River Museum, Essex Elementary School Foundation and Valley Shore YMCA. We also support the Valley Regional Interact Club which is a service club for young people. Through our Scholarship Foundation, each year we award three scholarships of \$12,000 each (\$3,000 per year for 4 years).

Internationally we have partnered with Rotary Clubs in the U.S. and worldwide to raise funds for clean drinking water, fighting disease (including elimination of polio), promoting peace, supporting education and growing local economies. The Rotary Club of Essex has made direct donations for the Norwalk Nagarote Sister City Project, Sister Cities Essex Haiti, and Shelter Box to provide essential family needs in response to natural disasters. Our Club participates in additional worldwide activities through Rotary International. We also sponsor an international youth exchange program with the purpose of supporting one local person to study and immerse in another culture, and a person from another country to do the same by spending time in our community.

Our major fundraising project is the annual Shad Bake held the first Saturday in June, conducted in partnership with the Connecticut River Museum. Shad is prepared around an open fire. Also served are clams, chicken and hot dogs. The event has become well known since its inception in 1960.

We meet Tuesday evenings, usually at the Essex Yacht Club. If you are interested in learning more about Rotary or would like to consider becoming a member, access our website, <http://www.rotaryclubofessex.com/>, visit the Rotary International website at <https://www.rotary.org/>, or email [rlevine2@comcast.net](mailto:rlevine2@comcast.net).

## ***The Essex Foundation***

Founded in 1970, The Essex Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation dedicated to making a difference in the lives of Essex citizens by providing medical, educational, social, welfare, cultural, recreational, and civic support. Board members are focused on making funds available for special projects that are not typically supported by other nonprofit groups, and ones that require fast local action. Most recently, The Essex Foundation lent financial support to the highway bridge painting project at the Route 9, exit 3 section of town where the Connecticut Department of Transportation's tree and shrub removal along state highway barriers had further exposed the patched-paint and rusted appearance of the bridge. The collaborative effort was made possible by Essex residents Steve and Susan Bogan, owners of Blast-All Construction, who provided the in-kind donation of project planning, supervision, equipment, and labor services; the Town of Essex which provided police supervision and traffic re-routing services; and The Essex Foundation, the Rotary Club of Essex, and many individual donors, who together provided a total of \$18,000 for the purchase of the paint.

Other beautification projects funded over the past year include the planting of cedar trees along West Avenue and the development of plans for a phased installation of plantings along the intersection of Route 153 and Route 154 in the Route 9/ Exit 3 gateway area. Matthew Verry Landscape Design was contracted to provide the landscape design and oversee the state approval/plant installation bid process which will happen over the next year.

The Essex Foundation also provides funding for the ongoing operation and maintenance of the Bumpy Warner Youth House on Bushnell Street used by the Boy Scouts, as well as scout-related projects. In previous years, the Foundation, along with individual donations, supported the removal of the half-sunken barge in Middle Cove, pond weed control for the Falls River neighborhood, repair and maintenance of the Town Clock in the tower of the Baptist Church, and disaster relief for flood and fire victims.

Members of The Essex Foundation Board of Directors are Bruce Glowac, President; Jay Tonks, Vice President; Herbert Clark III, Treasurer; Judy Bombaci, Secretary; Eve Potts; James Clark; and Strickland Hyde III. More information can be found at [www.theessexfoundation.org](http://www.theessexfoundation.org) or by emailing [contact@theessexfoundation.org](mailto:contact@theessexfoundation.org).

## **Tri Town Youth Services**

Since Tri-Town Youth Services' establishment in 1984, the nonprofit has served youth (birth to 18) and their families who reside in Chester, Deep River, and Essex. The agency works with youth to strengthen connections with family, peers, school, and the community, carefully ensuring our services augment, not duplicate other programs. On the community level, Tri-Town convenes the local prevention council and continues to lead community mobilization efforts around asset building through Healthy Communities•Healthy Youth of Chester, Deep River, and Essex.

Counseling and crisis intervention were provided to residents for a wide range of issues through day and evening appointments with 24-hour phone availability. Issues addressed include parenting and relationship concerns, depression, suicide ideation, sexual abuse, and substance abuse, with referrals made in some instances. Our early intervention program, the Tri-Town Juvenile Review Board hears cases of youth in trouble with the law as they are referred.

