



2017-2018

Annual Report



Sam & Charlie O'Donnell

Dedication

Sam and Charlie O'Donnell

The significance of being a good neighbor is not lost on Sam and Charlie O'Donnell. It is after all how their story began. Having finished his service as a medic in the Army, Charlie returned to Connecticut to attend Central Connecticut State University. He found a room to rent in a lovely area not far from the CCSU campus. Charlie and his roommates soon became friendly with their next door neighbors, the Munsell family. Roger and Grace Munsell had a home that served as a social hub for friends and family alike. Somewhere between helping with yard work and watching sporting events, Charlie became good friends with the Munsell's youngest daughter, Sabra. Sam, as she is known to her friends, was an energetic, outgoing young woman involved in many school and church activities. Their friendship turned to romance and they married on September 24, 1960.

The newlyweds, upon the advice of Charlie's friend and former housemate, made their home in Old Saybrook. There they would stay for the next eleven years building friendships and diving headlong into lives of service. As a special education teacher at Old Saybrook Junior High School, Charlie was instrumental in creating programs to bring educational support, cultural opportunities, and job experiences to disadvantaged students. He was an active member of the Jaycees, a civic organization that raises funds for deserving people and organizations and served as their President. He also served as President of the Old Saybrook Public Nursing Board, The Parents and Friends of Lower Middlesex and served as Director of Federal Title 1 Project in Basic and Support Services.

In 1968, Charlie was named "Outstanding Young Man of the Year" by the Old Saybrook Jaycees. He also, as teachers often do, held down additional jobs at the Terra Mar restaurant and Old Saybrook Hardware. Sam joined the town Welcome Wagon group and served as a Boy Scout leader. Their house became home not just to their four children but to countless others needing a safe place to land. Distinctions between friends and family did not exist, everyone was family. And the family was expanding rapidly.

In 1969, Charlie was hired as a guidance counselor at Valley Regional High School. (Sam would later join Region 4 in John Winthrop's cafeteria.) The O'Donnells saw this as an opportunity to relocate to nearby Essex. The move would mean additional room for their growing children and ample gardening space for Sam, not to mention one of the best spots to view the Essex Steam Train in town. In short order they established themselves in the Essex community, and began a volunteer job that would take a central role in their lives for many years.

Ask people of any age what to do in an emergency and you are sure to hear, "Call 9-1-1." In fact, it is difficult for many of us to remember a time when a rapid emergency response was not a given. Years ago multiple phone numbers for services and long ambulance wait times led to tragic outcomes for sick or injured patients.

A group of concerned citizens, that included Sam, decided this needed to change. They completed training as Emergency Medical Technicians and committed to twelve hour volunteer shifts to staff the newly formed Essex Ambulance service. EMTs had to remain at the headquarters or by their phones at homes during volunteer hours.

Charlie soon joined Sam as a member of the corps. Over the years, they served the ambulance association in various leadership roles. Charlie is a former Chief of Operations. Sam has been on the Board of Directors as a board member, Vice President, and President. They opened their home to all emergency service providers as not only a spot for practice drills but thanks to Sam's ready supply of cookies, it was the go to stop to snack and decompress after late night runs.

In 1976, Charlie joined a regional committee that established the Valley Shore Emergency Communications dispatch center. Shoreline residents would now benefit from a centrally located, well coordinated emergency response by simply dialing 9-1-1. Charlie remained a part of the Valley Shore team, as the Essex Ambulance representative to the Board of Directors and from 1995-1997 as the President of the Board of Directors.

In one of the biggest challenges Essex has faced, The Flood of 82, Charlie served the town as Director of Emergency Management.

Community involvement over the decades has not been limited to their passion for ambulance work. For several years, the O'Donnells owned and operated The Sew 'n So Shop on Main Street in Essex village. Morning newspaper sales provided an opportunity to share in the lives of many customers who in time became beloved friends. At the close of their business, they were honored at the town hall with their very own O'Donnell Day. Their example of compassion and commitment to their community continues through their children and grandchildren. Three of their children volunteered in emergency services, several of their grandchildren have volunteered for a wide range of charitable organizations.

Their eldest son, Tom began his law enforcement career as an Essex town constable and continues to serve and protect as Chief of Police in West Brookfield, Massachusetts. Daughter Mary-Jo provides support and counselling to children in her job as a social worker for Waterford Country School. She also volunteered with the Red Cross during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. Their son, David has lent his musical talents to aid in fundraising events throughout the State. Granddaughter Lauren is a first grade literacy teacher at the Mary E. Rodman Elementary School, part of Baltimore, Maryland's 100% Project to rebuild it's public schools.

And it all began with being a good neighbor.

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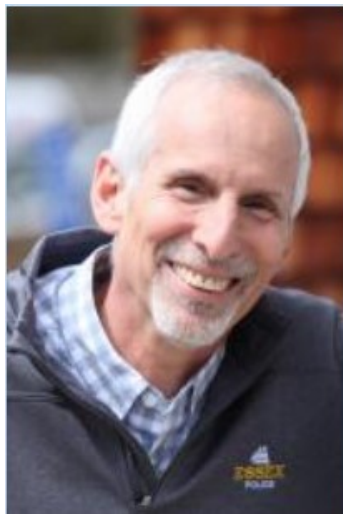
Town Department Directory.....Inside Back Cover



Essex Main Street Park

photo credit—Edward McCaffrey

First Selectman's Message



As we put closure on this fiscal year, I'm pleased to report that the Town of Essex once again remains in solid financial standing and continues to be a vibrant, desirable, and attractive community. The approved budget for the current fiscal year ran a surplus due to expenses coming in under budget and an increase in building permit revenue and conveyance tax

related to property transfers. As a result, the Board of Finance set the property tax rate for our next fiscal year at 21.85 mills which represents a .11 mill rate reduction over fiscal year 2017-2018.

This year's projects at the Town Hall included the renovation of the First Selectman's office, central air conditioning, the renovation of the restrooms, improvements to the Town Hall back entrance in order to comply with building code, and vault improvements in the Town's Clerks office. The elevator, circa 1972, was renovated and planned upgrades will be phased in over time.

Other works in Town were the completion of the new Walnut Street Bridge and the Foot of Main Sidewalk project.

The \$491,887 Centerbrook STEAP Grant to complete sidewalk renovations from the Essex Steam Train to Centerbrook village, will bring us closer toward our goal of a sidewalk corridor from the Connecticut River to the village of Ivoryton. We anticipate work to begin Spring 2019.

The Town was able to purchase a new Lake Assault Police Boat to patrol the Essex Harbor area during the busy boating season. The Essex Police Department has been trained on the new boat and several members of the Fire Department were required to train on the operation of the boat should a situation develop that they are needed. This vessel replaced the previous police boat which was heavily damaged in a storm. Insurance proceeds provided a significant portion of the replacement vessel's cost.

Of note this past year, the Town issued a 20 year general obligation bond for \$6 million and obtained an extremely favorable interest rate due to our strong Standard and Poor's credit rating that had been upgraded to AA+ during our most recent review. That was made possible as a result of the

responsible fiscal management of the Town with the help of Finance Director Kelly Sterner, Town Treasurer Jim Francis, the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen.

I'm pleased to report that the State of Connecticut Bond Commission approved the \$1.25 million in grant-in-aid to the Town of Essex on behalf of Valley Shore Emergency Communications, Inc. The funding will be used for upgrades to the outdated emergency radio dispatch system serving 11 towns. The upgrades will interconnect all member towns and allow coordination with adjoining systems resulting in better communications for police, fire and ambulances.

The Connecticut Port Authority awarded the Town a grant in the amount of \$42,500 to be used to update the Harbor Management Plan and to do a study of the Essex Harbor area.

The Board of Selectmen made a decision to change the name of the Essex Citizens for Clean Energy to the Sustainable Essex Committee and join the Sustainable CT initiative to work towards a broader goal in sustainability.

The lack of affordable housing was addressed significantly this year with the development of Essex Place and Essex Station along with the approval of the Hope Partnership project above Spencer's Corner. These three communities have provided over 40 rental units offered at below market rates.

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 the many volunteers, local elected and appointed officials, and the Town of Essex staff.

Norman Needleman
First Selectman



Essex Town Hall—29 West Ave.

History of Essex

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

As the seventeenth century passed, however, riverfront activity increased in importance. It was during this time that shipbuilding began to dominate the local economy. Ancient maps reveal a ropewalk, several blacksmiths, wharves and other businesses associated with the construction of ships. During the American Revolution, Essex's Captain Uriah Hayden constructed the State's first battleship, the "Oliver Cromwell" which went on to see significant action during the war. Shortly thereafter Essex developed into a regional leader in the construction of sailing vessels, building over 600 ships over the next century. Not surprisingly, Essex became a British target during the War of 1812 for its

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

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



Connecticut River Museum

Photo credit—Edward McCaffrey

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
Ethan Goller
Mary-Louise Polo
Vincent Pacileo, III
Edward A. Tedeschi

BOARD OF EDUCATION—ESSEX ELEMENTARY

Lon J. Seidman, Chair
Don G. Fitton, Jr., Vice-Chair
Adam Conrad
Loretta T. McCluskey
Carolyn Rotella
Judie McCann

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

Keith Russell, Chair
Mark Bombaci
Coral L. Rawn

BOARD OF EDUCATION—REGION #4

Jennifer A. Clark
Katelyn Sandmann
Don G. Fitton, Jr.

JUDGE OF PROBATE

Jeannine Lewis

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Lois Ely
John Heiser

State of Connecticut

GOVERNOR

Dannel P. Malloy

LT. GOVERNOR

Nancy Wyman

STATE COMPTROLLER

Kevin Lembo

STATE TREASURER

Denise Nappier

ATTORNEY GENERAL

George Jepsen

SECRETARY OF STATE

Denise W. Merrill

SENATOR 33RD DISTRICT

Art Linares

REPRESENTATIVE 36TH DISTRICT

Robert Siegrist

Federal

PRESIDENT

Donald J. Trump

UNITED STATES SENATE

Richard Blumenthal
Christopher S. Murphy

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

Joseph D. Courtney



Town Officials and Services

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Jae Wolf

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Jessica Sypher, Assessor

Nancy Berryman, Assistant to the Assessor

AUDITORS

Mahoney Sabol & Company, LLP

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

David DeLeeuw, Building Official

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

James O'Brien

Mark Reeves

Roger Field—Alternate

CONNECTICUT RIVER GATEWAY COMMISSION

Claire Matthews

Maryann Pleva—Alternate

CONSULTING ENGINEER

Robert Doane, Jr., Doane Engineering

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Janet Peckinpough, Chairman

Edward Cook

Elizabeth D'Amico

Peter Decker

George Sexton, Planning Representative

Brian Weinstein

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

Kim Allen, Business Manager

Pam Murphy, Director of Technology

ESSEX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Jennifer Tousignant, Principal

JOHN WINTHROP JR. HIGH SCHOOL

William Duffy, Principal

Peter Foxen, Associate Principal

VALLEY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Mike Barile, Principal

Carolyn Gbunlee, Associate Principal

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

William Buckridge

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL

Judith Reynolds

ESSEX AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

Judith Reynolds

ESSEX FIRE ENGINE COMPANY #1

Aron Schumacher, Chief

ESSEX HOUSING AUTHORITY

Janice M. Atkeson, Chair

Yolanda Lowe

Gary Arnhold

Richard W. Stebbins

Rosemary A. Willis

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Kelly Sterner, Finance Director

Dana Novorio, Asst to the Finance Director

FIRE MARSHAL

John Planas, Fire Marshal

HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Jeffrey Going, Chair

John Senning

Terry Stewart

Earl Fowler

Joseph Zaraschi

Susan Malan, alternate

Eugene C. Schellens, alternate

HARBOR MASTER

Paul Riggio, Harbor Master

Fred Hitchcock, Deputy Harbor Master

HEALTH DIRECTOR / SANITARIAN

Lisa Fasulo

INLAND WETLANDS AND

WATERCOURSES COMMISSION

Fred Szufnarowski, Chairman

Ernest Cook

Stephen Knauth

Daniel Lapman

Jim Leo

Jim Hill, Zoning

Jeffrey Lovelace, Conservation

Andre Roussel, alternate

Beth Currie, alternate

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Alison M. Adams 860-581-3708

Philip Beckman..... 860-767-9755

Susan W. Beckman 860-767-9755

Tom Bellos 860-767-2741

Heather K Chamberlain 860-552-9529

Matthew P. Cooper 860-304-2671

Peter Decker..... 860-767-9516

Ann S. Dixon 860-767-1339

Town Officials and Services

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE *(continued)*

Earl Fowler.....860-767-2764
Larry Freundlich860-767-2773
David W. Galligan860-767-1860
Bruce M. Glowac860-767-0650
Leonard Goldberg.....860-213-7069
Donna M. Hyde860-767-0061
Leslie Lupovich.....860-767-4953
Joseph W. Lux, Jr.860-918-3556
Shelley H. Mack860-388-7890
Philip J. Miller860-767-7837
Christopher Morano.....860-767-0292
Norman M. Needleman.....860-767-9176
Alison Nichols860-767-1511
Stephen L. Phillips.....860-581-8130
Raymond A. Rubenbauer860-767-2514
Ruth Schumacher...860-767-8030
John C. Stannard860-767-8051
Daniel J. Stypa860-767-2075
Kathleen McKinney Tucker....860-767-0397
William P. Veillette860-767-8519
Susan Weeks.....860-767-8535
Mary Bowers.....860-575-9619
Ned Rogin.....860-767-0702

LAND USE—ADMINISTRATIVE

Darcy Roper
Kerry Berardinelli

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
Sandra Childress, alternate

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE

William Buckridge
John Planas
Judith Reynolds

MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY

Mary Ellen Barnes

PARK AND RECREATION

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

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Robert Russo, Chairman
John J. Bean Jr.
Anthony Mosa

Douglas Senn
Virginia Willetts
Daniel Needleman, alternate
Brette Fitton, alternate

PLANNING COMMISSION

Alan Kerr, Chairman
Erin Bogan
Ralph Monaco
George Sexton
Thomas Danyliw
Hope Proctor, alternate
Jane Siris, alternate
Alvin Wolfgram, alternate

PUBLIC WORKS

Ryan Welch, Director
David Caroline
Boris Churyk
Richard Gallacher
David Martin
Dwight Massey
Paul MacKenzie (PT)

REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Winifred Olson

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Lois Ely
John Heiser

RESIDENT STATE TROOPER & ESSEX POLICE

David Tretter, Resident State Trooper
James Paul Kenefick, Corporal
Todd Belcourt, Police Officer
Christopher McCarthy, Police Officer
Karen Reilly, Police Officer (PT)
Robert Hart, Police Officer (PT)

CROSSING GUARD

William Westerman, Crossing Guard

HARBOR PATROL

William Rochette, Boat Operator
Mark Walter, Boat Operator
Richard Varricchio, Boat Operator
Wayne Vetre, Jr. Boat Operator

RETIREMENT BOARD

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

SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

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

Town Officials and Services

SOCIAL SERVICES

Mary Ellen Barnes

TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

Megan D. Haskins, Tax Collector

Lynne Skinner, Assistant to the 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

Kimberly Fair

April Lucarelli

Marion Martin

Alan Schroeder

TREASURER

James Francis

TREE COMMITTEE

Kenneth Bombaci

Nancy Hudson

Susan Malan

John Molloy

Mark Pratt

Judith Saunders

TREE WARDEN

August Pampel

VETERANS SERVICES

Doug Haynes

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

Susan Malan, Chair

Wendy Arnold

Randel Osborne

Leigh Rankin

Mark Reeves

Alvin Wolfram, alternate

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Paul Greenberg, Chairman

Ward Feirer

William Timothy Furgueson

Barbara Sarrantonio

Philip Beckman, alternate

Richard Rybak, alternate

George Wendell, alternate

ZONING COMMISSION

Larry Shipman, Chair

Jim Hill

William Reichenbach

Susan Uihlein

Russell Smith

Thomas Carroll, alternate

Jeffrey Lovelace, alternate

Robert L. Day III, alternate

ZONING ENFORCEMENT

Joseph Budrow, Zoning/Wetlands
Enforcement Agent

SECTION II—Departments, Boards & Commissions

Animal Control Officer

Year to date, approximately 220 calls came in, many of them related to wildlife.

As a reminder, if you are experiencing a wildlife nuisance issue or have related questions please call the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) at 860-424-3333. Be aware that feeding wildlife is highly discouraged and not recommended. There were a number of copperhead snakes sighted in the area. Be aware when clearing leaves or working in the yard and stay away from them. Relocation of rabies vector species (raccoon, skunk or fox) is prohibited under CT general statutes section 26-47 (b) and 26-57. You can visit <http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?A=2723&Q=325944> for additional resources and information as well as facts about rabies and measures of prevention. Note: if an animal appears malnourished with hair loss this may be a sign of mange, but does not necessarily mean the animal is rabid.

We had a total of 5 bear sightings in the Chester, Deep River area. Stay vigilant of unwanted wildlife and if animals such as raccoons, fox, coyote, bear etc., come too close to your house, make loud noises with pots and pans to scare them away.

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

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

To report a lost or roaming dog, a dog or cat bite incident, to file a complaint, or if you have any other concerns I can be reached 24/7 at 860-388-7082 or email me at jwolf@essexct.gov



Board of Assessment Appeals

The Board of Assessment Appeals is composed of three elected citizens of Essex: Keith Russell, Chair; Mark Bombaci and Coral Rawn, who hear and consider appeals of assessment valuations. The Board meets during the month of March to hear appeals to the Grand List of the prior October 1; i.e. appeals of the October 1, 2017 Grand List were heard in March of 2018. March hearings are for appeals of real estate, personal property and for motor vehicles on the Supplemental List (vehicles billed in January). Appeal applications are available at the Assessor's Office and, for March hearings, must be submitted by February 20th.

Motor vehicles on the regular list (vehicles registered on the previous October 1 and billed in July) may be appealed at the Board's September meeting, after the July billing period. No advance application is necessary prior to the September motor vehicle appeals.

There were three appeals of motor vehicle assessments at the September meetings; two were reduced and one was unchanged.

The Board scheduled five hearings during the month of March 2018; all of these were real estate appeals. Four were reduced and one was unchanged.

Keith Russell
Chairman

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. Monthly financial reports are available on the Town website under the Finance Department.

The Board of Finance is comprised of six members, each of whom 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, Vice Chairman and Mary-Louise Polo whose terms expire in November 2019, Vincent Pacileo, III and Edward Tedeschi whose terms expire in November 2021, and Keith Crehan, Chairman and Ethan Goller whose terms expire in November 2023. The Board would like to thank departing board members Jeffery Woods and Donald Mesite for their years of exceptional service to the Board of Finance and the Town of Essex.

Regular meetings of the Board of Finance are held the third Thursday of each month at the Town Hall. Meetings are open to the public.

