



2014-2015

ANNUAL REPORT



Frederick M. Vollono

Dedication

Frederick M. Vollono

Fred Vollono was a proud lifelong resident of Connecticut. In his early years he began his career as a reporter for the Norwich Bulletin, where he honed his love of writing and politics.

He then joined the ranks of the Connecticut State Police, where he served as a State Trooper. Subsequently he went on to law school and established a career as an attorney, beginning as a defense insurance litigator and eventually opening his own practice in Middletown, a job he truly loved. He was called a “lawyer’s lawyer” by many colleagues, commenting on his professionalism, intelligence and fine legal mind.

Fred was always generous with his time and expertise; he never failed to help those in need. In 1993, Fred and his family moved to Ivoryton, at which time he began his commitment to public service in Essex. Fred generously served as a Justice of the Peace and was an active member of the Gateway Commission, the Democratic Town Committee where he served as Chairman for many years, the Board of Finance and the Essex Retirement Board. Other civic activities included coaching youth sports and Model Court at Xavier

High School.

Fred was an avid American Civil War historian and re-enactor and often gave presentations at schools, community centers and most recently at

Fort Trumbull in New London, CT.

Fred possessed the human traits that made him a unique and wonderful individual – he was always a bit late, shared many entertaining jokes and stories, and knew countless facts of American history. He always won at Trivial Pursuit! Furthermore he also possessed the

human traits that made him a good and admirable person. He was humble, kind and the voice of reason in discussions and debates. Fred was recognized as a great friend, mentor and neighbor. But most important,

for all who were fortunate enough to know him, his greatest success was as a loving husband, father, son and brother.

In the words of his greatest hero, Abraham Lincoln, “In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.”

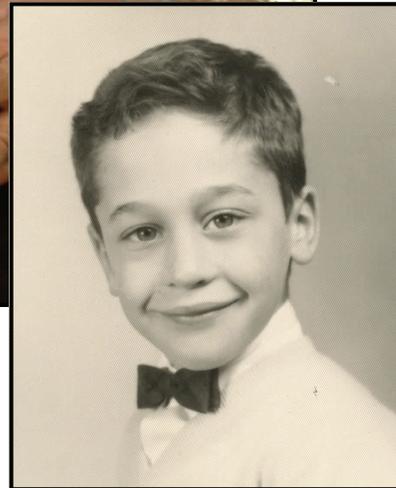


Table of Contents

Essex at a Glance	2
History of Essex	3
 General Information	
Elected Officials, Town, State and Federal	4
Town Officials and Services	5
 Annual Report	
Animal Control Officer	8
Board of Finance	8
Board of Selectmen	9
Building Department	10
Central Services—Town Hall Operations	10
Clean Energy Task Force	11
Conservation Commission	12
Economic Development Commission	13
Education Region 4 Mission Statement	13
Essex Elementary School	14
Superintendent, Regional School District #4	14
Emergency Management	15
Essex Housing Authority	15
Fire Marshal	16
Harbor Management Commission	16
Health Department	17
Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission ..	17
Park and Recreation Department	18
Planning Commission	18
Probate Court	19
Public Works	19
Pumpout Boat	20
Registrars of Voters	21
Resident State Trooper and Essex Police	21
Retirement Board	22
Social Services	22
Town Clerk’s Office	23
Town Counsel	23
Tree Committee	24
Water Pollution Control Authority	25
Zoning Board of Appeals	25

Zoning Commission	25
Zoning Enforcement	25
 Community & Service Organizations	
Ancient Order of Weeders	26
Child & Family Agency of Southeastern CT	26
Connecticut River Gateway Commission	27
Connecticut River Museum	28
Essex Ambulance Association	29
Essex Art Association	29
Essex Board of Trade	30
Essex Community Fund	30
Essex Fire Engine Company No. 1	31
Essex Garden Club	31
Essex Historical Society	32
Essex Land Trust	32
Essex Lions Club	33
Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc.	33
Estuary Transit District	34
FISH	34
Ivoryton Playhouse Foundation, Inc.	35
Ivoryton Village Alliance	36
Libraries	
Essex Library Association	37
Ivoryton Library Association	37
Literacy Volunteers—Valley Shore, CT Inc.	38
Lower River Valley Council of Governments	38
Rotary Club of Essex	39
Tri-Town Youth Services	40
Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley	40
 Town Meeting Minutes	 41
 Financial Information	 Insert
Finance Reports	F1
Tax Collector Reports	F9
Assessor’s Reports	F10
 Town Department Directory	 Inside Back Cover

Where to Obtain

Birth Certificates	Town Clerk’s Office
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



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

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.



Elected Officials

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
Ethan Goller
Jeffrey D. Woods

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

Peter Decker
Anne J. Dougherty
Coral L. Rawn

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 COMPTRROLLER

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 September 30, 2015)*

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-Collins Engineering Associates, LLC

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Lon Seidman, Chairman

John Beveridge

Edward Cook

Elizabeth D'Amico

Robert Laundry, Planning Representative

Janet Peckinpaugh

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

Scott Jeffrey, Principal

Jennifer Tousignant, Assistant Principal

JOHN WINTHROP JR. HIGH SCHOOL

William Duffy, Principal

Peter Foxen, Associate Principal

VALLEY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Mike Barile, Principal

Matt Talmadge, 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

Dawn Boulanger

David C. Gephard

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

Walter Schieferdecker

John Senning

Walter Wiegert

Joseph Zaraschi

Terry Stewart, alternate

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

Jim Leo, alternate

Stephen Knauth, alternate

Town Officials and Services

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Susan W. Beckman860-767-9755
 Matthew P. Cooper.....860-767-8462
 Ann S. Dixon.....860-767-1339
 Earl Fowler.....860-767-2764
 David W. Galligan860-767-1860
 Bruce M. Glowac.....860-767-0650
 Donna M. Hyde.....860-767-0061
 Leslie Lupavich.....860-767-4953
 Shelley H. Mack860-767-7812
 Philip J. Miller860-767-7837
 Christopher Morano.....860-767-0292
 Norman M. Needleman860-767-9176
 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 Tucker860-767-0397
 William P. Veillette860-767-8519

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

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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

PLANNING COMMISSION

Thomas Danyliw, Chairman
 Carla Feroni
 Alan Kerr
 Ralph Monaco
 George Sexton
 Gary Riggio, alternate
 Robert Laundry, alternate
 John Baires, alternate

PUBLIC WORKS

David Caroline, Director
 William Angier
 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
 Todd Belcourt, Police Officer
 James Paul Kenefick, 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
 Carl W. Ellison
 Ethan Goller
 Stacia Libby

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
Randel Osborne
Leigh Rankin
Mark Reeves
Robert Van Houten
Ken Bombaci, alternate
Alvin Wolfram, alternate

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Paul Greenberg, Chairman
Michael Noto, Vice Chairman
Alexander Daddona
William Timothy Furgueson
William Veillette
Peter Decker, alternate
Ward Feirer, alternate
Barbara Sarrantonio, alternate

ZONING COMMISSION

Larry Shipman, Chairman
Jim Hill
William Reichenbach
Susan Uihlein
Alvin Wolfgram
Adrienne Forrest, alternate
Jeffrey Lovelace, alternate

ZONING ENFORCEMENT

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

Animal Control Officer

I have had a very busy and productive year as Animal Control Officer for the Town of Essex. Over the course of the year, the days have been filled with numerous calls related to nuisance complaints, dog bites, wildlife issues, and sometimes just calls seeking general information related to animal control matters. In addition to tending to these day to day tasks, my most recent time has been dedicated to completing my training at the CT Animal Control Officer’s Academy.

Over the course of this year, I have answered approximately 117 complaints, inclusive of a high number of calls pertaining to roaming dogs. Approximately 80% of those dogs found roaming were without proof of identification, licensure within the town of origin, or vaccination. Lack of appropriate identification creates a challenge in determining if the animal is current with vaccinations and makes it that much more difficult to reunite the pet with his/her proper owner. It is not only my recommendation, but mandated by the state of Connecticut, that rabies vaccinations and licensure are kept up to date and current. I plan to provide further education to the Town regarding general recommendations on such issues and will continue to encourage all pet owner to keep current tags on their pets to avoid the infractions listed below:

Fine for unvaccinated dog: \$136.00; fine for unlicensed dog: \$75.00; fine for roaming dog: \$92.00.

I look forward to the upcoming year as ACO in the Town of Essex with public safety as my number one priority. I also look forward to continuing to educate the public on safety measures that support responsible dog and pet ownership. Jae Wolf, ACO –Office: (860) 767-3219 Mobile: (860) 388-7082



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 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 W. Campbell Hudson and Mary Louise Polo whose terms expire in November 2019, Keith Crehan and Jeffrey Woods whose terms expire in November 2017, and Donald J. Mesite and Frederick M. Vollono** whose terms expire in November 2015.

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.

***Subsequent to the end of fiscal year 2014-2015, the Board suffered the passing of Board member Frederick M. Vollono. The 2014-2015 Annual Town Report is dedicated to the memory and service of Mr. Vollono.*

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 2014-2015 at 20.99 mills.

Our efforts this year focused on infrastructure assessments and projects, cost effective technologies available to enhance department alignment and efficiency, procedural updates including a Code of Ethics Policy, and Freedom of Information adherence. The Planning Commission made significant progress in 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 Commission received input from Town Boards and Commissions, Village groups, and the general public. The draft Plan, focuses on enhancing and connecting the Village Centers, encouraging appropriate economic development, and safeguarding the unique characteristics of our Town.

The Town of Essex was selected by the Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority to participate in Solarize Connecticut, a statewide program designed to make solar power more affordable. The results of the Solarize Essex Campaign were impressive: the Town nearly quadrupled the number of homes powered with solar energy, going from 8 homes to 30, and nearly quintupled its solar generation capacity. In addition, we have exceeded our goal of an 11% reduction of electrical usage for FY 2014-15. The Town Hall reduced its electrical consumption by almost 15% and the Essex Elementary School by almost 18%.

Of note this year, \$8 million of capital projects recommended by an advisory committee led by Selectman Bruce Glowac was approved by the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance. It went to referendum and was supported by the residents of Essex. These projects included monies for a new fire truck, replacement of Ivory Street bridges and Walnut Street bridge, Town Hall renovations, roof replacement at Essex Elementary School, the Town Hall and the Public Works garage. The Town Hall kitchen renovation and new window installation project is complete. At the time of this report, all roofs have been replaced. The Walnut and Ivory Street Bridges work will hopefully begin in 2016.

Effective Oct 1, 2014, we made a change requiring residents to purchase an annual Transfer Station Resident Pass or to purchase a pre-paid punch card for household trash to be brought to the Transfer Station/

Landfill. Cash transactions have been eliminated. The changes at the landfill reduced administrative expenses and have led to an increase in revenue and procedural efficiency. In addition, the Town continues on the path to decrease municipal solid waste and increase municipal recycling.

A new cloud based phone system has been installed at the Town Hall at no additional capital expenditure and WIFI is available throughout the building. The Town Hall is now connected to the internet through the Nutmeg Network made possible by a grant from the State of CT. The Nutmeg Network provides high network security and a reliable high-speed fiber connection to the internet.

This year we experienced one of the worst winter seasons on record. The Public Works crew utilized over 300 tons of salt and more than 900 yard loads of sand keeping our roadways safe. As a result, the crew had a busy spring season with street sweeping, road repairs, repaving, catch basin replacements and repairs, responding to citizen concerns, and overseeing other Town projects.

Our efforts continue in the support of Ivoryton Village as a robust economic center with the Ivoryton Village Streetscape Improvement Plan, funded by a grant from the Main St Investment Fund. Construction is nearly complete and the result will be new sidewalks and curbing, decorative crosswalks, regrading, drainage improvements, road replacement, landscaping, increased parking and pedestrian safety. I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to the committee, chaired by Selectman Stacia Libby, the Ivoryton Alliance, and the Town of Essex Public Works Department for all your efforts!

The Town was recently awarded two substantial grants from the State of Connecticut that impact affordable housing conditions and opportunities for our senior population. The first is the Small Cities Grant for the Essex Court Senior Housing Complex. This grant for \$635,000 will be used to upgrade the existing septic system, and to provide kitchen upgrades and energy efficient appliances. The second grant, administered by the CT Department of Housing, is for up to \$3.83 million for the development of Essex Place. Essex Place is an affordable housing project for seniors to be built adjacent to the campus of Essex Court. The new building will house 22 units, eighteen one-bedroom units and four two-bedroom units for live-in help and will be available to income-qualified applicants from Essex and surrounding communities. Occupancy is anticipated for summer 2017.

Initiatives underway include The Plan of Conservation and Development for 2015-2025, passing a Code of Ethics Ordinance, a review of current Zoning regulations, and Town Hall renovations.

It continues to be an honor and a privilege to serve as the First Selectman for the Town of Essex. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Selectman 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.

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

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

In order to obtain a building permit, the applicant needs to 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 under Building/Required Inspections.

The Building Department issues a Certificate of Occupancy or Completion 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, 2014 through June 30, 2015, a total of 555 (452 residential, 103 commercial) building permits were issued for an estimated construction value of

\$16,321,741.08. Six permits were for new home construction. Three driveway permits were issued. A total of \$151,350.00 in permit fees was collected. No Demo Ordinance Fees were collected.

On February 28, 2014 the 2013 Amendment to the Building Code went into effect changing the applicable residential and electrical code versions.

