



2016-2017

ANNUAL REPORT



JUDY & JOHN HEISER

Dedication

Judy & John Heiser

Judy and John moved to Ivoryton in 1965 and have lived in the same house ever since. They were married in Westfield, Massachusetts. They raised two sons, both of whom attended Essex Elementary and graduated from Valley Regional. Since arriving in Town they both have been actively involved with the Town and many local organizations.

Judy grew up in Western Massachusetts and graduated from the University of Connecticut. After graduation, she spent several years in New York City and worked as a retail buyer. Upon moving to Essex, she worked as real estate agent for several years.

Judy became a fixture on Main Street of Essex when she went to work managing Honore Antique Jewelry. After several years managing the store, she bought it and continued in the same location as Swanton Jewelry until retiring. During her time at the store she was very active with the Essex merchants and the Board of Trade. She continues to work with the Board of Trade today and is very active in arranging many of the parades, festivals and other functions that regularly occur around Town.

Judy joined the Board of Directors of the Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley so long ago that no one seems to recall when she was not on the Board. She remains one of the most engaged people on the Board and relishes interviewing scholarship candidates from the local schools



every year. Judy has also served many other community organizations as a board member, including the Essex Art Association.

John grew up in Connecticut and also graduated from UConn where he met Judy. He served in the United States Air Force. John worked as a computer programmer for more than thirty years, first at Electric Boat and Travelers

and then for many years at Phoenix in Hartford. After leaving Phoenix, he started a small landscaping company in Essex, continuing to mow lawns, weed and blow leaves well into his early 70's. John was also an avid runner into his 60's. He ran the New York Marathon two times and several others, including the San Diego, Newport and Marine Corps marathons. He ran (and sometimes walked) the Chester "Four on the Fourth" race for around 25 years in a row.

John was a longtime member of the Essex Rotary Club



and served as the President. He also coached both of his sons in baseball and served as the President of the Essex Little League for many years. John will still talk to anyone about the 1981 Braves team that won the CDE Championship and revels in seeing his former players around Town. He served for many years on the Essex

Library Board.

He has served several terms as one of Essex's Registrar of Voters. He also volunteers as a dispatcher for FISH arranging drivers for the organization's clients. He also volunteers for other local groups including the Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley and the Essex Board of Trade.

Judy and John are devoted parents. During their sons' school years, they never missed a baseball, soccer or basketball game. Their home was a regular landing place for the boys and their friends throughout school. They are now devoted grandparents to four lucky kids. Their son Ted lives in Chester with his wife Kate and their three kids, Vivi, Finn and Sadie. History repeats itself as John and Judy continue to make it to virtually every dance recital, fashion show, baseball, softball, and basketball game. They also make regular trips to Pittsburgh to visit their son Dick, his wife Katie and their daughter Emma.

Judy and John remain very active in Town. In what spare time they have, they enjoy day and weekend trips around New England.

Table of Contents

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

Zoning Commission	24
Zoning Enforcement.....	24
Community & Service Organizations	
Ancient Order of Weeders.....	25
Child & Family Agency of Southeastern CT.....	25
Connecticut River Gateway Commission	26
Connecticut River Museum.....	26
Essex Ambulance Association	27
Essex Art Association.....	27
Essex Board of Trade.....	28
Essex Community Fund	28
Essex Fire Engine Company No. 1	29
Essex Garden Club.....	29
Essex Historical Society	30
Essex Land Trust	30
Essex Lions Club	31
Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc.	31
Estuary Transit District	32
FISH	32
Ivoryton Playhouse Foundation, Inc.....	33
Ivoryton Village Alliance.....	34
Libraries	
Essex Library Association.....	35
Ivoryton Library Association.....	35
Literacy Volunteers—Valley Shore, CT Inc.	36
Lower River Valley Council of Governments	36
Rotary Club of Essex.....	37
The Essex Foundation	37
Tri-Town Youth Services.....	38
Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley.....	38
Town Meeting Minutes.....	39
Financial Information	Insert
Finance Reports.....	F1
Tax Collector Reports	F9
Assessor's Reports	F10
Town Department Directory	Inside Back Cover

Where to Obtain

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

Essex At A Glance

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



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

Hours of Operation

Town Hall

Monday-Friday, 9 am to 4 pm

Transfer Station & Recycling Center

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



For Your Information:

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

American Red Cross 860-347-2577

Animal Control 860-388-7082

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

Education:

Essex Elementary School 860-767-8215

John Winthrop Junior High 860-526-9546

Valley Regional High School 860-526-5328

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

Estuary Council of Seniors 860-388-1611

Household Hazardous Waste Facility

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

Libraries:

Essex 860-767-1560

Ivoryton 860-767-1252

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

Post Offices:

Centerbrook 860-767-8730

Essex 860-767-8476

Ivoryton 860-767-8515

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

Public Works 860-767-0715

Town Hall

Telephone..... 860-767-4340

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

Transfer Station & Recycling Center . 860-767-1926

Visiting Nurses, Lower Valley 860-767-0186

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

History of Essex

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

As the seventeenth century passed, however, riverfront activity increased in importance. It was during this time that shipbuilding began to dominate the local economy. Ancient maps reveal a ropewalk, several blacksmiths, wharves and other businesses associated with the construction of ships. During the American Revolution, Essex's Captain Uriah Hayden constructed the State's first battleship, the "Oliver Cromwell" which went on to see significant action during the war. Shortly thereafter Essex developed into a regional leader in the construction of sailing vessels, building over 600 ships over the next century. Not surprisingly, Essex became a British target during the War of 1812 for its association with privateering. While the Town was spared, the burning of the fleet (a total of 28 vessels) on April 8, 1814, ranks among the most costly defeats of the entire war.

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



Elected Officials

(as of June 30, 2017)

Town of Essex

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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

TOWN CLERK

Joel Marzi

TREASURER

James D. Francis

TAX COLLECTOR

Megan D. Haskins

BOARD OF FINANCE

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION—ESSEX ELEMENTARY

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

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

Keith Russell, Chair
Mark Bombaci
Coral L. Rawn

BOARD OF EDUCATION—REGION #4

Christopher D. Riley
Jennifer A. Clark
Leigh Rankin

JUDGE OF PROBATE

Terrance Lomme

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Lois Ely
John Heiser

State of Connecticut

GOVERNOR

Dannel P. Malloy

LT. GOVERNOR

Nancy Wyman

STATE 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 Seigrist

Federal

PRESIDENT

Donald J. Trump

UNITED STATES SENATE

Richard Blumenthal
Christopher S. Murphy

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

Joseph D. Courtney

Town Officials and Services *(as of June 30, 2017)*

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Jae Wolf

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Jessica Sypher, Assessor

Nancy Berryman, Assistant to the Assessor

AUDITORS

Mahoney Sabol & Company, LLP, Glastonbury

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

Mark Reeves

Robert Ward

James O'Brien—Alternate

Jerri MacMillian—Alternate

CONNECTICUT RIVER GATEWAY COMMISSION

Claire Matthews

Jerri MacMillian—Alternate

CONSULTING ENGINEER

Robert Doane, Jr., Doane Engineering

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Janet Peckinpaugh, Chairman

Edward Cook

Elizabeth D'Amico

George Sexton, Planning Representative

David Sousa

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

Jennifer Nucci, Associate Principal

JOHN WINTHROP JR. HIGH SCHOOL

William Duffy, Principal

Peter Foxen, Associate Principal

VALLEY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Mike Barile, Principal

Matt Talmadge, Associate Principal

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

William Buckridge

Stewart Schenck

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL

Judith Reynolds

ESSEX AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

Judith Reynolds

ESSEX FIRE ENGINE COMPANY #1

Paul Fazzino Jr, Chief

ESSEX HOUSING AUTHORITY

Janice M. Atkeson, Chair

Yolanda Lowe

David C. Gephard

Richard W. Stebbins

Rosemary A. Willis

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Kelly Sterner, Finance Director

Dana Novorio, Assistant to the Finance Director

FIRE MARSHAL

Keith Nolin, Fire Marshal

HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Jeffrey Going, Chair

John Senning

Terry Stewart

Walter Wiegert

Joseph Zaraschi

Earl Fowler, 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

Stephen Knauth

Daniel Lapman

Jim Leo

Jim Hill, Zoning

Jeffrey Lovelace, Conservation

Ernest Cook, alternate

Andre Roussel, alternate

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Alison M. Adams..... 860-581-3708

Philip Beckman 860-767-9755

Susan W. Beckman 860-767-9755

Heather K. Chamberlain 860-552-9529

Matthew P. Cooper 860-304-2671

Ann S. Dixon 860-767-1339

Earl Fowler..... 860-767-2764

Larry Freundlich..... 860-767-2773

Town Officials and Services (as of June 30, 2017)

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE (continued)

David W. Galligan.....860-767-1860
 Bruce M. Glowac.....860-767-0650
 Leonard Goldberg.....860-213-7069
 Donna M. Hyde.....860-767-0061
 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. Rubenbauer.....860-767-2514
 Ruth Schumacher.....860-767-8030
 John C. Stannard.....860-767-8051
 Daniel J. Stypa.....860-767-2075
 Kathleen McKinney Tucker860-767-0397
 William P. Veillette860-767-8519
 Susan Weeks.....860-767-8385

LAND USE—ADMINISTRATIVE

Darcy Roper, Administrative Assistant
 Kerry Berardinelli, Administrative Assistant

LANDFILL/RECYCLING CENTER

Michael Birner
 Wilbur Armstead

LIBRARIES

ESSEX LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Richard Conroy, Library Director

IVORYTON LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Elizabeth Alvord, Library Director

LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Alan Kerr

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

PLANNING COMMITTEE

William Buckridge
 Keith Nolin
 Judith Reynolds

MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY

Mary Ellen Barnes

PARK AND RECREATION

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

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Robert Russo, Chairman
 Anthony Mosa
 Peter Sarnier
 Douglas Senn
 Virginia Willetts

PLANNING COMMISSION

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

PUBLIC WORKS

David Caroline, Director
 Ryan Welch, Working Foreman
 Boris Churyk
 Richard Gallacher
 David Martin

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)

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

F. 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 *(as of June 30, 2017)*

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

Marian 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

Eric Mineker, alternate

Alvin Wolfram, alternate

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Paul Greenberg, Chairman

Ward Feirer

William Timothy Furgueson

Barbara Sarrantonio

William Veillette

Philip Beckman, alternate

Richard Rybak, alternate

George Wendell, alternate

ZONING COMMISSION

Alvin Wolfgram, Chair

Jim Hill

William Reichenbach

Larry Shipman

Susan Uihlein

Adrienne Forrest, alternate

Jeffrey Lovelace, alternate

Russell Smith, alternate

ZONING ENFORCEMENT

Joseph Budrow, Zoning/Wetlands Enforcement

Agent

Animal Control Officer

Many calls that come in daily are wildlife related issues. 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 not recommended and highly discouraged. Furthermore, relocation of rabies vector species (raccoon, skunk, 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 facts about rabies and prevention measures as well as for additional resources. 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.