Keith Crehan
Chair

Board of Selectmen

The Essex Board of Selectmen forms the executive branch of Town government. The Board is comprised of three members who are each elected for concurrent two-year terms. As of Election Day 2017, the members include First Selectman, Norman M. Needleman, and Selectmen Bruce Glowac and Stacia Libby. The First Selectman serves as the full time chief executive and administrative officer of the Town. The board works collaboratively to provide the services the residents of all three villages expect from our municipal government while maintaining a fiscally responsible environment.

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

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

For the fiscal year 2017-2018, the Board of Selectmen met for twenty regular meetings and fifteen special meetings. The minutes of these meetings are available on the Town website at www.essexct.gov and are on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

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

Respectfully,
Norman Needleman First Selectman
Stacia Libby Selectman
Bruce Glowac Selectman



A peaceful walk down Main Street

photo credit—Edward McCaffrey

Building Department

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Building Official reviews all submitted building plans to ensure compliance with current state building codes. All approved plans are marked with pertinent code information, dated with the review date and signed by the Building Official. One set of plans is returned to the applicant with the Building Permit and one set is retained in the Building permit file.

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

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

From July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018, a total of 736 (576 residential, 160 commercial) building permits were issued for an estimated construction value of \$25,426,478.50. These numbers represent an all time high for the total number of permits issued and are an eleven year high for total construction value. The total fees collected by the building department were \$260,300, an all time high. Nine permits were issued for new home construction. No permits for multi-family housing units were issued. No Demo Ordinance Fees were collected.

David R. DeLeeuw
Building Official



Central Services Town Hall Operations

During the 2017-2018 fiscal year the Town Hall custodial staff has cleaned, set-up and broken down the meeting rooms in the Town Hall while working around the elevator and bathroom renovations. Always aware of maintaining the quality of cleanliness the staff and residents have come to expect. The Town Hall hosted over 500 events in the three meeting rooms and on the grounds. These rooms have been set-up, taken-down, cleaned and maintained by a dedicated staff of five part-time custodians. The staff works to maintain a high level of cleanliness and safety for the Town Hall staff and citizens of Essex. The custodial staff also cleans the Main Street restrooms which are open year round for visitors to Main Street and the park. The dedicated staff will continue to strive towards a more efficient and safe Town Hall Facility. Citizen suggestions are always welcome.

Tom Fitzgerald
Custodial/Maintenance Services Manager

Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission focuses on the preservation and management of three Town owned open-spaces. Canfield/Meadow Woods (300 acres) and Bushy Hill (137 acres), are the Town's largest preserves. The commission shares some responsibilities and expenses for their maintenance with the Essex Land Trust. Viney Hill Brook Preserve, purchased with financial support from a DEEP Open Space Grant, has 107 acres designated for passive recreation. The First Selectman assigned oversight of this acreage to the commission shortly after the Town acquired deeded property rights.

Bushy Hill Preserve: Phase II patch-cut another half-acre of meadow to attract wildlife. A professional landscaper chain sawed small trees, mowed, and York raked the section. Other professional services required were for mosquito inspections and applications of Larvicide to infested areas. Commissioners weed whacked, cut up downed trees and repaired pedestrian bridges, allowing for dry feet access to the Falls River trails.

Canfield Meadow Woods Preserve: Commissioners chain-sawed established growth obscuring the Tulip Tree along the Blue Trail. This tree is one of Connecticut's most notable with a circumference of 227" and a height of 112'. Whether descending or climbing the trail, hikers now have a clear view of this old growth poplar.

Viney Hill Brook Preserve: Dramatic changes to the central trail system. Beavers engineered another pond containing 16" of spring-fed and upland drainage waters. Portions of the Broadwalk and Quarry Pond trails are flooded. Commissioners cut a detour trail with signage reading: "Beavers at Work, Don't Destroy, Enjoy." Despite breaching efforts, access to the detour trail is underwater as the beavers continually enlarge their dam. The Commission, with aid of the Town Engineer, IWWC, and IWWC Enforcement Official, is looking into trenching alternatives in an effort to keep this established trail system open and passable.

Other: The Town's Conservation Easement Inventory, updated annually, is available in the Town Clerk's Office for public review. The annual New Year's Day Hike was canceled due to exceptionally frigid weather. The Commission made a recommendation to Town Planner and IWWC to clarify the inconsistencies in an application for a Conservation Easement Exemption on Foxboro Road. James O'Brien appointed a regular member when Robert Ward

completed his three-year assignment in December. Additional regular members are: Adrienne Forrest, Frank Hall, Richard Helmecki, Jeffrey Lovelace (Inland/Wetlands liaison), Mark Reeves, and Kay Tucker.

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Tucker, Chair



Economic Development Commission

The Economic Development Commission (EDC) continues to advocate for new businesses in our 3 village community. Headed by Janet Peckinpugh (Chair) the commissioners include Ed Cook (Vice Chair), Betsy D'Amico, David Winstead, Peter Decker and Brian Weinstein. Russell Smith is our representative from the Zoning Commission and George Sexton is our representative from the Planning Commission. Kate Tucker has joined us this year as our Clerk. Economic Consultant Susan Malan continues her work with regional and state Economic Developers, the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce and land use officials to ensure current and prospective businesses can easily navigate the regulatory process.

This year we applied for and were granted a partnership with UConn's School of Engineering. For their senior project, a team of Civil and Environmental Engineering students will come up with ways to keep Essex a thriving tourist destination. They will study things such as parking, signage, pedestrian/bike paths and beautification as part of their plan development. The students will give us several progress reports during the school year with a final presentation next Spring. EDC will make a public presentation after reviewing their report.

Our commission meets the second Wednesday of each month at 4:00 pm. We continue meeting in our local businesses. If you would like to have us visit your business, please call Susan Malan at 860-767-4340 x 220 or smalan@essexct.gov. You can read our meeting minutes and see our agendas in our section at www.EssexCT.gov.



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.

Education

Our Vision Statement

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

Education

Essex Elementary School

Essex Elementary School, located on Main Street in Centerbrook, serves students from kindergarten through grade six who reside in the town of Essex and houses the Collaborative Preschool for Chester, Deep River, and Essex.

EES is a school with high expectations for all. The focus on student learning and growth is a direct result of the district's efforts to enhance instruction by focusing on the individual needs of its students. This past year a new K-5 math program was fully implemented with the support

of a math coach position. In addition to focusing on the academic needs of students in all content areas, we offer programming to enrich our students' elementary experience. PE, art, music, library and Spanish are among the classes offered. Chorus, instrumental music lessons, and ensemble are offered for students in the intermediate grades. These programs are beneficial to the development of the whole child and provided through the Supervision District of the Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 Boards of Education.

Technology integration has been a focus in all of the Chester, Deep River, Essex, Region 4 Schools. Through this collaboration, students have access to a wide variety of technological tools. Our students in grades 4-6 have their own Chromebook for use in school providing a 1:1 environment. Innovative and engaging computer applications are infused into the curriculum to enhance twenty-first century learning and skills.

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

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

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

Our Social Development program promotes a culture, climate, and curriculum that enhances the social, emotional, and behavioral development of students. Our focus for the 2017-18 year was "Mindfulness" through which students learned the importance of being mindful and staying in the moment.

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

Jennifer Tousignant
Principal

Education

Superintendent of Schools

The 2017-2018 school year across Chester, Deep River, Essex, and the Region 4 Schools was very exciting with a number of initiatives and recognitions. The Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 Schools engaged in the first year of implementation of our strategic plan focusing on Critical and Creative Problem Solving. All Boards of Education voted to focus on this goal, along with administration and staff members. This has provided us complete alignment in moving our districts forward to provide excellence for all of our students pre-kindergarten through graduation.

Valley Regional High School enjoyed many awards and recognitions in academics, the arts, sports, and citizenship. Our high school was proud to report a 100% graduation rate for students attending all four years at VRHS. Administration and staff are working closely with the examining committee in meeting the criteria to be an International Baccalaureate Diploma School. The IB committee will make a determination about our eligibility in January, 2019. It is our hope that we begin to offer the IB Programme Diploma courses in the fall of 2019.

The elementary schools have been focused on curriculum and professional development that match the new national and state standards across content areas. We began a new elementary mathematics program, Bridges, in our elementary schools. Math coaches played an integral role in working with staff and students in each of our schools.

We are proud to offer experiences for the students of Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 Schools that prepare them for our ever changing world and the careers that await them. Our first and foremost consideration is to provide our students with multiple learning opportunities that positively shape their future. We also hope that the programs provided in all of our schools encourage families to move to our communities. We continue to seek to develop creative relationships and programs that have a positive impact on economics within our towns and schools. On behalf of our schools, administration, staff, and students, we thank you for your support and partnership in developing global citizens of tomorrow.

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



Emergency Management

The Emergency Management Department continues to put safety and well-being of residents as its highest priority. Each year we review and update

the emergency readiness and operations plans and incorporate improvements and modifications as a result of lessons learned during statewide drills and actual emergency events.

On October 3, 2017, the department participated in a Long-term Care Facility Mutual Aid Drill at Essex Meadows Health Care Center. The goal of this Statewide drill was for Essex Meadows staff to practice their process for receiving "mock" patients into a healthcare setting per their Emergency Plan. An example of when Essex Meadows could be asked to receive patients is if another LTC facility was in imminent danger of being damaged or destroyed as a result of a severe weather event. The Emergency Management's Deputy Director, Essex Fire Chief, and Essex First Selectman, attended and contributed to the Drill to ensure that the Essex Meadows' Mutual Aid plan is consistent with the Town's Emergency Operation Plan.

On June 20, 2018, the department participated in the Statewide Emergency Planning & Preparedness Initiative (EPPI) with key individuals including the Harbor Master, First Selectman, Town Hall staff, and community partners. The statewide exercise was designed to simulate a tropical storm event with significant flooding and infrastructure damage across the region. The objectives of the Drill were to exercise the Town's Local Emergency Operations Plan, to review local preparedness and core capabilities, and to evaluate both short and long-term resources needed to fully recover from a significant flooding event. The Drill included an analysis of the Town's initial response to downed trees & power lines, road closures, breached dams and flash flooding, debris management, transportation and communication issues, as well as longer-term recovery which could take months or years.

Severe winter storms, blizzards, protracted sub-zero temperatures, wind storms and hurricanes are occurring more frequently and residents are strongly encouraged to be prepared, have a plan for your own health and safety, and to listen to local instructions and announcements. The best way to stay informed about local emergencies is to sign up for [Safer Essex](#) Emergency alerts which are sent to you by text, email or phone call. To register your contact information, visit the Emergency Management page on the Town of Essex website www.essexct.gov. [Safer Essex](#) is used only by Town Officials to communicate significant, local, emergency alerts and information. For additional information on how to plan for an emergency, please refer to the *Emergency Preparedness Guidebook* on the Town of Essex/Emergency Management website. Hardcopies are also available in the Town Hall.

Be Well and Stay Safe.
William Buckridge

Essex Elderly and Affordable Housing

At last, Essex Place opened to new residents in October, 2017. After almost six years, The Essex Elderly and Affordable Housing, Inc. (EEAH) partnership with Women's Institute for Housing and Economic Development (WIHED) celebrated the new 22-unit facility for senior affordable housing, Essex Place, addition to the Essex Court campus. The Essex Court/Essex Place campus is now home to 64 residents.

EEAH and WIHED are most grateful for the support of the Town and surrounding property owners for their cooperation for accessing permits, leases, and easements. We are very grateful to The Essex Foundation for a most generous grant for furnishings for the Community Room and Game Room, Essex Savings Bank for CRA funds for completing the kitchen within Essex Place, and to The Community Foundation of Middlesex County for the grant to purchase the kitchen stove. We thank our funders, especially our local Essex Savings Bank for the FHLB loan.

As with all new construction, not everything has worked, notably the heat pump system for heating and cooling. Improvements are underway, and residents have been most patient with the issues.

The patio at Essex Place provides campus residents with an opportunity to dine or just be outside in the warm weather. Over the past year site management has presented concerts and celebrations for campus residents in the large Community Room. A group of Essex Place residents convenes each morning in the Community Room for coffee and for work on a gigantic jigsaw puzzle. A number also gather in the evening for cocktail hour either in the Community Room or on the patio.

Applications are accepted year round and there is a waiting list.

EEAH Board of Directors: Janice Atkeson, Chairperson, Dawn Boulanger, Bill Carlson, Yolanda Lowe, Rick Stebbins, and Rosemary Willis.

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). Each resident enjoys one of our 36 garden-style apartments. Our Resident Services Coordinator hosts weekly lunches and monthly events in the Community Room at Essex Court. All social gatherings are open to residents of Essex Place Centerbrook, LLC.

Community organizations continue to generously assist the residents of Essex Court. Warriors in the Community, a group of high school students, come once a year to assist staff in maintenance projects. The Essex Rotary Club, in conjunction with Dr. Tobin, generously provide holiday meals for residents. Coldwell Banker contributes funds each year to be used to celebrate resident birthdays and other social events. The Essex Community Fund also provides ongoing support to our residents. Other businesses and individuals donate in kind services, for which the residents are most appreciative.

Each year the long-term maintenance program for Essex Court continues to improve the property. A third Small Cities grant refurbished kitchens with new appliances, cabinets, and countertops and bathrooms with more accessible fixtures. In addition, to improve resident safety, new wrought iron railings were installed in all thirty-six apartment entrances.

EHA, our Site Manager, and DeMarco Management strive to make Essex Court desirable for residents, financially viable, and an asset to the community. This past year Essex Place was opened for occupancy on the campus with Essex Court. Residents enjoy concerts and celebrations with Essex Place residents in their new, large Community Room.

Applications are accepted year round and there is a waiting list.

Commissioners: Janice Atkeson, Rick Stebbins, Yolanda Lowe, Rosemary Willis, and Gary Arnholt, resident representative.

Mary Mansour
Property Manager

Fire Marshal

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

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

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

Approve and manage all fire department keyed access control systems in town. Update and code National Fire Incident reporting data and submit to State and National agencies. Evaluate and generate pre-plan data for occupancies located in town. Pre-plan data is utilized by responding emergency personnel to aid in the mitigation of emergencies by providing important details about the occupancy and hazard contents.

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

Removal and installation of underground fuel storage tanks:

There is a \$30.00 fee associated with this permit and may be obtained in the Fire Marshal's office. An inspection is required for the installation and removal of underground fuel storage tanks. Fiscal year 2017-2018, there were 9 underground fuel tank removal permits/inspections.

Tent/event permit requirements:

There is a \$30.00 fee associated with each tent/event permit. The Fire Marshal inspects tents prior to the event and also determines the extent of fire protection needed based on the size of the tent and occupancy. Fiscal year 2017-2018, there were 53 tent permits/inspections completed.

Explosives permits:

There is a \$60.00 fee for a blasting permit. Blasting permits may be obtained at The Fire Marshal's office as well as guidelines for submitting applications. Fiscal year 2017-2018, there were 5 blasting permits issued.

Open burning permits:

There is no charge for open burn permits. Permits may be obtained at The Office of the Fire Marshal. Open burning is limited to the burning of brush only, on residential property upon which the permittee resides. Only brush (defined as shrubs, vegetation or prunings, the diameter of which is not greater than three inches at the widest point) may be burned. Burning on property not zoned as residential is prohibited. Further regulations are detailed on the permit. Fiscal year 2017-2018, there were 67 burn permits issued.

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

Total revenue for permits issued by The Office of the Fire Marshal from July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018 was \$2,160.00.

John A. Planas
Fire Marshal

Harbor Management Commission

The waters of South, Middle, North and Falls Rivers Coves along with the Connecticut River from Deep River to Saybrook and west of the channel make up Essex Harbor. The Harbor Management Commission manages the anchorages, fairways and structures in these waters. The HMC also has oversight of the Public Access points. It also has responsibility to attempt to preserve harbor wetlands and environments.

The Harbor Plan was written in the late 1980's and approved in 1990. With numerous changes in our environment and the usage of our Harbor, the Commission has been working on updating the Plan. In 2018, we received a grant from the Connecticut Port Authority to help cover the cost of surveys, tide and current analysis, and wave analysis.

These reports are being reviewed and will help provide data to fuel upcoming efforts to improve harbor access and ease of usage. Initial concerns are with the quickly eroding condition of Thatchbed Island and its effect on the Harbor.

The Town Dock (foot of Main Street) will undergo a redecking with a minor change in layout this Winter. The dinghy float will be enlarged, hand railing upgraded, and improved seating with benches made of recycled plastic. This project is funded through Harbor Management funds separate from Town general fund budget.

Permits for moorings and small vessel storage were converted to a web based system with Online Mooring (onlinemooring.com/EssexCt) in 2017/18. The system also manages Wait Lists for both.

As always, good communications with the Harbor Master and/or Harbor Commission concerning the use of your mooring is very important.

HMC meetings are open to the public and held at the Town Hall at 7:30 on the fourth Thursday of the month, except Nov & Dec when it is the third Thursday. Funds for HMC operating comes from user fees and are not part of the Town's General Fund budget.

Jeff Going
Chairman

Health Department

The Essex Health Department is responsible for upholding the CT Public Health Code (PHC) and local ordinances. This department is primarily involved in all aspects of environmental and public health in the community as well as disease prevention programs and public health emergency planning. Environmental health includes permitting and inspection of foodservice establishments, temporary foodservice events, daycare and nursing home facilities, salons, private drinking water wells, onsite septic systems, and the public bathing beach at Viney Hill Brook Park. The department investigates food-borne illnesses, communicable diseases, child elevated blood lead levels, sewage breakouts, vector-borne diseases associated with bats and ticks, and other potential nuisance situations.

In 2017, the CT General Assembly passed a bill requiring Connecticut foodservice establishments to follow the Federal Model Food Code. The law requires a variety of changes to be made within foodservice businesses including equipment modifications, new staff education requirements, and new policies and practices. The Health Dept continues to work with foodservice establishments throughout the transition process to collectively ensure the health and safety of patrons. In CT, the Model Food Code became effective January 1, 2018.

The Health Dept. is required to review many kinds of projects and proposed land use activities

for compliance with the CT Public Health Code. Plan review is required for building additions, changes in use, lot line changes, proposed accessory structures (i.e. pool, sheds, underground fuel tanks, etc.) or any activity which increases wastewater design flows from a building. Often, these projects require soil testing to assess feasibility and capacity of an on-site septic system and also additional review of engineered septic system plans for new construction and subdivisions.

In 2017-18, health department staff conducted the required number of inspections (and multiple re-inspections) at the 42 food service establishments in town and inspected numerous temporary foodservice events such as Lobster Bake, Shad



Exploring the CT River ice jams

Continued on next page

Health Department

Continued from previous page

Bake, RiverFare, Thomas the Tank Engine, half Marathons, farmers market, etc. Health Dept. staff completed 88 plan reviews, 42 soil tests, 39 septic system repairs, issued 8 well drilling permits and 7 new septic system permits. Additionally, the staff conducted 10 barber/salon inspections, 3 child care inspections, 6 public swimming pool inspections and monitored bathing water at Viney Hill Brook Park for the 2017 swimming season.

The Health Dept. actively participates in Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) planning and statewide drills with State partners in Region 2, ESF-8, and MDA 39. During local severe weather events or emergencies, this department partners with local leadership, Emergency Management Office, first responders, and key community partners to collectively ensure public health and safety.