David R. DeLeeuw
Building Official

Central Services Town Hall Operations

During the 2014-2015 fiscal year the Town of Essex hired new personnel to assist with maintenance and cleaning of the Town Hall. With hosting over 500 events in the three meeting rooms and the cleaning and maintaining of the Main Street restrooms the additional personnel was most helpful. Our snowy winter was a contributing factor requiring more cleaning than usual. This past year the exterior doors of the Main Street restrooms and the auditorium door at the town hall were replaced.

It is the goal of the maintenance/custodial staff to provide a clean and safe Town Hall facility.

Suggestions from the community are always welcome.

Tom Fitzgerald
Custodial/Maintenance Services Manager



Clean Energy Task Force

Our Goals

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

Results: During FY 2014-15, town electric consumption for the Essex Elementary School, municipal buildings and streetlights, was 711,468 kWh, down 18.5 % from the 2010 CY baseline of 872,489 kWh.

Increase purchase of Clean Energy for town buildings to 17% for FY 2013-14.

Results: During FY 2014-15, 15% of the municipal building energy was purchased from clean, renewable energy sources (Community Energy).

Reduce heating fuel oil consumption by 5%.

Results: For FY 2014-15, 15,049 gallons of fuel oil were consumed by town buildings, down 60% from the CY 2010 baseline of 37,960 gallons, however the primary reason for the decrease is the Elementary School's switch from oil to natural gas.

Increase the amount of recyclables in tons.

Results: In FY 2014-15 Essex recycled 658 tons of material, down 5% from the FY 2010-11 baseline of 691 tons.

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

Results: For FY 2014-15, 265 houses participated in hazardous waste collections, down 20% from the 330 homes participating in 2010/11. The estimated number of pounds of hazardous waste for FY 2014/15 was 5,300, a decrease of 20% from 2010/11, estimated at 6,600 pounds. The average household is estimated to contribute 20 pounds of HHW annually.

Other Accomplishments:

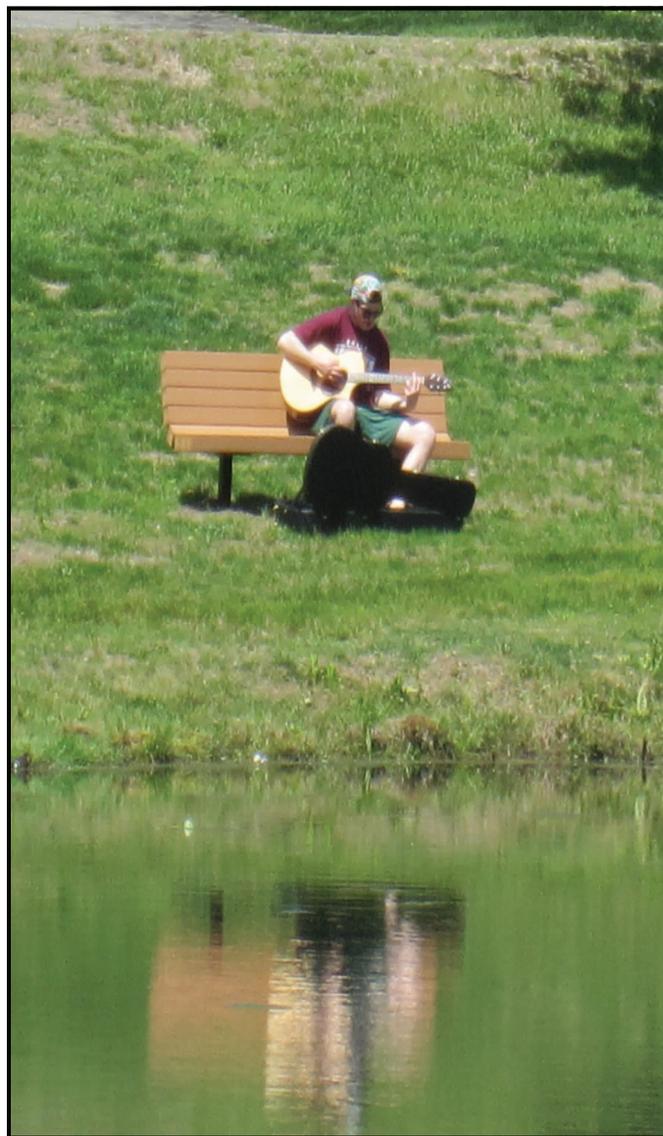
The Solarize Essex program helped 22 residents install solar power on their homes at discounted prices. Through this program, the solar generating capacity of Essex homes increased from 44 kW to 202 kW.

A Big Belly Solar Trash Compactor was installed at the Valley Regional HS "Snack Shack". Earned by the Town of Essex through the Clean Energy Communities program, the system features a collection unit for recyclable materials and a solar-powered trash compactor which can hold five times more waste than a normal bins.

The town signed the Municipal Bench Marking, Technical Assistance and Municipal Action Plan (MAP)

agreement with the Clean Energy Communities program and Eversource. The purpose of the initiative is to benchmark all town buildings through the online Energy Star Portfolio Manager program, create an ongoing list of proposed and completed energy projects and develop a Municipal Action Plan for the town to meet the energy reduction goals of the Clean Energy Communities Program.

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



Conservation Commission

The Essex Conservation Commission manages three town-owned preserves: Viney Hill Brook Preserve, Canfield Meadow Woods, and Bushy Hill. Although non-regulatory, the commission may advise other town commissions on matters of development, land use, and water courses. In addition the commission inventories the town's conservation easements. Of particular note is the 70 acre acquisition of open space deeded to the Essex Land Trust—the portion within the town's boundaries of the "Thousand Acre Preserve."

Major projects included continued efforts to eradicate

Pond Leveler and an exclusion fence to prevent beavers from blocking the drain culvert, thereby allowing water to flow through the systems.

In an effort to co-exist with the beavers, from early April on, volunteers Elizabeth & Richard Alvord, Elise Kressley, Dana Hill, and Chris Pimley, led by Frank Hall and Robert Ward, alternated arriving early morning to shovel and rake debris the beavers accumulated around the main drain and Eagle Scout bridge. After clean-up, water out-flows increased significantly. Nightly the beavers rebuilt the dams. The commission thanks the volunteers for their steadfast efforts



Phragmites and Japanese Knotweed, installation of bat houses for mosquito control, and construction of pedestrian bog bridges for wet areas on the trails.

After a four year absence, beavers returned to Quarry Pond in Viney Hill Brook Preserve. Activity included an increase in size of the formerly dormant lodge, construction of an additional lodge, felled trees blocking trails and, with debris curtailing water flow, a rise in water level. After hearing public comments on the value of co-existing with beavers, the commission consulted with experts. The town engineer advised that an increase in water level, due to beavers damming the spillway and culvert, would not compromise the integrity of the levees around either Quarry or Wollock's Ponds. Although Beaver Solutions, LLC, stated that trapping is "sometimes a necessary tool to control beaver activity," they proposed the installation of a Flexible

and is seeking additional town funds for managing beaver activities.

On New Year's Day, twenty-five hikers joined commissioners for their Ninth Annual Hike at Viney Hill Brook Preserve. Participants toured all trails, cast wild-flower seed in the meadow, and enjoyed a tail-gate breakfast afterwards. Commissioners: Kay Tucker, Jeffrey Lovelace, Frank Hall, Adrienne Forest, Richard Helmecki, Mark Reeves, Robert Ward, and Alternate, Jerri MacMillan, meet at 7:30 PM on the first Thursday of each month. We thank Pamela Bernardini, whose term expired in December, for her long-time service to the Conservation Commission and the Town of Essex.

Respectfully submitted
Kay Tucker, Chair

Economic Development Commission

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, Bob Laundry (Planning Commission Representative), Lon Seidman (Chair), Janet Peckinpaugh, David Sousa, and David Winstead.

In 2013 Essex became a member of the Main Street Center, a non-profit quasi-public agency dedicated to developing and maintaining small town centers. The Main Street Center facilitated public meetings of the EDC and land use commissions; the outcome of the meetings was to establish a working group to look at ways to improve Centerbrook Village. The group met over several months and developed a clear vision of what modifications are necessary to improve the village.

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 frequently asked questions 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.

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.

Please visit our section of the EssexCT.gov website and send us a message. Our meeting minutes and agendas are posted there as well.

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 6 who reside in the Centerbrook, Essex and Ivoryton..The Essex Elementary School also houses the Collaborative Preschool for Chester, Deep River and Essex. The Essex Elementary School was first constructed in 1953; with major additions in 1963, 1990, 2007 and a successful roof replacement during the summer of 2015.

Essex Elementary is a school with high expectations for all students. The focus on student learning and growth is a direct result of the district’s efforts to enhance instruction by focusing on needs for students. Continuous improvement of schools is essential to providing increased student performance and quality results. In addition to focusing on the academic needs of all students in reading, writing, math, social studies and science, we offer other programs to enrich our student’s elementary experience. Physical education, art, music, library, and World Language/Spanish are among the additional classes offered. Chorus is offered to students in grades 3-6 and instrumental music lessons and ensemble for students in grades 4-6 are important components of our enrichment program. Each of these programs is critical in the development of the whole child.

Technology is integrated into the classroom with students having access to two computer labs, 4 portable laptop labs, two portable iPad labs and multiple computers in every classroom. Innovative and engaging computer applications are infused into the curriculum to enhance student learning.

Essex Elementary School has a strong Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), providing enrichment experiences for all students with cultural arts programs, field trips and an assortment of opportunities for family involvement. The Green Team, Student Leaders, Math Olympiads, Invention Convention, Chess Club and EBT Broadcasting Team are examples of the extra-curricular offerings we have available to our students.

The Essex Elementary School Foundation generously provides grants to teachers to support enrichment programs for our students. In addition, The Foundation supports the Justus W. Paul World Cultures Program for second grade students, the Historian in Residence and the Mathematician in Residence programs.

Our Social Development program promotes a culture, climate and curriculum that enhances the social, emotional and behavioral development of students. The Social Development Book of the Month program embeds our core values into the general curriculum in each classroom, at each grade level.

At Essex Elementary School, we strive to provide a strong academic program and create a positive environment that fosters the love of learning and a sense of community.

Scott T. Jeffrey
Principal

Education

Superintendent of Schools

The Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 Schools enjoyed a wonderful and productive 2014-2015 school year. Our districts excelled academically, in the arts, on the fields, and in our communities giving back during Warriors in the Community day.

Our districts engaged in discourse regarding the regionalization of our three towns with the hope of adding kindergarten through grade six to the Region 4 Schools. While the outcome did not come to fruition last year, it is our hope that conversations continue in the future. Nonetheless, our districts have and will continue to work collaboratively and cohesively to provide excellent opportunities for the children in our three towns.

Our schools have engaged in a data based program to assist educators in the analysis of student work, and helps us make real time changes in teaching and learning to meet the changing needs of our learners.

Technology is integrated into classroom instruction by utilizing applications in grades kindergarten through grade twelve. Each of our schools has a social skills curriculum designed to teach and model important interactive skills and values.

The collaborative efforts between the schools, towns, and Tri-Town Youth Services are evidenced in the awards and recognition that our students have received whether in academics, athletics, or the arts. The 2014-2015 school year included scholastic honors, state championships, recognition in the arts and on stage, and an overall positive school climate.

We look forward to a positive and productive 2015-2016 school year. We are very proud of our students, staff members, schools, and community, and appreciate the on going support of our schools. The combined efforts and positive communication between our schools, homes, and our communities combined with our collective commitment to ongoing improvement, will move each of our students toward personal excellence.

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

Emergency Management

The Essex Emergency Management Department (EMD) continues to put safety and well-being of residents as its highest priority. In FY2014-15, the Town of Essex continued to incorporate changes as per the recommendations from Gov. Malloy's Two Storm Panel and Eversource's Emergency Preparedness plans with the goal of increasing a coordinated emergency response during a severe storm or emergency situation.

Additionally, the EMD worked with the Regional Board of Education and Essex Elementary School staff on their All-Hazards School Security and Safety Plans and assimilated them into the Essex's Local Emergency Operation Plan.

The Emergency Management website at <http://www.essexct.gov/emergency-management> was updated with new information and resources to help you prepare for an emergency or disaster. I encourage you to review this information and be proactive in restocking essential or expired supplies.

Lastly, in January 2015, Eversource Energy (formerly CL&P) became responsible for delivering electricity to our community. Please remember, that when your power goes out during a severe weather event or other significant incident, you should make 2 phone calls to report the outage: Eversource at 800 286-2000 (or report the outage online at www.eversource.com) Essex Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at 860-767-1198 Reporting the outage location directly to Eversource lets them know about safety hazards in the field, such as downed wires or snapped poles, and allows them to assess whether power is flowing to substations and the extent of outages. Reporting your power outage directly to the EOC helps us manage local resources to clear roads or remove downed trees which then allows Eversource crews to access the area, repair power lines and restore electricity to your neighborhood.

Stay Safe and Be Well.

William Buckridge

Director of Emergency Management Office

Essex Housing Authority

Essex Court is an affordable public housing complex for elderly and mobile disabled residents located at 16 Main Street in Centerbrook, under the responsibility of the Essex Housing Authority (EHA). Residents live independently in our 36 garden-style apartments and enjoy social time and monthly events in the Community Room, which houses a full kitchen, a laundry room, a staff office and bathrooms. This room is backed by a generator for power outage.