I continue to promote responsible dog ownership by encouraging people to license as well as vaccinate their dogs. 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 for any other concerns I can be reached 24/7 at 860-388-7082. Email me at jwolf@essexct.gov



Board of Assessment Appeals

The Board of Assessment Appeals is composed of three elected citizens of Essex: currently, 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 on the Grand List for the prior October 1 (i.e. appeals of the October 1, 2016 Grand list were heard in March of 2017), and in September to hear appeals for motor vehicles. The meeting schedule is posted at Town Hall.

March hearings are for appeals of real estate, personal property and for motor vehicles on the Supplemental List (vehicles billed in January). Appeal applications are available at the Assessor's Office and, for March hearings, must be submitted by February 20. March hearings are individually scheduled through the application process. Motor vehicles on the regular list (vehicles billed in July) may be appealed at the Board's September meeting and no advance application is necessary.

The Board scheduled 10 hearings during the month of March 2017. These consisted of 9 real estate appeals and one personal property appeal. Five were reduced and 5 were unchanged. There were 3 motor vehicle appeals at the September meeting and all were reduced.



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 Keith Crehan and Jeffrey Woods whose terms expire in November 2017, W. Campbell Hudson and Mary-Louise Polo whose terms expire in November 2019, and Donald J. Mesite and Vincent Pacileo, III whose terms expire in November 2021.

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

Keith M. Crehan
Chairman

Board of Selectmen

As this fiscal year draws to a close, I'd like to take a few minutes of your time to highlight the many goings-on in Town and with regard to our municipal government. This past year has seen many ups and downs globally, nationally, and at the State level. Here in Essex, I'm happy to report that our Town remains in good standing. Of course, we always look to improve where we can, and maintain the natural beauty and quality of life here in our three villages.

We continue to modernize the way we deliver services at the Town government level and have made substantial improvements over the past fiscal year. Implementation of an online permitting system for the Land Use Department has begun. We are also in the early stages of implementation of an electronic document management system that will put all land use records online. Most departments accept credit card payments and taxes can now be paid online. All work on municipal infrastructure in Town is now in the process of being documented via the GIS mapping system so that our Public Works Department can schedule work more efficiently and report problems that need to be repaired into a central database.

We have substantially completed all projects that were part of the Capital Improvement Plan that was approved in 2012. This year the Land Use Department was gutted and redesigned to improve customer service and overall departmental operations. The auditorium ceiling joists were reinforced and a new ceiling installed along with installation of HVAC, LED lighting, audio video system, and new chairs. Also, a new four-bay garage was built and new heating system was installed at the Public Works Department. In addition, the Ivory Street Bridge Project was completed and the Walnut Street Bridge construction is underway. The parking lot and both driveways at Essex Elementary School were repaved and new sidewalks installed along the front of the school.

Through a Safe Routes to School Grant the Town replaced the sidewalks from Essex Elementary School to Bracket Lane. The Town was also awarded a STEAP grant for Centerbrook for much needed sidewalk improvement and replacement on the south side of Main Street. We anticipate this work to be done in spring 2018 as we continue to work toward the goal of sidewalk connectivity from Bushy Hill all the way to the river.

The Town has recently issued a General Obligation Bond in the amount of \$6 million dollars at a 2.42% rate of interest. We obtained that excellent rate as a result of the Town's improved credit rating, which went from AA2 to AA+. That was made possible as a result of the excellent fiscal management of the Town and the help of Finance Director Kelly Sterner, Town Treasurer Jim Francis, the Board of Finance and the

Board of Selectmen. A copy of the Standard and Poor's report is posted on the Town website.

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

The need for public safety volunteers is critical in order to maintain the lower taxes we enjoy, and as such we held our first Public Safety Day on June 11th. This event helped to put a spotlight on the need for first responders, volunteer firefighters, emergency management volunteers, and police officers.

Almost all positions on Boards and Commissions have been filled. However, we are always looking for people to get involved! Please call Betsy D'Amico (x 145) at Town Hall if you have an interest in volunteering on a board or commission. New affordable housing projects have been in the works this year with Essex Station, Essex Place, and Essex Glen.

It continues to be an honor and a privilege to serve as the First Selectman for the Town of Essex.

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

Norm Needleman
First Selectman



Selectmen Ribbon Cutting for Ivory Street Bridges



First Selectman Needleman and Resident Trooper Tretter attend ceremony honoring Trooper Tretter.

Building Department

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

Building permits are also required for plumbing, heating/air conditioning, solar panels, electrical and mechanical work done to both new and existing residential and commercial buildings. Driveway approach permits are required for new and/or relocated driveways. Building permits are not required for 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 Sanitarian, Zoning and Building Departments.

From July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 a total of 682 (516 residential, 166 commercial) building permits were issued for an estimated construction value of \$23,394,464.42. These numbers nearly equaled last year's all time high for the total number of permits issued and are a 9 year high for total construction value. Nine permits were issued for new home construction and 52 units of multi

family housing were permitted. A total of \$227,077 in permit fees were collected, a nine year high. Two Demo Ordinance Fees of \$75.00 were collected for a total of \$150.00.

David R. DeLeeuw
Building Official



Central Services Town Hall Operations

During the 2016-2017 fiscal year the Town Hall has hosted over 500 events in the three meeting rooms. These rooms have been set-up, taken-down, cleaned and maintained by a dedicated staff of one full-time and four part-time custodians. This year the custodial staff has worked around interior and exterior renovations, while trying to maintain the high level of cleanliness and safety for the Town Hall staff and citizens of Essex. The custodial staff also cleans the Main Street restrooms that are open year round for the 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 Essex Conservation Commission supervises three Town preserves, Bushy Hill, Canfield-Meadow Woods, and Viney Hill Brook Park, maintaining trails, pedestrian walkways and bridges, as well as a program to control invasive vegetation. The commission makes recommendations on the status of conservation and development and annually updates all conservation easements given the Town. The commission works with other land use commissions and shares some responsibilities and expenses with the Essex Land Trust.

Bushy Hill Preserve: A half-acre of meadow habitat was reopened in this forested preserve. Professional landscapers removed new growth trees, barberry brush, and rotted logs, a project the commission originated for meadow reclamation a decade ago. Commissioners dismantled Eagle Scout bridges abutting the Falls River. Years of river overflow had dislodged and damaged the bridges. With approval from the Inland/Wetlands Officer, we lifted out uprooted trees covering the dry sandy bed of the pond located near the main entrance.

Canfield-Meadow Woods: The Preserve is next in line for consultation by the State's Environmental Review Team. With the Deep River Conservation Commission, application for this process was submitted and approved in 2013. Due to limited DEEP funding, the evaluation has been delayed four years. Commissioners performed only routine maintenance in the preserve because the Essex Land Trust monitors these trails and regularly rights all damage.

Viney Hill Brook Preserve: As a result of beavers preparing for winter, and with the concern of several neighbors that trails were dangerous due to partially gnawed and downed trees, commissioners chain-sawed leaning trees, then cut up and moved tree trunks and large limbs blocking the trails. All trails were open for our 11th Annual New Year's Day Walk.

In observance of International Beaver Celebration Day, Frank Hall orchestrated sunrise and sunset tours, April 8th. A total of 40 adults and children watched beavers swim out of their lodges, tail slap the water (a warning to intruders), submerge and resurface in Quarry Pond.

During heavy spring rains, beavers constructed new dams on Broadwalk trail creating two feet deep ponds upstream of Quarry Pond. In June, commissioners used pitch forks and shovels to dislodge stick and mud barriers. As commissioners watched, beavers approached and immediately began repairing the breach. Additional remediation is anticipated.

The Conservation Commission meets at Town Hall second Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm. Members are: Adrienne Forrest, Frank Hall, Richard Helmecki, Jeffrey Lovelace, Jerri MacMillian (alternate), Mark Reeves, Kay Tucker, and Robert Ward.

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Tucker, Chair

Economic Development Commission

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

This year our focus was trying to better connect EDC with businesses and the Planning and Zoning Commission(s). Having representatives from the Planning Commission and Zoning Commission has built a stronger partnership between all three to aid in the growth and stability of our business community.

As part of this bonding we moved our meetings to a "floating" format, holding meetings at local businesses – we encourage any business interested in having us meet at their location to please contact us. We are working hard to be visible and encourage all to attend our meetings, seek our input, and communicate how we can better serve our community.

Commissioner Cook brought a great project to the attention of EDC to work on tagging all businesses in Essex on Google maps – we found that a majority of businesses were either not on Google maps or had been tagged in the wrong location. We rolled this project out to other groups both at Town Hall and in the community and hope to have every business location on Google maps.

Our Economic Consultant Susan Malan works closely with our Land Use officials and has helped many current and prospective businesses navigate the local regulatory processes. She worked with local officials in the development of a simple frequently asked questions guide to the permitting process for residents and businesses.

Susan attends regular meetings of the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce and other economic impact groups including an adhoc Middlesex County Economic Developers group.

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

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

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



Education

Our Mission

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

Our Vision Statement

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

Education

Essex Elementary School

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

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 piloted and adopted with full implementation this fall. In addition to focusing on the academic needs of students in all content areas, we offer additional programming to enrich our student's elementary experience. 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, and Region 4 Schools. Through this collaboration, students have access to a wide variety of technological tools. During the 2016-17 year, our students in grades 4-6 received 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 extracurricular activities such as Green Team, Student Leaders, Math Olympiads, Invention Convention, Chess Club, and Broadcasting Team. These offerings help to teach important life-long academic and social skills outside of the typical classroom.

The Essex Elementary School Foundation generously provides grants to teachers to support enrichment opportunities for our students. The Foundation also supports many programs such as MakerSpace (which was new for the 2016-17 school year), World Cultures, Scientist in Residence, Engineering with LEGOs, and Bloom Art.

Our Social Development program promotes a culture, climate, and curriculum that enhance the social, emotional, and behavioral development of students. Our focus for the 2016-17 year was "Look for the Good" through which students learned the importance of gratitude and the power of positivity.

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

Education

Superintendent of Schools

The 2016-2017 school year across Chester, Deep River, Essex, and the Region 4 Schools was very exciting with a number of initiatives and recognitions occurring. Valley Regional High School was recognized by U.S News and World Report as a school of excellence. Valley Regional High School received a Silver Award and ranked 21 out of 288 public high schools in Connecticut. Valley Regional High School also received two other prestigious awards, Newsweek and K-12 Niche, who named our school one of the top High Schools in Connecticut and the United States. These recognitions are a testament to the commitment and support of our schools from our boards of education, families, and communities to provide all students from pre-kindergarten through grade twelve with innovative and comprehensive programs of excellence.

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) completed a comprehensive review of our high school. They concluded that Valley Regional High School excels in the areas of school culture, community support, curriculum, instruction, and assessment. They described the school as having a safe, positive, and respectful environment with high expectations for all students. The school successfully achieved re-accreditation.

Across our district, the Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 Schools engaged in strategic planning. This year-long process will provide us with a focus to provide excellence for all of our students pre-kindergarten through graduation.