The Health Dept. is intentionally located within the Essex Land Use Office because much of the required plan review and permitting activities also require review and approval by the Zoning and Building Officials and sometimes, by the Fire Marshall. The Land Use office works collectively to ensure your plans meet regulatory compliance.

Lisa Fasulo, MPH, REHS/RS
Director of Health



Land Use Office personnel will "bee" there to help!

Inlands Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

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

The Commission regulates all proposed activities within a wetland or watercourse and on lands within 100 feet of those areas. In accordance with CT General Statutes the Town developed Regulations covering activities in these areas. Using a 'best practices' approach the Commission, along with its Enforcement Officer, administers the regulations to protect the Town's resources and help owners enjoy the use of their property. This past year the Commission, working with its legal counsel, Suzanna McCauley, revised its practices to better align with CT Statutes and simplify the administrative approval process for incidental activity in regulated areas. The Commission meets the second Tuesday of the month in the Town Hall.

During the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the Commission conducted five site inspections and issued nine inland wetland permits. The majority of the permits involved activities within upland review areas. The Inland Wetlands Officer issued ten administrative approvals for activities within upland review areas.



Essex Harbor

photo credit: Edward McCaffrey

Park and Recreation Department/Commission

The Essex Park and Recreation Department, working under the direction of the Park and Recreation Commission, strives to provide safe and aesthetically pleasing parks to the residents and visitors of Essex; as well as enriching recreational programs for youth and adults. Residents and visitors are offered approximately 90 acres of parkland that includes: 9 park areas, a state of the art playground, eco-friendly restrooms, 3 park shelters, a walking path, 2 fishing piers, basketball court, tennis court, 3 baseball and softball fields, a dog park, and swimming hole. We also accomplished many parks improvement projects this past year. Most notable, re-surfacing of our Hubbard Field Basketball Court and new backstop at Hubbard Baseball Field

The department provides many recreation programs for people of all ages. These programs are offered in a wide range of interests including; youth sports, youth camps, adult sports, fitness, special interest, and after school enrichment. In addition, activities are also provided by the department indirectly through partnerships with various organizations (Essex Little League Baseball, Valley Soccer Club, Ticks Lacrosse, Essex Land Trust, Essex Board of Trade, Ivoryton Alliance, and many other Community Groups). Furthermore, many local organizations are scheduled and issued Park Use Permits for various park and facility use each year.

A further priority of the Department is bringing to the community a variety of special events. This past year we held the Ivoryton Village Pumpkin Festival, Essex Eggstravaganza, Summer Concerts Series, and Essex go Bragh. We were fortunate to have the support of a number of local businesses and residents.

The Park and Recreation Commission meets quarterly 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,
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. Alan Kerr was elected as chairman in December, and George Sexton was elected Vice-Chairman. Ralph Monaco, Erin Bogan, and Gary Riggio are the other full members. Alternates are Jane Siris, Hope Proctor, and Al Wolfgram. John Guskowski of CME Associates continues to serve the Commission as Consulting Town Planner.

During the fiscal year 2017-2018, the Planning Commission undertook the following efforts:

Continued implementation of the Plan of Conservation & Development (PoCD). The Plan was the result of numerous public forum sessions and over two years of Commission effort in research and writing, culminating the document's public hearing and adoption in October of 2015. The PoCD will guide Planning, Zoning, Economic Development, and Conservation efforts for the next decade, and can be found on the Commission's web page (www.essexct.gov/planning);

-Initial actions for implementation of the PoCD included: proposing an amendment to the Zoning Regulations to increase availability of Accessory Apartments throughout Town; undertaking a Town-wide opinion survey on Housing in Essex (results are on the Commission web page as well); participating with the Zoning Commission on an on-going update to the Zoning Regulations; Leading an ad-hoc committee to investigate ways to expand housing opportunity in Essex, including beginning work on an Affordable Housing Plan; and seeking funding for infrastructure improvement, focusing on pedestrian networks between key community nodes; oversight of replacement of Walnut Street Bridge; and coordination with Ivoryton Village Alliance on future parking potential.

-Completed Phase I of sidewalk improvements near Essex Elementary School funded through Safe Routes To School program, ensuring a continuous pedestrian path from EES to Ivoryton Center. Working, based on a successful STEAP grant application, to improve the sidewalks and streetscape along Main Street in Centerbrook from the Steam Train to Cumberland Farms. Design for improvements was nearly finalized by June, 2018, and construction is anticipated in 2019.

-Made minor amendment to Essex Subdivision Regulations concerning rear lots in small subdivisions.

Alan Kerr,
Planning Commission Chairman
John Guskowski, Town Planner

Probate Court Saybrook District

2018 marks the first "changing of the guard" for the Saybrook District Probate Court. Formed effective January 5, 2011 during the statewide consolidation of the then 117 probate districts into 54, Honorable Terrance Lomme has presided over the court since its inception. Upon reaching the mandatory retirement age of all Connecticut judges, Judge Lomme ushered in the new judge, Attorney Jeannine Lewis, in July of 2018, allowing for a smooth transition of the services this active court provides to the nine towns of Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme, Old Saybrook, and Westbrook.

Judge Lewis is a member of the Connecticut Probate Assembly Conservatorship Guidelines Committee, which published the first ever Connecticut Standards of Practice for Conservators in 2018 in order to provide guidance to conservators regarding their duties, the ethical principals by which they operate, and factors to be taken into consideration when making substituted decisions for compromised individuals. The new standards can be found in published form at each of the probate courts throughout the state, including the Saybrook District Probate Court's office on the second floor of the Old Saybrook Town Hall.

Originally founded in the late 1600's, probate courts historically handled matters pertaining to decedent's estates and guardianships, but they now serve many vulnerable populations, including the elderly, children, the intellectually disabled, and individuals with psychiatric conditions that affect their ability to function independently. The probate court system offers families alternatives to foster care, institutionalization, and inpatient hospitalization that ultimately save the state money and promote a family centered approach to care.

Aside from Judge Lewis, the Saybrook District Probate Court is staffed by seven knowledgeable clerks who came from the legacy courts throughout the district before the consolidation: Valerie Shickel (Chief Clerk), Marjorie Calltharp, Stella Beaudoin, Sharon Tiezzi, Helene Yates, Jacqueline Craco, and Margaret ("Peggy") Schroeder.

The Probate Court is located at 302 Main St. #2, Old Saybrook, CT 06475. Court hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Contact by phone at 860-510-5028.

Public Works

In January 2018, Ryan Welch was appointed to the position of Public Works Director for the Town of Essex.

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

Throughout every season our Public Works crew is kept busy with tasks ranging from: drainage maintenance and repair, road preservation and reconstruction, sidewalk maintenance and reconstruction, street sweeping, snow plowing, tree trimming and mowing of town parks and road edges. Our town contains 42 miles of road, which can be a challenging for our crew, so we thank and appreciate all those who maintain their frontage. Your pride is evident and encouraging to us and to your neighbors.

We have been very busy this year and would like to take a moment to mention some of the projects we've been working on. This year we completed the reconstruction of the Walnut Street Bridge and the addition of a sidewalk extension at the foot of Main Street in Essex. In the road preservation and reconstruction department, we covered many miles of road. 1.21 miles of new pavement and 4.15 miles of chip sealing were restored, which will prolong the life of our roads for many years to come.

Looking ahead, there are several projects working their way up through the engineering department. A Small Town Economic Assistance Project grant has been secured for Centerbrook, which will include new sidewalks, decorative street lighting and crosswalks. Also, a Sidewalk Connectivity Grant was awarded to the Town and will be used to link gaps in our sidewalks between Ivoryton and Essex. Another project of note is a change in the intersection of Mares Hill and Walnut Street. We will be widening the road to improve travel for larger vehicles, this will also provide better sight lines on the curves.

Lastly, a condition assessment was recently conducted and a 5-year and 10-year capital improvement plan is in progress. This plan includes our entire infrastructure and will be our guide to scheduling repairs and improvements. We intend to do this in a methodical and diligent way to control costs, while also providing continuous improvement and safety. Our goal is to have a proactive approach to our repairs and maintenance program. Please bring any concerns to our attention as they are very important to us and we will respond with courteous service and action.

Ryan Welch
Director of Public Works

Pumpout Boat Program

As one of our Captains quotes:" KEEPING THE RIVER CLEAN....ONE BOAT AT A TIME"

The Town facilitates the Lower Connecticut River Pumpout Boat Program. Funding is through the Federal Clean Vessel Act and is implemented in Connecticut by the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP).

Our fleet, services the recreational boats in the River, from the East Haddam Bridge to Old Saybrook. This is a free service.

During the 2018 nationwide Clean Vessel Act Winter Conference, we received another innovation mention. This one as being the first Program to spec out the installation of a bow thruster in a "smaller" (under 25') pumpout boat.

Our activities are increasing every year. We are up 51% in the last three years. For example: We

offloaded over 115,232 gallons last season equating to 535 Tons of septic waste (Fecal Coliform) and more importantly; 96.49 Pounds of NITROGEN from entering the Lower Connecticut River. From a 2017 DPH Study: "Sewage contains pathogens (disease causing organisms) and if improperly disposed, may result in health hazards and nuisance conditions."

As a sidebar. This season one of our boats was able to respond to a MAY DAY and assisted the Coast Guard in dragging the small boat to shore, righting it and dewatering it there. The three people on board and a dog were rescued from the water by a passing boater.

Joel Severance
Pumpout Boat Program Manger



Registrars of Voters

On January 8, 2019 Lois Ely will be retiring as the Democratic Registrar of Voters after 34 years of outstanding service to the citizens of Essex, Connecticut! We wish Lois and her family many years of good health, good luck and good fun in her retirement!

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

The registrars have the responsibility of keeping the Registry List current at all times. They receive applications from new voters, admit those who qualify and add their names to the Registry in a timely fashion. Removals from the list are made due to death and electors moving out of town.

The Annual Canvas is required by State Statute and was carried out January through April. Changes of address, removals and other corrections were made. The help of all electors in this process is greatly appreciated. As of August 27, 2018, there were 5,117 registered voters in the Town of Essex. This number is broken down as follows: Democrats-1,696: Republicans-1,418: Unaffiliated-1,938: Other-65.

On September 17, 2017, we held a Republican Primary to select a candidate for Judge of Probate to complete a term due to Judge Terry Lomme's retirement.

On November 7, 2017, we held a special election for Judge of Probate and the Municipal Election concurrently. Voter turnout for the Municipal election was disappointing as only 47% of eligible voters turned out. On May 2, 2018, we held the Region 4 Budget Referendum.

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

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

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

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

*Resident State Trooper/Essex
Police*

Policing and public safety in the Town of Essex is the responsibility of the Essex Resident Trooper's Office. The Resident Trooper's office is located in the Essex Town Hall, and consists of three full time certified Police Officers, and two part time certified Police Officers. In addition, there are three part time Harbor Patrol Officers who are responsible for the operation of the Essex Police boat. A new boat was purchased in May 2018 can be found patrolling the Connecticut River, along the Essex shoreline, Friday through Sunday, and as needed 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 2017-2018 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 7,433 calls for

Statistic	Total
Total Calls for Service	7433
Total Accidents with Report	94
Total Accidents without Report	10
Total Fatal Accidents	1
Total Fatalities	1
Total Serious Injury Accidents	0
Total Minor Injury Accidents	4
Total Non-injury Accidents	87
Total Accident DWI's	7
Total Onsight DWI's	5
Total DWI's	12
Total Other Reportable	93
Total Nonreportable	5788
Total Motorist Assists	108
Total Citations Primary Charge	752
Total Citations All Charges	752
Total Warnings Primary Charge	431
Total Warnings All Charges	723
Total Seatbelt Citations Primary Charge	50
Total Seatbelt Citations All Charges	231
Total Seatbelt Warnings All Charges	154

service. 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.

David Tretter, Resident State Trooper



Retirement Board

The Essex Retirement Board (ERB) acts as the fiduciary and administrator of the Town's three retirement benefit assets: Town of Essex Retirement Plan, Town of Essex Police Retirement Plan, and the Town of Essex Merit Service Retirement Plan (a LOSAP plan) for Volunteer Firefighters. The role of the ERB is to primarily perform a fiduciary and oversight function over the Town's retirement and merit service plans in order to ensure effective and fair oversight of the plans, their investments, funding, procedures and distribution of benefits to eligible employees and volunteer participants.

The ERB is authorized under terms consistent with the plans; to consist of at least three (3) members but not more than five (5) and members are appointed by the First Selectman for the purpose of administering the Plans. The current Chairperson is F. Ellen Whaley – Wexler, term expiration November 2020. Current at large members are: Ethan Goller, Peter Decker, term expiration November 2019; and Stacia Libby, Mary-Louise Polo, term expiration November 2018.

The ERB meets monthly, generally on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Town Hall in the early evening. The 2018–2019 annual schedule, agendas and minutes are posted on the Town's website.

The fund balances at the close of the 2017-2018 fiscal year were: \$4,598,232 for the Defined Benefits Retirement Plans for Town Employees and Police, and \$1,043,322 for the Merit Service Retirement Plan for Volunteer Firemen Town contribution to each plan of \$545,666, and \$119,366 respectively.

Hooker & Holcombe in West Hartford, CT provides investment advisory and actuarial services for the Town plans. Additionally, H&H provides a pension administration portal for eligible employees and Volunteer Firefighters. This interactive portal allows participants to view their current and estimated future plan benefits.

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.

F. 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.

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

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

Mary Ellen Barnes
Social Services Representative

Sustainability Committee

Report on FY 2017-18 Sustainability Goals

1. *Reduce electric consumption by 20% from the baseline year of 2010.*

Results: during FY 2017-18 municipal buildings, streetlights and the elementary school consumed 605,788 kWh. Using the 2010 CY baseline of 872,489 kWh, this was a 28% decrease from 2010.

2. *Increase purchase of Clean Energy for town buildings to 20% for FY 2017-18.*

Results: During FY 2017-18, 36% of the municipal building energy consumed was generated by solar panels on the elementary school and the hazardous waste building.

3. *Reduce heating fuel oil consumption by 5%.*

Results: Using the 2010 CY baseline of 37,960 gallons, during FY 2017-18 6,964 gallons of fuel oil was consumed by municipal buildings, a decrease of 82%. The decrease was primarily the result of a switch to a natural gas heating system at the Elementary School and the switch to a propane-based system at Public Works. Converting all fossil fuel consumption (#2 fuel oil, propane and natural gas) to a common denominator, MMBtu (million British Thermal Units), total fossil fuel decreased 9% (52,952 MMBtu).

4. *Increase the amount of recyclables in tons.*

Results: Using the FY 2010-11 baseline of 691.31 tons, there was an increase of 15% to 793.91 tons in FY 2017-18.

5. *Increase amount of household hazardous waste (HHW) collected from FY 2010/11.*

Results: Compared to FY 2010/11, in 2017/18 there was an 8% increase in the number of pounds of hazardous waste collected, from 6,600 to 7,125 pounds. An average household contributes approximately 20 pounds of HHW, therefore the number of households is estimated to have increased from 330 to 356 for the report period.

Other Accomplishments:

On May 3, 2018, the Essex Board of Selectmen voted to join a statewide initiative – Sustainable CT – that promotes a broad menu of sustainability practices that aims to ensure the health and well-being of current and future residents while respecting the finite capacity of the natural environment. At the Town's request, the Essex Citizens for Clean Energy committee changed its name to Sustainable Essex and expanded its focus to a broad range of actions encouraged by

Continued on next page

Sustainability Committee

Continued from prior page

Sustainable CT. These include improving watershed management, supporting arts and creative culture, reducing energy use and increasing renewable energy, implementing "complete streets" (streets that meet the needs of walkers and bikers as well as cars), improving recycling programs, assessing climate vulnerability, supporting local businesses, and providing efficient and diverse housing options.

There is no cost to participate and Sustainable CT communities voluntarily select actions that meet their unique, local character and long-term vision. After successful implementation of a variety of actions, municipalities will be eligible for Sustainable CT certification.

The initiative was developed under the leadership of the Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University in partnership with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities. Three Connecticut philanthropies - The Emily Hall Tremain Foundation, the Hampshire Foundation, and the Common Sense Fund – have supported the program's development and launch. Through these benefactors more funding options will be available to participating towns.

We are excited to have joined Sustainable CT. The program promotes the sharing of ideas between communities on the Connecticut Shoreline and will help create and support more great places to live, work, and play in Essex. To join, contact Betsy D'Amico at bdamico@essexct.gov.



Essex Steam Train Station
Photo credit—Edward McCaffrey

Town Clerk's Office

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

The following is a list of recordings for the 2017-2018 fiscal year the Town of Essex:

Birth Certificates:	26
Death Certificates:	98
Dog Licenses:	588
Land Records:	1,426
Marriage Licenses:	77
Survey Maps:	26

Monies disbursed by Town Clerk to the State of Connecticut:

Sports License Fees:	\$ 681
Marriage Surcharge Fees:	\$ 1,444
Preservation Fees – State Library:	\$ 3,728
Land Records – State Treasurer:	\$67,153

Monies to the General Fund:

Conveyance Tax:	\$201,367
Town Clerk Fees:	\$143,368
Dog Fees	\$ 4,047

The land records are on our public computers in the Town Clerk's office for your search as well as being able to print the documents out. You can also subscribe to the Connecticut Town Clerks Portal which is available 24/7 at <https://connecticut-townclerks-records.com>

We issue annual stickers and punch cards to the Town's Transfer Station.

Don't forget when you reach the age of 65; you are entitled to receive a free Sports License annually.

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

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

Joel Marzi, Town Clerk
Yvonne Roziak, Assistant Town Clerk

Town Counsel

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 this office handled the many miscellaneous matters customary for Town operation, such as Town Meeting calls, interpretation of statutes, review and approval of Town contracts and the like. One of the more significant contracts under review is for the Town-wide Revaluation to take place for the tax assessment year beginning October 1, 2018.

Two Appeals relating to the actions of the Board of Assessment Appeals were filed in May and June, 2017 based on the 2013 revaluations. The amounts in dispute, even if found in favor of the property owners, would have little effect upon the Grand List.

The dispute regarding whether the westerly end of Evans Lane is a public highway continues. The Town of Essex filed a Declaratory Judgment suit on May 23, 2017. The nature of the Declaratory Judgment action is to ask the Court to decide the question of what is public highway or not. Resort to the Court was only taken after two years of efforts by the Town to have the parties reach a private settlement. The efforts were unsuccessful. Settlement negotiations have been ongoing and a court ordered mediation between parties has been agreed to by the parties. A Pretrial Conference is scheduled for May 3, 2018 if the matter has not been resolved before then.

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

David M. Royston
Town Counsel



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 2017-2018 we have planted nine trees bringing our total of trees planted since 1993 to 276.

The tree type and location are as follows: One Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*) at Corner

153 and Ingham Hill Road, one October Glory (*Acer Rubrum*) at Essex Elementary School, one October Glory (*Acer Rubrum*) at 36 West Avenue Essex, two Hawthorns (*Cratanegus*) at 27 Walnut Street, one Princeton Elm(*Ulmus Americana*) at 29 West Avenue, one Crabapple (*Malus*) at corner of Walnut Street and Comstock Avenue, and two October Glories (*Acer Rubrum*) at Bushnell Street extension (boat ramp area).