Once again, the Essex Community Fund provided a grant for the Resident Services Program, which counsels residents on support services. The Essex Rotary Club brought Thanksgiving meals to some residents. Essex Garden Club donated plants from their May Market to enhance landscaping. Coldwell Banker, Essex, gave a generous grant again this year for a major meal and music event plus birthday remembrance for each resident. Other businesses, organizations, and individuals also donate, such as free tickets from the Ivoryton Playhouse, to the residents. Our residents, staff, and the Commission are most grateful for the strong community support we receive year after year.

EHA, our Site Manager, and DeMarco Management strive to make Essex Court desirable for residents, financially viable, and an asset to the community. Housing applications are accepted year round, and we continue to have a wait list.

EHA and EEAH (Essex Elderly and Affordable Housing) continue with plans for the new development of Essex Place, to house 22 units for elderly affordable housing on our campus. All funding sources are in place. Next step is to secure state bond approval. Construction is anticipated to start late fall.

Commissioners: Janice Atkeson, Chairperson; Dawn Boulanger, Vice President; Rick Stebbins; Rosemary Willis, Secretary, and David Gephard. Site Manager; Tammy Mesite.



Dedication of Morgana's Place

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 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, 2014 through June 30, 2015, there were 6 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, 2014 through June 30, 2015 there were 23 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, 2014 through June 30, 2015, 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, 2014 through June 30, 2015, 50 burning permits were issued.

For any 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, 2014 through June 30, 2015 was \$1,380.00.

Keith C. Nolin—Fire Marshal

Harbor Management Commission

The primary focus of the Harbor Management Commission is the maintenance of the anchorages— Main, Meadows and the Coves. We are upgrading 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 on line 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 approved in September, 1991.

All pertinent data is available at Essex web site, including permit applications, Harbor Plan, meeting minutes, etcetera.

All meetings are open and public comment is welcomed.

Jeff Going
Chairman



*Cheerleading practice
In Grove Street Park*

Health Department

Essex is a full-time local Health Department 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 & 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 & radon awareness, private drinking water well safety, and promoting healthy home renovation & 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 Essex, Centerbrook, and Ivoryton are *not* served by public sewers and each of the approximately 2,900 developed parcels is served by private on-site septic systems. Continued maintenance of these systems is the responsibility of the property owner however it is the Health Dept. who 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 sent 330 pumpout reminder postcards last year to property owners who were due or overdue for their 5-year septic system maintenance.

Food Service & Other Inspections

Restaurant/Stores/Cafeterias	114
Temporary Food Service Events	25
Public Bathing Areas	10
Public Pools	6
Well Permits Issued	13
Day Cares	2
Salons	9

On-Site Sewage Disposal Activities

New Septic System Permits	8
Septic System Repair Permits	39
Soil Tests (Number of Lots Tested)	32
B100a Compliance (additions, conversions, accessory structures)	91
Orders Issued	3

Complaints / Site Investigations

Nuisance Complaints	31
Sewage Complaints	8
Vector Testing (Ticks)	5
Rabies Testing (Bats)	2
Dead Birds	0

Inlands Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

The Essex Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission is chaired by Dan Lapman. With Mr. Lapman are Fred Szufnarowski (member at large), Jim Leo (member at large), Jim Hill (Zoning Commission liaison), Jeff Lovelace (Conservation Commission liaison), Bill Cook (alternate), and Stephen Knauth (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 2014-2015 fiscal year, the Commission conducted four site inspections and issued fourteen inland wetland permits. The majority of the permits involved activities within upland review areas. The Inland Wetlands Officer issued twelve permits for activities within upland review areas.

Joseph Budrow
Wetlands Enforcement Official



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.

The Park and Recreation Department oversees the maintenance and operations of the following Essex Parks: Clark’s Pond, Comstock, Ivoryton Green, Sunset Pond, Grove Street, Viney Hill Brook, Hubbard, Dickinson, and Main Street. In addition to the ongoing and routine maintenance directed at each park, we also accomplished many parks improvement projects this past year. Most notable, The Ivoryton Village Green has received many new features, including new sidewalks, lighting, planting and picnic tables. Our irrigation and electrical systems have also been upgraded as part of the Main Street Improvement Grant.

Programs are the heart and soul of our department. We offered 85 programs this year, including after-school enrichment programs for our children, processed over 1,200 registrations (86% online), and offered 35 summer camp scholarships

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, Morning with Santa, and Essex go Bragh. We were fortunate to have the support of a number of local businesses and community organizations to be able to bring these events to Essex

The Park and Recreation Commission meets the first Wednesday 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.

Mary Ellen Barnes
Park and Recreation Director



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. Thomas Danyliw was re-elected as chairman in December, and Linda Herman was re-elected Vice-Chairman. Carla Feroni, Alan Kerr, and Ralph Monaco are the other full members. John Ackermann, Robert Laundry, and Claire Tiernan serve as alternates to the Commission. At the end of the year, Linda Herman, John Ackermann, and Claire Tiernan each resigned from the Commission.

During the fiscal year 2014-2015, the Planning Commission undertook the following efforts:

- Undertook a comprehensive revision to the Town’s 2005 Plan of Conservation and Development. The Commission held a number of Public Forum sessions focused on the key development nodes of Essex Village, Centerbrook Village, Ivoryton Village, Bokum Center, and “Essex Junction” at the Route 9 Gateway area, as well as discussions about Economic Development, Conservation, and Zoning. The updated Plan has been completed, and is scheduled for a public hearing and subsequent adoption on October 8, 2015 at the Planning Commission meeting ;
- In furtherance of the Transportation Study, began implementation of Main Street Investment Fund grant to develop a “Shared Street for the Arts” in the center of Ivoryton Village. Construction on this project will be constructed in the late summer/early fall of 2015.
- With funding from the Connecticut Main Street Center, undertook a Centerbrook Visioning Study to assess and make recommendations about design and infrastructure improvement in Centerbrook Village. The recommendations of this Study were incorporated into the Plan of Conservation & Development, and formed the basis for a STEAP Grant for implementation. Funding is still pending.
- 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 will occur in FY 2015-2016.

Thomas Danyliw
Chairman

Probate Court

It is an interesting time for Connecticut's Probate Courts. As you may have heard, as part of the new budget, the general fund support for the Courts was cut to zero. This created a \$32 million dollar shortfall. In an effort to fill this void, the General Assembly dramatically increased probate fees. While some of the increases were timely since the fee structure had not changed since 1998, others are going to have a dramatic negative effect. The filing fees have increased from \$150.00 to \$225.00 however, the legislature eliminated the maximum fees on estates, as a result where the fees were previously capped at \$12,500.00 it is now possible these estates will face six figure invoices.

The other serious concern is that this will affect the most vulnerable residents, in that both children's matters and conservatorships will become more expensive for the families who can least afford them. It also means Connecticut has the country's most expensive Probate Courts. We are hopeful that the legislature will restore the general fund support for the Probate Court.

On the positive side, we have just completed an extensive upgrade of our computer systems. This upgrade will make the court operations more efficient and will make it easier for the public to access file information. Additionally, we now scan in all documents when they are received by the court, so they are immediately available to the public.

We have been successful in keeping the town's probate budget consistent for the last five years and are making every effort to only have minimal, if any increases this year. In the meantime thanks to the effort of my chief clerk, clerks and assistant clerks, the Court will continue to handle matters efficiently and operate smoothly.

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 tree trimming, drainage repairs, replacing several catch basins, chip sealing and paving roadways, curb resets, and doing sidewalk repairs and replacement. The old stonewall in front of the Town Hall was removed and rebuilt.

This winter season was one of the worst on record in terms of ice and snow and our crews responded in full force as a result. The Public Works Department used over 300 tons of salt and 900 yards of sand while keeping our roadways safe for passage. Crews were kept busy sanding, plowing, and responding to concerns from citizens.

The highlight of the 2014-2015 fiscal year was the Ivoryton Village Streetscape Project. This project was funded through a grant from the Main Street Investment Fund. The Public Works department was instrumental in this project overseeing the installation of a new water main, new sidewalks and curbing, decorative crosswalks, regrading, drainage improvements and road replacement.

This spring the PWD, having purchased a new street sweeper due to a tragic accident last fall, did the best with a loaner until the new machine arrived. This type of equipment is not readily available and took considerable time to get here. The crew did its best with the loaner to keep moving with the cleaning process and our roads improved rapidly once the new machine arrived. I'd like to thank the residents of Essex for your patience!

In addition, Town road conditions were assessed and scheduled repairs to pot holes, sink holes, and other roadway damage spots were completed. We assisted the Tree Warden with tree plantings and watering of new trees on West Avenue which was funded partially by the Essex Fire Department.

Projects in the works include a new building at the Town Garage to house equipment and the replacement of two Ivory St. bridges and the Walnut Street bridge, which we anticipate to start in 2016.

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

The Lower Connecticut River Pumpout Boat Program is based here in Essex. We operate two pumpout boats regularly and have a spare. Our area of coverage is the Connecticut River from the East Haddam Bridge to Old Saybrook. Recreational boats served are in marinas, yacht clubs, in front of residences and on moorings.

We operate out of BEIM (Brewers Essex Island Marina). The Brewer's staff has replaced the Schieferdeckers in supporting the Pumpout Boat Program.

The program is fully funded through donations but primarily from the Federal Clean Water Act. Here in Connecticut the program is administered by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

We are on track for setting another record for activity during the 2015 Boating Season. As of this writing we have matched last year's activity with another month to go. This sharply reduces the discharge of untreated waste and disease-carrying organisms into our local waters and harbors. Our program truly helps keep the local waters cleaner.

With the demand growing and the aging of some vessels in our fleet we will be purchasing a new pumpout boat for the 2016 Season.

Joel Severance
Program Manger



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 deaths and electors moving out of town.

The Annual Canvas is required by State Statute and was carried out January thru April. Changes of address, removals and other corrections were made. The help of all electors in this process is greatly appreciated. As of August 24, 2015, there were 4,568 registered voters in the Town of Essex. This number is broken down as follows: Democrats—1400; Republicans—1303; Unaffiliated—1822; Other—43.

On November 4, 2014 we held the Gubernatorial Election, December 15, 2014 we held a special bonding referendum and May 5, 2015 we held the Region 4 District budget referendum. Conducting these elections, primaries and referendums in an efficient and smooth manner is the responsibility of the Registrars.

Essex has always been known for its high voter turnout, especially in comparison to the statewide averages. However, we have noticed lately that our turnout numbers have been declining! We encourage all eligible voters to get out and vote—it is your civic duty! 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 the Secretary of the State's Site--- <https://voterregistration.ct.gov/olvr/>

Lois A. Ely
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 two 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 shore line, 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 2014-2015 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 7915 calls for service as compared to 7788 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.

<u>Statistic</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total Calls for Service	7915
Total Accidents With Report	89
Total Accidents Without Report	15
Total Fatal Accidents	1
Total Fatalities	1
Total Serious Injury Accidents	0
Total Minor Injury Accidents	0
Total Noninjury Accidents	100
Total Accident Dwis	2
Total Onsite Dwis	6
Total Dwis	8
Total Other Reportables	109
Total Nonreportables	6076
Total Motorist Assists	140
Total Citations Primary Charge	1153
Total Citations All Charges	1153
Total Warnings Primary Charge	100
Total Warnings All Charges	498
Total Seatbelt Citations Primary Charge	34
Total Seatbelt Citations All Charges	133
Total Seatbelt Warnings All Charges	53

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. All of the current members are completing their five year terms as of November, 2015. The current Chairperson is F. Ellen Whaley - Wexler. Current at large members are: Carl W. Ellison, Ethan Goller, and Stacia Libby. There is one vacancy. Their terms expire concurrently effective November, 2015. Effective with the upcoming term expirations, and in accordance with Plan provisions, Board Members appointments will be staggered as follows: two individuals for a one year term, two individuals for a three year term and one individual for a five year term.

The ERB meets monthly, generally on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Town Hall in the early evening. The 2015 – 16 annual schedule, agendas and minutes are posted on the Town's website.

The fund balances at the close of the 2014-2015 fiscal year were: \$2,931,178 for the Defined Benefits Retirement Plan for Town Employees \$820,223 for the Merit Service Retirement Plan for Volunteer Firemen, and \$643,850 for the Merit Service Retirement Plan for Police. This included an annual Town contribution to each plan of \$219,040, \$84,999, and \$71,977 respectively.

The ERB issued a RFP for Investment Advisory, Custodial Banking and Actuarial Services for the Town's pension plans in the 2nd quarter of 2014. The ERB reviewed all proposals through an objective evaluation process including interviews and reference checking. All members of the ERB voted unanimously at its August 4, 2014 meeting to select Hooker and Holcombe (West Hartford, CT) to provide Investment Advisory and Actuarial Services. Charles Schwab was also unanimously chosen at the August meeting to provide Custodial Banking. The transition from Bank of America and The Pension Service (actuarial service) was completed on schedule by 12/31/2014.

ERB has also worked with the Town to review and pursue updates of administrative procedures for the Plans during the transition process. New capabilities now available include web-enabled participant access to information

regarding their pension benefits.

The Town of Essex Police Retirement plan was amended effective (Amendment no. 2) on July 1, 2015 to reflect an added retirement criteria for recognition of credited years of service. The change was effective as of July 1, 2015.

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 strives 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 five public hearings, thirteen Town Meetings and a Region 4 District Budget Referendum. The Town Clerk's office received a \$5,000 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 2014 – 2015 fiscal year for the Town of Essex:

Birth Certificates, 27 Death Certificates, 83 Marriage Licenses, 82 Dog Licenses, 675 with 1 Kennel Survey Maps, 15 Trade Names, 26 Land Record, 1,352

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

Dog License Fees, \$5,554 Marriage Surcharge Fees, \$1,511 Sports License Fees, \$2,521 Preservation Fees – State Library, \$3,036 State Treasurer Fees, \$60, 216

Monies to the General Fund:

Conveyance Tax, \$159,075 Town Clerk Fees, \$125,112

This office issues the following: Dog License, Sports License, Marriage License, Trade Name Certificates, Punch Cards and Transfer Station Stickers.