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



Valley Regional High School

Emergency Management

The Emergency Management Department is happy to report that our community did not experience any significant widespread severe weather events this year; however, the department did prepare and practice for such an event. On Nov 2, 2016, the department participated in the 2016 Statewide Emergency Planning & Preparedness Initiative (EPPI) with key individuals from several different departments including the Selectmen, Essex Fire Department, Essex Ambulance Association, Health Department, Public Works, Police, Essex Elementary School and Region 4 schools, Social Services, Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT), Harbor Master and other volunteers. The purpose was to use a statewide, simulated severe weather event to put into action the Town's Emergency Plans in a coordinated response with community partners. The simulation revealed that Essex has built an essential team of professionals, first responders and volunteers to assist during an emergency however we are always looking for additional help such as ham radio operators, administrative staff to type reports, even some additional help to answer the phones, and help passing out supplies. Please contact 860-514-1797 to sign up. This department also engaged in community outreach in June 2017 at the Public Safety Day at the Essex Fire Headquarters.

Our preparedness activities did not stop at our Town borders. While everyone knows local emergencies require local response and management, this department also prepared for larger-scale events which would require regional and state assistance. Essex Emergency Management Department continued its work to organize and participate in monthly meetings with Valley Shore Emergency Management (VSEM) teams, and attended the Aug 2016 National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) Training, the Oct 2016 Regional Mass Fatality Management Response Training, the April 2017 Active Shooter Workshop, and the 12th Annual Emergency Management Symposium with municipal and state officials.

Finally, we strongly encourage residents to always have a preparedness plan to ensure the safety and well-being of you, your family, and your property. Please refer to the *Emergency Preparedness Guidebook* on the Town of Essex/ Emergency Management website. Hardcopies are available in the Town Hall. Also remember to sign up on the Town website for *Safer Essex*, a notification system to alert you by phone, text or email about local emergencies and issues that may affect your safety.

Be Well and Stay Safe,
William Buckridge

Essex Elderly and Affordable Housing

Almost five years ago, Essex Elderly and Affordable Housing, Inc., a 501-c-3 corporation, began to explore developing additional affordable housing for seniors. As a result, Essex Place came to fruition through a partnership between Essex Elderly and Affordable Housing, Inc. (EEAH) and the Women's Institute for Housing and Economic Development (WIHED). This development project began in response to the significant need for affordable housing, evidenced by the long waiting list for housing at Essex Court. After five years, we are pleased to open Essex Place, a beautiful three-story building with an elevator, large Community Room and game room that will be available for all residents on campus.

Essex Place, a 22-unit affordable housing complex for seniors, had its opening ceremony in late June of 2017. Occupancy for Essex Place began in September 2017. Essex Place is on the campus of Essex Court, an existing senior affordable housing community consisting of 36 garden units. Essex Court falls under the oversight of the Essex Housing Authority and Essex Place falls under the oversight the EEAH and WIHED partnership.

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, and to Essex Savings Bank for CRA funds for completing the beautiful industrial kitchen within Essex Place. We thank our funders, especially our local Essex Savings Bank for the FHLB loan.



Pratt House Family Picnic

Essex Housing Authority

Essex Court is an elder/disabled housing community located in Centerbrook. Essex Court is governed by the Essex Housing Authority (EHA) and managed by DeMarco Management Corporation, LLC. Residents live in one of the 36 garden-style units. Our residents enjoy the use of a community room and a fully equipped kitchen and laundry facility.

Ongoing support from the community continues to enhance the lives of the residents at Essex Court. The Essex Community Fund continues to provide financial support for our Resident Service Program. This program, along with the Coldwell Banker Grant, supports weekly luncheons, holiday celebrations and entertainment for residents

With support from the Town of Essex, Essex Court was granted permission to make an application for a Small Cities Grant. Essex Court was awarded this grant allowing us to make some much-needed upgrades. In January, 2017 an extensive remodel of the kitchen in all thirty-six units began. Each kitchen remodel included new cabinetry, solid surface countertops, tile back splash, painting and new fixtures.

Each year, the Rotary Club of Essex continues to provide Thanksgiving meals for residents that are in need. A group of students from Valley Regional High School also visit our site each year. Students assist residents with light housekeeping, gardening and some grounds maintenance. The Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley come into Essex Court regularly to conduct blood pressure screening services as well as our annual flu clinic.

All of the residents and staff are most appreciative of the ongoing community support provided to Essex Court. EHA and DeMarco Management Corporation will continue to strive to make Essex Court a desirable residence for seniors and disabled and an asset to our community.

Mary Mansour
Property Manager



Train Show at Connecticut River Museum

Fire Marshal

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

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

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

A permit and inspection are also required from the Fire Marshal's Office for the removal of an underground fuel storage tank. There is a \$30.00 fee for this permit and it may be obtained in the Fire Marshal's office. Upon removal of the tank, the Fire Marshal looks for any soil contamination and completes a report stating the results of the inspection. This report then becomes a permanent part of the property file. From July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, there were 5 underground fuel tank removal permits/inspections.

Tent events require a permit and inspection from the Fire Marshal. There is a \$30.00 fee for each tent/event permit. The Fire Marshal inspects tents prior to the event and also determines the extent of fire protection needed at the tent for all social events; except those tents on the property of one (1) and two (2) family residences where no admission is charged. From July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 there were 20 tent permits/inspections.

The Fire Marshal also issues blasting permits to licensed blasting contractors. There is a \$60.00 fee for a blasting permit. From July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, there were 8 blasting permits issued.

The open burning of residential brush (limited to 2" and under in diameter) requires a burning permit signed by the Fire Marshal. There is no charge for this permit; however there are specific terms and conditions under which this permit is issued. Information on open burning/burning permits is available in the Fire Marshal's Office. From July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 44 burning permits were issued.

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

Total revenue from permits issued by the Fire Marshal's Office from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 was \$1,710.

Keith C. Nolin
Fire Marshal

Harbor Management Commission

The Essex Harbor Management Commission (HMC) oversees and manages the mooring anchorages and fairways in the harbor of Essex. In addition, we manage the public access points in Town. Essex Harbor covers the waters from Deep River to Saybrook in the river and the coves.

The HMC has a permit to remove the two rock piles in the southwest corner of the southern section of the main anchorage. These are delinquent structures that reduce the useful area of the anchorage area and impose obstacles to the natural flushing of the river in that area.

During the past year, we began a process that might enable us to oversee the restoration of much of Thatchbed Island while using the rock piles as a barrier for the island. There is much to be done to see if this can happen. We would love to have the wildlife habitat restored and the island once again provide a protective barrier for South Cove.

The float at the Town Park was replaced with a new one. Maintenance of the Town Dock at the foot of Main Street was recently completed with seven pilings replaced. The Commission is reviewing the Town Dock with the expectation to replace the deck, improve the hand rails and seating and possibly add a little more room.

The Commission has entered into an agreement with Online Mooring that will convert the system of mooring permit renewals, applications and wait list applications to a web based system, completely paperless. This will also cover the storage permit renewals, applications and wait list applications for the Bushnell access.

The new system takes effect on October 1, 2017 for the mooring permit renewal process. You can go directly to mooring.com/EssexCT or use the link through the Harbor Commission page on the Town web site — essexct.gov. The system will recognize your documentation or State registration number removing the necessity of copying and send it to us. Your insurance certificate can be electronically included as well. Payment will be made through a secure credit/debit card transaction.

As always, communication with the HMC and Harbor Master concerning the use of your mooring is very important in order to keep issues from developing.

HMC meetings are open to the public and currently are scheduled for the fourth Thursday of each month (the third Thursday in Nov & Dec) at 7:30 PM in the Town Hall. Check the Town website for changes and updates.

Jeff Going
Chairman

Health Department

The Essex Health Department is concerned with all aspects of environmental and public health in the community as well as disease prevention programs and public health emergency planning. Environmental health involves 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.

The CT Public Health Code requires the Health Department to review all plans 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. This often involves soil testing and review of engineered septic plans for new construction and subdivisions. Several large multifamily projects were reviewed and approved by the Health Department this year: 3 buildings at Essex Station, 1 building at Essex Place, 4 buildings at Cobblestone Court, and 26 single-family homes at Essex Glen.

The following is a summary of Health Department activities:

122	food service inspections
86	plan reviews
46	temporary foodservice event inspections
48	new septic system installations
10	barber/salon inspections
47	septic system repairs
3	Child Care Center inspections
42	soil tests
11	bathing beach water sampling
16	new drinking water well permits
6	public pool inspections

The Health Department hired Zachary Faiella, MPH, as an Environmental Health Specialist in May 2017. In addition to field inspections, Zachary is actively implementing the new statewide requirements for foodservice establishments as per the newly adopted FDA Food Code.

The Health Department actively participated in emergency preparedness planning and statewide drills with State partners in Region 2, ESF-8, and MDA 39. In October 2016, this department participated in a statewide mass casualty drill with local leadership, emergency management, first responders, and key community partners to run-through local response plans to such an emergency.

Lisa Fasulo, MPH, REHS/RS
Director of Health

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) and Andy Roussel (alternate).

The Commission regulates all proposed activities within a wetland, watercourse, waterbody 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 administer 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 2016-2017 fiscal year, the Commission conducted 6 site inspections and issued 15 inland wetland permits. The majority of the permits involved activities within upland review areas. The Inland Wetlands Officer issued 6 administrative approvals for activities within upland review areas.



*Annual Tri-Town Vintage Baseball game
"Umpire, what were you thinking?"*

Park and Recreation Commission

The Essex Park and Recreation Department, working under the direction of the Park and Recreation Commission, strives to provide safe and aesthetically pleasing parks to the residents and visitors of Essex; as well as enriching recreational programs for youth and adults. Residents and visitors are offered approximately 90 acres of parkland that includes: 9 park areas, a state of the art playground, eco-friendly restrooms, 3 park shelters, a walking path, 2 fishing piers, basketball court, tennis courts, 3 baseball and softball fields, a dog park, and swimming hole. We also accomplished many parks improvement projects this past year. Most notable, construction was completed on a new scoreboard at Comstock Park and the backstop was upgraded at Hubbard 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 the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00

PM at Essex Town Hall. We welcome hearing from the public on questions or concerns on our operations and how we may assist you. Friend us on Facebook! During the past fiscal year we achieved our goal of quality parks and programs and continually strive to make Essex a great place to live, work, and play.

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. Thomas Danyliw, Ralph Monaco, and John Bairos are the other full members. Alternates are Erin Bogan, Jane Siris, and Gary Riggio. John Guskowski of CME Associates continues to serve the Commission as Consulting Town Planner. During the fiscal year 2016-2017, the Planning Commission undertook the following efforts:

- Began 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; Establishing an ad-hoc committee to investigate ways to expand housing opportunity in Essex; and seeking funding for infrastructure improvement, focusing on pedestrian networks between key community nodes;

- Continued progress on Phase I of sidewalk improvement design for new sidewalk and the repair of sidewalk near Essex Elementary School funded through Safe Routes To School program. Construction was completed in September, and there is now a complete sidewalk network westerly along Main Street from Essex Elementary School to Ivoryton Center;

- Submitted 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 2017, and construction is anticipated in early 2018.

Alan Kerr, Planning Commission Chairman
John Guskowski, Town Planner

Probate Court Saybrook District

Once again, it is an interesting time for Connecticut's Probate Courts. Like all of the other State Agencies and Towns, we are anxiously awaiting a new state budget. The two proposals have a difference of about \$2 million dollars. The shortfall created by this difference would create significant funding problems for the courts. In an effort to fill this void, the General Assembly may look to increasing probate fees again. Since there were already recent increases, this will create a burden on those who most need the court. These are our most vulnerable residents, in that both children's matters and conservatorships will become more expensive for the families who can least afford them. It also means Connecticut will have the country's most expensive Probate Courts. We are hopeful that the legislature will give appropriate funding to the Probate Courts.