Much of our work is directed to positive youth development, parent education, and building healthy families and communities. With the school social worker, we trained Peer Advocates at Valley Regional; facilitated two youth advisory boards, organized community service activities, facilitated several mentoring programs, offered supervised teen recreation activities, a youth job bank, babysitter training classes, Homework Hangout, a Summer Co-op for middle school youth, and involvement in Safe Grad. In addition to involvement with the Early Childhood Council, parent programs are offered for parents/caregivers and their one-year-olds or two-year-olds, parent consultations, and courses such as "Getting Ready for Change" and "Open Up", a series for parents of teens. We sponsored the twenty-sixth annual substance prevention/awareness week, "High on Life", successful through support from multiple facets of the community.

The Bureau's Board of Directors is comprised of three to five members from each of the three towns and a youth representative. Our special thanks to: volunteers who have donated time and talent, to local taxpayers who support the bureau by providing the matching funds needed to procure our State Department of Education grant, and to all who have made monetary donations essential for maintaining our operating budget.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail E. Beck  
Executive Director

## **Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley**

Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley is a nonprofit organization dedicated to home and community-based health care. In FY 2016 we made over 17,365 home visits to patients in our service area; 25.02% of those home visits to patients in Essex, Centerbrook and Ivoryton. We provide weekly walk-in blood pressure screenings, monthly B12 injections, monthly educational sessions, and local flu shot clinics as part of our wellness program. We distribute monthly health promotion newsletters via email and co-sponsor a health fair each spring. We are pleased to report we received a Top 100 Home Care Elite distinction and continue to maintain a 4- 4.5 Quality of Patient Care star rating which is based on patient improvement measures. We highly value our patients and continue to generate positive patient satisfaction.

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 of the staff 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 further information.

Our staff wishes to acknowledge the commitment of our volunteer board of directors: Judy Heiser, Dick Levene, and Claire Tiernan from Essex; Ted Heiser, Peg Lieberman, Rueben Manning and Susan D. Murphy from Chester; Bob Sampson, President from Mystic; Dan Tavartes and Claire Walsh from Deep River and Kate Bender from Old Saybrook. And, a special thank you to all Essex, Ivoryton and Centerbrook residents who support the work of VNLV.

Please visit our *new* website ([www.visitingnurses.org](http://www.visitingnurses.org)) or call us at (860) 767-0186 for service information or flu clinic dates and locations.

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

### Town Meeting Minutes

Town of Essex  
Special Town Meeting  
July 1, 2015  
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 6:48 PM. Selectmen Needleman, Libby and Glowac were in attendance. James Francis was elected Moderator. David Royston, Town Counsel, was also in attendance. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately eleven (11) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: That the Town of Essex adopt the Code of Ethics Ordinance. Copies of said ordinance are on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Motion : Ellen Whaley      Second: Vincent Pacileo  
Aye 10                              Nay 0

RESOLVED: That the Town of Essex adopt Amendment No. 2 to the Town of Essex Police Retirement Plan. Copies of said amendment are on file in the Town Clerk's office

Motion: Ellen Whaley      Second: Vincent Pacileo  
Aye 10                              Nay 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of John Bairos to fill an unexpired term as an alternate member to the Essex Planning Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December 2015.

Motion : Bruce Glowac      Second: Stacia Libby  
Aye 10                              Nay 0

MOTION TO CLOSE: Vincent Pacileo  
SECONDED: Ken Wexler

Meeting adjourned 6:53 PM.  
Respectfully Submitted,  
Joel Marzi  
Town Clerk



Town of Essex  
Special Town Meeting  
July 15, 2015  
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 6:57 PM. Selectmen Needleman, Libby and Glowac were in attendance. Finance Director Kelly Sterner was also in attendance. Kelly Sterner was elected

Moderator. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately ten (10) people in attendance.

The following Resolution was Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of George Sexton to fill an unexpired term as an alternate member to the Essex Planning Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December 2015.

Second: Bruce Glowac                      ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION TO CLOSE: Bruce Glowac  
SECONDED: Norman Needleman

Meeting adjourned 6:59 PM.  
Respectfully Submitted,  
Joel Marzi  
Town Clerk



Town of Essex  
Special Town Meeting  
August 5, 2015  
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:55 PM. Selectmen Needleman, Glowac and Libby were in attendance. Finance Director Kelly Sterner 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.