The following request forms may be printed off our website: Absentee Ballot Applications, Birth Certificates, Marriage License and Death Certificates, as well as a current list of our Justices of the Peace.

Veterans: Please note that by September 30th you need to file your DD-214 (Discharge) with this office in order to receive the Veteran's exemption.

Our office is open Monday—Friday 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, 2015 this office handled the many miscellaneous matters customary for Town operation, such as Town Meeting calls, questions relating to and/or amendment of Ordinances, interpretation of statutes, procedures appointments to vacancies on Boards and Commissions and the jurisdiction of various entities over matters.

Litigation was reduced by the successful settlement of the remaining tax appeals from the 2013 Reevaluation. None of the reduced values of the properties involved were significant and all reductions were based upon independent appraisals.

After considerable rewriting and editing a Town Ethics Ordinance was adopted and implementation of its provisions is now taking place. Considerable care was directed at assuring due process for those accused of unethical conduct as well as assuring that all complaints received independent and objective review.

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

David Royston



Tree Committee

The Essex Tree Committee was established in 1990 to inventory, preserve and replace our priceless resource of street trees. Funding for the plantings comes from the Town, grants and private donations. During the period of 2014-2015 we have planted forty seven trees. The tree type and location are as follows: One Red Sunset Maple (*Acer rubrum* 'Franksred') at 46 Comstock Avenue, one Red Sunset Maple (*Acer rubrum* 'Franksred') at 64 High Street, one English Oak (*Quercus robur*) at the corner of Melody Lane and Walnut Street, one Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Moraine') at 5 Donald Road, one London Plane Tree (*Platanus x acerifolia*) at 168 River Road, one American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*) on the West Avenue Town strip, one Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*) at 44 Walnut Street, one Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*) on Methodist Hill, one Princeton Elm (*Ulmus americana*) at 11 West Avenue, one Princeton Elm (*Ulmus americana*) at Middle Cove Condominiums, one London Plane Tree (*Platanus x acerifolia*) at 15 Dennison Road, one Sunset Red Maple (*Acer rubrum* 'Franksred') at Middle Cove Condominiums and one Red Sunset Maple (*Acer rubrum* 'Franksred') at 147 Dennison Road. Several of these plantings were made possible through the generous donations of Essex residents.

In addition to these individual donations, 33 Eastern Red Cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*) were equally funded by The Essex Foundation and The Essex Fire Department. This donation allowed the ETC to implement a project that has been thought about for years, which is the beautification of the West Avenue gateway.

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

Augie Pampel
Chairman



Eastern Red Cedars planted along West Avenue Gateway

Water Pollution Control Authority

The WPCA completed the internal work necessary toward developing a new town-wide Wastewater Management Plan and is in the process of preparing the Request for Qualifications. Working with the Economic Development Commission, the Planning Commission, the Zoning Commission and the Board of Selectmen, we now have sufficient funds set aside in a sinking fund to move forward with the new Wastewater Management Plan. 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 recently 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: Ken Bombaci, Randel Osborne, Leigh Rankin, Mark Reeves, Robert Van Houten, Alvin Wolfgram.

Zoning Board of Appeals

The Essex Zoning Board of Appeals is chaired by Paul Greenberg. With Mr. Greenberg are Alexander Daddona, Michael Noto, Tim Furgueson and William Viелlette. Alternate Members are Peter Decker, Ward Feirer and Barbara Sarrantonio. 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. 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.

There were a total of thirty public hearings held before the ZBA this year. The Board granted twenty-eight variances and denied two others. The Board also approved one location for automobile service station.

Zoning Commission

The Zoning Commission is chaired by Larry Shipman and has eight seats. With Mr. Shipman are Susan Uihlein, Alvin Wolfgram, William Reichenbach and Jim Hill as regular members with Jeff Lovelace 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 2014 – 2015 year the Commission held twelve public hearings. It approved nine special exceptions and 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.

Zoning Enforcement

The zoning and wetlands official carries out a multi-faceted position within the Land Use department. With the zoning and wetlands regulations as guidance this individual administers 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.

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. Supervision is given to administrative staff as necessary.

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

During the 2014 – 2015 fiscal year the Zoning Official approved 133 zoning permits and eight wetland permits.

Town of Essex

2015 Annual Report

Financial Information

Table of Contents

	Page
Finance Report	
Historical Revenue	F2
FY 2014-2015 Revenue Breakdown	F2
Historical Expenditures	F3
Pension Trust Funds	F3
Revenue Accounts	F4
Expenditure Accounts	F5
Capital Project Sinking Fund Balances	F7
Unassigned Fund Balance by Fiscal Year	F7
School Enrollment and Region 4 Budget History	F8
Tax Collector's Report	
Annual Tax Collections Report	F9
Total FY 2015 Collections by Category	F9
Assessor's Report	
Grand List Reports	F10
Grand List 2014 Assessments by Category	F11
Top 10 Taxpayers	F12
Historical Mill Rates	F12
Important Annual Dates	F12

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 under the Finance Department webpage.

Town of Essex 2015 Annual Report Finance Report

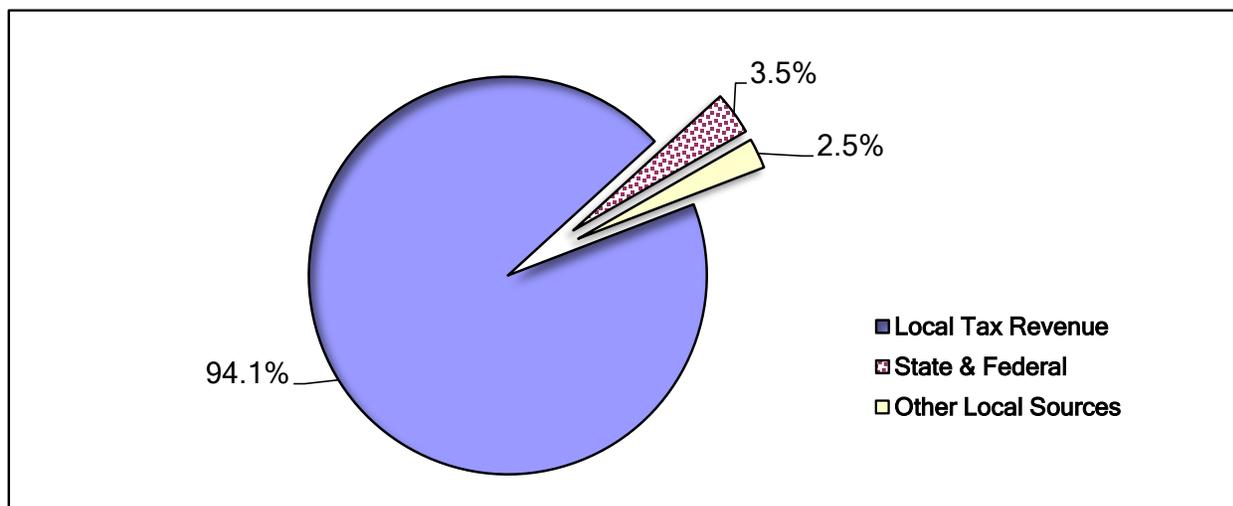
Historical Data - Revenue

(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
Fund Balance at Beginning of Fiscal Year (market value)	\$ 2,749,272	\$ 785,938	\$ 620,567
Contributions:			
From General Fund and Members	219,040	84,999	78,519
Income:			
Net Investment Income	170,109	48,292	36,624
Total Beginning Balance, Contributions & Income	\$ 3,138,421	\$ 919,229	\$ 735,710
Operating Expenses			
Retirement Benefits Paid	196,259	88,917	86,433
Administration	10,984	10,089	5,427
Total Operating Expenses	207,243	99,006	91,860
Fund Balance at End of Fiscal Year (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
TAX COLLECTION					
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
Total Tax Collection	21,326,486	21,628,339	21,720,417	92,078	21,833,424
STATE & FEDERAL					
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
Total State & Federal	827,756	804,577	792,404	(12,173)	807,754
LOCAL REVENUES					
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
Total Local Revenues	747,553	568,480	688,505	120,025	582,205
TOTAL REVENUE ALL SOURCES	\$ 22,901,795	\$ 23,001,396	\$ 23,201,326	\$ 199,930	\$ 23,223,383

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
BOARD OF SELECTMEN					
GENERAL GOVERNMENT					
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
Total General Government	2,609,372	2,831,753	2,736,152	(95,601)	2,902,076
PUBLIC SAFETY					
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
Total Public Safety	1,190,128	1,249,950	1,163,053	(86,897)	1,312,562

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
HEALTH AND WELFARE					
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
LIBRARIES	372,000	379,300	379,300	-	390,559
HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION					
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
DEBT SERVICE					
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
CAPITAL AND SINKING FUNDS	645,845	630,040	630,689	649	456,889
GRANTS & SPECIAL APPROP.	15,000	19,276	18,178	(1,098)	-
TOTAL BOARD OF SELECTMEN	7,114,104	7,530,384	7,307,742	(222,642)	7,456,688
EDUCATION					
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
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 22,746,910	\$ 23,385,186	\$ 23,023,637	\$ (361,549)	\$ 23,251,936

Fiscal Year End Revenue Excess/(Deficit)

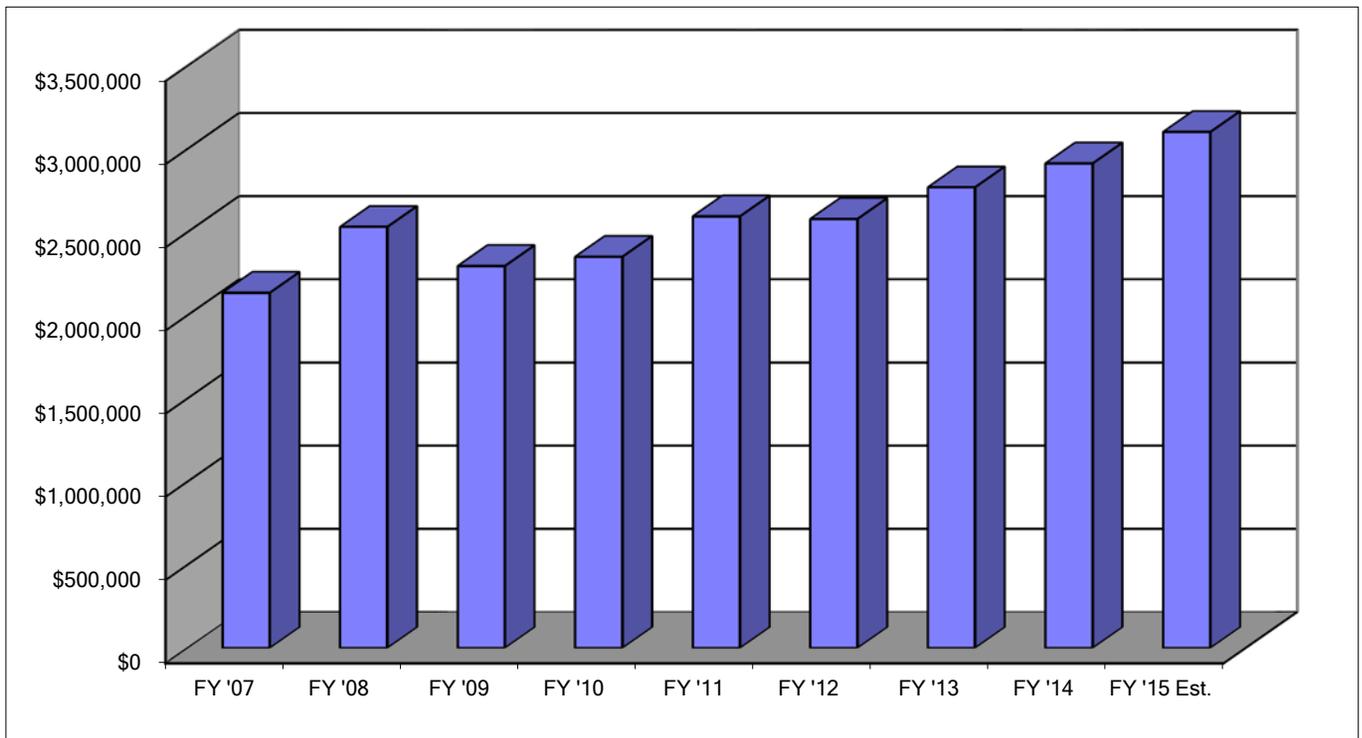
DESCRIPTION	FY 2013-2014	Fiscal Year 2014-2015			FY 2015-2016
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 22,901,795	\$ 23,001,396	\$ 23,201,326	\$ 199,930	\$ 23,223,383
Total Expenditures	22,746,910	23,385,186	23,023,637	\$ (361,549)	23,251,936
Excess (Deficit) of Revenues over Expenditures	\$ 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
Totals	\$ 1,369,364	\$ 339,500	\$ 22,308	\$ 343,172	\$ 1,388,000