On the positive side, the Court is operating well. We are able to schedule our hearings in a timely fashion and send out our decrees shortly thereafter. We open approximately 800-900 new matters per year, including Adoptions, Guardianships, Conservatorships, Name Changes, Children's Matters and of course, Decedent's Estates.

We are making every effort to not have any increases in the town's probate budget. In the meantime, thanks to the effort of my chief clerk and the clerks and assistant clerk, the Court will continue to handle matters efficiently and operate smoothly.

Terrance D. Lomme
Probate Judge

Public Works

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

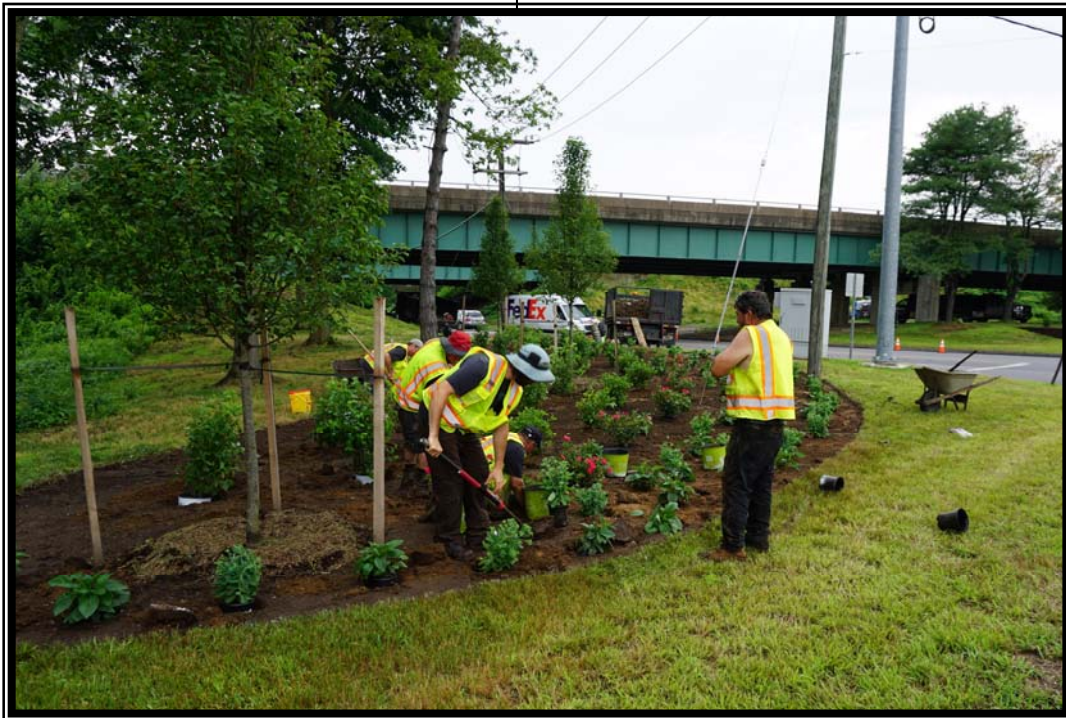
The summer and fall seasons kept the crews busy mowing Town properties and trimming back overgrowth along our road sides. Other projects included street sweeping, tree trimming, drainage repairs, cleaning and repairing catch basins, patching, chip sealing and paving roadways, curb resets, and doing sidewalk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

Projects of note this year were the Ivory Street Bridge project and the completion of the sidewalk replacement from Bracket Lane to Ivory Street. The Walnut Street Bridge construction is underway and will be completed in Spring 2018.

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

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

David Caroline
Director of Public Works



Gateway Planting Project—Thanks to the Essex Foundation

Pumpout Boat Program

Essex plays a key role in keeping the waters of the Connecticut River clean. The Town facilitates the Lower Connecticut River Pumpout Boat Program.

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

The Pumpout Boat Program, under the Federal Clean Vessel Act, is a funded program that "concerns itself with preserving the delicate balance of marine life in our coastal waters". For us, that means the Connecticut River, its coves and estuaries.

Our service area is the boating community from the East Haddam Bridge to (but not into) Long Island Sound. We service the seven communities therein.

During the 2017 nationwide Clean Vessel Act Winter Conference, we received a mention of a successful, multitown service area program.

The fair weather during the 2017 Boating Season meant that we set another service record.

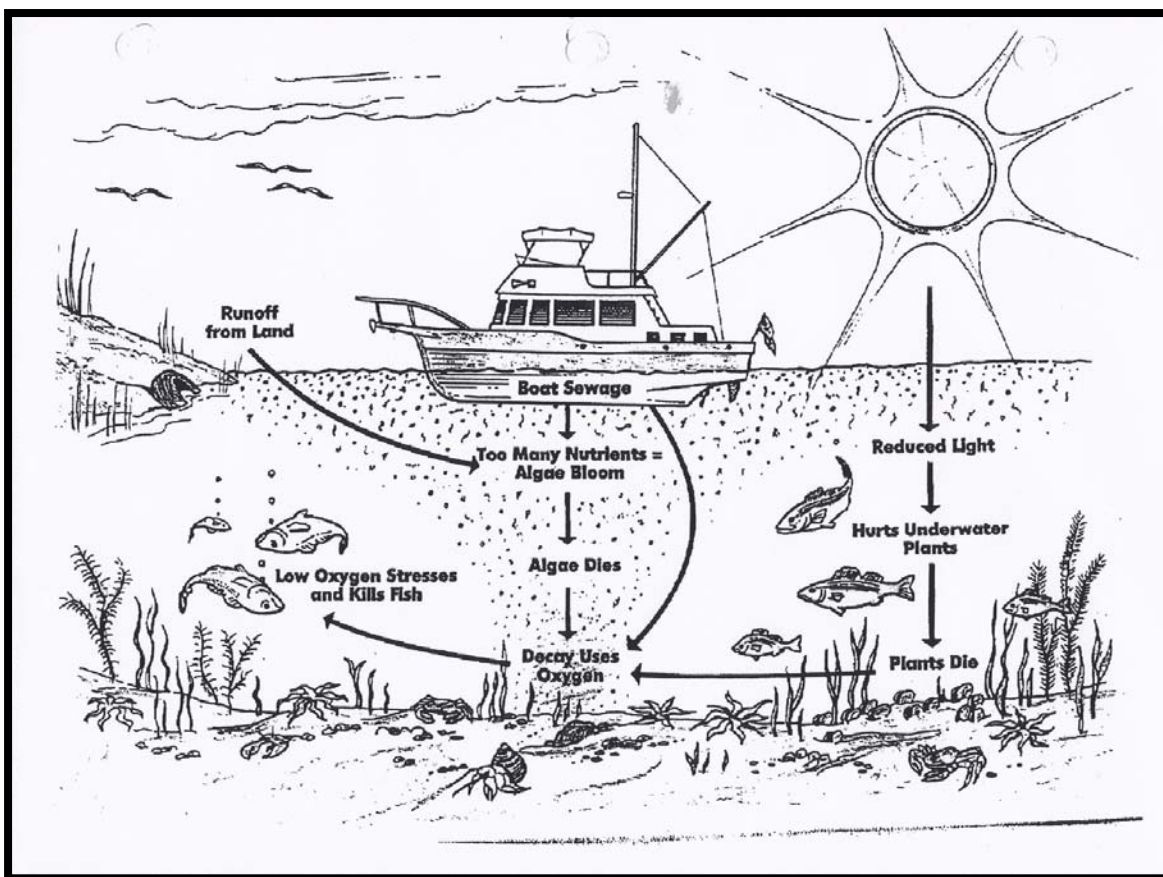
This is a free service to boat owners for their holding tanks to be pumped out with subsequent offloading into upland disposal facilities which then transfer the material to sewage treatment plants.

Weather permitting, we start limited service mid-May. We run two boats on weekends and one during the week from Memorial Day to Labor Day weekend: Monday thru Thursday (Friday is a makeup day for foul weather no-go's.)

After Labor Day to the end of October we operate weekends only; unless demand requires us to go out on special trips. We are doing our part to keep our waters clean and safe.

Joel Severance
Program Manger

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



Registrars of Voters

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

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

The Annual Canvas is required by State Statute and was carried out January thru April. Changes of address, removals and other corrections were made.

The help of all electors in this process is greatly appreciated. As of August 30, 2017, there were 5,028 registered voters in the Town of Essex. This number is broken down as follows: Democrats-1638: Republicans-1422: Unaffiliated-1908: Other-60.

On November 8, 2017 we held the Presidential Election and May 2, 2017 we held the Region 4 Budget Referendum. We had 82% voter turnout for the Presidential Election.

Due to new State legislation, Registrars now must be certified. This entailed attending 8 classes with quizzes following and then a final exam. We have completed the training and final exam and are now Certified Registrars of Voters.

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

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

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

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



Resident State Trooper / Essex Police

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

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

For the reporting year 2016-2017 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 7433 calls for 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.

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 Onsite DWI's	5
Total DWI's	12
Total Other Reportables	93
Total Nonreportables	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

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 Length Of Service Award Program—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: Stacia Libby and Mary-Louise Polo, term expiration November 2018; and Ethan Goller and Peter Decker, term expiration November, 2019.

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

The fund balances at the close of the 2016-2017 fiscal year were: \$4,166,281 for the Defined Benefits Retirement Plans for Town Employees and Police, and \$937,958 for the Merit Service Retirement Plan for Volunteer Firemen. The Town made contributions to each plan of \$471,867, and \$118,378 respectively.

Copies of the Town plans, amendments, investment portfolio, RFP's/proposals, Board minutes, audit and actuarial reports are available to the public for inspection either on the Town website or at the Town of Essex Finance Department 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 a long-standing tradition of collaborating with community partners to enhance services to town residents. Our partners, along with many others, include the Shoreline Soup Kitchen, The Community Renewal Team, The Salvation Army, The Estuary Council, Friends in Service Here (FISH), Child and Family Services, Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley, Operation Fuel, along with the Essex Community Fund, who is a major donor to our Essex Emergency Assistance Fund, which assists local residents with fuel, food, shelter and other emergency services.

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

Mary Ellen Barnes
Social Services Representative



A Glorious Pumpkin Festival in Ivoryton

Town Clerk's Office

This past fiscal year the Town of Essex had five public hearings, ten Town Meetings and a Region 4 District Budget Referendum. The Town Clerk's office received a \$4,000 grant from the Connecticut State Library to be used towards shelving for the lower vault.