The following Resolution was Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$75,000 from the Fire Department Sinking Fund for required SCBA air bottle replacement as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

Second: Libby

All in favor

MOTION TO CLOSE: Norman Needleman      SECONDED:  
Stacia Libby

Meeting adjourned 4:56 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joel Marzi  
Town Clerk

Town of Essex  
Special Town Meeting  
August 17, 2015  
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 5:00 PM. Kelly Sterner was elected Moderator. Selectmen Libby was in attendance. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately five (5) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of George Sexton to fill an unexpired term as a regular member to the Planning Commission. Term to run from date of this meeting to December 2017.

SECONDED: Norman Needleman ALL IN FAVOR

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Gary Riggio to fill an unexpired term as an alternate member to the Planning Commission. Term to run from date of this meeting to December 2015.

SECONDED: Norman Needleman ALL IN FAVOR

RESOLVED: To consent and approve that the town of Essex authorizes the Essex Elementary Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Education and to accept or reject a grant for the proposed roof replacement project at the Essex Elementary School.

SECONDED: Norman Needleman ALL IN FAVOR

RESOLVED: To consent and approve that the proposed roof replacement project at the Essex Elementary School is hereby assigned to the 2013-2014 Building Committee.

SECONDED: Norman Needleman ALL IN FAVOR

RESOLVED: To consent and approve that the Town of Essex hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the roof replacement project at Essex Elementary School.

SECONDED: Ellen Whaley-Wexler ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION TO CLOSE: Stacia Libby

SECONDED: Ellen Whaley-Wexler

Meeting adjourned at 5:07 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Marzi

Town Clerk

Town of Essex  
Annual Town Meeting  
November 16, 2015

The First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Annual Town Meeting to order at 7:00 PM. James Francis, Town Treasurer, was elected Moderator. Bruce Glowac and Stacia Libby were in attendance as well as Keith Crehan, Board of Finance chair and Finance Director, Kelly Sterner. The Town Clerk, Joel Marzi, read the call of the meeting. There were approximately twenty four (24) people in attendance. Upon motion by Bruce Glowac, the nominations of all appointments would be voted upon collectively rather than individually. Seconded by Stacia Libby. Resolution passed unanimously.

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 2014-2015 Annual Town Report.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Adrienne Forrest as a regular member to the Conservation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2015 to December 1, 2018.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Richard Helmecki as a regular member to the Conservation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2015 to December 1, 2018.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Kathleen Tucker as a regular member to the Conservation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2015 to December 1, 2018.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Jerri MacMillian as an alternate member to the Conservation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2015 to December 1, 2018.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Elizabeth D'Amico as a regular member to the Economic Development Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2015 to December 1, 2018.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Lon Seidman as a regular member to the Economic Development Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2015 to December 1, 2018.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by

the First Selectman of David Sousa as a regular member to the Economic Development Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2015 to December 1, 2018.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Terry Stewart as a regular member to the Harbor Management Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2015 to December 1, 2018.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of John Senning as a regular member to the Harbor Management Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2015 to December 1, 2018.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Jim Leo as a regular member to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2015 to December 1, 2018.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Jeffrey Lovelace as a regular member to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2015 to December 1, 2018.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Ernest Cook as an alternate member to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2015 to December 1, 2018.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Peter Sarnier as an alternate member to the Park & Recreation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2015 to December 1, 2018.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Carla Feroni as a regular member to the Planning Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2015 to December 1, 2020.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Gary Riggio as an alternate member to the Planning Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2015 to December 1, 2020.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of John Bairos as alternate member to the Planning Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2015 to December 1, 2020.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Paul Greenberg as a regular member to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Term to run from December 1, 2015 to December 1, 2018.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Ward Feirer as an alternate

member to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Term to run from December 1, 2015 to December 1, 2018.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Larry Shipman as a regular member to the Zoning Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2015 to December 1, 2018.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Susan Uihlein as a regular member to the Zoning Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2015 to December 1, 2018

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Randel Osborne as a regular member to the Water Pollution Control Authority. Term to run from December 1, 2015 to December 1, 2017.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Leigh Rankin as a regular member to the Water Pollution Control Authority. Term to run from December 1, 2015 to December 1, 2017.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$49,108 to the General Fund Legal Fees budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