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

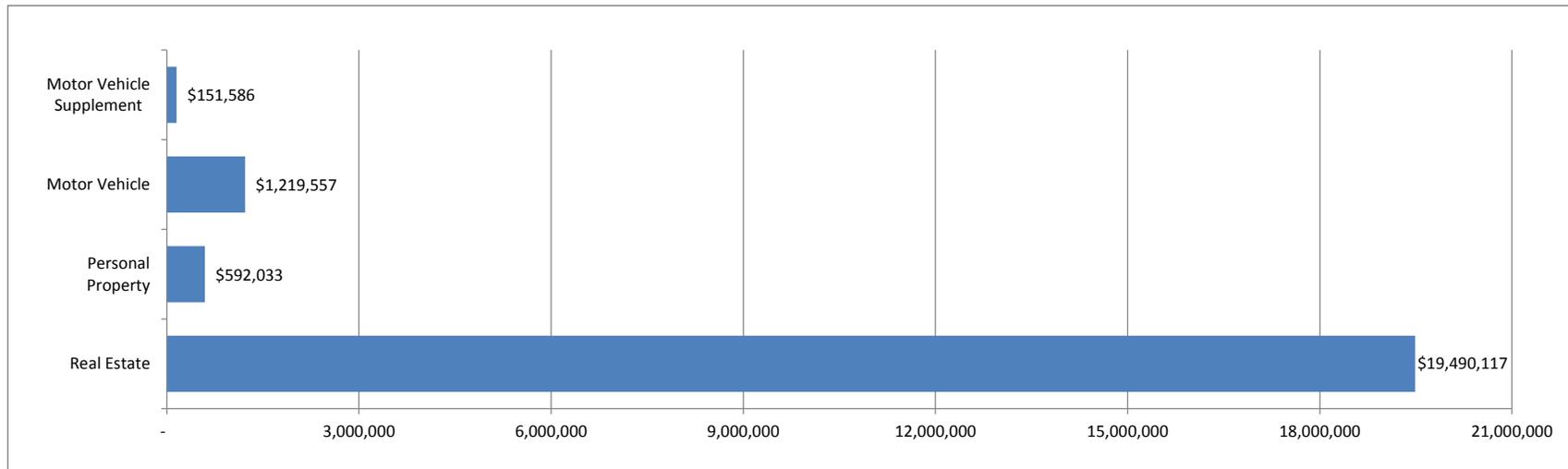
**This number does not represent the Net Current Expenses per Pupil (NCEP) reported by the CT Department of Education which excludes Special Education and other costs

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
Total	476,250	21,743,211	18,106	95,981	37,375	\$22,104,211	21,604,747	129,760	1,680	21,736,187	499,464

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	-
Net	\$ 940,869,120	\$ 942,522,250

	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	-
Net	\$ 29,585,631	\$ 31,416,750

	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
Net	\$ 61,095,560	\$ 62,881,170

	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
Net	\$ 1,031,550,311	\$ 1,036,820,170

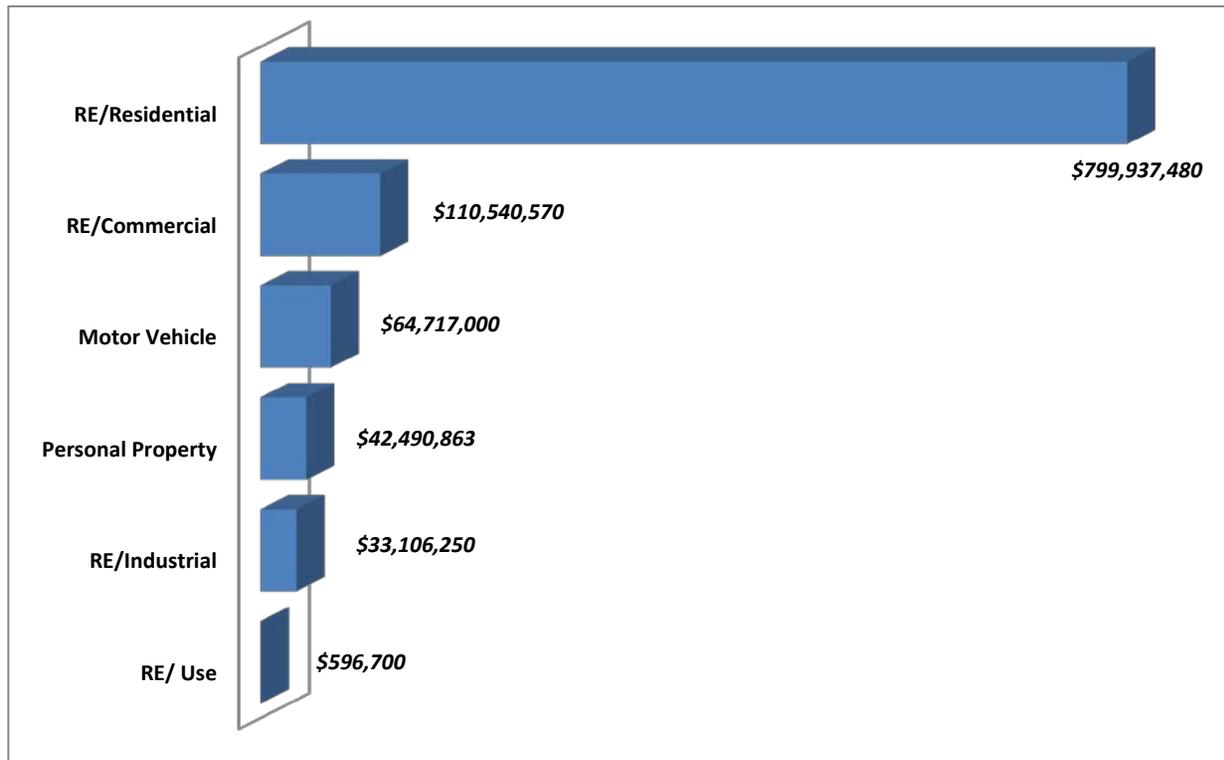
*No longer being reimbursed by State of Connecticut

**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
Total	\$ 1,031,550,311	\$ 1,036,820,170	\$ 5,269,859

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 Weeders

The Ancient Order of Weeders, started in 1981, and consists of about twenty members. While most are retired, many also volunteer in various Essex community projects, including Town commissions.

We fertilize, weed, replace plants, mulch, and perform all the functions of typical gardeners, including upgrading with new rose bushes and evergreens, geraniums, and petunias. The flowers are donated by the Essex Garden Club, while Bombaci helps with mulch. Other costs for materials and plantings are dependent upon donations from our citizenry.

Our work area includes the islands both North and South of the intersection of 153 and 154 at the entrance to Essex, as well as the Garden Club's flowers around the "silent policeman" at the entrance to Main Street, where we water on a regular basis.

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 child, 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, 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 District #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 almost 1,800 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. Additionally, the Essex office sponsors Parent Project, a structured 10 week class for parents with adolescents whose behavior is considered high risk.

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 non-profit agency with a \$12 million budget, program funding comes from private,



CT Summer Food Program— Sponsored by Essex Community Fund

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 Essex Yacht Club at 6:30pm. Visit our website at www.childandfamilyagency.org to learn more or call Pat Mackenzie Thompson, Auxiliary Chairperson, Barbara Burgess, Membership Chairperson, or Lynn Fairfield-Sonn, Director of Development

Connecticut River Gateway Commission

In 1973, the Connecticut Legislature recognized the Lower Connecticut River Valley as one of the State's most important natural, recreational and scenic areas, and authorized establishment of the Connecticut River Gateway Commission. In July 1974, the Commission became operational with eight eligible towns, two regional planning agencies and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection participating.

The Gateway Conservation Zone is about 30 miles long and includes those 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. Since 1973, this area has been recognized as a unique area. The Nature Conservancy has designated the lower Connecticut River as one of its

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, a statutory responsibility that gives the Commission a great deal of authority and say over land use along the river in the lower river valley. It's a responsibility that the Commission takes very seriously.

As of June 30, 2015, Gateway member towns of Chester, Deep River, East Haddam, Haddam, Lyme, Old Lyme and Old Saybrook have incorporated the 2004 standards into their zoning regulations as required by State Statute. The Gateway Commission has completed new additions to the existing standards and has discussed them with each of the eight member town zoning authorities. It is expected that the new standards will be adopted and included in each town's zoning regulations by the end of 2015.

RiverCOG Environmental Planner Margot Burns has continued the collaboration of land trusts within the lower



“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.

While other organizations have primarily concerned themselves with natural ecological systems in the river valley, this Commission has concentrated much of its attention on the protection of key lands along the river that contribute to the valley's scenic qualities. Since its inception, the Commission has worked with others to protect well over 1,000 acres of land through over \$1 million in gifts or purchase of scenic easements, development rights and fee simple titles. The Commission is in the final stage of donating their last two parcels of protected land, one in Chester and one in East Haddam.

Another significant role assigned to the Gateway Commission by the 1973 legislation is establishment of common zoning standards for height, setback, lot coverage and the like, which member towns have agreed to adopt and enforce within the Gateway Conservation Zone. At its monthly meetings, the Commission reviews and acts on zone changes, regulations changes and variance applications

Connecticut River – the Lower Connecticut River and Coastal Region Land Trust Exchange (LTE) - with an eye toward a greater alliance and coordination amongst the trusts. Conservation effectiveness is the goal which is being pursued through regional collaboration without losing individual autonomy. The Gateway Commission's sister land trust – the Connecticut River Land Trust – participates in the alliance work. Find out about the Exchange at www.lcrlandtrustexchange.org

Members as of June 30, 2015 include: Margaret Wilson (Treasurer) and Martha Wallace of Chester; Nancy Fischbach; Harvey Thomas and Emmett Lyman of East Haddam; Claire Matthews and Jerri MacMillian of Essex; Susan R. Bement and Derek Turner of Haddam, J. Melvin Woody (Chairman) and Emily Bjornberg of Lyme; Peter Cable and Suzanne Thompson (Vice Chairman) of Old Lyme; Madeline Fish (Secretary) and Belinda Ahern of Old Saybrook; Raul de Brigard of RiverCOG; and David Blatt of the Connecticut DEP (Commissioner's Representative). Fenwick Borough has been designated an ad hoc member and is represented by Borough Warden Ethel Davis. Going into fiscal year 2015-2016, the Commission continues to seek a regional representative from RiverCOG.

For more information, contact River COG Senior Planner and Gateway staff J. H. Torrance Downes at (860) 581-8554.

Connecticut River Museum

The Connecticut River Museum is pleased to report that it had a highly successful year preserving the history of the River Valley and exploring its rich natural environment through education and community events.

Education is at the heart of what the Connecticut River Museum is all about. The organization directly served 25,000 people during the past year. Over 4,000 school children across the state participated in on- and off-site programs. Another 1,000 children received free or reduced admissions. These programs provide valuable hands-on experiences and skills that can last a lifetime. Many of these young people might not have this valuable experience if not made possible by the Connecticut River Museum and its supporters. In addition to school programs, six popular weeks of summer camp examined themes such as Native Americans, colonial life, maritime history, and environmental studies.

Bus groups, members, and many others came to learn along the banks of the river. In summer they cruised on the 1906 Schooner *Mary E*, and in winter they explored the wonders of nature aboard Project O's *Envirolab III*. They also attended numerous lectures and workshops. New in 2015, visitors had the ability to access the River through the Museum's Paddle Explorer's Program, which provided canoes and kayaks for guided and self-guided tours.

The Museum's three floors of dedicated exhibits continued to celebrate and share the River's rich history and natural legacy. Permanent exhibits explore enduring themes such as: Freedom – David Bushnell's Revolutionary War Turtle; Sacrifice – 27 ships lost in the British Raid on Essex; and Fortitude – the stone cutters, shad fishermen, and women who kept home (or ship) on barges.

Changing exhibits showcased important historic subjects and timely issues, such as *New Deal Art Along the River* and photographer William Burt's *Water Babies*. Currently being planned for 2016 is the exhibit *Invaders: They Come by Air, Land and Water*. This exhibit – and series of related programs – will highlight invasive species to the River Valley and what residents can do to mitigate the damage.

More than anything, these exhibits and artifacts humanize the past. They create empathy for those who came before and respect for the River itself. This is why the Museum collects a variety of objects and materials from the past, such as log books, tools, paintings, and ship models. Recent acquisitions to the Museum include a Connecticut River shad boat, a mid 19th-century painting of the Ox Bow, and a folk-model of the tugboat *Dewey*.

Today, museums are more than education and collections. They are centers for community discourse and interaction. Community events in 2015 included: Theater Along the River; Community Boat Building; Thursdays on the Dock; the Antique and Classic Boat Show; the Rotary Club of Essex's Annual Shad Bake; River Fare; and Fall Ball.

There have also been countless community volunteers and members who have been involved in many critical ways. We would like to thank them for their support throughout the year and open an invitation to those who would like to get involved with the Museum's programs, exhibits, and collections.

The Connecticut River Museum was founded in 1974 with a mission dedicated to:

*study, preserve and celebrate
the cultural and natural heritage
of the Connecticut River and its Valley*

For more information on the Museum and to get involved please visit www.ctrivermuseum.org or call 860-767-8269.



Essex Ambulance Association

On January 1, 1977 Essex Ambulance Association, Inc. began to provide emergency medical service. We have come a long way since a small group of dedicated members achieved that goal.

Sabra "Sam" O'Donnell was a member of the original group and she continues today with the organization as President and more importantly valued mentor. It is with deep appreciation for her continued service and friendship that we dedicate this report to her.