The following list of recordings for the 2016 – 2017 fiscal year for the Town of Essex:

- Birth Certificates, 32
- Death Certificates, 91
- Marriage Licenses, 78
- Dog Licenses, 674 with 1 Kennel,
- Survey Maps 30,
- Trade Names, 25
- Land Recordings, 1,390

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

- Dog License Fees, \$5,569
- Marriage Surcharge Fees, \$2,262
- Preservation Fees – State Library, \$3,254
- State Treasurer Fees, \$67,031

Monies to the General Fund:

- Conveyance Tax, \$148,647
- Town Clerk Fees, \$130,341

This office issues the following:

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

The following request forms may be printed off our website:

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

Veterans:

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

Our office is open 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, 2017 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



* Designed by TownMapsUSA.com

Town of Essex

2017 Annual Report

Financial Information

Table of Contents

Finance Report	Page
Historical Revenue	F2
FY 2016-2017 Revenue Breakdown	F2
Historical Expenditures	F3
Pension Trust Funds	F3
Revenue Accounts	F4
Expenditure Accounts	F5
Capital Project Sinking Fund Balances	F7
Unassigned Fund Balance by Fiscal Year	F7
School Enrollment and Region 4 Budget History	F8
 Tax Collector's Report	
Schedule of Property Taxes	F9
Total FY 2017 Collections by Category	F9
 Assessor's Report	
Grand List Reports	F10
Grand List 2016 Assessments by Category	F11
Top 10 Taxpayer Accounts	F12
Historical Mill Rates	F12
Important Annual Dates	F12

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

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

Once complete, the Town's official audited financial statements prepared by our outside audit firm of Mahoney Sabol & Company, LLP will be available for review at the office of the Town Clerk and posted on the Town website www.essexct.gov under the Finance Department webpage.

Town of Essex 2017 Annual Report

Finance Report

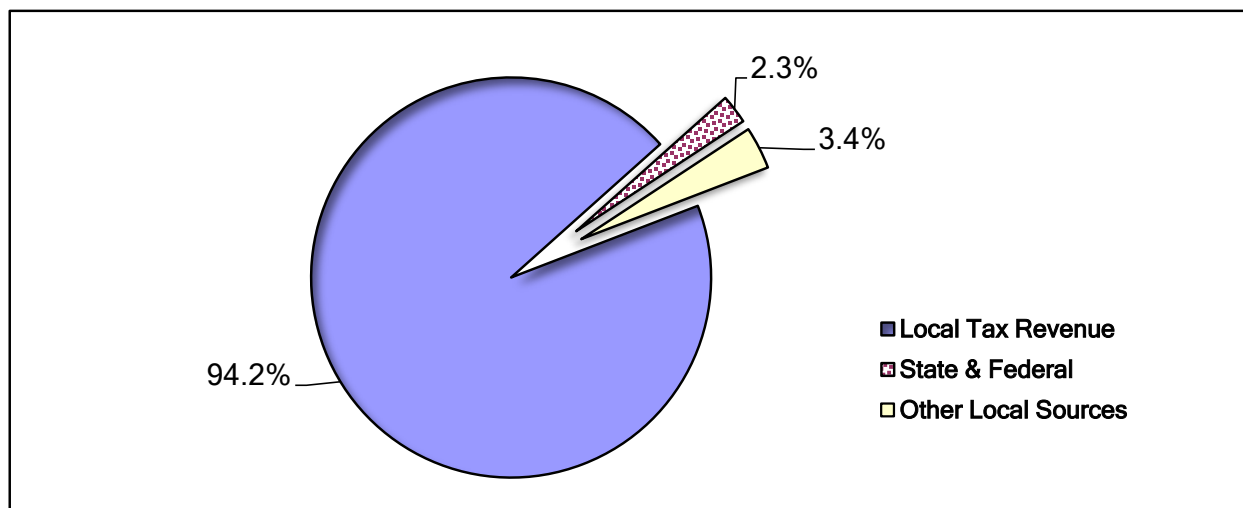
Historical Data - Revenue

(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			
2017-18*	1,044,700,428	0.41	22,924,433	4.08	99.00	21.96	403,717	574,900	23,903,050
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
2005-06	998,805,274	1.54	15,468,996	4.69	99.01	15.50	851,787	920,468	17,241,251

* Budgeted figures

FY 2016-2017 Revenue Breakdown



Town of Essex 2017 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		
2017-18*	6,849,353	0.87	1,046,256	7,461,594	8,721,064	16,182,658	1.41	24,078,267	1.52
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)	\$ 3,555,768	\$ 792,111
Contributions:		
From General Fund and Members	479,010	118,378
Income:		
Net Investment Income/(loss)	522,636	116,386
Total Beginning Balance, Contributions & Income	\$ 4,557,414	\$ 1,026,875
Operating Expenses		
Retirement Benefits Paid	365,101	79,183
Administration	26,027	9,734
Total Operating Expenses	391,128	88,917
Fund Balance at End of Fiscal Year (market value)	\$ 4,166,286	\$ 937,958

Town of Essex 2017 Annual Report

Finance Report

Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Revenues

REVENUE SOURCE	FY 2015-2016 Actual	Fiscal Year 2016-2017			FY 2017-2018 Budget
		Budget	Actual	Variance	
TAX COLLECTION					
Property Taxes	\$ 21,888,262	\$ 22,378,358	\$ 22,419,987	\$ 41,629	\$ 22,874,433
Interest and Lien Fees	136,840	50,000	79,010	29,010	50,000
Total Tax Collection	22,025,102	22,428,358	22,498,997	70,639	22,924,433
STATE & FEDERAL					
Veterans Tax Relief	3,519	3,962	3,703	(259)	3,962
Education Cost Sharing Grant	370,583	160,658	100,943	(59,715)	19,798
Town Aid Road Grant	214,980	214,980	214,806	(174)	214,806
LOCIP	-	40,105	40,105	-	73,525
PILOT Grant	-	78	78	-	-
Homeowners Tax Relief	36,801	35,000	32,135	(2,865)	35,000
Transit District	502	821	-	(821)	821
Municipal Revenue Sharing	-	74,572	74,572	-	-
Pequot Grant	13,224	12,520	12,520	-	-
Municipal Grant in Aid	74,547	74,547	74,547	-	50,000
Miscellaneous State and Federal	-	5,000	6,641	1,641	5,805
Total State & Federal	714,155	622,243	560,049	(62,194)	403,717
LOCAL REVENUES					
Interest Income	6,669	7,200	13,287	6,087	7,200
Miscellaneous Permits	8,423	3,500	6,608	3,108	3,500
Phone "Access Line" Tax Share	27,000	28,000	26,743	(1,257)	28,000
Transfer Station Fees	86,716	80,000	82,838	2,838	80,000
Building Permit Fees	133,539	125,000	219,247	94,247	125,000
Circuit Court Fines	2,748	4,000	2,073	(1,927)	4,000
Gas Tax Refunds	-	805	-	(805)	-
Zoning Permits	10,170	7,100	9,662	2,562	7,100
Zoning Board of Appeals	2,500	2,160	3,500	1,340	2,160
Planning Commission Receipts	-	2,500	-	(2,500)	2,500
Conveyance Tax	173,050	110,000	165,024	55,024	110,000
Park and Recreation	1,400	4,500	1,020	(3,480)	4,500
Miscellaneous Receipts	51,874	15,000	73,702	58,702	15,000
Town Clerk Fees	117,120	115,000	143,288	28,288	115,000
Inland Wetlands Permits	1,920	1,440	2,560	1,120	1,440
Regional Recycling Fees	56,998	62,000	54,693	(7,307)	62,000
Health Department Fees	9,300	7,500	14,475	6,975	7,500
Total Local Revenues	689,425	575,705	818,718	243,013	574,900
TOTAL REVENUE ALL SOURCES	\$ 23,428,682	\$ 23,626,306	\$ 23,877,764	\$ 251,458	\$ 23,903,050

Town of Essex 2017 Annual Report

Finance Report

Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Expenditures

DESCRIPTION	FY 2015-2016	Fiscal Year 2016-2017			FY 2017-2018
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget
BOARD OF SELECTMEN					
GENERAL GOVERNMENT					
Selectmen	\$ 190,871	\$ 198,904	\$ 176,425	\$ (22,479)	\$ 205,966
Assessor	107,583	114,028	112,733	(1,295)	116,541
Central Services	205,285	210,966	217,818	6,852	214,816
Elections	48,291	47,837	41,727	(6,110)	45,840
Probate Court	3,460	3,460	3,460	-	6,460
Tax Collector	104,321	109,431	106,214	(3,217)	112,271
Town Clerk	177,226	163,035	183,052	20,017	166,835
Finance	166,276	170,721	170,466	(255)	175,250
Zoning Enforcement Agent	65,835	67,026	67,312	286	68,846
Fringe Benefits	1,126,473	1,113,907	1,060,044	(53,863)	1,019,146
General Insurance	177,941	193,305	181,240	(12,065)	190,012
Legal Services	80,230	74,000	99,983	25,983	74,000
Public Restroom Facilities	17,201	20,250	16,555	(3,695)	18,750
Technology	181,662	190,351	190,222	(129)	202,640
Board of Assessment Appeals	985	1,430	776	(654)	1,430
Board of Finance	35,421	108,500	35,582	(72,918)	110,500
Conservation Commission	10,549	13,900	14,715	815	11,900
Economic Development Comm.	13,333	14,100	12,858	(1,242)	14,100
IWWC Commission	4,855	7,680	5,167	(2,513)	6,680
Land Use Administrative	-	-	-	-	99,410
Park & Recreation	171,262	176,145	173,341	(2,804)	181,735
Park & Recreation Comm.	784	2,200	1,104	(1,096)	1,200
Planning Commission	62,486	63,021	62,234	(787)	62,575
Tree Committee	6,000	6,000	6,000	-	6,000
Zoning Board of Appeals	4,690	5,450	6,053	603	5,450
Zoning Commission	39,684	34,168	35,248	1,080	7,020
Total General Government	3,002,704	3,109,815	2,980,329	(129,486)	3,125,374
PUBLIC SAFETY					
Ambulance Association	12,158	19,536	19,519	(17)	18,407
Animal Control	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	10,000
Building Department	92,376	101,791	104,454	2,663	72,866
Emergency Management	16,502	21,400	18,180	(3,220)	21,400
Emergency 911	118,098	118,534	118,632	98	120,894
Fire Department	325,150	339,650	334,650	(5,000)	344,650
Fire Marshal	46,474	54,192	48,440	(5,752)	46,354
Harbor Patrol	19,332	30,263	16,965	(13,298)	30,486
Police Services	255,183	339,527	324,972	(14,555)	366,987
Resident State Trooper	159,152	191,528	169,016	(22,512)	197,274
Water	154,642	152,178	164,432	12,254	182,392
Total Public Safety	1,209,067	1,378,599	1,329,260	(49,339)	1,411,710

continued on next page

Town of Essex 2017 Annual Report

Finance Report

Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Expenditures *(continued)*

DESCRIPTION	FY 2015-2016 Actual	Fiscal Year 2016-2017			FY 2017-2018 Budget
		Budget	Actual	Variance	
HEALTH AND WELFARE					
Estuary Transit	\$ 17,358	\$ 18,226	\$ 18,226	\$ -	\$ 19,140
Health Department	119,701	136,929	121,443	(15,486)	110,950
Transfer Station	241,991	267,646	252,582	(15,064)	269,965
Social Services	100,914	104,835	98,826	(6,009)	105,703
Visiting Nurses	66,850	66,874	66,850	(24)	66,874
Water Pollution Control	1,179	2,600	1,166	(1,434)	2,600
Total Health and Welfare	547,993	597,110	559,093	(38,017)	575,231
LIBRARIES	390,559	390,559	390,559	-	398,370
HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION					
Highways	923,928	868,402	898,280	29,878	852,968
Town Garage	26,536	34,200	26,586	(7,614)	31,700
Total Highways and Transportation	950,464	902,602	924,866	22,264	884,668
DEBT SERVICE					
Principal Payments	650,000	695,000	694,940	-	735,000
Interest and Finance Charges	258,881	273,956	273,956	-	311,256
Total Debt Service	908,881	968,956	968,896	-	1,046,256
CAPITAL AND SINKING FUNDS	578,274	564,000	564,024	24	454,000
GRANTS & SPECIAL APPROP.	-	42,017	42,017	-	-
TOTAL BOARD OF SELECTMEN	7,587,942	7,953,657	7,759,045	(194,554)	7,895,609
EDUCATION					
Elementary School	5,412,546	5,461,962	5,329,842	(132,120)	5,458,489
Reg. School Operating	7,367,332	7,650,963	7,650,963	-	7,944,804
Reg. Supervision District	2,176,269	2,173,446	2,173,446	-	2,003,105
Reg. Bond & Interest	824,815	803,562	803,562	-	776,260
Total Education	15,780,962	16,089,933	15,957,813	(132,120)	16,182,658
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 23,368,904	\$ 24,043,590	\$ 23,716,858	\$ (326,674)	\$ 24,078,267