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 Selectmen to serve without pay for terms of three years duration. Current appointed members are: Kenneth Bombaci, Nancy Hudson, Susan Malan, John Molloy, Mark Pratt and Judith Saunders. The Essex Tree Committee has six meetings per year.

Augie Pampel,
Chairman/Tree Warden



Water Pollution Control Authority

The Water Pollution Control Authority focused much of the year on assuring that the cesspool ordinance that went into effect January 1, 2018 was enforced. Through work with our Health Director Lisa Fasulo, all known cesspools in Town have either been replaced or are in the process of replacement.

Several commercial property owners spent considerable time and effort to upgrade and replace aging systems using newer highly efficient septic system designs.

We continue the water monitoring sampling process in test holes throughout Essex Village to assure ground water stability is maintained.

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

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

Zoning Board of Appeals

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

There are times when residents propose activities such as building expansion, shed placement, pool location or uses of buildings that do not comply with the zoning regulations. The Zoning Board of Appeals has the authority to grant variances to those regulations. It is hoped that the variances are granted because of a true land-based hardship that would make development in full accordance with the zoning regulations extremely difficult. Variances granted should allow development to be in harmony with their general purpose and intent, after due consideration for conserving the public health, safety, welfare, convenience and property values.

During the 2017-2018 fiscal year there were a total of twenty-seven public hearings held before the ZBA this year. The Board granted twenty-four variances and denied three. One Coastal Area Management application was approved.



Zoning Commission

The Zoning Commission is chaired by Larry Shipman and has eight seats. With Mr. Shipman, William Reichenbach and Jim Hill and Russ Smith as regular members with Jeff Lovelace, Robert Day III Tom Carroll serving as alternates. The Commission meets on the third Monday evening of each month.

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 2017- 2018 fiscal year the Commission held nineteen public hearings. It approved ten special exceptions or site plan reviews. Also, nine petitions to amend the zoning regulations and/or change a map boundary.

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 zoning and 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 2017 – 2018 fiscal year the Zoning Official approved 138 zoning permits and 10 administrative wetland permits.



Trees in the Rigging parade participants

SECTION III—Community & Service Organizations

Ancient Order of Weeders

During the past year, The Ancient Order Of Essex Weeders made several improvements to plant beds we care for underneath the Route 9 overpass. Beginning last summer, our group installed eight hardy low spreading Blue Junipers, plus a large new grouping of Roses with Carex and Hakonechloa Grasses to replace several overgrown and damaged shrubs. In the spring of 2018 clusters of shade and drought tolerant Yuccas, dwarf Hydrangeas and Agastache were introduced adding more color to the gateway intersection leading into town. We also began caring for two large new beds of summer blooming perennials planted last year by Eric Sullivan for the Essex Foundation.

Since it's founding as a non-profit organization in 1981 The Ancient Order Of Essex Weeders have devoted their time and energy to the beautification of the gateway into Essex. Our group plants, waters and maintains the flowers and shrubs that mark the intersections of Routes 153 and 154 leading into the center of town. We also care for the flowers planted by the Garden Club around the "silent policeman" at the top of Main Street in Essex.

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

Ray Coyle
Lead Weeder
Ancient Order Of Essex Weeders

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Child & Family Agency of Southeastern Connecticut

Child and Family Agency of Southeastern Connecticut's mission is to nurture children and families to develop their strengths through service, partnership and advocacy. Child and Family Agency works to enable all children, youth and their families to maximize their ability to manage the challenges in their lives; to thrive in healthy relationships; to reduce, eliminate or effectively navigate barriers and obstacles; to pursue their hopes and dreams; and to more fully realize their potential; and to collaborate with other entities to reduce community-level health disparities. The Agency's programs provide services to address children's mental health and physical healthcare, child abuse prevention, the treatment of trauma,

family violence, childcare, and parent education.

Guided by the knowledge that children's health is not only physical, but also emotional, Child and Family Agency provides children and their family members with different options of mental health services delivery. Our Essex Child Guidance Clinic at 190 Westbrook Road in Essex works with children, adolescents and families with a wide range of needs from school adjustment issues, family conflict, behavioral health concerns and at risk acting out behaviors. Our clinicians can provide individual or family therapy and psychiatric evaluations, as needed. In addition, the in-home intensive therapy service addresses the needs of young people with more serious behavioral health issues, including 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 and Family Agency serves children birth to eighteen years of age and their families. Our Essex Child Guidance Clinic provided home and office based counseling services to over 1,850 children and their family members this past fiscal year. Our agency is host to the Valley Shore Collaborative, community members, families and mental health providers who focus on the unmet needs of the children in our community.

Last year, over 18,000 children were served in 79 towns in Child & Family Agency's service region. Child & Family has over 190 staff - social workers, teachers, psychologists, nurse practitioners, administrators, and support staff - dedicated to helping children at 24 service centers. A non-profit agency with a \$13 million budget, program funding comes from private, state, United Way and federal sources. Fees for service reflect costs. A sliding scale assures that no one will be refused service for financial reasons.

The Essex River Valley Auxiliary of Child & Family Agency promotes fund raising and advocacy programs to benefit the services and capital projects of the Agency. The Auxiliary meets the third Tuesday of each month (September-June) at Essex Yacht Club at 6:30 PM. Visit our website at www.childandfamilyagency.org to learn more or call Pat Mackenzie Thompson, Auxiliary Chairperson, or Matt Vangieri, Senior Director of Development.

Matt Vangieri
Sr. Director Development
Child and Family Agency of SE CT

Connecticut River Gateway Commission

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

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

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

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

Members as of June 30, 2018 included: Margaret Wilson and Errol Horner of Chester; Nancy Fischbach and Kate Cotton of Deep River; Harvey Thomas and Crary Brownell of East Haddam; Claire Matthews and Mary Ann Pleva of Essex; Susan R. Bement of Haddam, J. Melvin Woody and Wendy Hill of Lyme; Peter Cable and Suzanne Thompson of Old Lyme; Bill Webb of Old Saybrook; Raul de Brigard of RiverCOG; and David

Blatt of the Connecticut DEEP (Commissioner's Representative). Fenwick Borough has been designated an ad hoc member and is periodically represented by Borough Warden Fran Adams.

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

www.ctrivergateway.org.

Connecticut River Museum

Fiscal 2017-2018 was another eventful year for the Museum.

The sailing ship *Onrust*, a recreation of Adriaen Block's vessel of trade and discovery, made its arrival at the beginning of summer and entertained and enlightened thousands of our visitors who learned of this intrepid Dutchman and his travails and accomplishments on his fourth voyage to North America – the one in which he became the first European to sail up the Connecticut River to present-day Hartford in the summer of 1614.

Summer Adventure Day Camps, with wide-ranging themes from history to the environment, delighted hundreds of lucky children. The Antique and Classic Boat Society held a rendezvous on our docks and alongshore. *Thursdays on the Dock* provided thousands with live musical entertainment with the magnificent River in the background and the moored boats lit with early evening setting sun.

Our busy schedule of gallery exhibitions began with one about the shad, our "founding fish." There followed "Four Artists; Four States" and the Avian Art of Michael DiGeorgio.

In concert with the Essex Rotary, the Shad Bake again took place on our grounds.

In August, the Museum debuted *Conquer the Current*, a ten-mile standup paddle board regatta, which started at Eagle Landing in Haddam and ended in front of the Museum. It was a huge success and plans were soon made to hold it again in 2018.

In the fall, work began on the replacement of the steel bulkhead under the North Deck, thus ensuring the Museum's protection from the elements for many more years. New railings and lighting completed this necessary capital project.

With the fall and more northerly winds, school groups returned. *Onrust* sailed back to the Hudson River, and Steve Cryan's annual Holiday Train Show

Continued on next page

Connecticut River Museum

Continued from previous page

re-appeared on the third floor. Winter lectures, vacation workshops, Eagle Watch tours (in partnership with RiverQuest), the Privateer's Bash, Evenings at the Lay House, followed one after the other until spring.

In spring and early summer, many of the nearly 5,000 school children visited, learned, and enjoyed close encounters with and upon the Connecticut River, thanks to our expert and talented educators.

RiverFare under the tent on the River's edge was our first program of spring and our guests enjoyed sampling the wares of several local food and drink vendors, enjoying each other's company, and glad that winter was over.

Our summer exhibition, mounted in late spring in the Bud Scott gallery in the 1878 Dock House third floor, was entitled *Thirsty River – 400 Years of Drink, Life & Reform in the River Valley*, and, in great and fascinating detail, told the stories of cider, beer, and distilled spirits made throughout history in the Connecticut River Valley. The exhibit chronicled drink as fostering conviviality, of being over-done, and as the subject of the temperance movement.

The Museum is proud to be a part of and draws its strength from the Community of Essex and we look forward to continuing to welcome its citizens to our house and grounds.

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## Essex Ambulance Association

The members of the Board of Directors and Corps would like to thank our residents and local businesses for your continued support, without your assistance we would be unable to continue to operate. Equally important, we thank our members and staff for their commitment to the health and safety of our community.

Our members responded to 879 calls last year, including medical emergencies, traumatic injuries, cardiac arrests and psychiatric emergencies. We assisted at local events, provided assistance at fire scenes in Essex and emergency response as requested to our mutual aid towns.

Our current ambulances range in age from 9 to 24 years. With an aging fleet, maintenance repair costs are rising and we are beginning the planning process to purchase a new ambulance. We are self-funded and assistance from our Town residents will be critical in reaching this goal.

Our ability to provide more definitive care has been enhanced by interventions such as Naloxone and Epinephrine. Those critical interventions increased our training requirements and medical supply budget but greatly enhanced our ability to

provide needed services.

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 that support. Any assistance is very much appreciated!

We are always looking for exceptional people to join our Corps. If you are interested in learning more about how you can serve your community contact us at our headquarters or ask one of our members for information.

Thank you again for your continued support

D. G. Fitton, President  
Judi Reynolds EMT/EMSI,  
Chief of Service

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Essex Art Association

Essex Art Association (EAA), a non-profit art gallery in existence since 1946, is housed in a historic, yellow building near the center of Essex. Initially founded as a place for artists to share and sell their work, EAA has continued that tradition. Since the building is unheated, the gallery is seasonal but very active during the warmer months. EAA 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. 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.

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

EAA Council Members:

Chip Rutan, President
Pam Carlson, Vice-President
Susan Malan, Treasurer
Peggy Price, Secretary
Rachel Carlson, Member
Elin Dolle, Member
Ellen Gaube, Member
Barbara Morrissey, Member
Jerry Reed, Member
Kay Brigante, Co-Administrative Director
Janet Rayner, Co-Administrative Director

Essex Board of Trade

Essex Board of Trade (EBOT) is a local business organization comprised of members from the manufacturing, banking/financial management, real estate, legal, health and wellness, food/beverage, lodging, and retail, as well as various professional services. We also have a number of members who represent our area tourist attractions, notably the Ivoryton Playhouse, Essex Art Association, Essex Steam Train, and The Connecticut River Museum. Our membership is primarily made up of "for profit" businesses, but also has a number of "non-profit" members as well. From its inception, first as the Essex Merchants Group, then incorporated in the mid 1990's as EBOT, the mission is to bring businesses together from the three villages, to promote commerce throughout the entire township.

Essex Board of Trade is not an arm of our town government. No resident's tax dollars have ever been allocated to the EBOT to do what we do. It is through the yearly dues paid by our members and the sponsorship dollars which are raised for various events that allow us to promote our town. Our members belong because of the value we offer their businesses: the opportunity to network with fellow members on a monthly basis, the opportunity for the business or organization to "host" events, as well as "boosting" our members fundraising events, and our continuously promoting the vitality of our villages to residents and tourists alike. When one sees "The Essex Ed Parade", the American flags on lamp posts in the summer, scarecrows in the fall, "Dogs on the Dock", the holiday garlands on lamp posts, as well



A lovely contestant posing for the cameras

as the "Essex Stroll" in December, it is our members that have paid, coordinated efforts, and contributed manpower to making the villages look festive, fun, and attractive.

This spring/summer season the EBOT, aided by the masterful and amazing marketing assistance of a

town resident, we began "First Thursdays". This was

an opportunity to showcase Essex village in particular to residents and visitors that might not ordinarily come into town

because stores would be closed.

Through this series of First Thursdays each month, we hopefully have been able to reacquaint the public with the many fine shops and restaurants that remained open into the evening, and which may not all be located on the Main street of Essex Village.

The special event committee meets regularly to plan the monthly "Business After Hours", and seasonal events. Through the promotion of seasonal events, our group advertising, as well as our use of social media, we are continually building greater public awareness of the Town of Essex, both on the state level, as well as throughout New England.

Our Board of Directors as well as our general membership meet monthly to discuss our members events and promotions, receive updates from our elected officials on local government plans and objectives, discuss the business climate and trends, as well as occasionally hearing from guest speakers on topics of interest to the membership.

We rely on the volunteerism of our membership to assist in coordinating each of our events, making them affordable and successful. Through the updating and enhancements to our website, essexct.com, our group advertising, our "Facebook" and "Instagram" pages, ("Essex Board of Trade") we work to consistently be a reminder in the minds of our visitors and residents of the vitality in town, and the importance of supporting local businesses, organizations, museums, restaurants, and theatre.

We strive to give a clear picture of small-town life with its history and traditions, and hopefully enticing our "guests" to perhaps move to our town, open new businesses, all while adding to our local culture and economic base.

Jim D'Alessio, VP Essex Board of Trade
J. Alden Clothiers



Essex Community Fund

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

All annual donations (100 %) that ECF receives from our individual donors stay within our community to serve the residents of our three villages. We also expand the impact of donors' gifts by forging effective public/private partnerships, such as our Matching Challenge Grant to support a critical fuel assistance program for low income residents managed by the Town.

- **Day of Giving** - Over \$40,000 were distributed in grants to local non-profit organizations in April.
- **Stuff-A-Cruiser Events** - In collaboration with the Essex Police Department, our two annual events yielded over 3,200 pounds of food for the Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries.
- **Cheers for Charity Beer Festival** - Our First Annual Cheers for Charity Event at the Essex Steam Train was a hit with over 15 breweries in attendance and a sold out crowd of 200 people. Next year's event is March 9, 2019, mark your calendars!

ECF continuously identifies, brings awareness to and gathers additional financial and volunteer support for emerging community needs. With the help of ECF's volunteer Board and others, we work in partnership with local non-profits organizations, churches, companies and the Town of Essex. Through these collaborations, ECF is able to support existing or new programming that addresses the various challenges our citizens face.

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

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

Jean Schneider, President

Essex Fire Engine Co. #1

The fiscal year of 2017-2018 has been a busy one for the volunteers of Essex Fire Engine Co #1. We responded to more than 650 requests for assistance including medical emergencies, structure fires, rescues, hazardous materials emergencies, public services, and much more. Members have also spent additional hours making sure the equipment is maintained and in excellent condition, providing storm standby and preparations, training, and insuring the department is in compliance with local, state and federal requirements.

The volunteers of Essex Fire have continued to put in countless hours to stay on the cutting edge of training. They have successfully completed courses for Fire Fighter 1, Emergency Medical Technician, and Emergency Medical Responder certifications. Members have also dedicated many additional hours to specialized rescue training and advanced fire fighting skills and tactics.

We are always in need of new members to fill the roles of fire fighters, emergency medical technicians/responders, apparatus operators and administrative staff. Please consider joining our ranks. For more information, email our membership committee at membership@essexctfire.com or stop by on a Wednesday evening around 7:00 pm to see what volunteer fire service is all about. Following the end of the year, the members of Essex Fire elected a new Fire Chief, Aron Schumacher. Aron is a lifelong resident of Ivoryton and served in the Department for 12 years. The chief is supported by Deputy Chief, Andy Kressley and Assistant Chiefs Chris Going and Ethan Goller. Essex Fire would like to take this opportunity to recognize, past chief Paul Fazzino Jr., for his four years of dedicated service.

To stay updated with the most current happenings at Essex Fire you can follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/essexctfire/>. To get more information about Essex Fire, contact us at chief@essexctfire.com.

Aron Schumacher, Chief of Department
Essex Fire Engine Co. #1

Essex Garden Club

Essex Garden Club is a nonprofit organization whose goals are to promote civic improvement and beautification of our town, to offer education programs to benefit both the membership and the broader public, and to develop partnerships with community organizations which share similar missions. We are currently an organization of over 120 members. We welcome new members, both women and men, living in the villages of Essex, Centerbrook and Ivoryton, who are interested in gardening and working in the community.

May Market was a successful springtime event at Essex Town Park again this year. The proceeds from May Market were used to support the club's civic projects, to provide education programs in the elementary school, horticultural programs in the middle and high schools, camper-ships for children and scholarships for high school graduates and college students pursuing studies in environmental sciences. In addition, the Garden Club provides resources for adult and children's programs at the Essex and Ivoryton Libraries. The club also donates resources each year for a new tree to be planted in town.

Our civic projects focus on Garden Club members actively participating in beautifying and maintaining spaces in our town including the Essex Town Park, Dickinson Park, along with three traffic islands; the Foot of Main, the Silent Policeman, and at South Main Street. In addition, the members gathered greens at holiday time to decorate the merchants window boxes, urns and planters in all three villages of Essex. Annual plants were purchased and delivered to various places in the villages, including the Essex Fire Department, the Centerbrook Post Office, the Ivoryton Village Gardeners and the Ancient Order of Weeders. Members also planted and maintained containers at Town Hall, around the Silent Policeman, and at the Town Park.

Essex Garden Club awarded 3 scholarships for a total of \$3,000. Bushy Hill Nature Center was given \$2,240 to provide four youth camper-ships, and the Park and Recreation Summer Program was awarded \$3,125 to provide 25 camper-ships for children.

Augie Pampel
President

Essex Historical Society

Essex Historical Society continues to live up to its mission of Engaging and Inspiring the Community in Centerbrook, Essex and Ivoryton, primarily with regional partnerships. Our year-round programming offered our popular Lecture Series, Walking Tours of all three villages and a number of community events, including special field-study trips for EHS's talented volunteers.

Our many collaborations included producing the Trees in the Rigging Parade, Annual Meeting at Ivoryton's Incarnation Center, hosting holiday events with the Essex Board of Trade and Child & Family Association, education programs with Essex Elementary and the Connecticut River Museum, a members event at Ivoryton Playhouse, just to name a few.

Partnering with our neighbors in Chester and Deep River, EHS hosts the wildly popular Tri-Town Vintage Baseball games and coordinates Thanksgiving Weekend programs for visiting family and friends.

Our flagship historic house museum, the 1732 Pratt House (19 West Ave.) is open to the public weekends from June through September for free guided tours, welcoming visitors from town as well as all over the country. The Hills Academy History Center is open year-round on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and by appointment, assisting hundreds of residents and international researchers alike.