We would like to thank our residents and businesses for their unwavering and continued support. Equally important we thank our members and their families for their continued dedication and commitment to our community. They are exceptional people drawn together even with their many differences by a common goal of caring for their community. They readily accept the risks and challenges that come with providing emergency medical services to the community, we are grateful for their commitment and their families support.

Our members responded to 811 emergency calls last year, including medical emergencies, traumatic injuries, cardiac arrests, psychiatric emergencies, fire stand-by's, police stand-by's and requests for mutual aid assistance to our surrounding communities. We also assisted at many local civic functions; it's been a busy year.

This year with the help of your generous donations we were able to purchase a new Ferno PowerTraxx evacuation chair and a new Ferno IN/X power stretcher, which will allow us to move patients safer and reduce the risk of injury to our members. Thank you!

Funding is acquired 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 their assistance and support.

We are always looking for exceptional people to join us. If you are interested in becoming a member contact us. The satisfaction of helping a neighbor is 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 non-profit art gallery in existence since 1946, and 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 work.

Between the beginning of July 2014 through the end of June 2015, 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. During the early spring of 2015, the Essex Rotary Club organized and hosted an exhibition of EAA member artists' work. In addition, the Essex Corinthian Yacht Club invites EAA members to display artwork at the Yacht Club several times a year.

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:

Rob DeBartolo, President
Pam Carlson, Vice-President
Nancy King, Secretary
Bob Gantner, Treasurer
Barbara Morrissey, Member
Peggy Price, Member
Cathy Puccio, Member
Chip Rutan, Member
Joanne Ryan, Member
Kay Brigante, Co-Administrative Director
Anne Coffey, Co-Administrative Director

Essex Board of Trade

The Essex Board of Trade 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 "non-profit" 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 on 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.

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. News and events are listed on the calendar on our website, www.essexct.com.

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 is having a busy 66th year making your donations matter more. Established in 1949, ECF is one of the oldest and most unique organizations in Essex. Our mission continues to be to enhance the quality of life of the residents of Essex, Centerbrook and Ivoryton. This is accomplished by identifying community needs, providing financial support and forging partnerships with local non-profit organizations. Our focus is on the collective good of the community and 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 2015 Day of Giving, ECF was proud to distribute funds to thirty-one local non-profit 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 also worked with End Hunger CT local churches and the Essex Veteran's Memorial Hall to provide the first ever- Free Summer Meal Program. Our groups worked together for 7 weeks providing and maintaining a summer meal program until school began. The Bridge Fund was made available as a tool for the Essex Social Services Department to manage the short term and immediate financial needs for residents and families facing emergency or crisis situations as a prelude to established services. ECF continues the Fuel Assistance Program, is proud to co-sponsor two Stuff -A-Cruisers with the Essex Police in November and December, is working collaboratively with local mental health organizations and professionals on the second presentation of *Compassion Counts*, a community mental health and wellness conversation. You will see ECF working in the community with Park & Rec Department in St. Patty's Day Parade, bringing Scarecrows to town with Essex Board of Trade and supporting the Ivoryton Alliance at *Illuminations*.

Fall and Spring mailings and our annual fundraiser generate donations. 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 nine local residents keeping expenditures to a minimum while allowing the fullest extent of your contributions to be distributed 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.

Jacqueline D. Doane, President
Essex Community Fund

Essex Fire Engine Company No. 1

The fiscal year 2014 – 2015 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. Still some went on to become fire service instructor and fire officer certified. 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.

Great progress has been made in our training facility. A small group of dedicated members commits even more time every week to the construction of this facility being funded completely through private donations. We have already begun to train in this facility, ushering forth a new era of invaluable training opportunities that this facility will provide members of this department for generations to come.

This year the department chose to replace its first ever EMS first responder vehicle. Purchased in 1988, the vehicle has given years of reliable service to the residents of Essex. Like its predecessor, the new vehicle has been purchased utilizing private donations. The 2015 Chevrolet Silverado has a 9 foot walk in rescue body that will allow our Volunteers to continue to expand the levels of service they provide to the town.

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 non-profit organization whose mission is civic beautification, conservation and education. Its membership is open to residents of Essex, Centerbrook, and Ivoryton.

During 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 then decorated the town for the winter holidays. Annual plants were purchased in the spring and delivered to various places in Essex and Centerbrook, including Essex Fire Department, Essex Landfill and Recycling Center, Centerbrook Post Office, the Ancient Order of Weeders to plant on the islands on Rt. 154. 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 were planted and maintained throughout the summer. A monetary gift was given to the Ivoryton Village Gardeners for plant material to support their planting in this community. Several members assisted the Essex Historical Society with maintaining the kitchen garden at the historic Pratt House.

The Essex Garden Club awarded three scholarships for college students majoring in Environmental Studies for \$1,000 each, totaling \$3,000. For Summer Youth Programs, four camperships to Bushy Hill Nature Center were awarded for a total of \$2,080 (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 Essex, Centerbrook, or Ivoryton.

Our club also sponsored programs for our two libraries, assisted and funded many junior activities, donated books to the libraries, and provided weekly

flower arrangements to Essex Library.

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

Linda Newberg
President



Water Rescue Exercise

Essex Historical Society

Mission Statement Essex Historical Society:
Engaging and Inspiring the Community.
Essex. Ivoryton. Centerbrook.

In 2014, EHS collaborated with the Connecticut River Museum and the Town of Essex to complete the commemoration of Battlesite Essex with talks from project historian Jerry Roberts, an exhibit at the library and the 4th Annual Antique Auto Show with Belltown Auto Club, which toured several battle locations. September's Tri-Town Vintage Base Ball Game welcomed more than 250 people for friendly team rivalry between Chester, Deep River and Essex. We hosted our Annual Meeting at the gracious Ivoryton Playhouse and opened Pratt House on Thanksgiving Weekend to coincide with Trees-in-the-Rigging.

EHS celebrates its 60th Anniversary in 2015, hosting favorite programs such as the Strawberry Social, Annual Preservation Award and lecture series, while creating collaborative partnerships with Essex Meadows, the Connecticut River Museum and Centerbrook Architects, among others. We redesigned our website and launched two separate walking tours, one of lower Main Street and another of Prospect Street, to "take history to the streets."

The 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. These knowledgeable volunteers meet every Tuesday, 9 AM-noon, to catalogue and properly house the thousands of objects, photographs, maps and archives entrusted to EHS's care.

The Town's only historic house museum, The Pratt House (19 West Ave.), received a well-deserved makeover, thanks in part to a 1772 Foundation grant. Project Manager Fred Szufranowski supervised the scraping, repainting and repair of Pratt House's exterior and its outbuildings. Eagle Scout Sean Watson and his team built raised garden beds containing period-appropriate herbs planted and maintained by the Essex Garden Club. The Town's Community Garden continues to share a portion of the Pratt House's back field. Our trained volunteer docents welcome visitors from all over the country. Free, guided tours are open to the public, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 1- 4 PM June through September and by appointment.

EHS celebrates "A Dickinson Year" by developing new programs centered on the history of the E. E. Dickinson Witch Hazel Co. In addition to a publication, lectures, a benefit house tour of former Dickinson properties and a themed auto-tour, we are partnering with Valley Railroad to refurbish the nearly-intact Yellow Label Store on Rt. 153. Please visit our website, www.essexhistory.org for events, membership and fulfilling volunteer opportunities. Thank you for all of the community support!

Melissa A. Josefiak
Director

Essex Land Trust

This past year has been an incredibly busy one in many different areas. Probably the item that first comes to mind concerns the efforts to acquire The Preserve. The Essex community has played a significant role especially in fundraising. Combined public and private fundraising attributable to Essex amounts to \$1.3 million, that's 13% of the total funds raised while Essex' 70 acres account for only 7% of the Preserve's total area. Over 200 individuals or organizations contributed \$616,000. The Town of Essex contributed an additional \$200,000 from its Open Space Sinking Fund and the State of Connecticut awarded a grant of \$471,000 from its Open Space Fund to the Essex Land Trust.

The Land Trust now owns 98 of the 174 acres that comprise Great Meadow and will continue to acquire additional parcels if the owners are willing to sell them to us. With the purchase of 3 parcels, located immediately south of Comstock field in Ivoryton, totaling 18 acres, we are aiming to create a beautiful corridor of protected woodlands and wetlands with public access from Comstock Field.

Last year Essex resident Ina Bomze purchased the derelict property on the corner of North Main and New City Streets. She has had the house demolished and has given the property to the Land Trust. Owner Ted Zito is giving a 5.7-acre property located very near to the Land Trust's Windswept Ridge. Finally, the Land Trust recently completed the purchase of the Johnson farm as well as two adjacent building lots, amounting to 49 acres. The farm will now be open to the public for passive recreation.

Membership in the Essex Land Trust continues strong with 372 households being active, an increase of 20 versus 2013. Our Conservators for Life are 138, an increase of 8. In 2014, we held 16 events, all free and open to the public and counted over 800 individual participants.

This year's winner of the David Hyde Award for Excellence in Natural History is Annie Brown, a junior at Valley Regional High School. Annie will be attending UCONN's one-week Natural Resources Academy, which aims to train Connecticut high school students in ecological and environmental sciences so that they can contribute to wise land use and land management decisions.

The past year's operational income was \$157,000 while expenses were \$83,000. We have been fortunate to receive support from local businesses in our community through donations in kind and sponsorships from: Essex Printing, Bartlett Tree Experts, Landscape Specialties, Ann Penniman Associates, A.J. Shea Construction, The Lee Company, Tree Tender and Essex Savings Bank.

Jim Denham
President

Essex Lions Club

The Essex Lions Club is proud to have served the Town of Essex for over 50 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 Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Ivoryton Tavern. 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 non-profit regional senior center located at 220 Main Street in Old Saybrook with café sites also in Clinton, Killingworth, and Old Lyme. 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 67,983 nutritious meals including nearly 51,558 home delivered Meals On Wheels, and over 16,425 congregate meals, 554 rides to medical outpatient appointments outside the nine-town Estuary Region. Also, 1,046 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, we are expanding the hours of this program by 30% too meet the need.

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, use our fitness center, or just sit and enjoy our beautiful view. ECSI has a lovely, large facility that welcomes residents of the Estuary region 50 years old or better. All in all we had over 99,498 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 29 residents a total of 3756 home delivered meals and an additional 38 residents joined us for 1160 congregate meals. Our Emergency Medical Outpatient Transportation provided 5 individuals with 6 rides to medical appointments. We had a total of 7732 visits by a total of 477 people overall to the center from residents of Essex

ECSI is funded in part by contributions from the generosity of the nine towns in the Estuary Region, Senior Resources Agency on Aging with Title III funds made available under the Older Americans Act, grants, donations, and fund raising efforts. I would like to thank the Town of Essex for your continued support of our programs. For information and schedules of our services and programs, please call 388-1611 weekdays from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or visit our website at www.ecsenior.org. If you do not already receive our monthly newsletter, please call us and we'll be happy to add you to our mailing list or send it electronically. The newsletter is also downloadable from our website. We are pleased to continue to serve the residents of Essex and be an integral part of services for seniors in the Estuary Region.

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 six 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.

Though the expansion of services slowed this year, ETD is aggressively pursuing funding to provide new deviated fixed route service between Middletown and Madison along Route 81. Funds are also being sought to extend the Shoreline Shuttle hours as well as make service adjustments to improve the on-time performance.

ETD continued to grow its unrestricted fund balance, which is now at almost 12% of the annual operating budget. This has enhanced ETD's cash flow position, reducing the need for borrowing and reducing interest expense.

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 2014, FISH provided 745 round-trip rides to the residents of our three towns. Of our 51 drivers, 39 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 Essex Rotary, the Essex Savings Bank, the Deep River Community Health Committee 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 to 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 2014, the Ivoryton Playhouse annual revenue once again exceeded \$1 million and subscriptions, memberships and sponsorships were the strongest they've ever been and our shows were some of the best ever produced.

Summer 2014 began with hip-swiveling fun from *All Shook Up* - a high energy musical featuring the songs of Elvis Presley. In August, the Playhouse was the coolest place to be (in more ways than one!) where one of Broadway's biggest hits, *La Cage Aux Folles*, was a highlight of the summer.

Ivoryton exploded with excitement as we hosted a World Premiere event in September. *Comedy is Hard!*, a brand new play by Mike Reiss - celebrated writer of *The Simpsons* and the critically acclaimed *I'm Connecticut* - featured Micky Dolenz (*The Monkees*) and Joyce DeWitt (*Three's Company*) on the Ivoryton stage. And finally, our 2014 season closed with *Say Goodnight, Gracie* - a heart-warming play that celebrates the life, laughter and love of George Burns and Gracie Allen followed in December by our holiday production *Bells of Dublin Part II: Carol of the Bells*.

In March 2015, the Playhouse produced *Stand by Your Man* - the Tammy Wynette

story followed in April by *The Last Romance*, a heartwarming comedy by Joe DiPietro. June featured a US Premiere with the unforgettable *Calendar Girls* - a riotously funny and sweetly sentimental story of ladies who pose *au natural* for a fundraising calendar. Starring Playhouse favorites Jacqui Hubbard and Beverley Taylor, *Calendar Girls* was wildly popular featuring many sold out performances.

In addition to producing great entertainment, the Playhouse welcomed partnerships with local non-profits including Essex Community Fund, Community Foundation of Middlesex County, Terri Brodeur Breast Cancer Foundation, YMCA, HOPE Partnership, and the Coalition on Housing and Homelessness.