Fiscal Year End Revenue Excess/(Deficit)

DESCRIPTION	FY 2015-2016 Actual	Fiscal Year 2016-2017			FY 2017-2018 Budget
		Budget	Actual	Variance	
Total Revenue	\$ 23,428,682	\$ 23,626,306	\$ 23,877,764	\$ 251,458	\$ 23,903,050
Total Expenditures	23,368,904	24,043,590	23,716,858	\$ (326,674)	24,078,267
Excess (Deficit) of Revenues over Expenditures	\$ 59,778	\$ (417,284)	\$ 160,906	\$ 578,132	\$ (175,217)

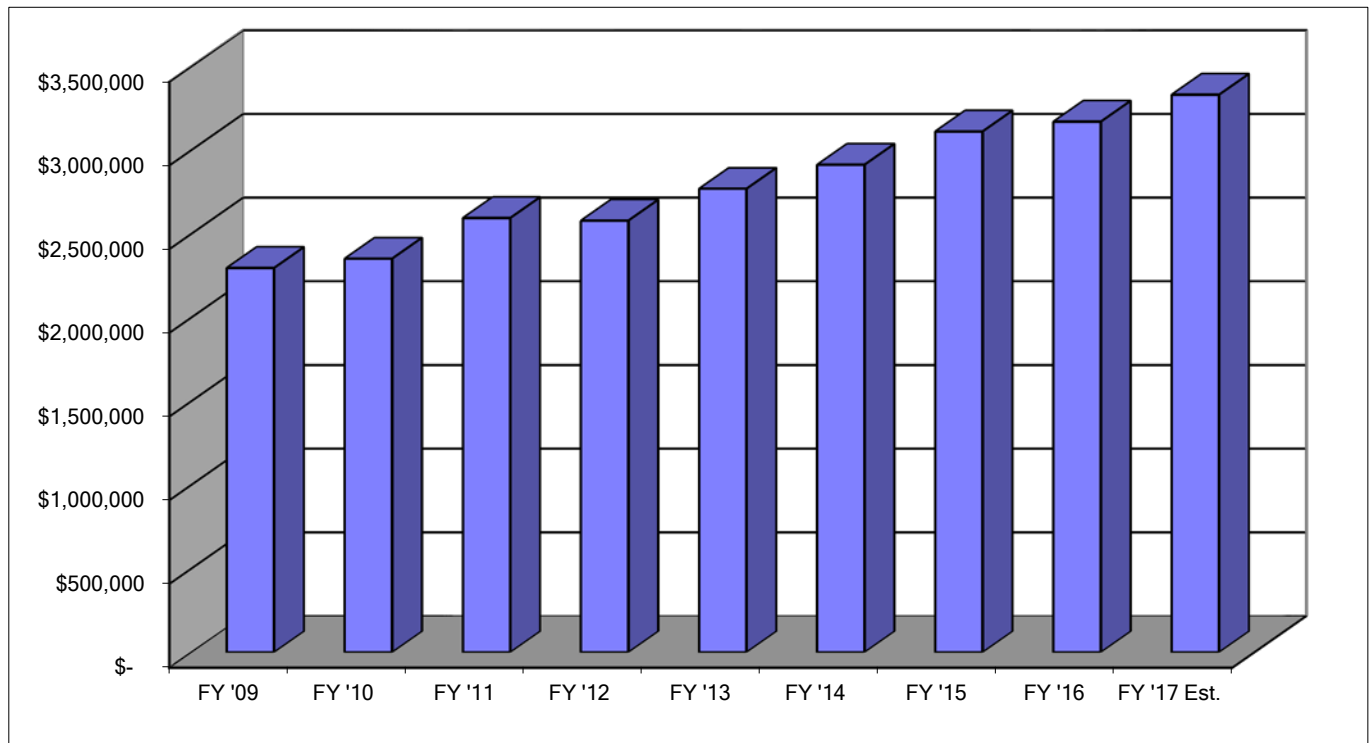
Town of Essex 2017 Annual Report

Finance Report

Capital Project Sinking Fund Balances

Fund Name	Beginning Balance at 7/1/2016	From General Fund	Interest Rec'd. /Other	Expenditures	Ending Balance at 6/30/2017
Fire Truck	\$ 166,581	\$ 145,000	\$ 64,846	\$ -	\$ 376,427
Trucks & Equip.	2,806	-	3	-	2,809
Constable Vehicles	64,746	45,000	38	43,590	66,194
Assessor Revaluation	131,386	12,500	-	-	143,886
Wastewater Study	120,880	5,000	116	-	125,996
Harbor Patrol Boat	71,998	45,000	75	-	117,073
Park & Recreation	85,213	36,500	102	10,512	111,303
Municipal Property	124,439	25,000	137	-	149,576
Open Space	90,801	20,000	102	-	110,903
EES Capital Improv.	256,281	60,000	221	76,107	240,395
Totals	\$ 1,115,131	\$ 394,000	\$ 65,640	\$ 130,209	\$ 1,444,562

Unassigned Fund Ending Balance by Fiscal Year



Town of Essex 2017 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
2016	2017-18	154	151	305	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%
2001	2002-03	333	225	558	331	575	906	334	36.87%

*Total includes Magnet school and out of district placements

Regional School District #4 Budget History

	Actual 2013-2014	Actual 2014-2015	Actual 2015-2016	Budgeted 2016-2017	Adopted 2017-2018
Region. School District 4 Expenses	\$14,641,624	\$14,888,543	15,253,001	\$15,986,290	16,534,060
Supervision District Expenses	<u>1,471,058</u>	<u>1,572,013</u>	<u>1,658,586</u>	<u>1,674,259</u>	<u>1,787,731</u>
Total Operating Expenses	16,112,682	16,460,556	16,911,587	17,660,549	18,321,791
Revenue	275,532	297,447	449,340	438,652	500,338
Debt Service	<u>1,663,438</u>	<u>1,916,875</u>	<u>1,860,625</u>	<u>1,819,825</u>	<u>1,741,275</u>
Total Billings - Region-wide	17,500,588	18,079,984	18,322,872	19,041,722	19,562,728
Total Billings-Essex Share	8,081,772	8,112,489	8,192,147	8,454,525	8,721,064
Increase from Prior Year (\$) - Region	454,760	579,396	242,888	718,850	521,006
Increase from Prior Year (\$) - Essex	379,885	30,717	79,658	262,378	266,539
Increase from Prior Year (%) - Region	2.67%	3.31%	1.34%	3.92%	2.74%
Increase from Prior Year (%) - Essex	4.93%	0.38%	0.98%	3.20%	3.15%
Number of Students	1,007	994	988	946	969
Total Operating Exp / Student**	\$ 16,001	\$ 16,560	\$ 17,117	\$ 18,669	\$ 18,908

**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

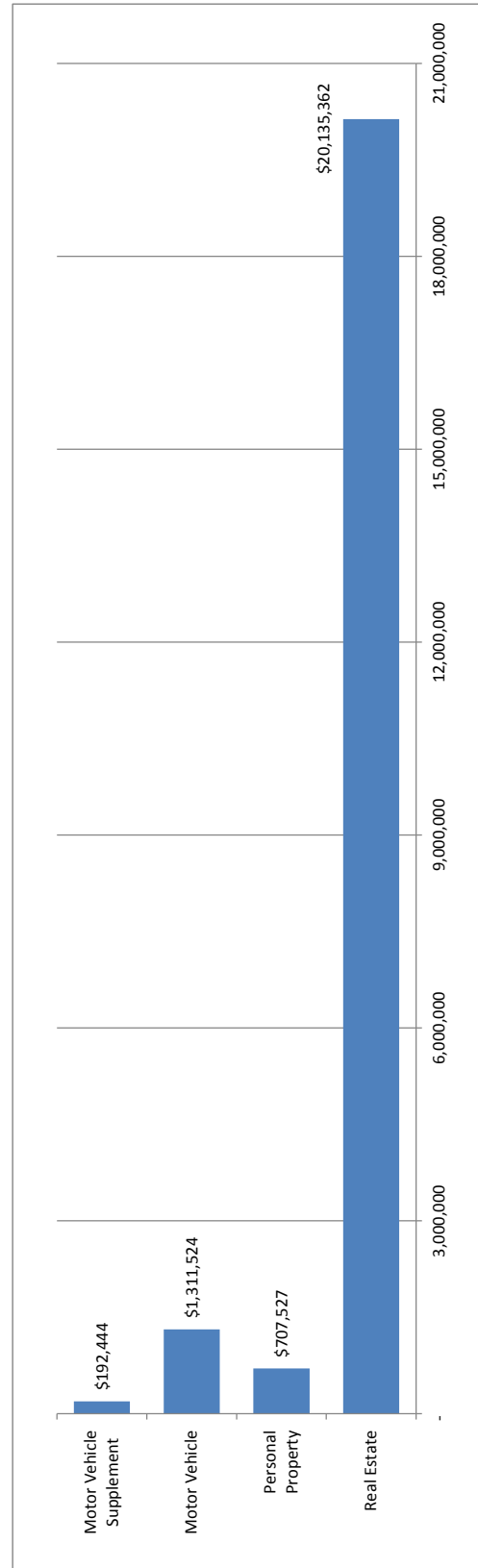
Town of Essex 2017 Annual Report

Tax Collector's Report

Schedule of Property Taxes by Grand List Year June 30, 2017

GRAND LIST YEAR	UNCOLLECTED TAXES 6/30/2016	CURRENT YEAR LEVY	Lawful Corrections Additions	Deductions	Transfers To Suspend	Balance To Be Collected	TAXES	COLLECTIONS INTEREST	LIEN FEES	TOTAL	UNCOLLECTED TAXES 6/30/2017
2015		22,553,957	30,387	33,223	-	22,551,121	22,300,796	45,942	120	22,346,858	250,325
2014	203,227	-	7,604	3,287	-	207,544	73,159	12,494	312	85,965	134,385
2013	115,299	-	6,284	318	38,390	82,875	21,293	9,241	120	30,654	61,582
2012	46,972	-	-	-	-	46,972	9,533	2,410	120	12,063	37,439
2011	27,189	-	-	-	-	27,189	928	3,484	24	4,436	26,261
2010	10,134	-	-	-	-	10,134	-	1,068	-	1,068	10,134
2009	7,345	-	-	-	-	7,345	1,376	633	24	2,033	5,969
2008	7,607	-	-	-	-	7,607	-	-	-	-	7,607
2007	5,157	-	-	-	-	5,157	-	-	-	-	5,157
2006	744	-	-	-	-	744	-	-	-	-	744
2005	713	-	-	-	-	713	-	-	-	-	713
2004	682	-	-	-	-	682	-	-	-	-	682
2003	387	-	-	-	-	387	224	276	-	500	163
Total	425,456	22,553,957	44,275	36,828	-	22,948,470	22,407,309	75,548	720	22,483,577	541,161