Norman Needleman explained that this expenditure was due in large part as a result of property assessment appeals.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$117,500 to the General Fund Highway Department budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

Norman Needleman explained that this over run was due to the bad winter and need for extra sanding, salting and plowing.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve the endorsement and authorization of the Inter-Town Capital Equipment (ICE) Purchase Incentive Program. A copy of said program application is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Upon the motion of Bruce Glowac, seconded by Stacia Libby, meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted  
Joel Marzi  
Town Clerk



Town of Essex  
Special Town Meeting  
December 2, 2015  
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Kelly Sterner was elected Moderator. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately nineteen (19) people in attendance.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, First Selectman Norman Needleman announced that the ordinance concerning the modification and restatement of the Park and Recreation Commission was postponed to a future date.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED: RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation of a sum not to exceed \$565,000 from the Fire Department Sinking Fund for the purchase of a new fire apparatus as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance. Prior to the payment of the purchase price, the Performance and Payment Bond shall be reviewed and approved by Town Counsel to assure the sufficiency of the final Bond in form, content and identity of the Surety.

Seconded Norman Needleman

AYE 19 NAY 0

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Stacia Libby  
SECONDED: Norman Needleman

Meeting adjourned at 6:04 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joel Marzi  
Town Clerk



Town of Essex  
Special Town Meeting  
December 16, 2015, 2015  
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order immediately following the 6:30 scheduled public hearing at 6:36 PM. Alvin Wolfgram was elected Moderator. Selectman Libby was also in attendance as was Director of Finance Kelley Sterner. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately sixteen (16) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: That the Town of Essex adopt the Amended and Restated Ordinance creating a Park and Recreation Commission. Copies of said ordinance are on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Norman Needleman explained that Commission attendance has been down and that it would be more practical to have a smaller board in keeping with statutory quorum requirements.

Robert Russo stated that the Commission is in the process of looking at long term planning.

Donald Mesite, a former member, explained that in the past the Commission did not have hired help and that a ten member board of volunteers took on many of those now compensated tasks.

SECONDED: Claire Tiernan ALL IN FAVOR

RESOLVED: That the Town of Essex adopt the Policy Regarding Open Space Tax Abatements as adopted by the Essex Planning Commission with the 2015-2025 Plan of Conservation and Development. Copies of said policy are on file in the Town Clerk's office.

SECONDED: Lois Ely ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION TO CLOSE: Gerry MacMillian  
SECONDED: Norman Needleman

Meeting adjourned at 6:41 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joel Marzi  
Town Clerk



Town of Essex  
Special Town Meeting  
February 3, 2016  
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:48 PM. Bruce MacMillian was elected Moderator. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately six (6) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED: RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$51,000 from the Police Cruiser Sinking Fund for the purchase of a new police vehicle and all necessary equipment as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

SECONDED: Bruce Glowac ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION: Motion by Norman Needleman to consolidate all of the following appointments into a single vote.

SECONDED: Bruce Glowac ALL IN FAVOR

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Eugene C. Schellens to fill an unexpired term as an alternate member to the Harbor Management Commission. Term to run from date of this meeting to December 2017.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Barbara Sarrantonio to fill an unexpired term as a regular member to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Term to run from date of this meeting to December 2018.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Philip Beckman to fill an unexpired term as an alternate member to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Term to run from date of this meeting to December 2017.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Russell Smith to fill an unexpired term as an alternate member to the Zoning Commission. Term to run from date of this meeting to December 2017.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Steven Knauth to fill an unexpired term as a regular member to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Term to run from date of this meeting to December 2016.

SECONDED: Bruce Glowac ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION TO CLOSE: Norman Needleman  
SECONDED: Stacia Libby

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM  
Respectfully Submitted,  
Joel Marzi  
Town Clerk



Town of Essex  
Special Town Meeting  
February 17, 2016  
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 6:49 PM. Jim Francis was elected Moderator. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance along with Kelly. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately seven (7) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of John Bairos to fill an unexpired term as a regular member to the Planning Commission. Term to run from date of this meeting to December 2020.

SECONDED: Stacia Libby ALL IN FAVOR

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Andre Roussel to fill an unexpired term as an alternate member to the Inland Wetlands Commission. Term to run from date of this meeting to December 2016.