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



Tammy Wynette visits the Ivoryton Playhouse

Ivoryton Village Alliance

The Ivoryton Village Alliance was formed in 2010 when a group of non-profits, community groups and businesses got together to revitalize Ivoryton and create a sense of community for the residents living in the village. Ivoryton was struggling to establish its own identity and attract visitors to its shops, restaurants, services, art gallery and the historic Ivoryton Playhouse.

Chris Shane, an Ivoryton resident, approached the Alliance with the idea to "Light up Ivoryton" using his considerable collection of Christmas lights. Volunteers created large scale displays and decorated the Village Green with 100,000 lights, illuminations and inflatables. Over 2,000 people attended the first "switch on" event to marvel at Santa Claus flying in to land on the patio of the Ivoryton Playhouse. The event was a huge success and an enormous boost for the town with visitors coming from all over the state to enjoy the brightest village in Connecticut.

Today, five years on, money donated from First Niagara, Citizens Bank, Essex Savings Bank, Essex Meadows, Guilford Savings Bank and a media sponsorship from Valley Courier allows the Alliance to produce even bigger and brighter displays with over 300,000 lights. At this annual event, over 3,000 people attend. Community groups (including Lions Club, Rotary Club, local churches, and Boy Scouts among others) promote

their work, 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 all lit up with over 30,000 lights

Today the Alliance has over 30 members and is more committed than ever to promoting the Village of Ivoryton in positive ways. The Alliance supports three major events for the village: the July 4th parade, the Pumpkin Festival and the Ivoryton Illuminations. A Farmer's Market is also a feature on the Village Green during the summer running every Saturday until October. The Ivoryton Farmers Market was ranked number 80 among the top 100 most celebrated farmers market in *American Farmland Trust's I Love My Farmers Market Celebration*.

To learn more about the Ivoryton Village Alliance please visit www.ivorytonalliance.org



Libraries

Essex Library Association

The Essex Library underwent a number of physical changes this year thanks to generous support from both private individuals and community partners. In the fall of 2014 the Enid Jobson Memorial Reading Garden was created on the West Avenue side of the building. We are extremely grateful that her family chose to honor her memory by sponsoring this beautiful new outdoor space.

When the Library was renovated in 2006 the doors on the new front entrance proved to be very difficult to operate. A substantial gift from the Friends of the Essex Library enabled the replacement of the old doors with new ones that operate automatically, making access much easier for all, especially those who are physically challenged.

The Friends of the Essex Library contributed almost \$50,000 last year to support the Library. It is a volunteer auxiliary that provides services and raises funds for programs and equipment that are outside the library's budget. Their motto, *No dues, just camaraderie*, offers everyone the opportunity to become a Friend and support the library without any specific obligations. It's easy to become a Friend. Brochures that include an application form are available at the Library. The Friends' webpage provides further information. Visit www.youressexlibrary.org and click on *Friends*.

As patrons enter the Library building they are now greeted by our digital bulletin board, made possible by a grant from Guilford Savings Bank. This tool is used to present publicity about Library programs in multimedia formats, as well as provide information about upcoming events sponsored by other non-profit organizations in our community.

Thanks to the Essex Rotary Club, we now have a museum quality system for displaying the works of local artists. The Rotary grant also paid for an audio learning center for our Children's Department - an important tool for helping children reach their full reading potential.

Finally, four new public computers have been added to the adult side of the Library thanks to a grant from the Aeroflex Foundation. These additional machines will enable us to instruct more of our patrons in the latest technologies, as well as provide an important resource for job seekers or others who may not have a computer at home.

We are extremely grateful to these donors for their generous gifts. The Essex Library could not provide the high level of service that we strive to bring to our patrons without their community minded support!

Richard Conroy
Director

Ivoryton Library Association

We endured the construction in Ivoryton Village this year and are enjoying the new look! Our busy year ended with a spectacular fourth triennial Through the Garden Gate – a Historic House and Garden Tour. Other village-wide events we held or in which we participated: 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.

The Children's Room hosted year round weekly storytimes, Music with Margie bi-monthly programs, Third Friday Movies, and several summer programs. The Summer Reading events were very popular this year with visits from Music with Margie, Sparky the Fire Dog, Ashleigh's Garden, Florence Griswold Museum, and more. New this summer were twice-weekly summer storytimes held at Essex Island Marina.

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. Please contact us with inquiries on the use of these spaces.

Many thanks to our Archival Committee: Betty Austin, Mary Catherine Colburn, 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. Our series, An Intimate History of Ivoryton, began with programs on Ivoryton Grammar School in September, celebrating the library buildings 125th Birthday in November and the Three Churches of Ivoryton in May.

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 - our 5K Run/Walk in October, Holiday Silent Auction, the first joint fundraiser with the Essex Library at the Ivoryton Playhouse and our Fourth Triennial House and Garden Tour, Through the Garden Gate, as well as our annual membership appeal.

Staff:

Elizabeth Alvord (Director), Elizabeth Bartlett, Jean Johnson, Rosalie Zonder

Board of Trustees 2014-2015:

Leslie Barlow (President), R. William Bevan, Lorraine Donovan, Judy Fish, Donald Frazier, John Heiser, Wendy Jaillet, Patricia Muggleston, George Penniman, and. In June, the board bid thank you and farewell to trustees Pan Burr, Susan Nilsen and Judy Saunders and welcomed Marialina Dominguez, Cheryl Harger, and Linda Volpe.

Literacy Volunteers—Valley Shore, CT Inc.

Literacy Volunteers Valley Shore is a 501(c) 3 non-profit agency dedicated to tutoring area residents to read, write and speak English to help them improve their life and work skills. This year we tutored 16 students from Essex and benefitted from the good work of 30 volunteers from the town. Overall, L.V.V.S. tutored more than 238 students, spending 12,781 hours of volunteer's time to deliver 10,166 hours of instruction. But numbers alone don't tell the entire story. Our student's stories best illustrate the impact of our efforts. Stories like that of Sabrina Kosky who spoke no English when she arrived here but built her own business, became a citizen and is now pursuing a college education; all with the help Literacy Volunteers provided. As she says, "Years ago I was living in Brazil dreaming an American dream and

now I am here living it."

The support of our area towns means we can help build more success stories like Sabrina's each year. Yet we have a great deal of distance to make up in our goal to eradicate illiteracy. A 2013 assessment by the American Institute for Research shows over 9,000 adults between the ages of 18 and 64 who lack basic literacy skills in the valley shore area – including over 410 in Essex, Centerbrook and Ivoryton alone. Our goal is to increase our capacity incrementally in the coming years to allow us to serve 100% of the literacy needs of our communities and to make this year the finest in our history.



Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments

RiverCOG, one of Connecticut's nine Regional Planning Organizations, 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 Cathy Iino (Killingworth), serving as Chairperson, Dick Smith (Deep River) as Vice-Chairperson, Susan Bransfield (Portland) as Secretary, and Ed Meehan (Chester) as Treasurer. In December, RiverCOG welcomed Sam Gold to fill the role of Executive Director. Sam comes to us from the Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments in Waterbury, where he served as Executive Director. Sam is a member of the American Institute of Certified planners and has thirteen years of regional planning experience.

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. The RPC is also working with staff on the first Regional Plan of Conservation of Development for the Lower Connecticut River

Valley Region. The RPC includes a representative and alternate from each municipal Planning Commission in the region.

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. In fiscal year 2015 RiverCOG completed its first Long Range Transportation Plan for the new region, conducted a series of rail corridor studies focused on the Valley Railroad State Park, and the completion of a regional digital parcel database (GIS).

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.

The River COG board approved the same annual dues rate for fiscal year 2015 as in fiscal year 2016. Total annual dues collected for fiscal year 2015 totaled \$146,953.42. The RiverCOG leveraged every dollar of local dues with over \$13 in other grants. The total budget of RiverCOG budget was \$2,082,323 in fiscal year 2015. The annual report is available on our website: www.rivercog.org.

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 43 members.

Recent community support includes contributions to the Connecticut River Museum, Essex Elementary School programs, the Essex Library, Essex Social Services, Essex Tree Committee, Valley Shore YMCA, Shoreline Soup Kitchens, and VRHS projects including

Interact Club to help young adults develop civic responsibility. We are the charter and annual sponsor of Cub Scout Pack 4. The Essex Rotary Scholarship Foundation annually awards a \$10,000.00 four-year scholarship to two graduating seniors pursuing a college level education. Qualified applicants are members of non-Rotarian families, living in

Centerbrook, Essex or Ivoryton. The application is available for download on our website.

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. We have contributed directly to Brazilian and American Youth Cultural Exchange, Simply Smiles for latrines in Oaxaca Mexico, Sister Cities Essex Haiti to help purchase a generator for the library in Deschapelles, the

Rural Liberian Healthcare and Development Initiative, and to Shelterboxes USA for shelter and supplies to Vanuatu and Nepal after they suffered natural disasters.

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. This year's attendees came from local communities as well as more distant places including New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and as far

away as Nevada. This past year we also co-sponsored an "Art Exhibition and Sale" to support local artists with proceeds shared with the Essex Art Association.

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. We meet Tuesday evenings, usually at the Essex Yacht Club. If you are interested in



learning more about Rotary, access our website, <http://www.rotaryclubofessex.com/>, and visit the Rotary International website at <https://www.rotary.org/>, or email rlevne2@comcast.net.

Tri Town Youth Services

For thirty years, 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." We sponsored the twenty-fifth 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 M. Onofrio,
Director

Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley

Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley is a non-profit organization dedicated to home and community-based health care. In FY 2014 we made over 15,389 home visits to patients in our service area providing weekly walk-in blood pressure screenings, monthly B12 injections, monthly educational sessions and health promotion newsletters and local flu shot clinics as part of our wellness program. We are pleased to report we received Top 500 Home Care Elite distinction and currently hold a coveted 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, Claire Tiernan, and Paul Thornwall from Essex; Ted Heiser, Peg Lieberman, Carl Manning and Susan D. Murphy from Chester; Bob Sampson from Mystic, and Dan Tavartes and Kate Bender, President, from Deep River. And, a special thank you to all Essex, Ivoryton and Centerbrook residents who support the work of VNLV.

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

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

Town Meeting Minutes

**Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
July 16, 2014
Meeting Room A**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 6:45 PM. Selectmen Needleman and Glowac were in attendance. Selectman Bruce Glowac was elected Moderator. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately one hundred thirty five (135) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 from the Open-Space Sinking Fund to be used for the partial funding of the purchase of the Preserve. Said appropriation is contingent upon Old Saybrook approval of their funding at referendum and the approval of the State of Connecticut Open Space Grant Program.

SECONDED: Norman Needleman

Resolution passed unanimously

MOTION TO CLOSE: Needleman
SECONDED: Marzi

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joel Marzi
Town Clerk



**Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
September 17, 2014
Meeting Room A**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Selectmen Needleman, Glowac and Libby were in attendance. Alvin Wolfgram was elected Moderator. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately twenty-one (21) 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. SECOND: Jim Francis.

AYE 16

NAY 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2013-2014 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$50,000 for the Fire Department Sinking Fund as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

SECOND: S. Libby

AYE 17

NAY 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2013-2014 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$25,000 for the Police Cruiser Sinking Fund as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

SECOND: S. Libby

AYE 17

NAY 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2013-2014 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$40,000 for the Wastewater Study Sinking Fund as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

SECOND: S. Libby

AYE 19

NAY 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2013-2014 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$25,000 for the Open Space Sinking Fund as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

SECOND: S. Libby

AYE 19

NAY 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2013-2014 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$50,000 for the Municipal Property Improvements as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

SECOND: S. Libby

AYE 19

NAY 0

RESOLVED: To authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept title to the Farm Hill Estates Emergency Access Easement. A copy of the proposed deed is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

MOTION by Jim Francis to amend the resolution to read RESOLVED: To authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept title to the Farm Hill Estates Emergency Access Easement subject to receipt of a favorable report from the Planning Commission. A copy of the proposed deed is on file in the Town Clerk's Office. SECOND S. Libby

AYE 21 NAY 0

MOTION TO CLOSE: Norman Needleman
SECONDED: Jim Francis

Meeting adjourned at 6:46 PM.
Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Marzi
Town Clerk



**Town of Essex
Annual Town Meeting
November 17, 2014**

The First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Annual Town Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Selectman Bruce Glowac was elected Moderator. Bruce Glowac and Selectwoman 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 thirty (30) people in attendance. Upon motion by Selectman Needleman, the nominations of all appointments would be voted upon collectively rather than individually. Seconded by Bruce MacMillian. 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 2013-2014 Annual Town Report.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **Ed Cook** to the Economic Development Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2014 to December 1, 2016.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **Robert Laundry** to the Economic Development Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2014 to December 1, 2016.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment

by the First Selectman of **David Winstead** to the Economic Development Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2014 to December 1, 2016.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Walter Wiegert** to the Harbor Management Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2014 to December 1, 2017.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Terry Stewart** as an alternate member to the Harbor Management Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2014 to December 1, 2017.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **Fred Szufnarowski** to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2014 to December 1, 2017.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Douglas Senn** to the Park & Recreation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2014 to December 1, 2017.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Robert Russo** to the Park & Recreation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2014 to December 1, 2017.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Anthony Mosa** to the Park & Recreation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2014 to December 1, 2017.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **John Bauman** to the Park & Recreation Commission. Term to run from date of this meeting to December 1, 2015.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **Thomas Danyliw** to the Planning Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2014 to December 1, 2019.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **William Veillette** to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Term to run from December 1, 2014 to December 1, 2017.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Barbara Sarrantonio** as an alternate member to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Term to run from December 1, 2014 to December 1, 2017.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment

by the Board of Selectmen of **Peter Decker** as an alternate member to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Term to run from December 1, 2014 to December 1, 2017.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **William Reichenbach** to the Zoning Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2014 to December 1, 2017.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Alvin Wolfram** to the Zoning Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2014 to December 1, 2017.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Adrienne Forrest** as an alternate member to the Zoning Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2014 to December 1, 2017.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Susan Malan** to the Water Pollution Control Authority. Term to run from December 1, 2014 to December 1, 2016.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Mark Reeves** to the Water Pollution Control Authority. Term to run from December 1, 2014 to December 1, 2016.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Alvin Wolfram** as an alternate to the Water Pollution Control Authority. Term to run from December 1, 2014 to December 1, 2016.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$21,431 to the Town Clerk account for fiscal year 2013-2014 as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$68,653 to the Highway Department account for fiscal year 2013-2014 as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Joel Marzi, Town Clerk



**MINUTES OF
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
OF THE TOWN OF ESSEX
MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2014**

The Special Town Meeting of the Town of Essex was called to order by First Selectman Norman Needleman at 7:00 PM There were approximately 40 (forty) persons in attendance. Upon asking if there was a motion to elect a Moderator, resident Alvin Wolfgram made a motion to elect Mark Bombaci as moderator and it was seconded by Selectman Bruce Glowac. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Town Clerk Joel Marzi read the call of the meeting. It was noted in particular that the notice identifies those eligible to vote at town meetings and stated that the resolution would be discussed this evening, but that the Essex 2014 Capital Initiative vote would be taken at referendum held on December 15, 2014.



**NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF ESSEX
TO BE HELD ON DECEMBER 8, 2014
AND A REFERENDUM VOTE ON DECEMBER 15, 2014**

Notice is hereby given that a Special Town Meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in Town Meetings of the Town of Essex, Connecticut will be held at the Essex Town Hall Auditorium, 29 West Ave., Essex, CT on Monday, December 8, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. for the following purpose:

1. To receive communication from the Boards of Finance and Selectmen with respect to, and to consider and act upon the resolution entitled "RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$8,085,000 FOR THE TOWN OF ESSEX 2014 CAPITAL PROGRAM INITIATIVE AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF UP TO \$8,085,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION (OR SUCH LESSER AMOUNT IF LESS THAN ALL COMPONENTS ARE APPROVED) AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS THEREFOR, AND PROVIDING FOR REFERENDUM VOTE AT ADJOURNED TOWN MEETING".

The Board of Selectmen voted, pursuant to Section 7-7 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, that the vote on the Essex 2014 Capital Initiative Project Resolution (item 1) of the call of the Special Town Meeting to be held on December 8, 2014, be removed from the call of such meeting and adjourned to a referendum vote at Adjourned Town Meeting to be held on December 15, 2014. As a result, the Special Town Meeting will be held to only consider and discuss the Essex 2014 Capital Initiative Project Resolution, not to vote on it. The ballot labels for the questions to be voted upon at the referendum shall be stated as follows:

Shall the \$2,845,000 appropriation and general obligation bond issuance authorization for the replacement of Walnut and Ivory Street bridges pursuant to the resolution adopted by the Boards of Selectmen and Finance, be approved? YES/NO

Shall the \$2,815,000 appropriation and general obligation bond issuance authorization for improvements to Essex Elementary School pursuant to the resolution adopted by the Boards of Selectmen and Finance, be approved? YES/NO

Shall the \$1,300,000 appropriation and general obligation bond issuance authorization for improvements to Town Hall pursuant to the resolution adopted by the Boards of Selectmen and Finance, be approved? YES/NO

Shall the \$525,000 appropriation and general obligation bond issuance authorization for improvements to the Town Garage pursuant to the resolution adopted by the Boards of Selectmen and Finance, be approved? YES/NO

Shall the \$600,000 appropriation and general obligation bond issuance authorization for the purchase of a fire fighting vehicle pursuant to the resolution adopted by the Boards of Selectmen and Finance, be approved? YES/NO

The voting will be by paper/electronic ballot. Those desiring to vote for a question shall fill in the box in front of the question on the ballot at "YES". Those desiring to vote against a question shall fill in the box in front of the question on the ballot at "NO". Absentee

ballots will be made available in accordance with law.

The full text of the aforesaid resolution and question are on file, open to public inspection, in the office of the Town Clerk. The vote on the aforesaid resolution is taken under the authority of Section 7-7 and Chapters 90 and 152 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended.

The polls will be open during the hours between 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. and electors and qualified voters shall cast their votes at Essex Town Hall Auditorium, 29 West Ave., Essex, CT.

A Qualified Voter is any citizen of the United States of the age of eighteen years or more who, jointly or severally, is liable to the Town of Essex for taxes assessed against him or her on an assessment of not less than One Thousand Dollars on the last completed Grand List of the Town, or who would be so liable if not entitled to an exemption under subdivisions (17), (19), (22), (25) or (26) of Section 12-81 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended.

Such Special Town Meeting may consider and act upon any other business which may lawfully come before the Meeting.

Dated at Essex, Connecticut this 8th day of December, 2014.

Joel Marzi stated that the legal notice of the meeting (attached Exhibit) and the return of posting and publication thereof, on file and of record, states that said Notice, signed by the Selectmen, or a majority of them, had been posted on the Town signpost on November 20, 2014, and that a copy thereof had been published in the Hartford Courant, a newspaper having substantial circulation in said Town, in its issue of December 3, 2014.

The Moderator noted that the call states which persons are eligible to vote at Town Meetings.

The Moderator explained that pursuant to Section 7-7 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, the Board of Selectmen at its meeting held on November 19, 2014, voted that the vote on Item 1 of the call of this Meeting be removed from the call and be submitted to a referendum vote at Adjourned Town Meeting to be held on December 15, 2014 between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. as follows:

Essex Town Hall, 29 West Avenue, Essex, CT
Accordingly, the Moderator stated the Meeting

would continue for purposes of discussion only on Item 1, constituting the Essex 2014 Capital Initiative Resolution.

The Moderator explained that communications (attached exhibits) were received from the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen that the Essex 2014 Capital Initiative Resolution was adopted and recommended by such Boards for adoption by the legal voters of the Town.

The Moderator then introduced and read the Essex 2014 Capital Initiative, Item 1 on the call for consideration:

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$8,085,000 FOR THE TOWN OF ESSEX 2014 CAPITAL PROGRAM INITIATIVE AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF UP TO \$8,085,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION (OR SUCH LESSER AMOUNT IF LESS THAN ALL COMPONENTS ARE APPROVED) AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS THEREFOR, AND PROVIDING FOR REFERENDUM VOTE AT ADJOURNED TOWN MEETING

Mark Bombaci stated that a copy of the resolution is available at this meeting, and asked if there is a motion to waive the reading of the resolution, incorporating its full text into the minutes of this meeting. Motion to waive the reading of the resolution, incorporating its full text into the minutes of this meeting made by resident Jeffrey Going, seconded by resident Ethan Goller. Upon voice vote, the motion carried.

Resident Alvin Wolfram moved that said Essex 2014 Capital Initiative resolution be adopted as introduced and the motion was seconded by resident John Heiser.

The meeting adjourned to referendum at 7:13 PM

Respectfully submitted
Joel Marzi
Town Clerk



Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
December 17, 2014
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 6:50 PM. Selectmen Needleman and Libby were in attendance. Bruce MacMillian was elected

Moderator. 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 of Claire Matthews as a member of the Connecticut River Gateway Commission. Term to run to September 2016. Second: **Libby**

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation of an amount not to exceed \$126,500 from the unassigned fund balance for the replacement of exterior windows at the Essex Town Hall as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance. Second: **Libby**

There was discussion concerning whether or not equal amounts of funding would be subtracted from designated bond appropriations that were recently approved at referendum. The audience was assured that this would be the case along with the interpretation that the qualifying monies spent on the roof studies would be in part reimbursable by the state notwithstanding the actuality that the allocations for these studies was being appropriated this evening.

AYE 6 NAY 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation of an amount not to exceed \$80,000 from the unassigned fund balance for preparation of pre-design, schematic design and construction document for the Essex Elementary School roof and the Essex Town Hall roof as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance. Second: **Libby**

AYE 6 NAY 0

MOTION TO CLOSE: Norman Needleman
SECONDED: Stacia Libby

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joel Marzi
Town Clerk



**Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
January 7, 2015
Meeting Room A**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:49 PM. Bruce Glowac was elected Moderator. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately fourteen (14) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Jerri MacMillian to fill an unexpired term as an alternate member to the Connecticut River Gateway Commission. The term to run from date of this meeting to August 2016.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Robert Ward to fill an unexpired term as a regular member to the Conservation Commission. The term to run from date of this meeting to December 1, 2017.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Frank Hall to fill an unexpired term as a regular member to the Conservation Commission. The term to run from date of this meeting to December 1, 2016.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Mark Reeves to fill an unexpired term as a regular member to the Conservation Commission. The term to run from date of this meeting to December 1, 2017.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Jerri MacMillian to fill an unexpired term as an alternate member to the Conservation Commission. The term to run from date of this meeting to December 1, 2015.

Meeting adjourned at 4:56 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Joel Marzi
Town Clerk



**Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
February 4, 2015
Meeting Room A**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:55 PM. Selectmen Needleman, Libby and Glowac were in attendance. Stacia Libby was elected Moderator. 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 \$12,000 from the Park & Recreation Sinking Fund for the purpose of repairs to the Main Street Park seawall and Hubbard Park baseball fence as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

SECONDED: Norman Needleman

AYE 5 NAY 0

MOTION TO CLOSE: Norman Needleman

SECONDED: Bruce Glowac

Meeting adjourned at 4:59 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joel Marzi
Town Clerk

**Town of Essex Special
Town Meeting March 18, 2015**

Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 6:45 PM. Selectmen Needleman, Libby and Glowac were in attendance. Stacia Libby was elected Moderator. Kelley Sterner, Director of Finance, was also in attendance. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately eight (8) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of James E Leo to fill an unexpired term as a regular member to the Inland Wetlands Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December 2015.

SECONDED Norman Needleman

AYE 6 NAY 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$161,615 from the unassigned fund balance for the purchase of a new ELGIN "Pelican" Three Wheel High Dump Mechanical Street Sweeper as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

SECONDED Norman Needleman

AYE 6 NAY 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount of \$21,231 be added to the Truck and Equipment Sinking Fund with the intention to use said funds for partial payment of the new mechanical street sweeper as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

SECONDED Norman Needleman

AYE 6 NAY 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount of \$21,231 from the Truck and Equipment Sinking Fund for the purchase of a new ELGIN "Pelican" Three Wheel High Dump Mechanical Street Sweeper as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

SECONDED Bruce Glowac

AYE 6 NAY 0

MOTION TO CLOSE: Norman Needleman
SECONDED: Bruce Glowac

Meeting adjourned 6:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Joel Marzi
Town Clerk



**Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
April 1, 2015
Meeting Room A**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:55 PM. Kelley Sterner was elected Moderator. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance. 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 Board of Selectman of Earl Fowler to fill an unexpired term as an alternate member to the Harbor Management Commission. Term to run from date of this meeting to December 2016.

SECONDED: Stacia Libby

MOTION TO CLOSE: Bruce Glowac
SECONDED: Norman Needleman

Meeting adjourned at 4:57 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, X114nneedleman@essexct.gov
Maria Lucarelli, X112mlucarelli@essexct.gov

Animal Control Officer—860-388-7082

Jae Wolfjwolf@essexct.gov

Assessor

Jessica Sypher—Assessor, X124jsypher@essexct.gov
Nancy Berryman, X123nberryman@essexct.gov

Building Department and Fire Marshal

David DeLeeuw—Building Official, X117ddeleuw@essexct.gov
Keith Nolin—Fire Marshal, X146knolin@essexct.gov
Darcy Roper, X144droper@essexct.gov

Health Department

Lisa Fasulo—Health Director, X118lfasulo@essexct.gov
Kerry Berardinelli, X119kberardinelli@essexct.gov

Landfill/Recycling Center—860-767-1926

Mike Birner
Wilbur Armstead

Park and Recreation Mary Ellen Barnes—Director X110mbarnes@essexct.gov

Public Works—860-767-0715

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

Registrars of Voters

Lois Ely, X142lely@essexct.gov
John Heiser, X142jheiser@essexct.gov

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

David Tretter—Resident State Trooperdtretter@essexct.gov
James Paul Kenefick—Officerjkenefick@essexct.gov
Todd Belcourt—Officertbelcourt@essexct.gov

Social Services

Mary Ellen Barnes, X201mbarnes@essexct.gov

Tax Collector

Megan Haskins—Tax Collector, X120mhaskins@essexct.gov
Lynne Skinner, X121lskinner@essexct.gov

Town Clerk

Joel Marzi—Town Clerk, X129townclerk@essexct.gov

Town Hall Operations

Thomas Fitzgerald, X136maintenance@essexct.gov
Mark Hiatt

Treasurer / Finance

James Francis—Treasurer, X127jfrancis@essexct.gov
Kelly Sterner—Finance Director, X122ksterner@essexct.gov
Dana Novorio, x116dnovorio@essexct.gov

Tree Warden

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

Zoning Enforcement

Joseph Budrow—Enforcement Agent, X115jbudrow@essexct.gov
Darcy Roper, X144droper@essexct.gov

www.essexct.gov

TOWN OF ESSEX
29 WEST AVENUE
ESSEX, CT 06426
WWW.ESSEXCT.GOV