FY 2017 Collections for Grand List 10/1/15 by Type



Town of Essex 2017 Annual Report

Assessor's Report

2016 Grand List Annual Report

	REAL ESTATE	
	Grand List Year 2015	Grand List Year 2016
Gross	\$ 943,929,060	\$ 946,240,060
Exemptions:		
Veteran's	\$ 975,000	\$ 949,500
Veteran's Additional	168,000	132,000
Vet. Add. Reimb.*	441,750	441,000
Disability	12,000	11,000
Blind	15,000	9,000
Other	-	-
Net	\$ 942,317,310	\$ 944,697,560

	PERSONAL PROPERTY	
	Grand List Year 2015	Grand List Year 2016
Gross	\$ 47,310,971	\$ 49,571,868
Exemptions:		
Farm & Mechanics	\$ 19,550	\$ 30,350
Manufacturers*	12,851,990	14,267,360
Misc.	-	-
Solar Energy/Pollution Control	-	230
Net	\$ 34,439,431	\$ 35,273,928

	MOTOR VEHICLES	
	Grand List Year 2015	Grand List Year 2016
Gross	\$ 66,623,460	\$ 68,847,880
Exemptions:		
Veteran's	\$ 176,750	\$ 179,370
Veteran's Additional	71,410	73,940
Disability Reimb.	-	1,000
Disability	-	24,210
Other	-	-
Manuf. Truck Reimb.*	2,661,340	3,840,420
Net	\$ 63,713,960	\$ 64,728,940

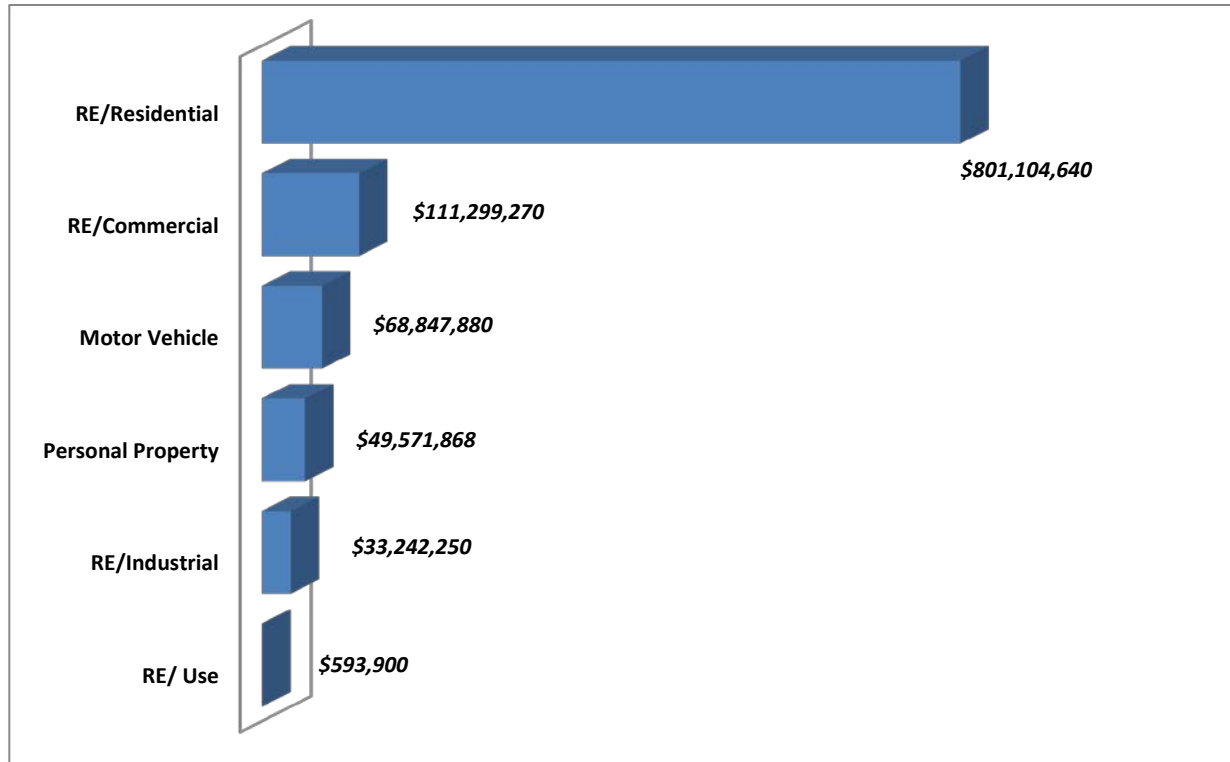
	TOTALS	
	Grand List Year 2015	Grand List Year 2016
Gross	\$ 1,057,863,491	\$ 1,064,659,808
Exemptions:		
Veteran's	\$ 1,151,750	\$ 1,128,870
Veteran's Additional	239,410	205,940
Vet. Add. Reimb.*	441,750	441,000
Blind	15,000	9,000
Disability	12,000	36,210
Other	19,550	30,580
Manufacturer & Truck*	15,513,330	18,107,780
Net	\$ 1,040,470,701	\$ 1,044,700,428

*No longer being reimbursed by State of Connecticut

Town of Essex 2017 Annual Report

Assessor's Report

Grand List 2016 Assessment by Category



Comparative Grand Lists - Net Taxable

Item	Grand List Year 2015	Grand List Year 2016	Increase/ (Decrease)
Real Estate	\$ 942,317,310	\$ 944,697,560	\$ 2,380,250
Personal Property	\$ 34,439,431	\$ 35,273,928	\$ 834,497
Motor Vehicle	\$ 63,713,960	\$ 64,728,940	\$ 1,014,980
Total	\$ 1,040,470,701	\$ 1,044,700,428	\$ 4,229,727

Tax Revenue Comparison

	Grand List Year 2015	Grand List Year 2016
Net List	\$ 1,040,470,701	\$ 1,044,700,428
Mill Rate	21.58	21.96
Grand List Tax Revenue	\$ 22,453,358	\$ 22,941,621

Town of Essex 2017 Annual Report

Assessor's Report

Gross Top Ten Taxpayer Accounts

#	Taxpayer	Primary Activities	10/1/2015	# of
			Assessed Value	
1	Essex Meadows, Inc	Health Care Living Facility	\$ 22,877,500	1
2	Lee Company	Manufacturing	15,562,980	4
3	Conn Light & Power Co.	Public Utility	7,222,180	1
4	All Waste Inc.	Refuse Collection	5,297,930	54
5	Essex Savings Bank	Financial Services	4,580,030	9
6	River Properties Inc.	Real Estate Development	4,143,560	5
7	Griswold Inn LLC	Inn & Restaurant	3,419,460	6
8	Cline Stephen R. Successor	Real Estate Development	3,328,100	5
9	Nalas Engineering Services	Chemical Processing	2,914,870	2
10	Macbeth Ventures LLC	Real Estate Development	2,767,530	2
Total			\$ 72,114,140	

Historical Mill Rates	
Grand List Year	Mill Rate
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
1995	13.20
*Revaluation	

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

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 2016-2017 we have planted sixteen trees.

The tree type and location are as follows: One Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*) at 100 River Road, one Stewartia at Essex Elementary School and fourteen replacement Eastern Red Cedars on West Avenue.

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

Augie Pampel,
Chairman



Sunset Pond

Water Pollution Control Authority

New technologies have been developed that allow for on-site wastewater treatment on small parcels that previously were limited to any increase in water usage. Therefore, residents may see changes in some commercial properties to uses that were previously unavailable.

After several years of planning, the WPCA decided against development of a new Town-wide wastewater plan and shifted its focus to assuring that all residents with cesspools comply with the removal/replacement ordinance effective January 1, 2018. We are also working with property owners in Essex Village to proactively manage areas with high wastewater.

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 Wolfgram and Eric Mineker.

Zoning Board of Appeals

The Essex Zoning Board of Appeals is chaired by Paul Greenberg. With Mr. Greenberg are Tim Furgueson, Ward Feirer, Barbara Sarrantonio and William Vielletto. 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 2016-2017 fiscal year there were a total of thirty-four public hearings held before the ZBA. The Board granted twenty-six variances and denied seven. One application was withdrawn.

Zoning Commission

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

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 2016 – 2017 fiscal year the Commission held fifteen public hearings. It approved seven special exceptions or site plan reviews. Also, six petitions to amend the zoning regulations and/or change a map boundary. Also, there were two applications for Coastal Area Management. One application was approved and one was denied.

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, questions, concerns and requirements of the Town's residents regarding their properties are handled.

The official performs inspections, investigations, enforcement and administrative duties to assure that residential, commercial, industrial and other properties comply with the Town's zoning and wetland regulations as well as State and Federal statutes. The enforcement official serves as a conduit to the land use boards and commissions. Staff will guide all applicants through the process of getting their plans and ideas heard throughout the necessary approvals.

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

During the 2016 – 2017 fiscal year the Zoning Official approved 121 zoning permits and 6 administrative wetland permits.

Ancient Order of Weeders

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

The Essex Weeders have always relied upon the generosity of several individuals and civic organizations who enable our work to continue. The Essex Garden Club provides us with hundreds of annuals each year. Likewise, our mulch has been generously donated by our good friends the Bombaci's. Traffic cones, and safety vests have been provided to us by the Town. Private donations from generous individuals and local service clubs are also integral to our efforts. It is only through their help that we are able to buy plant food, fertilizer and replacement plantings and shrubs. Their assistance has become especially important in the aftermath of an accident in January of 2016 that caused extensive damage to mature shrubs.

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

Ray Coyle
Lead Weeder
Ancient Order Of Essex Weeders



Ancient Order of Essex Weeders
Group photo

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, teen pregnancy, childcare, and parent education.

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

A full range of psychiatric, psychological and psycho-social assessment services are available to children and their families as well as to Essex and District #4 Schools and community groups. Child & Family serves children birth to eighteen years of age and their families. Our Essex Child Guidance Clinic provided home and office based counseling services to 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 \$12 million budget, program funding comes from private, state, United Way and federal sources. Fees for service reflect costs. A sliding scale assures that no one will be refused service for financial reasons.