Our major collaboration this year proved to be the "Follow the Falls" project, shared with our friends at Essex Land Trust. Part of a five-year initiative, the project highlights each one of the town's villages as connected by the Falls River in alternate years. In 2018, EHS and ELT highlighted the natural and historic significance at Falls River Cove, specifically the Williams Family Shipyard & Complex (1689-1845). Such a productive partnership coordinated the lecture series with our colleagues at Essex Meadows, produced a readable illustrative booklet, worked with Overabove marketing firm to produce an in-depth e-magazine and held a celebratory June Clambake at Osage Trails Preserve to reveal our findings. For more info, please visit our website, www.essexhistory.org or follow us on Facebook.

Melissa Josefiak,
Director, Essex Historical Society

Essex Land Trust

2018 marks the Essex Land Trust's 50th year in pursuing its mission of preserving and enhancing our community's open space and natural resources for the benefit of future generations. We thank all our members and donors for the sustained support provided.

Operational Income for calendar 2017 was \$114,000 with \$34,000 coming from dues and the balance from Donations, Grants, and Bequests. Expenses were \$109,000 with the largest portion attributable to mowing, tree removal, and treatment for invasives on several of properties.

Membership at the end of 2017 represented of 385 households and 20 businesses.

Land acquisitions included an 11-acre addition to Windswept Ridge and 18 acres off of Oxbow Lane. Added to existing abutting properties, this latest acquisition is now part of a 40-acre contiguous open space area.

The 34-member stewardship team focused on developing trails and access points, installing signs and kiosks, addressing invasive plants and clearing extensive tree damage brought on by several severe winter storms.

In 2017, there were 22 events. Four lectures spanned the topics of invasive plants, geologic history of the Lower CT River, monarch butterflies and their habitat and archeological history of indigenous people of our valley with events in the field to complement these lectures.

Participated in the Follow the Falls project, together with the Essex Historical Society. This project began at Falls River Cove and celebrates the Falls River, its natural environment, its industrial history and its place in the history of Essex as it traverses each of our villages.

Adopted a new strategic plan with key areas of focus areas including organizational strength and land transactions. Initiated application for accreditation by the national Land Trust Alliance

Recognitions included: Tabby Hardgrove recipient of the David Hyde Memorial Award, Michael Ryan for leading an Eagle scout project, Valley Regional High School for its Community Service Day and Myron Stacks who was honored with a Conservator for Life membership.

Jim Denham
Communications Chair

Essex Lions Club

Essex Lions Club is proud to have served the Town of Essex for over 68 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. At the Ivoryton Pumpkin Festival we serve free hotdogs, and at the

Ivoryton Illuminations we have our concession stand. 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 Wednesdays of the month at 6:00 p.m. at The Essex Memorial Veterans Hall in Centerbrook. The public is welcome to join us at any time. The Club does not meet during the months of July and August.



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 Killingworth, Lyme/Old Lyme and Old Saybrook. Since 1974, ECSI's mission has been to promote senior's quality of life, community involvement, and independent living. Last year ECSI provided over 80,000 nutritious meals including nearly 53,000 home delivered Meals On Wheels, and over 21,085 congregate meals, 366 rides to medical outpatient appointments outside the nine-town Estuary Region. Also, 1,678 individual received free preventative health screenings, and participated in social and exercise programs too numerous to count. Our "Choices" senior counseling position that helps seniors connect with other services available to them in the community as well as navigate the Medicare/Medicaid and Prescription Drug programs has been busier than ever especially at open enrollment time.

In addition to our essential senior service, ECSI is a fun place for mature residents to exercise, dance, play cards, go on trips together, get a massage or facial, hear an interesting lecture, attend an art exhibit, get a haircut, take a painting class, join a book club or writers group, volunteer, shop at the Thrift Shop, 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 104,229 visits to our center in the reported timeframe for meals, activities, support and fun.

During the reporting period for the Town of Essex, the Estuary served 26 residents a total of 4,031 home delivered meals and an additional 67 residents joined us for 1,358 congregate meals. Our Emergency Medical Outpatient Transportation provided 3 individuals with 4 rides to medical appointments. We had a total of 8,483 visits by a total of 839 people overall to the center from residents of Town of Essex.

ECSI is funded in part by contributions from the generosity of the nine towns in the Estuary Region, Senior Resources Agency on Aging with Title III funds made available under the Older Americans Act, grants, donations, and fund raising efforts. I would like to thank the Town of Essex for its continued support of our programs. For information and schedules of our services and programs, please call 860-388-1611 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 Town of Essex and be an integral part of services for seniors in the Estuary Region.

Sincerely Yours,
Stan Mingione , Executive Director

Estuary Transit District

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 under the name 9 Town Transit (9TT).

The Estuary Transit District is governed by a board of directors. Each member town appoints one representative who serves in a voluntary capacity to adopt policy, set budgets and conduct long term planning for the district. Regular board meetings are held on the third Friday of every other month at 9:30 A.M. at the Estuary Transit District. All meetings are open to the public.

ETD's four deviated fixed routes serve the main corridors of the region and provide connections to public transit providers serving the surrounding regions. In addition, ETD 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. All ETD services are 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 \$1.75 for deviated fixed routes, \$.85 for people with disabilities, and \$3.50 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. Nearly 100,000 passenger trips we provided during the fiscal year. 80% of all trips are made by persons below 60 years of age, and over half of all trips are employment related.

After facing a cut of 15% in state funding, ETD did receive level funding in FY 2017-2018 and will receive a 2.5% increase in state funding for FY 2018-2019 thanks to actions by the state legislature.

In addition to an increase in funding for existing services, ETD will begin new deviated fixed-route service between Madison and Middletown, new ADA paratransit door-to-door service and a taxi voucher program in FY 2018-2019.

After completing a needs assessment and site selection for a new operating and maintenance facility in FY 2017-2018, plans were put on hold. ETD is now working with the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments on a study of the countywide transit needs and determine the best model for providing public transit in the 17 town region going forward. This study will occur during FY 2018-2019.

Joseph Comerford, Executive Director

FISH (Friends in Service Here)

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

Residents of our three towns wanting rides and having no other means of transportation may call 860-388-2693 up to noon the day before their appointment (Friday noon for a Monday ride) to schedule a ride for the following day. The destinations are within the triangle of Middletown to the north, Guilford to the west and New London to the east.

In calendar 2017, FISH provided 747 round-trip rides to the residents of our three towns. Essex residents accounted for 336 or 45% of the total. Of our 49 drivers, 36 are residents of Essex. Rides through August 2018 have increased 28% over the same period in 2017.

Our officers and Directors for 2018 are: Henry May, President, Stuart Warner, Vice President, Mary Samburg, Secretary, and Barbara Ryan, Treasurer. Also, Directors are Dana Hill and Leo Zavatone. John Heiser and Tony Carrano are our Dispatchers.

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, the Town of Chester and other organizations, as well as by contributions from our drivers and riders.

Henry May, Driver and President



Ivoryton Playhouse

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

The Playhouse has grown from a largely summer stock theatre into a thriving year-round

professional theatre producing seven professional shows a year, showcasing talented directors, 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 2017, the annual revenue of the Ivoryton Playhouse exceeded \$2 million and the theatre ran at 87% capacity.

As the Playhouse continued celebrating Artistic/Executive Director Jacqueline Hubbard's 25th year with the theatre, Summer 2017 began with a dramatic production of *West Side Story* followed by the iconic *Saturday Night Fever* in August. These wonderfully choreographed musicals with super popular songs exploded onto the Ivoryton stage achieving critical acclaim and sold out houses. September featured a world premiere by *The Simpsons* writer Mike Reiss called *I Hate Musicals: The Musical*. This hilarious and irreverent musical starred Stephen Wallem, a SAG Award-nominated actor best known as Thor Lundgren for seven seasons on the Showtime series *Nurse Jackie*. And finally, our 2017 season closed with murder and mayhem! *Ken Ludwig's The Game's Afoot* was a murderously funny thriller based in William Gillette's Castle. The perfectly recreated set of Gillette's living room drew gasps of appreciation from crowds at each performance. The Playhouse ended 2017 with a production of *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* by Joe Landry – a heartwarming holiday show featuring professional actors and members of the local community.

March soon rolled around again and the Playhouse opened its' 2018 season with an award winning production of *The Fantasticks* – a gem of American theatre that starred David Pittsinger and Patricia Schuman. A new play, *Love Quest*, featuring *Matlock's* Linda Perl followed in April into May. Ivoryton was rocking in June when the Queen of Rock and Roll took the stage with *A Night with Janis Joplin*. Featuring such unforgettable songs as "Me and Bobby McGee", "Piece of My Heart" and "Cry Baby", *A Night with Janis Joplin* was one of the most electrifying productions ever to grace our historic stage.

In addition to producing great entertainment, the Ivoryton Playhouse was, once again, a leader in the community partnering with local non-profits including YMCA, HOPE Partnership and Essex and Ivoryton Libraries amongst others. The Playhouse was also proud to work with Little Wonder in 2017 and 2018 providing free theatre tickets to cancer patients and their families.

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

Ivoryton Village Alliance

The 13th annual Ivoryton Village's 4th of July parade is a quintessential small town event that brings this wonderful community together. The 2018 Grand Marshals were Jim and Nan Crowell in honor of their dedication to our village. Many Ivoryton businesses and non-profits joined in the fun. The parade was followed by a ceremony on the village green featuring music by the New Horizons band, a reading of the Declaration of Independence and the the Deep River Junior Ancient Fife and Drum Corps. The parade is a tradition in the village and a wonderful way to celebrate our country's Independence Day.

For 2018, the Ivoryton Village Alliance again brought Essex area residents the Ivoryton Farmers' Market. The Farmers' Market has become a summer Saturday destination for families in the tri-town area. On the green next to the Ivoryton Playhouse, the market provides "Connecticut Grown" foods, fantastic creations by local artisans and entertainment by some of the best local musicians. Voted the fourth best farmers market in a recent "Best of the Shoreline" E-list.com readers poll, our little farmers market offers visitors something uniquely Ivoryton!

Finally, there is the Ivoryton Illuminations. At this event, 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. The Elf Hunt and petting zoo are always popular. Thanks to Jay Wilcox, one of the largest living Christmas trees in Connecticut, is beautifully decorated as passersby enjoy over the 400,000 lights dancing to music. The light show is on for the whole of December. It is ranked 3rd in the State. Take a look at the photo of last year's tree. It had the Moon as its star!

Today the Alliance has over 40 members and is more committed than ever to promoting the Village of Ivoryton in positive ways. To learn more about the Ivoryton Village Alliance, please visit www.ivorytonalliance.org



Libraries

Essex Library Association

The past year was eventful for the Essex Library. We bid a fond farewell to staff members Amy Kilkenny, Heather Delouchry, and Valerie Grabek, all of whom moved on to bigger positions in other libraries. However, the transition to new staff members Sue Bradley, Jana Pietrzyk, and Diana Mirante has gone extremely smoothly. We strive to always have a friendly, knowledgeable person greet our patrons whenever they enter the building, and these three women have shown they are very capable in that regard.

The interior space of the Library was significantly changed this past year. Thanks to generous gifts from Howard and Peggy Tuttle and Guilford Savings Bank, our Teen Space underwent a major renovation. A different layout was created that includes new furniture, signage, and features such as a vinyl record player. Just as their parents did, young people now enjoy listening to LP's! Increased attendance at our highly successful "After Hours" program for teens is just one indication of how important it was to revamp this area to make it more welcoming and attractive.

The adult portion of the building also saw major changes this year. Many public libraries have evolved into community centers, a concept that the Essex Library has embraced. However, it became apparent to us that more and more people were also using the Library as a place to study, a de facto home office, or just a spot where they could take advantage of our high speed Wi-Fi connection to use their electronic devices, catch up on email, make travel plans, etc. Accordingly, we adapted the Reading Room to more closely resemble the shared office space concept that has recently become popular. In order to accommodate some of the changes made the beautiful Bicentennial Quilt was moved to our 1889 Room where, fittingly, it shares wall space with the portraits of two key individuals from the Library's past - Boo Penniman and Capt. Joseph Tucker.

Individual desks are now available in the Reading Room, allowing patrons to have more privacy while working. Charging stations placed throughout the area can accommodate either a standard charger or USB cable. The entrance to the Reading Room was also reconfigured to make the space flow better. Our mission is "to serve as the community's center for cultural enrichment and lifelong learning." To achieve that goal we will continue to grow and evolve in order to successfully meet the Town's needs.

Richard Conroy
Director

Libraries

Ivoryton Library Association

We had an active year and hope to build upon it in the future! Village-wide events we held or in which we participated: Summer Reading events at the Ivoryton Farmer's Market, 4th of July Parade, the Haunted Library at the Ivoryton Village Pumpkin Festival and Letters to Santa and Cards to Soldiers at Ivoryton Illuminations in December. The Children's Room hosted year-round weekly storytimes, afternoon LEGO programs and Lawnapalooza games at the Farmer's Market. The Summer Reading included visits from the Yard Goats mascot and JudiAnn Jones from Dancin' with Hoops. Music with Margie returns this fall.

For adults, we offer classes in Italian, French and Spanish during the school year, and celebrated the 10th year of our Mystery Book Club, **Tea and Murder**. Our meeting rooms were used by 6 separate tutor/students on a weekly basis and hosted meetings of various local organizations. Please contact us with inquiries on the use of these spaces.

Many thanks to our Local History Committee: Betty Austin, Mary Catherine Colburn, Jean Johnson, Shirley Malcarne, Wini Olson, Doreen Schwab, Barbara Smith, Claire Tiernan and Rosemary Waldron. This group has written Finders Aids for some of our collections with the goal of adding all of our local history collections to a state-wide database by the end of the year. Our latest acquisition was the large contribution from the Ivoryton Congregational Church of their records, photos and other items, including the pulpit from the sanctuary.

We wrote a second Neighborhood Assistance Act grant and were able to replace 3 more large windows upstairs in the Children's Rooms. We also received a grant from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County to buy 10 new chairs for our meeting room. We continue to research grant opportunities to fund needed upgrades and improvement.

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, the Ivoryton Pumpkin Chase 5K in October, Trivia Night in March and September, as well as our annual membership appeal.

Elizabeth Alvord
Director

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.

John J. Ferrara
Executive Director



Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Government

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

Current officers for RiverCOG are Bonnie Reemsnyder (Old Lyme), serving as Chairperson, Michael Maniscalco (East Hampton) as Vice-Chairperson, Noel Bishop (Westbrook) as Secretary, and Carl Fortuna (Old Saybrook) as Treasurer. First Selectwoman Cathy Iino (Killingworth) and Town Manager Anthony Salvatore (Cromwell) join the RiverCOG officers on the Executive Committee.

Fiscal year 2018 was an eventful year for RiverCOG. Our activities included:

- We congratulated Richard Grant and Judy Snyder on their retirements, welcomed new office/financial assistant Eliza LoPresti to the staff, and hosted 5 interns
- Executive Director Sam Gold was named to the Board of Directors for Sustainable CT
- Negotiated a new office lease, allowing RiverCOG to stay in our current office in Essex
- Initiated corridor studies along Routes 81 & 66
- Continued work as the fiduciary for the Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security, Region 2
- Worked with the Essex Zoning Commission to adopt Gateway standards
- Acquired the Lower CT River Land Trust nonprofit organization
- Worked with communities along the CT River to monitor and remove invasive species such as Trapa
- Provided interim land use staffing within the region
- Fought cuts to train and bus transit in the region and helped connect 9 Town Transit and MAT via new bus routes
- Collected 118,172 lbs. of household hazardous waste, up 13% from 2016, continued paper shredding events, and partnering with the state on new recycling efforts on plastic wraps and bags
- Aided Haddam and East Haddam with a Federal grant application for a walkway on the Swing Bridge
- Helped initiate the Lower CT Valley Bus Operations Study
- Updated the www.knowyourfarmers.org website
- Completed improvements to N. Main St. in Old Saybrook under the LOTCIP program; other projects in the region are currently in progress
- Reviewed 55 inter-municipal zoning regulation referrals through the Regional Planning Committee
- Convened a committee to look at furthering opportunities for shared municipal services
- Ended the Fiscal Year within budget

Sam Gold, Executive Director

Downtown Essex from the top of the Congregational Church

Photo credit—David DeLeeuw



Rotary Club of Essex

Founded in 1905, Rotary International has a broad and diverse global reach with 1.2 million Rotarians belonging to more than 32,000 clubs in over 200 countries. The Rotary Club of Essex was chartered in 1955 and currently has 38 active members. Money for our mission to support local, national and worldwide needs is raised mostly through local fundraising events, primarily our nationally famous Shad Bake. In 2014 we initiated a joint venture with the CT River Museum which provided a wonderful new venue for the Shad Bake. Local businesses provide support at some of our events, and private contributions help sustain our activities. Major donors at our Shad Bake this year included A.J. Shea Construction, Essex Savings Bank and Financial Services, Guilford Savings Bank, the JECM Foundation, Norm Needleman and Jacqui Hubbard, Middlesex Hospital, and Sherry and Herb Clark.

International: We have partnered with Rotary Clubs in the U.S. and the Rotary Foundation in a worldwide campaign to raise funds for clean drinking water, fighting disease (including elimination of polio), promoting peace, supporting education and growing local economies.

Local: Support to our local community during last year includes Essex Elementary School dictionaries, Valley Shore YMCA, Essex Cub Scouts, Rotary Youth Exchange Program, Essex Library, CT River Museum, Essex Rotary Scholarship Program, Essex Tree Committee, Estuary Council of Seniors, FISH, Literacy Volunteers, Hope Partnership, Rotary District 7980 Water Projects and ShelterBox USA.

The Essex Rotary Scholarship Foundation annually awards a \$12,000 scholarship to two graduating seniors pursuing a college level education. Each student receives \$3,000 per year for four years subject to normal academic progress. Qualified applicants are members of non-Rotarian families, living in Centerbrook, Essex or Ivoryton. The application is available for download on our website, www.essexrotary.com.

We meet every Tuesday at 6:15 PM at the Essex Yacht Club, unless we have a special event elsewhere. The fellowship created through spending time together, locally and around the world, strengthens our organization and expands the reach of the services we provide.

If you are interested in learning more about Rotary, visit us at a meeting or at our website, www.essexrotary.com, visit the Rotary International website at <https://www.rotary.org/>, or email rlevne2@comcast.net. We are always looking for women and men who will help us improve our world and be inspired by our Rotary motto, "Service above Self".

Richard Levene
Club Secretary

Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries

Founded 29 years ago in Essex, Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries (SSKP) mission is to provide food and fellowship to those in need and to educate our community about hunger and poverty. Essex residents in need may attend a free grocery distribution once a week at one of our 5 food pantries, and all are welcome to a free hot meal every day at one of our 9 meal sites. Serving 11 shoreline towns, our sites are located in faith communities. We operate with the assistance of over 900 committed volunteers.

Last year 8,029 shoreline neighbors registered at one of our food pantries. Most needed to come every week for food. In 2017 we provided enough food for over 1 million meals - distributing 1,389,316 pounds of groceries. Our pantries offer fresh meat, fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs, bread, dairy, and canned and packaged foods. Those who attend do not need to prove they are in need; only come and be served.