SECONDED: Bruce Glowac ALL IN FAVOR

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Jane Siris to fill an unexpired term as an alternate member to the Planning Commission. Term to run from date of this meeting to December 2020.

SECONDED: Kelly Sterner ALL IN FAVOR

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Erin Bogan to fill an unexpired term as an alternate member to the Planning Commission. Term to run from date of this meeting to December 2020.

SECONDED: Bruce Glowac ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION TO CLOSE: Norman Needleman  
SECONDED: Bruce Glowac

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM  
Respectfully Submitted,  
Joel Marzi  
Town Clerk

Town of Essex  
Special Town Meeting  
April 20, 2016  
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 6:55 PM. Bruce Glowac was elected Moderator. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance along with Kelly Sterner. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately six (6) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Wendy Arnold to fill an unexpired term as a regular member to the Water Pollution Control Authority. Term to run from date of this meeting to December 2018.

SECONDED: Norman Needleman ALL IN FAVOR

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$63,000 from the Essex Elementary Capital Improvements Sinking Fund for the Capital Projects as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

SECONDED: Stacia Libby ALL IN FAVOR

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$40,000 from the Essex Elementary Capital Improvements Sinking Fund for the Media Center Renovation Project as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

SECONDED: Stacia Libby ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION TO CLOSE: Norman Needleman

SECONDED: Stacia Libby

Meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joel Marzi  
Town Clerk



Annual Budget Town Meeting  
May 9, 2016

First Selectman, Norman Needleman, called the Town Meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Al Wolfgram was elected Moderator. Selectmen Norman Needleman, Stacia Libby

and Bruce Glowac were in attendance as well as James Francis, Treasurer and Kelley Sterner, Director of Finance. Town Clerk Joel Marzi read the call of the meeting. There were approximately forty-eight (48) 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 \$23,741,574.

SECONDED: L. McClusky ALL IN FAVOR

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.

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:

- All Motor Vehicle tax bills will be due and payable in full on July 1, 2016
- All real estate and personal property tax bills \$100.00 or less will be due and payable in full on July 1, 2016.
- Real Estate and personal property tax bills over \$100.00 may be paid in two installments with one half due on July 1, 2016 and one half due on January 1, 2017.

SECONDED: D.G. Fitton ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION TO ADJOURN: N. Needleman

SECONDED: V. Pacileo

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joel Marzi  
Town Clerk



Town of Essex  
Special Town Meeting  
May 25, 2016  
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 6:47 PM. Kelly Sterner was elected Moderator. Selectman Libby was in attendance along with one resident in the audience. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were five (5) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve the resolution for the Civic Campus Phase 2 under the Main Street Investment Fund Program as recommended and approved by the Board of Selectmen. A copy of said Resolution is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

*Kelly Sterner explained what the grant would involve including sidewalks along Grove Street and safety enhancements that would improve pedestrian activity to the Hubbard Park area as well as the playscape and tennis courts. In addition, the grant would cover the expense of a new scoreboard at the ballpark.*

*Resident Paul Kotowski had questions concerning expense, contractors and donations.*

SECONDED: Stacia Libby ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION TO CLOSE: Norman Needleman

SECONDED: Stacia Libby

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joel Marzi  
Town Clerk

Town of Essex  
Special Town Meeting  
June 8, 2016  
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:55 PM. Stacia Libby was elected Moderator. Selectmen Glowac and Libby were in attendance along with Finance Director Kelly Sterner. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately six (6) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of George Wendell to fill an unexpired term as an alternate member to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Term to run from the date of this meeting until December 2016.

SECONDED: Norman Needleman ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION TO CLOSE: Norman Needleman

SECONDED: Bruce Glowac

Meeting adjourned at 4:58 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joel Marzi  
Town Clerk

# ESSEX TOWN DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY

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

## Selectmen's Office

Norman M Needleman—1st Selectman, X114 .....nneedleman@essexct.gov  
Maria Lucarelli, X112 .....mlucarelli@essexct.gov

## Animal Control Officer—860-388-7082

Jae Wolf .....jwolf@essexct.gov

## Assessor

Jessica Sypher—Assessor, X124 .....jsypher@essexct.gov  
Nancy Berryman, X123 .....nberryman@essexct.gov