Many residents of the Town of Essex continue to rely on SSKP. Last year Essex saw a rise in the numbers of those in need. 556 of our registered pantry guests were residents of Essex, Centerbrook and Ivoryton, which was a 37% increase over 2016, when 405 residents were registered.

During 2017, we provided food and fellowship to all who came to the three meal sites within the Town of Essex, serving a total of 4,082 freshly cooked family-style meals at the Baptist Church of Essex, St. John's Episcopal Church in Essex and Trinity Lutheran Church in Centerbrook.

Most of those we serve are employed and work hard, but still struggle to make ends meet. One out of ten are seniors, many living on a small fixed income; others are disabled or suffering from physical or mental illness. Sixty-one percent of the pantry registrants last year were families of four or more, 38% were infants, children or teens, and 17% were living alone.

Support from the Town of Essex is making a real difference in the lives of those in need in Essex. Today we can provide enough food for a meal for just 36¢, so your annual funding of \$5,000 provides enough food for over 13,880 meals for Essex families who are struggling.

On behalf of all those we serve, we are truly grateful for this generous support.

Ellen Rabin
Executive Director

Simply Sharing

A bed, a table and chairs, pots and pans, a desk... these are all basic goods which most take for granted. Yet for those who have been homeless, these basic necessities are luxuries. Families and individuals transitioning to more permanent housing from a shelter or temporary housing usually do so without any basic furniture or household items. Earned income pays for food, rent, transportation and possibly child care. There simply isn't enough money to pay for any furniture or household items. Even if items are available, these families have no way to transport these items home. Recognizing these needs, Simply Sharing was founded to provide families and individuals with these basics once they have found a home.

Simply Sharing accepts donations of furniture and household goods and working with agencies like Gilead, Columbus House and The Connection Inc. (TCI) provides these items to help families and individuals placed into permanent homes. The client organization reaches out to Simply Sharing when they have a placement. Based on client provided information, Simply Sharing gathers the kitchen items requested, cleans the furniture, picks out the beds and stages the shipment for delivery. All mattresses and pillows are purchased new by Simply Sharing through grant monies. Once a delivery date is agreed upon with the client, Simply Sharing delivers the furniture and sets it up in the home. Although client input is solicited on where to place the furniture, most are so overwhelmed by the help that they ask for recommendations. Since the Simply Sharing client form allows for requests about color choices for living spaces and linens, many clients and volunteers too, are often surprised that the delivery contains tailored choices. Examples include pink or superhero sheets, which can really make a difference for a young child.

Since its founding, Simply Sharing has impacted the lives of over 600 adults and 500 children in Connecticut. More than half of the clients have been from Middlesex County and the remainder from New London County and Hartford County. Simply Sharing relies on financial support from grants and donations for purchases of beds and pillows, occasionally linens and housewares and some basic operating expenses. Donations of furniture come from the public. If Simply Sharing is low on inventory, a family in need may not be able to receive "the basics". Although Simply Sharing runs into these obstacles along with rain and snow impacting deliveries, client home inspections falling through, and so much more, the hugs from the clients and the smiles on their faces as a home is set makes all the struggles worth it. Please reach out to Simply Sharing at info@simplysharing.org to find out more about how to donate funds, furniture or to become a volunteer.

Alison Brinkmann, President & Founder

The Essex Foundation

The Essex Foundation, Inc. was founded in 1970. It is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to making a difference in the lives of Essex residents. The foundation is funded through donations from the community and strives to fill needs not met by other organizations or sources. In general, funds are granted for special purposes that usually require quick action and have an immediate impact, such as buildings, equipment, land, and programs, but not to recurring expenses.

Most recently, The Essex Foundation lent financial support for the purchase of furniture for the community room, game room, office and kitchen at the newly constructed Essex Place, an affordable senior housing complex in Centerbrook. The common areas are accessible to all residents of Essex Place as well as the neighboring Essex Court. The Foundation Board of Directors also approved a request for financial assistance from Essex Veterans Memorial Hall, the last known stand-alone, 501(c)(19) nonprofit veterans organization on the East Coast. The property serves as a resource for veterans, their families, and the greater community, including free hall usage to area nonprofit organizations and Scout groups. The donated funds were used to fully underwrite the cost of paving the 10,633 square-foot gravel parking lot on the property also located in Centerbrook. Sullivan Paving Company, Inc. submitted the winning bid, which also included a donation of their time and materials to line stripe and mark the new pavement.

Much progress on the multi-phased Essex gateway beautification project was also made. Soon after the painting of the Route 9 highway bridge overpass at the intersection of Route 153 and Route 154 was completed, The Essex Foundation moved forward with the installation of twelve Chanticleer pear trees and over 300 low-growing, low-maintenance evergreen and perennial ornamentals in the southeast corner of the state-owned underpass area. Matthew Verry Landscape Design provided the design, planning and installation oversight while Sullivan Lawn Services, LLC provided the tree and plant installation and maintenance services.

The Essex Foundation also provides funding for the ongoing operation and maintenance of the Bumpy Warner Youth House on Bushnell Street used by the Boy Scouts, as well as Scout-related projects. Members of The Essex Foundation Board of Directors are Bruce Glowac, President; Jay Tonks, Vice President; Herbert Clark III, Treasurer; Judy Bombaci, Secretary; Eve Potts; James Clark; and Strickland Hyde III. More information can be found at www.theessexfoundation.org or by emailing contact@theessexfoundation.org

Bruce Glowac, President
The Essex Foundation

Tri-Town Youth Services

Since Tri-Town Youth Services' establishment in 1984, the nonprofit has served youth and families who reside in Chester, Deep River, and Essex. The agency works with youth to strengthen connections with family, peers, school, and the community.

Counseling and crisis intervention addressed residents' parenting and relationship concerns, anxiety, depression, self-harm, suicidal ideation, trauma and substance abuse, with referrals made in some instances. The Tri-Town Juvenile Review Board also heard 12 cases of youth in trouble at school or with the law and provided opportunities to address underlying problems, restore relationships and provide restitution/community service as appropriate.

In partnership with Region 4 Schools, we organized a Freshman Transition Event at Camp Hazen, trained Peer Advocates at Valley Regional; facilitated two youth advisory boards, organized community service activities, facilitated several mentoring programs for elementary school children, offered supervised teen recreation activities, a youth job bank, babysitter training classes, Homework Hangout, a Summer Co-op for middle school youth, and helped plan Safe Grad.

For parents, we provided play and support groups for parents/caregivers and their toddlers, private parent consultations, three Mother-Daughter Nights Out, including *Beauty Inside and Out* with Emrys Tetu, *Painting Party* with Lori Lenz, and *Getting Ready for the Change* with Patty Cournoyer. We hosted a screening of the documentary, *Screenagers* at John Winthrop Middle School, attended by 175 people and followed by a robust discussion about teen technology use, social media and gaming.

Tri-Town convenes the local Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition and mobilizes the community around positive youth asset development and the prevention of underage drinking and youth drug use. Tri-Town Youth Services provided the Coalition with data collection and analysis and helped the Coalition refine its prevention efforts. Tri-Town sponsored the twenty-eighth annual "High on Life" Week in May, uniting over 12 sectors of the community in a celebration of a drug-free lifestyle. The week culminated with a Town Hall Meeting attended by over 50 residents who participated in focus group discussions, heard presentations about current local drug trends, and identified specific ways to get involved with important prevention work in Chester, Deep River and Essex. Our special thanks to all of the volunteers who donated time and talent this year, 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.

Allison Abramson, Director

Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley

Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley (VNLV) is a non-profit organization dedicated to home and community-based health care. In FY 2018, we received 473 referrals for home care in our service area; 29.80 % of those home visits to patients in Essex, Centerbrook and Ivoryton. For the first time in 25 years, Medicare Conditions of Participation changed in January 2018 resulting on an increased focus on providing patient-centered care. We have been assisting our patients to develop emergency preparedness plan for managing their care in the event they need to evacuate or shelter in place. Policies have been updated and additional quality improvement plans have been initiated.

We continue to provide weekly walk-in blood pressure screenings, monthly B12 injections, and community educational sessions. Flu shot clinics were held at eight Essex locations including Essex Town Hall and the Essex Elementary School as part of our wellness program. We distribute monthly health promotion newsletters via email and co-sponsor a health fair annually. We are pleased to report we received a Home Care Elite distinction this year and continue to maintain our focus on quality patient care. 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, Dan Tavares, and Debbie Bliska from Essex; Ted Heiser, Peg Lieberman, Rueben Manning and Susan D. Murphy from Chester; Bob Sampson, President from Mystic; Russell Marth and Claire Walsh from Deep River and Kate Bender from Old Saybrook. And, a special thank you to all Essex, Ivoryton and Centerbrook residents who support the work of VNLV.

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

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

SECTION IV—Town Meeting Minutes

Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
August 2, 2017
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:50 PM. Bruce Glowac was elected Moderator. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance along with Finance Director Kelly Sterner. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately five (5) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: That the Town of Essex adopt Amendment No. 3 to the Town of Essex Police Retirement Plan. Copies of said amendment are on file in the Town Clerk's office.

SECONDED: Stacia Libby

Aye 4

Nay 0

RESOLVED: That the Town of Essex adopt Amendment No. 6 to the Town of Essex Police Retirement Plan. Copies of said amendment are on file in the Town Clerk's office.

SECONDED: Norman Needleman

Aye 4

Nay 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$58,000 from the Police Cruiser Sinking Fund for the purchase of a new police vehicle and all necessary equipment as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

SECONDED: Norman Needleman

Aye 4

Nay 0

MOTION TO CLOSE: Norman Needleman

SECONDED: Stacia Libby

Meeting adjourned at 4:52 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Joel Marzi
Town Clerk



Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
September 6, 2017
Meeting Room A

Selectman Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:57 PM. Bruce Glowac was elected Moderator. Selectmen Glowac and Libby were in attendance along with Finance Director Kelly Sterner. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately seven (7) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: That the Town of Essex adopt the Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Ordinance Amendment modifying the number of members to that commission. Copies of said ordinance are on file in the Town Clerk's office.

SECONDED: Kelly Sterner

All in Favor

MOTION TO CLOSE: Bruce Glowac

SECONDED: Stacia Libby

Meeting adjourned at 5:01 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Joel Marzi
Town Clerk



Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
October 18, 2017
Meeting Room A

First Selectman Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 6:46 PM. Selectmen Bruce Glowac and Stacia Libby were in attendance along with Finance Director Kelly Sterner. Stacia Libby was elected moderator. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately five (5) people in attendance.

Motion made by Bruce Glowac to consolidate the first five resolutions into one vote.

SECONDED: Norman Needleman

All in Favor

Town Meeting Minutes

Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
October 18, 2017
continued

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2016-2017 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$100,000 for the Fringe Benefits – Retirement for the Police Pension Plan as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2016-2017 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$50,000 for the Fringe Benefits – Retirement for the Merit Service Pension Plan as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2016-2017 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$35,000 for the Capital & Sinking Funds – Marine Patrol Boat as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2016-2017 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$25,000 for the Capital & Sinking Funds – Police Vehicle as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2016-2017 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$50,000 for the Capital & Sinking Funds – Road Reconstruction as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

SECONDED Kelly Sterner

AYE 5

NAY 0

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

SECONDED: Bruce Glowac
All in Favor

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Erin Bogan to fill an unexpired term as a member to the Planning Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December 2019.

SECONDED: Norman Needleman
All in Favor

MOTION TO CLOSE: Norman Needleman
SECONDED: Kelly Sterner

Meeting adjourned at 6:54 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Marzi

Town Clerk



Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
November 2, 2017
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:46 PM. Kelly Sterner was elected Moderator. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance along with Finance Director Kelly Sterner. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately five (5) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve the discontinuance of the unimproved southerly extension of Charles Street as a public highway.

SECONDED: Stacia Libby

Aye 5

Nay 0

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

SECONDED: Bruce Glowac

Aye 5

Nay 0

Town Meeting Minutes

Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
November 2, 2017
continued

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$35,000 from the Municipal Property Sinking Fund for Phase 1 of the Town Hall Elevator Upgrades as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

SECONDED: Bruce Glowac

Aye 5

Nay 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$20,017 to the General Fund Town Clerk budget for the fiscal year 2016-2017 as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

SECONDED: Bruce Glowac

Aye 5

Nay 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$25,983 to the General Fund Legal Services budget for the fiscal year 2016-2017 as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

SECONDED: Bruce Glowac

Aye 5

Nay 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$29,878 to the General Fund Highway Department budget for the fiscal year 2016-2017 as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

SECONDED: Bruce Glowac

Aye 5

Nay 0

MOTION TO CLOSE: Bruce Glowac

SECONDED: Stacia Libby

Meeting adjourned at 4:54 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Joel Marzi
Town Clerk



Town of Essex
Annual Town Meeting
November 20, 2017

First Selectman Norman Needleman called the Annual Town Meeting to order at 7:04 PM. James Francis was elected Moderator. Bruce Glowac and Stacia Libby were in attendance as well as Board of Finance chair Keith Crehan, Finance Director Kelly Sterner, and Treasurer James Francis. Town Clerk, Joel Marzi, read the call of the meeting. There were approximately twenty (20) people in attendance.

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 2016-2017 Annual Town Report.

Moved: Campbell Hudson

Second: Peter Decker
All in Favor

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

Moved: Keith Crehan

Second: Peter Decker
All in Favor

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Mark Reeves as a regular member to the Conservation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2017 to December 1, 2020.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of James O'Brien as a regular member to the Conservation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2017 to December 1, 2020.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Elizabeth D'Amico as a regular member to the Economic Development Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2017 to December 1, 2019.

Town Meeting Minutes

Town of Essex
Annual Town Meeting
November 20, 2017
continued

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Brian Weinstein as a regular member to the Economic Development Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2017 to December 1, 2019.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of David Sousa as a regular member to the Economic Development Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2017 to December 1, 2019.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Earl Fowler as a regular member to the Harbor Management Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2017 to December 1, 2020.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Eugene C. Schellens as alternate member to the Harbor Management Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2017 to December 1, 2020.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Fred Szufnarowski as a regular member to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2017 to December 1, 2020.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Anthony Mosa as a regular member to the Park & Recreation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2017 to December 1, 2020.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Robert Russo as a regular member to the Park & Recreation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2017 to December 1, 2020.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Doug Senn as a regular member to the Park & Recreation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2017 to December 1, 2020.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of William Veillette as a regular member to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Term to run from December 1, 2017 to December 1, 2020.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Phil Beckman as an alternate member to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Term to run from December 1, 2017 to December 1, 2020.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of George Wendell as an alternate member to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Term to run from December 1, 2017 to December 1, 2020.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of William Reichenbach as a regular member to the Zoning Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2017 to December 1, 2020.

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, 2017 to December 1, 2020.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Russell Smith as an alternate member to the Zoning Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2017 to December 1, 2020.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Randel Osborne as a regular member to the Water Pollution Control Authority. Term to run from December 1, 2017 to December 1, 2019.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Leigh Rankin as a regular member to the Water Pollution Control Authority. Term to run from December 1, 2017 to December 1, 2019.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of George Sexton as a regular member to the Planning Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2017 to December 1, 2022.

Town Meeting Minutes

Town of Essex
Annual Town Meeting
November 20, 2017
continued

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Ralph Monaco as a regular member to the Planning Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2017 to December 1, 2022.

Moved: Ethan Goller
Second: Norman Needleman
All in Favor

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

Respectfully submitted
Joel Marzi
Town Clerk



Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
December 6, 2017
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 5:02 PM. Kelly Sterner was elected Moderator. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance along with Finance Director Kelly Sterner. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately six (6) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

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

SECONDED: Bruce Glowac
All in Favor

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectman of John J Bean Jr. to fill an unexpired term as a regular

member to the Park and Recreation Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting until December 2019.

SECONDED: Stacia Libby
All in Favor

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectman of Russell Smith to fill an unexpired term as a regular member to the Zoning Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting until December 2020.

SECONDED: Norman Needleman
All in Favor

MOTION TO CLOSE: Stacia Libby
SECONDED: Norman Needleman

Meeting adjourned at 5:06 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Joel Marzi
Town Clerk



Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
January 3, 2018
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:51 PM. Kelly Sterner was elected Moderator. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance along with Finance Director Kelly Sterner. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately five (5) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$85,000 from the Revaluation Sinking Fund for the 2018 revaluation as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

SECONDED: Stacia Libby
Aye 5 **Nay 0**

Town Meeting Minutes

Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
January 3, 2018
continued

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Peter Decker to fill an unexpired term as a regular member to the Economic Development Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December 2019.

SECONDED: Bruce Glowac
Aye 5 Nay 0

MOTION TO CLOSE: Bruce Glowac
SECONDED: Norman Needleman

Meeting adjourned at 4:56 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Joel Marzi
Town Clerk



Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
January 17, 2018
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Kelly Sterner was elected Moderator. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance along with Finance Director Kelly Sterner. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately five(5) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectman of Daniel Needleman to fill an unexpired term as an alternate member to the Park and Recreation Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December 2020.

SECONDED: Norman Needleman
Aye 5 Nay 0

RESOLVED: That the Town Adopt an Ordinance Providing Tax Relief For Elderly or Disabled Homeowners and Gold Star Parents and Spouses. A copy of said Ordinance is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

SECONDED: Bruce Glowac
Aye 5 Nay 0

MOTION TO CLOSE: Stacia Libby
SECONDED: Bruce Glowac

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Joel Marzi
Town Clerk



Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
January 31, 2018
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 5:02 PM. Bruce Glowac was elected Moderator. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance along with Finance Director Kelly Sterner. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately nine(9) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation not to exceed \$190,000 from the Harbor Patrol Boat Sinking Fund for the purchase of the replacement patrol boat as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

There was discussion that at present, there is \$127,000 in the Harbor Patrol Boat Sinking Fund. The Town's insurer, CIRMA, is reimbursing the Town in two parts for the loss of the police boat. As of date, the Town will receive \$93,000 for the first payment and for the second installment, we will be receiving another payment to cover the loss in electronics and other equipment etc. Kelly Sterner explained that the Board of Finance voted to place the insurance settlement directly into the

Town Meeting Minutes

Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
January 31, 2018
continued

be remaining money in that fund after the \$190,000 is drawn.

Resident State Trooper Dave Tretter expressed gratitude and is pleased that the Town is purchasing this boat for its residents. Fire Chief Paul Fazzino, Jr. also expressed support for the purchase as the boat is typically the first responder to a water related incident and needs to be in top shape. Bruce Glowac expressed support in terms of longevity of this new equipment.

SECONDED: Stacia Libby

Aye 2

Nay 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Brette Fitton to fill an unexpired term as an alternate member to the Park and Recreation Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December 2019.

SECONDED: Stacia Libby

Aye 2

Nay 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Susan Malan to fill an unexpired term as an alternate member to the Harbor Management Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December 2019.

SECONDED: Stacia Libby

Aye 2

Nay 0

MOTION TO CLOSE: Stacia Libby

SECONDED: Jeffrey Going

Meeting adjourned at 5:16 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Joel Marzi
Town Clerk



Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
February 21, 2018
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the

Town Meeting to order at 6:55 PM. Bruce Glowac was elected Moderator. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance along with Finance Director Kelly Sterner. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately five(5) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Ernest Cook to fill an unexpired term as a regular member to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December 2020.

SECONDED: Stacia Libby

Aye 4

Nay 0

MOTION TO CLOSE: Stacia Libby

SECONDED: Norman Needleman

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Joel Marzi
Town Clerk



Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
March 7, 2018
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:52 PM. Mary Ellen Barnes was elected Moderator. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance along with Finance Director Kelly Sterner. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately six(6) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: That the Town of Essex repeal the following Ordinances:

Assessor – Full Time #1957-01

Assessor – Full Time – Amendment #1969-07

SECONDED: Stacia Libby

Aye 5

Nay 0

Town Meeting Minutes

Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
March 7, 2018
continued

RESOLVED: That the Town of Essex adopt the Ordinance Concerning the Appointment and Supervision of the Assessor. A copy of said Ordinance is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

SECONDED: Stacia Libby
Aye 5 Nay 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Sandra Childress as an alternate member to the Council of Governments Regional Planning Committee.

SECONDED: Bruce Glowac
Aye 6 Nay 0

MOTION TO CLOSE: Bruce Glowac
SECONDED: Norman Needleman

Meeting adjourned at 5:03 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Joel Marzi
Town Clerk



Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
March 26, 2018
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Finance Director Kelly Sterner 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 \$25,000 from the Park and Recreation Sinking Fund for the updates to the Grove Street Park walking path as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

SECONDED: Norman Needleman
Aye 6 Nay 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$75,000 from the General Fund for the updates to the Town Hall elevator as

recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

SECONDED: Mary Ellen Barnes
Aye 6 Nay 0

MOTION TO CLOSE: Mary Ellen Barnes
SECONDED: Brette Fitton

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Joel Marzi
Town Clerk



Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
April 4, 2018
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:57 PM. Ali Nichols was elected Moderator. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance along with Finance Director Kelly Sterner. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately eleven(11) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Robert Day to fill an unexpired term as an alternate member to the Zoning Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December 2020.

SECONDED: Stacia Libby
Aye 11 Nay 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Thomas Carroll to fill an unexpired term as an alternate member to the Zoning Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December 2020.

SECONDED: Bruce Glowac
Aye 11 Nay 0

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:01 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Joel Marzi
Town Clerk

Town Meeting Minutes

Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
May 16, 2018
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 6:55 PM. Kelly Sterner was elected Moderator. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance along with Finance Director Kelly Sterner. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately five(5) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Beth Currie to fill an unexpired term as an alternate member to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December 2018.

SECONDED: Stacia Libby
Aye 4 Nay 0

MOTION TO CLOSE: Stacia Libby
SECONDED: Norman Needleman

Meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Joel Marzi
Town Clerk



Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
June 6, 2018
Meeting Room A

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

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation of an amount not to exceed \$100,000 from the Essex Elementary School Capital

Improvements Sinking Fund for the replacement of air handlers on the Essex Elementary School roof as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance..

SECONDED: Norman Needleman
Aye 5 Nay 0

MOTION TO CLOSE: Bruce Glowac
SECONDED: Norman Needleman

Meeting adjourned at 4:58 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Joel Marzi
Town Clerk



Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
June 20, 2018
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 7:03 PM. George Sexton was elected Moderator. Selectman Glowac was in attendance along with Finance Director Kelly Sterner. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately eight(8) people in attendance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Maryann Pleva to fill an unexpired term as an alternate member to the Gateway Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to September 2018.

SECONDED: Bruce Glowac
Aye 6 Nay 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Roger Field to fill an unexpired term as an alternate member to the Conservation Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December 2019.

SECONDED: Kelly Sterner
Aye 6 Nay 0

MOTION TO CLOSE: David Winstead
SECONDED: Bruce Glowac

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Joel Marzi
Town Clerk

SECTION V - Financial Information

Town of Essex 2018 Annual Report

Finance Report

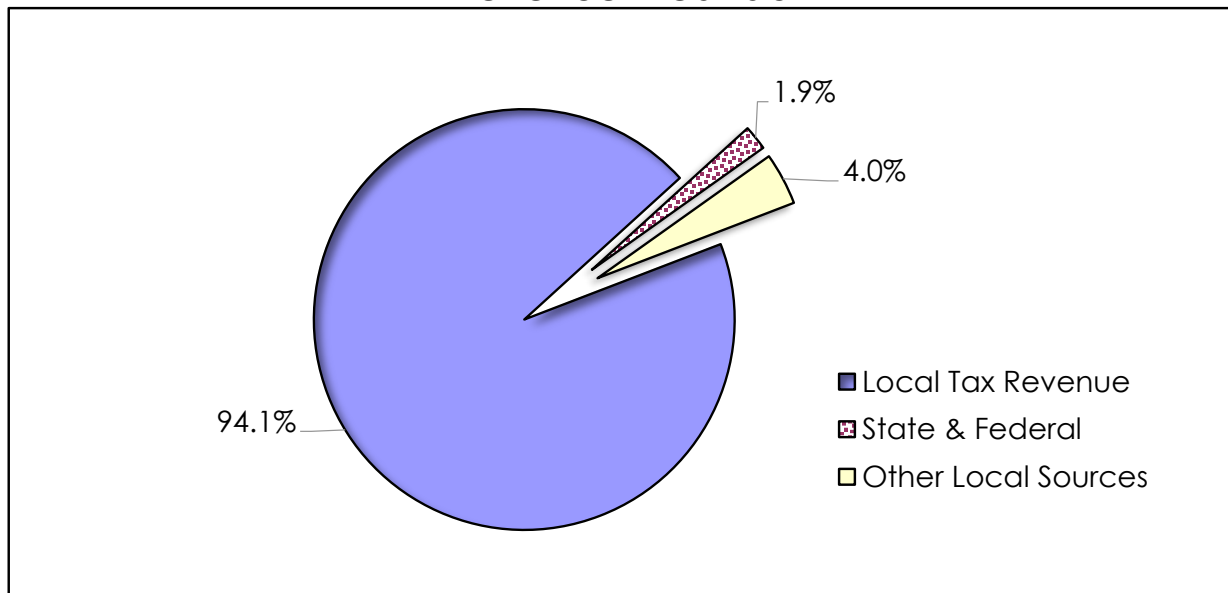
Historical Data - Revenue

(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			
2018-19*	1,050,357,570	0.54	22,909,318	1.82	99.00	21.85	459,402	619,700	23,988,420
2017-18	1,044,700,428	0.41	23,179,381	5.24	99.05	21.96	468,951	988,362	24,636,694
2016-17	1,040,470,701	0.35	22,498,997	3.54	98.89	21.58	560,049	818,718	23,877,764
2015-16	1,036,820,170	0.51	22,025,102	3.28	99.05	21.08	714,155	689,425	23,428,682
2014-15	1,031,550,311	(7.93)	21,730,417	4.67	99.04	20.99	792,404	688,487	23,211,308
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

* Budgeted figures

FY 2017-2018 Revenue Breakdown



Town of Essex 2018 Annual Report

Finance Report

Historical Data - Expenditures

(figures are actual unless otherwise noted)

Fiscal Year	Selectmen's Expenditures			Education Expenditures				Total Essex Expend.	% Increase
	Town Admin.	% Increase	Debt Pmt (P & I)	Elementary School	Regional District 4	Total Education	% Increase		
2018-19*	7,015,852	(3.55)	1,060,151	7,372,220	8,650,035	16,022,255	(0.80)	24,098,258	(1.49)
2017-18†	7,274,090	7.13	1,036,483	7,430,471	8,721,064	16,151,535	1.21	24,462,108	3.14
2016-17†	6,790,149	1.66	968,896	7,503,288	8,454,525	15,957,813	1.12	23,716,858	1.49
2015-16	6,679,061	3.50	908,881	7,588,815	8,192,147	15,780,962	0.41	23,368,904	1.50
2014-15†	6,453,373	2.61	854,369	7,603,406	8,112,489	15,715,895	0.53	23,023,637	1.22
2013-14†	6,289,526	2.13	824,579	7,551,034	8,081,772	15,632,806	2.60	22,746,911	2.17
2012-13†	6,158,576	4.25	869,741	7,534,205	7,701,887	15,236,092	2.91	22,264,409	3.04
2011-12	5,907,651	7.14	895,238	7,400,069	7,405,135	14,805,204	3.91	21,608,093	4.49
2010-11	5,513,713	(1.36)	917,916	7,109,503	7,138,437	14,247,940	2.09	20,679,569	2.13
2009-10	5,589,745	(6.56)	701,808	7,074,443	6,882,305	13,956,748	3.32	20,248,301	0.21
2008-09†	5,981,962	8.42	716,198	6,783,586	6,724,040	13,507,626	5.92	20,205,786	6.25
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

* - Budgeted figures

† - Includes STEAP Grants &/or Special Appropriations

Pension Trust Funds

Town Employees, Volunteer Fire Department & Police Department

	Defined Benefits Retirement Plan for Town Employees/ Plan for Police	Merit Service Retirement Plan for Volunteer Fire Responders
Fund Balance at Beginning of Fiscal Year (market value)	\$ 4,166,286	\$ 937,958
Contributions:		
From General Fund and Members	496,818	118,916
Income:		
Net Investment Income/(Loss)	502,645	111,494
Investments Market Value - Gain/(Loss)	(152,516)	(33,482)
Total Beginning Balance, Contributions & Income	\$ 5,013,232	\$ 1,134,886
Operating Expenses		
Retirement Benefits Paid	376,363	82,164
Administration	38,636	9,401
Total Operating Expenses	415,000	91,564
Fund Balance at End of Fiscal Year (market value)	\$ 4,598,233	\$ 1,043,321

Town of Essex 2018 Annual Report

Finance Report

Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Revenues

REVENUE SOURCE	FY 2016-2017 Actual	Fiscal Year 2017-2018			FY 2018-2019 Budget
		Budget	Actual	Variance	
TAX COLLECTION					
Property Taxes	\$ 22,419,987	\$ 22,874,433	\$ 23,031,956	\$ 157,523	\$ 22,859,318
Interest and Lien Fees	79,010	50,000	147,425	97,425	50,000
Total Tax Collection	22,498,997	22,924,433	23,179,381	254,948	22,909,318
STATE & FEDERAL					
Veterans' Tax Relief	3,703	3,962	2,833	(1,129)	3,962
Education Cost Sharing Grant	100,943	19,798	87,043	67,245	105,065
Town Aid Road Grant	214,806	214,806	214,693	(113)	214,693
LOCIP	40,105	73,525	74,239	714	47,242
PILOT Grant	78	-	71	71	10,393
Homeowners Tax Relief	32,135	35,000	-	(35,000)	-
Transit District	-	821	-	(821)	-
Municipal Revenue Sharing	74,572	-	74,547	74,547	74,547
Pequot Grant	12,520	-	12,209	12,209	-
Municipal Grant in Aid	74,547	50,000	-	(50,000)	-
Miscellaneous State and Federal	6,641	5,805	3,317	(2,489)	3,500
Total State & Federal	560,049	403,717	468,951	65,234	459,402
LOCAL REVENUES					
Interest Income	13,287	7,200	76,383	69,183	55,000
Miscellaneous Permits	6,608	3,500	4,459	959	3,500
Phone "Access Line" Tax Share	26,743	28,000	20,508	(7,492)	25,000
Transfer Station Fees	82,838	80,000	79,036	(964)	80,000
Building Permit Fees	219,247	125,000	261,674	136,674	125,000
Circuit Court Fines	2,073	4,000	2,473	(1,527)	4,000
Zoning Permits	9,662	7,100	9,204	2,104	7,100
Zoning Board of Appeals	3,500	2,160	2,100	(60)	2,160
Planning Commission Receipts	-	2,500	160	(2,340)	2,500
Conveyance Tax	165,024	110,000	205,065	95,065	110,000
Park and Recreation	1,020	4,500	-	(4,500)	4,500
Miscellaneous Receipts	73,702	15,000	105,192	90,192	15,000
Town Clerk Fees	143,288	115,000	137,542	22,542	115,000
Inland Wetlands Permits	2,560	1,440	1,800	360	1,440
Regional Recycling Fees	54,693	62,000	74,517	12,517	62,000
Health Department Fees	14,475	7,500	8,250	750	7,500
Total Local Revenues	818,720	574,900	988,363	413,463	619,700
TOTAL REVENUE ALL SOURCES	\$ 23,877,766	\$ 23,903,050	\$ 24,636,695	\$ 733,645	\$ 23,988,420

Town of Essex 2018 Annual Report

Finance Report

Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Expenditures

DESCRIPTION	FY 2016-2017	Fiscal Year 2017-2018			FY 2018-2019
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget
GENERAL GOVERNMENT					
Selectmen	\$ 176,435	\$ 205,966	\$ 165,996	\$ (39,970)	\$ 215,144
Assessor	112,733	117,713	117,713	-	119,585
Central Services	217,818	231,639	231,639	-	219,178
Elections	41,727	45,840	41,773	(4,067)	45,471
Probate Court	3,460	6,460	3,460	(3,000)	3,460
Tax Collector	106,214	112,271	106,455	(5,816)	115,444
Town Clerk	183,052	188,173	188,172	(1)	169,863
Finance	170,466	175,250	172,099	(3,151)	183,618
Zoning Enforcement Agent	67,312	68,846	68,678	(168)	70,901
Fringe Benefits	1,060,044	1,244,146	1,212,888	(31,258)	1,046,273
General Insurance	181,240	190,012	176,903	(13,109)	191,914
Legal Services	99,983	74,000	67,487	(6,513)	74,000
Public Restroom Facilities	16,555	18,750	15,538	(3,212)	18,750
Technology	190,222	202,640	184,993	(17,647)	212,224
Board of Assessment Appeals	776	1,430	1,218	(212)	1,430
Board of Finance	35,582	79,837	34,483	(45,354)	110,500
Conservation Commission	14,715	12,474	12,474	-	12,900
Economic Development Comm.	12,858	14,100	12,667	(1,433)	14,100
IWWC Commission	5,167	6,680	5,905	(775)	6,340
Land Use Administrative	-	99,410	95,919	(3,491)	102,127
Park & Recreation	173,341	181,735	181,327	(408)	184,619
Park & Recreation Comm.	1,104	1,200	1,141	(59)	1,100
Planning Commission	62,234	62,616	62,616	-	63,590
Tree Committee	6,000	6,000	5,987	(13)	6,000
Zoning Board of Appeals	6,053	6,515	6,515	-	5,450
Zoning Commission	35,248	12,984	12,984	-	7,110
Total General Government	2,980,339	3,366,688	3,187,030	(179,657)	3,201,092
PUBLIC SAFETY					
Ambulance Association	19,519	18,407	18,390	(17)	21,624
Animal Control	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	10,000
Building Department	104,454	75,222	75,222	-	77,108
Emergency Management	18,180	21,400	19,901	(1,499)	21,400
Emergency 911	118,632	120,894	120,894	-	118,919
Fire Department	334,650	344,650	344,650	-	357,473
Fire Marshal	48,440	49,021	49,021	-	48,667
Harbor Patrol	16,965	30,486	19,307	(11,179)	25,486
Police Services	324,972	366,987	355,154	(11,833)	382,144
Resident State Trooper	169,016	197,274	180,927	(16,347)	189,857
Water	164,432	182,392	168,298	(14,094)	174,299
Total Public Safety	1,329,260	1,416,733	1,361,764	(54,969)	1,426,977

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Town of Essex 2018 Annual Report

Finance Report

Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Expenditures *(continued)*

DESCRIPTION	FY 2016-2017 Actual	Fiscal Year 2017-2018			FY 2018-2019 Budget
		Budget	Actual	Variance	
HEALTH AND WELFARE					
Estuary Transit	\$ 18,226	\$ 19,140	\$ 19,140	\$ -	\$ 19,620
Health Department	121,443	110,950	102,663	(8,287)	114,691
Transfer Station	252,582	269,965	264,779	(5,186)	274,339
Social Services	98,826	105,703	101,363	(4,340)	107,305
Visiting Nurses	66,850	66,874	66,850	(24)	66,874
Water Pollution Control	1,166	2,600	1,202	(1,398)	2,600
Total Health and Welfare	559,093	575,232	555,997	(19,235)	585,429
LIBRARIES	390,559	398,370	398,370	-	404,347
HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION					
Highways	898,280	899,862	899,862	-	891,008
Town Garage	26,586	31,700	22,753	(8,947)	29,500
Total Highways and Transportation	924,866	931,562	922,615	(8,947)	920,508
DEBT SERVICE					
Principal Payments	694,940	735,000	735,000	-	730,000
Interest and Finance Charges	273,956	311,256	301,483	(9,773)	330,151
Total Debt Service	968,896	1,046,256	1,036,483	(9,773)	1,060,151
CAPITAL AND SINKING FUNDS	564,024	779,000	774,389	(4,611)	477,500
GRANTS & SPECIAL APPROP.	42,017	75,000	73,924	(1,076)	-
TOTAL BOARD OF SELECTMEN	7,759,054	8,588,840	8,310,573	(278,268)	8,076,003
EDUCATION					
Elementary School	5,329,842	5,458,489	5,427,366	(31,123)	5,404,670
Reg. School Operating	7,650,963	7,944,804	7,944,804	-	7,914,737
Reg. Supervision District	2,173,446	2,003,105	2,003,105	-	1,967,550
Reg. Bond & Interest	803,562	776,260	776,260	-	735,298
Total Education	15,957,813	16,182,658	16,151,535	(31,123)	16,022,255
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 23,716,867	\$ 24,771,498	\$ 24,462,108	\$ (309,391)	\$ 24,098,258

Fiscal Year End Revenue Excess/(Deficit)

DESCRIPTION	FY 2016-2017 Actual	Fiscal Year 2017-2018			FY 2018-2019 Budget
		Budget	Actual	Variance	
Total Revenue	\$ 23,870,322	\$ 23,903,050	\$ 24,636,708	\$ 733,658	\$ 23,988,420
Total Expenditures	23,716,867	24,771,498	24,462,108	\$ (309,391)	24,098,258
Excess (Deficit) of Revenues over Expenditures	\$ 153,455	\$ (868,448)	\$ 174,600	\$ 1,043,049	\$ (109,838)