## Building Department and Fire Marshal

David DeLeeuw—Building Official, X117 .....ddeeleeuw@essexct.gov  
Keith Nolin—Fire Marshal, X146 .....knolin@essexct.gov  
Darcy Roper, X144 .....droper@essexct.gov

## Finance and Treasurer

Kelly Sterner—Finance Director, X122 .....ksterner@essexct.gov  
Dana Novorio, x116 .....dnovorio@essexct.gov  
James Francis—Treasurer, X127 .....jfrancis@essexct.gov

## Health Department

Lisa Fasulo—Health Director, X118 .....lfasulo@essexct.gov  
Kerry Berardinelli, X119 .....kberardinelli@essexct.gov

## Landfill/Recycling Center—860-767-1926

Mike Birner and Wilbur Armstead

## Park and Recreation

Mary Ellen Barnes—Director X110 .....mbarnes@essexct.gov

## Public Works—860-767-0715

David Caroline—Director .....dcaroline@essexct.gov  
William Angier, Boris Churyk,  
Richard Gallacher, Ryan Welch

## Registrars of Voters

Lois Ely, X142 .....lely@essexct.gov  
John Heiser, X142 .....jheiser@essexct.gov

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

David Tretter—Resident State Trooper .....dtretter@essexct.gov  
James Paul Kenefick—Corporal .....jkenefick@essexct.gov  
Todd Belcourt—Officer .....tbelcourt@essexct.gov  
Christopher McCarthy—Officer .....cmccarthy@essexct.gov  
Karen Reilly—Officer .....kreilly@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 .....townclerk@essexct.gov

## Town Hall Operations

Thomas Fitzgerald, X136 .....maintenance@essexct.gov  
Mark Hiatt

## Tree Warden

Augie Pampel.— 860-388-7209 .....apamel@essexct.gov

## Zoning Enforcement

Joseph Budrow—Enforcement Agent, X115 .....jbudrow@essexct.gov  
Darcy Roper, X144 .....droper@essexct.gov

[www.essexct.gov](http://www.essexct.gov)



## **Directions to the Parks in Essex**

**All directions are based off starting point of Centerbrook**

### **Clark's Pond**

Follow Main Street into Ivoryton and the entrance is on your right hand side after you pass Ebony Lane.

### **Comstock Park**

Follow Main Street into Ivoryton and make a left onto Walnut Street. Make your first right onto Park Road and follow until the end of the street and you will enter the parking lot of Comstock Park.

### **Dickinson Park**

Follow Main Street into Essex. Go under Route 9 overpass and make your first left onto West Avenue. Follow West Avenue and when you come to the beginning of the Main Street Shops, turn Left onto North Main Street. Dickinson Park is where North Main Street intersects with Prospect Street.

### **Essex Elementary School**

When you reach Main Street in Centerbrook, turn left onto Main Street and follow past Spencer's Corner and the School is on your left hand side.

### **Grove Street Park**

Follow Main Street into Essex. Go under Route 9 overpass and make your first left onto West Avenue. Turn left onto Grove Street. Turn right into parking lot for Essex Town Hall and follow to the far back left corner and there is an alternate parking lot for the playground.

### **Hubbard Field**

Follow Main Street into Essex. Go under Route 9 overpass and make your first left onto West Avenue. Follow West Avenue and when you come to the beginning of the Main Street Shops, turn Left onto North Main Street. Follow North Main Street until you pass New City Street. Hubbard Field will be on your right hand side.

### **Ivoryton Green**

Follow Main Street into Ivoryton. The Ivoryton Green is on your right hand side after you see the flagpole. It is located before the Ivoryton Playhouse and across the street from the Ivoryton Library.

### **Main Street Park**

Follow Main Street into Essex. Go under Route 9 overpass and make your first left onto West Avenue. Follow West Avenue and when you come to the beginning of the Main Street Shops, turn right and follow down Main Street.; The park will be on your right hand side with Municipal Parking behind the Essex Post Office.