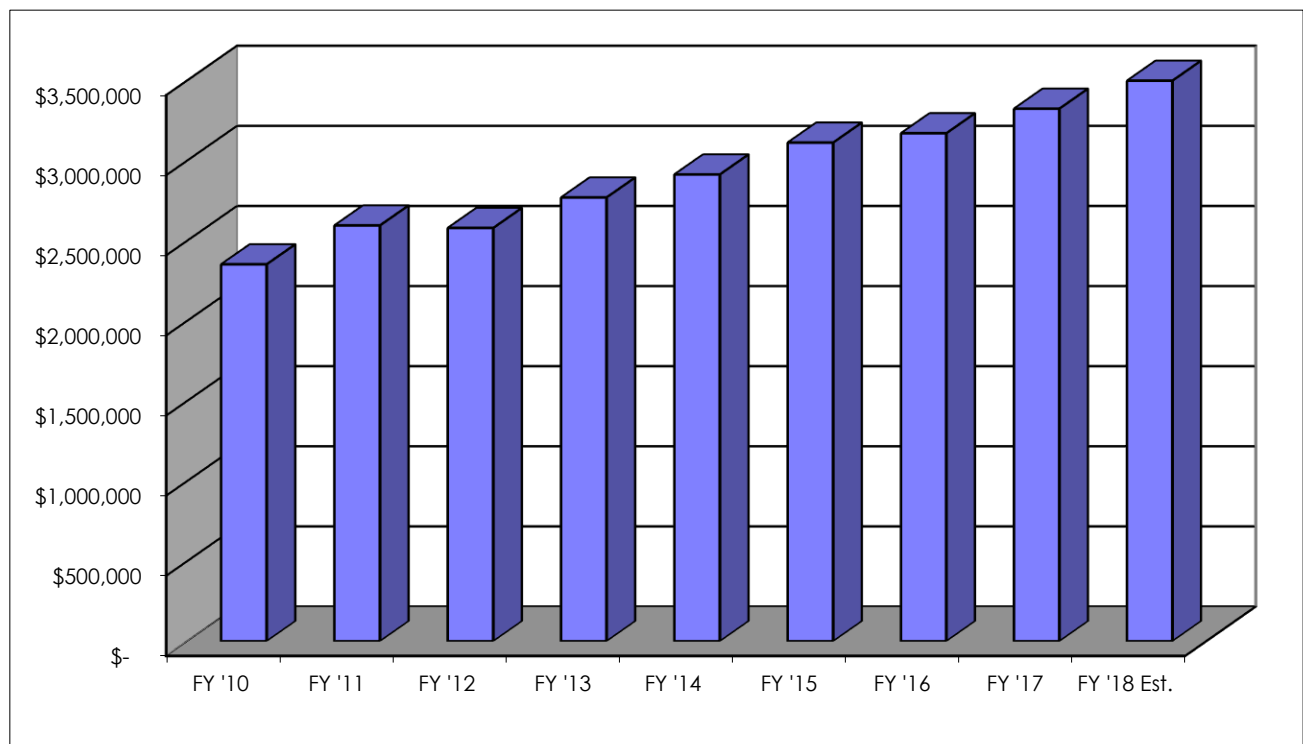
Town of Essex 2018 Annual Report

Finance Report

Capital Project Sinking Fund Balances

Fund Name	Beginning Balance at 7/1/2017	From General Fund	Interest Rec'd. /Other	Expenditures	Ending Balance at 6/30/2018
Fire Truck	\$ 376,427	\$ 200,000	\$ 5,565	\$ -	\$ 581,992
Trucks & Equip.	2,809	-	29	-	2,838
Police Vehicles	66,194	45,000	274	60,249	51,219
Assessor Revaluation	143,886	12,500	-	12,260	144,126
Wastewater Study	125,995	-	1,332	-	127,327
Harbor Patrol Boat	117,074	10,000	105,603	186,314	46,363
Park & Recreation	111,304	36,500	1,222	32,238	116,788
Municipal Property	149,577	25,000	1,476	35,000	141,053
Open Space	110,903	45,000	855	50,000	106,758
EES Capital Improv.	240,394	60,000	2,327	80,273	222,448
Infrastructure/Bridges	-	50,000	-	-	50,000
Ambulance Assoc.	-	25,000	-	-	25,000
Totals	\$ 1,444,563	\$ 509,000	\$ 118,683	\$ 456,334	\$ 1,615,912

Unassigned Fund Ending Balance by Fiscal Year



Town of Essex 2018 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
2017	2017-18	140	142	282	322	607	946	418	43.68%
2016	2017-18	152	158	310	333	612	969	432	44.58%
2015	2016-17	183	148	331	315	605	946	420	44.40%
2014	2015-16	184	193	377	332	631	988	438	44.33%
2013	2014-15	194	213	407	357	617	994	446	44.87%
2012	2013-14	214	237	451	366	623	1007	465	46.18%
2011	2012-13	245	232	477	338	618	973	434	44.60%
2010	2011-12	275	244	519	364	608	982	425	43.28%
2009	2010-11	297	251	548	354	618	985	419	42.54%
2008	2009-10	312	247	559	332	617	962	403	41.89%
2007	2008-09	322	235	557	341	620	961	397	41.31%
2006	2007-08	309	241	550	358	597	955	392	41.05%
2005	2006-07	317	246	563	350	598	948	381	40.19%
2004	2005-06	306	238	544	326	538	864	343	39.70%
2003	2004-05	316	240	556	342	549	891	356	39.96%
2002	2003-04	317	237	554	329	528	857	338	39.44%

*Total includes Magnet school and out of district placements

Regional School District #4 Budget History

	Fiscal Year 2014-2015	Fiscal Year 2015-2016	Fiscal Year 2016-2017	Budgeted 2017-2018	Adopted 2018-2019
Region. School District 4 Expenses	\$14,888,543	15,253,001	\$15,986,290	16,534,060	16,597,818
Supervision District Expenses	<u>1,572,013</u>	<u>1,658,586</u>	<u>1,674,259</u>	<u>1,787,731</u>	<u>1,771,488</u>
Total Operating Expenses	16,460,556	16,911,587	17,660,549	18,321,791	18,369,306
Revenue	297,447	449,340	438,652	500,338	249,487
Debt Service	<u>1,916,875</u>	<u>1,860,625</u>	<u>1,819,825</u>	<u>1,741,275</u>	<u>1,683,375</u>
Total Billings - Region-wide	18,079,984	18,322,872	19,041,722	19,562,728	19,803,194
Total Billings-Essex Share	8,112,489	8,192,147	8,454,525	8,721,064	8,650,035
Increase from Prior Year (\$) - Region	18,079,984	242,888	718,850	521,006	240,466
Increase from Prior Year (\$) - Essex	579,396	79,658	262,378	266,539	(71,029)
Increase from Prior Year (%) - Region	3.31%	1.34%	3.92%	2.74%	1.23%
Increase from Prior Year (%) - Essex	3.80%	0.98%	3.20%	3.15%	-0.81%
Number of Students	994	988	946	969	957
Total Operating Exp / Student**	\$ 16,560	\$ 17,117	\$ 18,669	\$ 18,908	\$ 19,195

**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

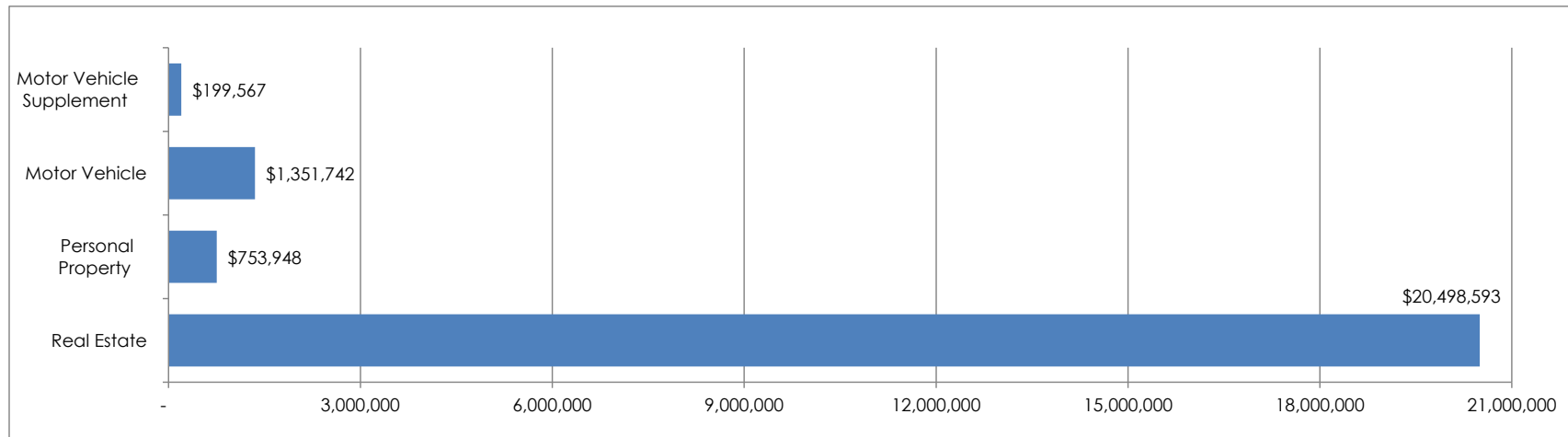
Town of Essex 2018 Annual Report

Tax Collector's Report

Schedule of Property Taxes by Grand List Year June 30, 2018

GRAND LIST YEAR	UNCOLLECTED TAXES 6/30/2017	CURRENT YEAR LEVY	Lawful Corrections		Transfers To Suspense	Balance To Be Collected	COLLECTIONS			TOTAL	UNCOLLECTED TAXES 6/30/2018
			Additions	Deductions			TAXES	INTEREST	LIEN FEES		
2016		23,056,203	17,772	50,948	-	23,023,027	22,803,850	48,515	240	22,852,605	219,177
2015	250,325.00		4,634	6,910		248,049	111,525	24,664	384	136,573	136,524
2014	134,385	-	3,947	1,779	37,719	98,834	46,814	21,890	288	68,992	52,020
2013	61,582	-	-	-	-	61,582	32,177	17,142	288	49,607	29,405
2012	37,439	-	-	-	-	37,439	12,775	9,897	144	22,816	24,664
2011	26,261	-	-	-	-	26,261	10,560	9,296	72	19,928	15,701
2010	10,134	-	-	-	-	10,134	2,239	3,038	72	5,349	7,895
2009	5,969	-	-	-	-	5,969	1,525	1,922	24	3,471	4,444
2008	7,607	-	-	-	-	7,607	1,466	2,111	24	3,601	6,141
2007	5,157	-	-	-	-	5,157	1,168	1,753	24	2,945	3,989
2006	744	-	-	-	-	744	-	-	-	-	744
2005	713	-	-	-	-	713	-	-	-	-	713
2004	682	-	-	-	-	682	-	-	-	-	682
2003	164	-	-	-	-	164	-	-	-	-	164
Total	541,162	23,056,203	26,353	59,637	-	23,526,362	23,024,099	140,228	1,560	23,165,887	502,263

FY 2018 Collections for Grand List 10/1/16 by Type



Town of Essex 2018 Annual Report

Assessor's Report

2017 Grand List Annual Report

	REAL ESTATE	
	Grand List Year 2016	Grand List Year 2017
Gross	\$ 946,240,060	\$ 948,135,260
Exemptions:		
Veterans'	\$ 949,500	\$ 894,000
Veterans' Additional	132,000	114,000
Vet. Add. Reimb.*	441,000	418,500
Disability	11,000	11,000
Blind	9,000	6,000
Other	-	-
Net	\$ 944,697,560	\$ 946,691,760

	PERSONAL PROPERTY	
	Grand List Year 2016	Grand List Year 2017
Gross	\$ 49,571,868	\$ 52,813,980
Exemptions:		
Farm & Mechanics	\$ 30,350	\$ 30,620
Manufacturers*	14,267,360	15,692,500
Misc.	-	-
Solar Energy/Pollution Control	230	2,890
Net	\$ 35,273,928	\$ 37,087,970

	MOTOR VEHICLES	
	Grand List Year 2016	Grand List Year 2017
Gross	\$ 68,847,880	\$ 70,686,060
Exemptions:		
Veterans'	\$ 179,370	\$ 184,250
Veterans' Additional	73,940	77,000
Disability Reimb.	1,000	1,000
Disability	24,210	20,640
Other	-	-
Manuf. Truck Reimb.*	3,840,420	3,825,330
Net	\$ 64,728,940	\$ 66,577,840

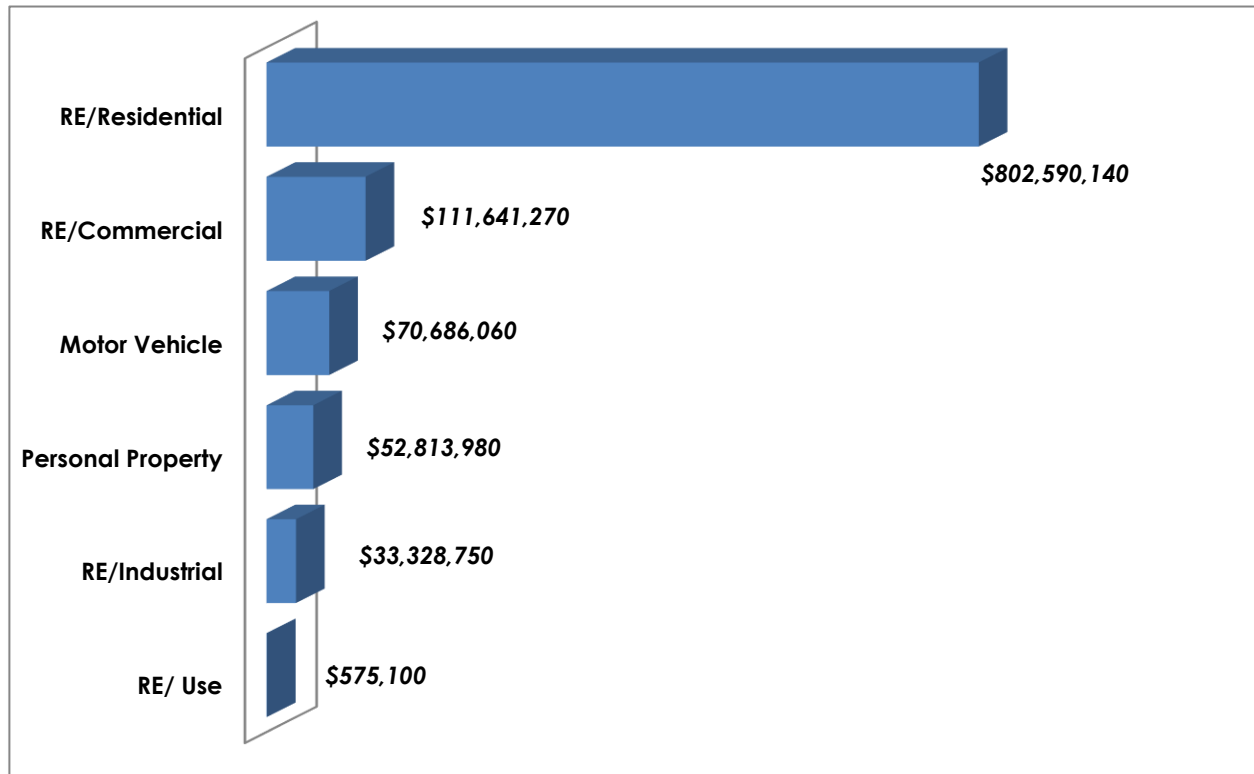
	TOTALS	
	Grand List Year 2016	Grand List Year 2017
Gross	\$ 1,064,659,808	\$ 1,071,635,300
Exemptions:		
Veterans'	\$ 1,128,870	\$ 1,078,250
Veterans' Additional	205,940	191,000
Vet. Add. Reimb.*	441,000	418,500
Blind	9,000	6,000
Disability	36,210	32,640
Other	30,580	33,510
Manufacturer & Truck*	18,107,780	19,517,830
Net	\$ 1,044,700,428	\$ 1,050,357,570

*No longer being reimbursed by State of Connecticut

Town of Essex 2018 Annual Report

Assessor's Report

Grand List 2017 Assessment by Category



Comparative Grand Lists - Net Taxable

Item	Grand List Year 2016	Grand List Year 2017	Increase/ (Decrease)
Real Estate	\$ 944,697,560	\$ 946,691,760	\$ 1,994,200
Personal Property	\$ 35,273,928	\$ 37,087,970	\$ 1,814,042
Motor Vehicle	\$ 64,728,940	\$ 66,577,840	\$ 1,848,900
Total	\$ 1,044,700,428	\$ 1,050,357,570	\$ 5,657,142

Tax Revenue Comparison

	Grand List Year 2016	Grand List Year 2017
Net List	\$ 1,044,700,428	\$ 1,050,357,570
Mill Rate	21.96	21.85
Grand List Tax Revenue	\$ 22,941,621	\$ 22,950,313

Town of Essex 2018 Annual Report

Assessor's Report

Gross Top Ten Taxpayer Accounts

#	Taxpayer	Primary Activities	10/1/2016	# of accts
			Assessed Value	
1	Essex Meadows, Inc	Health Care Living Facility	\$ 22,877,500	1
2	Lee Company	Manufacturing	16,249,330	4
3	Conn Light & Power Co.	Public Utility	7,545,790	1
4	Essex Savings Bank	Financial Services	4,554,750	9
5	All Waste Inc.	Refuse Collection	4,184,390	39
6	River Properties Inc.	Real Estate Development	4,133,120	6
7	Nalas Engineering Services	Chemical Processing	3,767,120	1
8	Griswold Inn LLC	Inn & Restaurant	3,417,115	6
9	Cline Stephen R. Successor	Real Estate Development	3,328,100	5
10	SKR Partners LLC	Real Estate Development	2,787,000	3
Total			\$ 72,844,215	

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

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

ESSEX TOWN DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY

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

Selectmen's Office

Norman M Needleman—First Selectman, X114 nneedleman@essexct.gov
Maria Lucarelli, X112 mlucarelli@essexct.gov
Alyson Finnegan, x145 afinnegan@essexct.gov

Animal Control Officer—860-388-7082

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

Assessor

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Betsy D'Amico, X123 bdamico@essexct.gov

Building Department and Fire Marshal

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John Planas—Fire Marshal, X146 jplanas@essexct.gov

Finance and Treasurer

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

Health Department

Lisa Fasulo—Health Director, X118 lfasulo@essexct.gov
Thad King, X151 tking@essexct.gov

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Darcy Roper, X144 droper@essexct.gov
Kerry Berardinelli, X119 kberardinelli@essexct.gov

Landfill/Recycling Center—860-767-1926

Mike Birner and Wilbur Armstead

Park and Recreation

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Tim LaChance, x148 tlachance@essexct.gov

Public Works—860-767-0715

Ryan Welch—Director rwelch@essexct.gov
David Caroline, Boris Churyk,
Richard Gallacher, David Martin, Dwight Massey

Registrars of Voters

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

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

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

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Mary Ellen Barnes, X201 mbarnes@essexct.gov

Tax Collector

Megan Haskins—Tax Collector, X120 mhaskins@essexct.gov
Lynne Skinner, X121 lskinner@essexct.gov

Town Clerk

Joel Marzi—Town Clerk, X129 townclerk@essexct.gov
Yvonne Roziak, x128..... yroziak@essexct.gov

Town Hall Operations

Thomas Fitzgerald, X136 maintenance@essexct.gov

Tree Warden—860-388-7209

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

Zoning Enforcement

Joseph Budrow—Enforcement Agent, X115 jbudrow@essexct.gov

www.essexct.gov

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

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

Hours of Operation

Town Hall

Monday-Friday, 9 am to 4 pm

Transfer Station & Recycling Center

Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 7 am to 3 pm