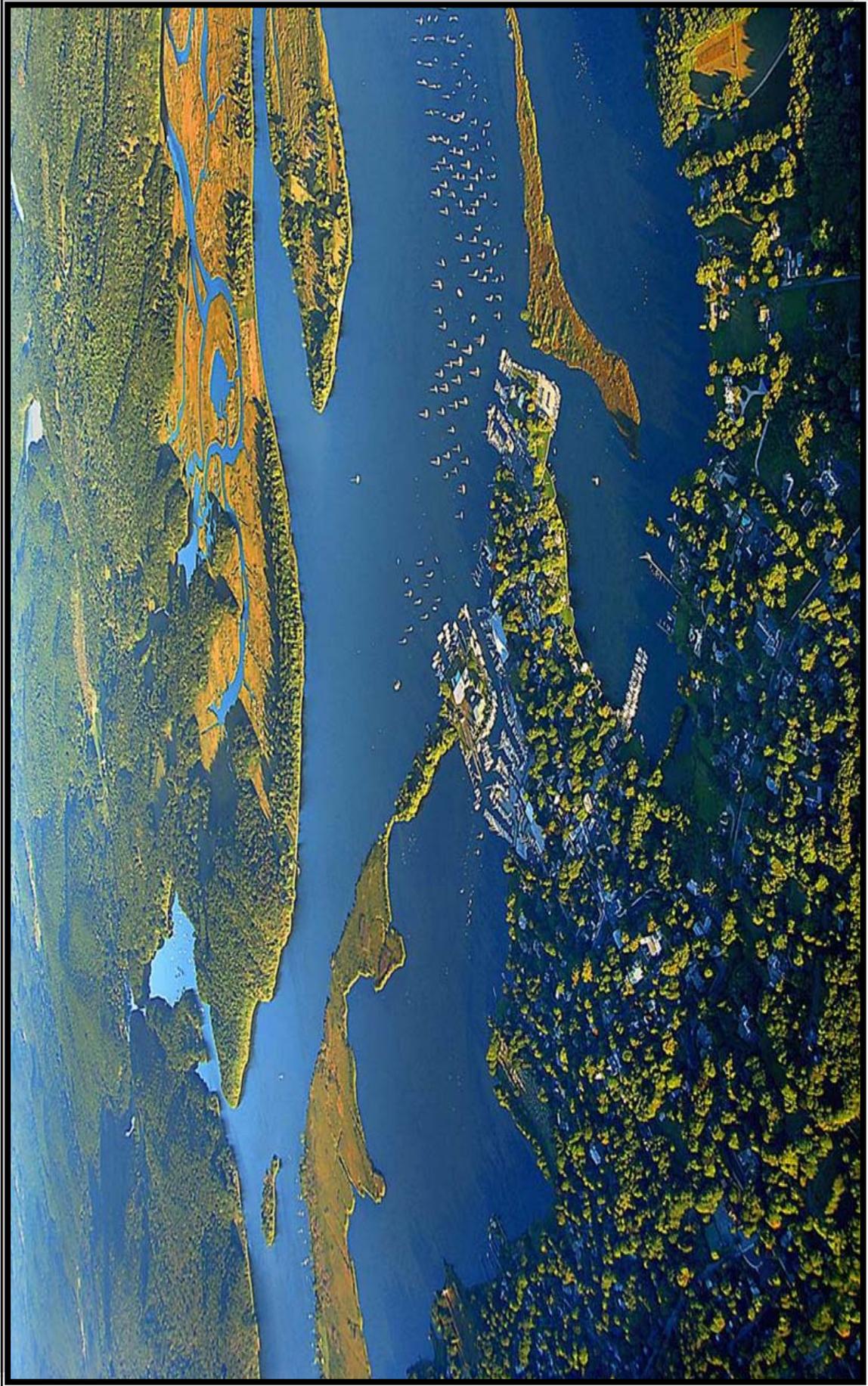
### **Sunset Pond**

Follow Main Street into Essex. Go under Route 9 overpass and make your first left onto West Avenue. Follow West Avenue and the pond on your right hand side is Sunset Pond.

### **Viney Hill Brook Park**

Follow Main Street towards Essex and it becomes Saybrook Road. Turn right onto Gates Road. Turn right onto Cedar Grove Terrace. Follow the road up the hill and turn right onto Hillside Drive. Park entrance will be on your right hand side.

**Discover all of our parks and find out about events at**  
**<http://www.essexct.gov/park-and-recreation>**



*Aerial Photo of Essex Harbor  
Photo by Jody Dole*

**TOWN OF ESSEX**  
**29 WEST AVENUE**  
**ESSEX, CT 06426**  
**[WWW.ESSEXCT.GOV](http://WWW.ESSEXCT.GOV)**