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

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

Connecticut River Gateway Commission

The Lower Connecticut River Valley was recognized by the Connecticut General Assembly in 1973 as one of the State's most important natural, recreational and scenic areas. In 1974, the Commission was established and became operational with membership from eight towns, the RiverCOG and the Connecticut Department of Energy and 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, 2017 include: 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 Jerri MacMillian of Essex; Susan R. Bement of Haddam, J. Melvin Woody and Wendy Hill of Lyme; Peter Cable and Suzanne Thompson of Old Lyme; Madeline Fish and Belinda Ahern of Old Saybrook; Raul de Brigard of RiverCOG; and David Blatt of the Connecticut DEEP (Commissioner's Representative). Fenwick Borough has been designated an ad hoc member and is represented by Borough Warden Fran Adams.

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

Connecticut River Museum

Eagles, intrepid explorers, art, haunted voices, Thursday night music, and Connecticut's state fish were just a few of the exciting events that visitors encountered this past year at the Connecticut River Museum.

Nearly 25,000 visitors attended the Museum and its programs over the past year. These visitors came from as near as Essex and as far away as Japan to explore New England's Great River. Some discovered our 1878 Steamboat Dock with three floors of exhibits to absorb, while others experienced the majesty of the river by boat. Over 5,000 school-aged children, many of whom were served free of charge or at reduced prices through scholarship funds, received onsite and in-school programs. While at the Museum, children enjoyed hands-on history and environmental programs with their schools and clubs, and as summer campers.

A few of the significant highlights over the past year include: Public programs: Thursdays on the Dock, a free summer concert overlooking the harbor; the first annual Conquer the Current, a benefit regatta that featured vessels propelled by paddle; Haunted River, a chilling theatrical event that brought the Valley's history and folklore to life; Evenings at the Lay House, popular 18th-century inspired tavern nights; guided canoe and paddle programs; and numerous lectures, workshops, and community events.

Exhibits: In addition to the permanent exhibits, the Museum featured three temporary shows this past year. In late fall of 2016 the 23rd *Annual Train Show* steamed into Town with artist Steve Cryan. Following on the heels of the *Train Show* came the exhibit *Connecticut's Founding Fish* – an important exhibit that documented the history and culture of the shad fishery. Most recently *Long Tidal River: 4 Artists, 4 States* shows how four artists along the River have found inspiration in this waterway.

Preservation: A major preservation effort has been taking place to replace a compromised bulkhead that protects the Steamboat Dock from the River. Private, State, and Federal resources are allowing the Museum to install a new wall late this fall. This will provide a critical piece of infrastructure that should help to keep the historic site protected for years.

ONRUST: This replica of Adriaen Block's 1614 "yacht" – the first European vessel to explore and chart the Connecticut River (among other places) – was a fabulous addition to our site. Thousands of visitors enjoyed a peaceful sail on the River and many helped to haul a line and explore below deck. Support: We wish to thank all of our private and corporate supporters for allowing us to meet our mission. This has taken place through fundraising events such as Fall Ball (now Fall Feast), donations, sponsorship of events, and a dramatic increase in membership.

The upcoming year is looking equally exciting and filled with programs. Please think about getting involved, becoming a volunteer, a member, or simply enjoying our ever-changing exhibits. Be a part of the only Museum dedicated to the history, culture, and environment of the Connecticut River and its Valley.

For more information on the Connecticut River Museum or events, please visit www.ctrivermuseum.org. The Museum is located at 67 Main Street, Essex, CT 06426.

Essex Ambulance Association

This year Essex Ambulance marks 40 years of service to our community. Prior to January 1, 1977 if you called for an ambulance in Essex it was dispatched from Middletown. A small group of volunteers decided to change that and after months of training and fund raising to purchase a new ambulance, on January 1, 1977, Essex Ambulance Association incorporated began service, originally operating from a bay in the rear of what is now Dunkin Donuts.

We were honored to be recognized at the Ivoryton Fourth of July Parade and to have one of our founding members Sabra (Sam) O'Donnell serve as Grand Marshal. Sam has served the Corps continuously for the past 40 years, first as a volunteer and for the past 10 years as President of the Board of Directors. She stepped down as President this year but continues to serve the Corps as President Emeritus.

Our current ambulances range in age from 8 to 23 years. With an aging fleet maintenance and repair costs rise. This year we will begin the process of planning for the purchase of a new ambulance. Fund raising will be a critical component of planning. Our 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 toward our goal of a new ambulance is greatly appreciated.

Our members responded to 818 calls last year, including medical emergencies, traumatic injuries, cardiac arrests and psychiatric emergencies. Additionally we assisted at local events, provided assistance at fire scenes in Essex and provided emergency response as requested to our mutual aid towns. We are especially proud of our participation in the second "Stuff The Ambulance" event, benefiting the Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries.

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. The satisfaction of helping a neighbor is immeasurable.

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, thank you to our members and their families for their commitment to the health and safety of our community.

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

Essex Art Association

The 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. Since the building is unheated, the gallery is seasonal but very active during the warmer months. Initially founded as a place for artists to share and sell their work, EAA has continued that tradition. The Association is known for its friendly atmosphere, welcoming all artists to participate, and inviting the public to attend openings and visit the gallery at no charge.

Traditionally our season begins in April with an inspirational exhibition of artwork by the students from Valley Regional High School. Five more exhibitions make up EAA's schedule between May and September. Two of the exhibitions are juried shows, accepting 80 artworks from many submissions. Two of the exhibitions are open shows where all work is accepted. 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
Peggy Price, Secretary
Barbara Morrissey, Treasurer
Elin Dolle, Member
Bob Gantner, Member
Susan Malan, Member
Ellen Gaube, Member
Andria Alex, Member
Kay Brigante, Co-Administrative Director
Janet Rayner, Co-Administrative Director



Essex Board of Trade

Essex Board of Trade (EBOT) is the local business organization comprised of members from the manufacturing, banking/financial management, real estate, legal, health & 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 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 the EBOT, the mission is to bring businesses together from the three villages to promote commerce throughout the entire township.

To the surprise of many, the Essex Board of Trade is NOT an arm of our Town government. Our members pay their yearly dues to be involved in the monthly networking opportunities, and enable the organization to host events, as well as "boost" members fundraising events and continuously promote 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, as well as the "Holiday Stroll" in December, it is our members that have paid, coordinated efforts, and contributed manpower to making the villages look festive, fun, and attractive.

Membership and special event committees meet 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 continuously 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 seasonal 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, and our Facebook page, "Essex Board of Trade", we consistently keep 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 stimulating our "guests" to perhaps move to our Town, open new businesses, and add to our local culture.

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

Essex Community Fund

Essex Community Fund (ECF) has a long history of commitment to the residents of Centerbrook, Essex and Ivoryton with almost seven decades of consistent, community-based assistance and volunteer service. While ECF supports the arts, humanities, education and environment, our primary focus continues to be on programs that enhance the health and development of our citizens and 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. This past year, a short survey was sent to a sampling of these donors to gain better insight into what makes them give to ECF. We also expand the impact of donor's gifts by forging effective public/private partnership, such as our Matching Challenge Grant to support a critical fuel assistance program for low-income residents managed by the Town.

Ivoryton Playhouse Fundraiser – Over 100 people enjoyed a pre-show cocktail party before attending "The Man of La Mancha" featuring critically-acclaimed David Pittsinger.

Street Sign Auction – People near and far participated in an online auction of the old street signs that were replaced throughout the villages.

Stuff-A Cruiser Events – Joining the Essex Police Department, our two annual holiday events yielded almost 3,700 pounds of food for the Shoreline Soup Kitchen.

Day of Giving – Over \$40,000 was distributed in grants to local non-profit organizations in April.

ECF continuously identifies, brings awareness to and gathers additional financial and volunteer support for emerging community needs. With the help of the Board and other volunteers, we work in partnership with local nonprofit 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.

Our on-going strategic planning efforts have provided structure and focus for our work as we continue to attract stellar volunteers and new Board members. Rob Stack, Erin McDonough and Adrienne Kiel joined the Board this year.

Many of our donors contribute year after year. They have endorsed ECF's stewardship of their donations and entrusted ECF to ensure that their donations provide our local nonprofits with the support they need to best serve the residents of Centerbrook, Essex and Ivoryton. 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 essexcommunityfund.org.

Essex Fire Engine Company No. 1

The fiscal year 2016–2017 has continued to be a busy one for the volunteers of the Essex Fire Engine Co. # 1. This year our members responded to more than 800 requests for assistance. These requests encompassed medical emergencies, structural fires, rescues, marine emergencies, hazardous materials emergencies and public service requests.

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

Our training facility continues to develop and advance thanks to a group of extremely dedicated members and volunteers. In addition to multiple sessions of live fire training, this state of the art facility has already exceeded our expectations in the quality of hands on practical skills training that it delivers to the members. They are able to hone skills in advanced search and rescue techniques, ladder confidence and proficiency and train/retrain in the proper use of our firefighter personal escape systems. These systems allow firefighters to escape from an untenable condition by climbing head first out a window and descending via rope to the ground in a safe and controlled manner all in a matter of seconds.

In early December we took delivery of our new custom built Pierce fire engines. These amazing pieces of apparatus bring us to a whole new level of firefighter safety with independent front suspension for improved handling and braking, rollover protection and front and side curtain airbags. Totally designed by our members to meet the needs of our Department to serve our Town, these rescue pumpers have been designed to help combat today's struggles with available staffing and allow members to do more with less.

Every year demands placed on the fire service increase and place even more strain on the members of our still 100% volunteer organization. The pressures of today's economic climate allow for less and less available time for members to commit. The demands placed on members are overwhelming and is rapidly taking its toll. Yet despite these hardships, our volunteers continue to rise to the challenges before them. But they need help. We are in need of firefighters, vehicle operators, emergency medical responders, even folks interested in helping out with administrative tasks. I implore you to help us by volunteering some of your time. Please stop by and spend some time with us, see if the rewarding life of helping those in need is the right fit for you.

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

Essex Garden Club

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 Centerbrook, Essex 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 focuses 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. We also contracted with a landscape company to have all beds edged and mulched, and shrubs trimmed, in both the Town Park and Dickinson Park. 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.

The Essex Garden Club awarded 3 scholarships for a total of \$3,500 to two Valley Regional High School graduates attending college in the fall, and to a sophomore college student. Bushy Hill Nature Center was given \$2,160 to provide four youth camper-ships, and the Park and Recreation Summer Program was awarded \$3,125 to provide 25 camper-ships for children.

The Garden Club has also launched a new website at www.essexgardenclubct.org which includes many pictures of May Market and the activities of the Garden Club.

Barbara Burgess
President



Essex Historical Society

Living our mission: “Engaging and Inspiring the Community, Essex. Ivoryton. Centerbrook”, Essex Historical Society’s (EHS) Board of Directors, volunteers and staff sought ways to connect audiences with historic resources.

EHS improved visitors’ experience at its two historic properties, Hills Academy and Pratt House. Working with several community partners, EHS improved access to its collections at Hills Academy (22 Prospect Street) by moving our offices and library down to the first floor. Thanks to Guilford Savings Bank, updated technology allowed visitors to browse our digital collections. With services largely donated in-kind, new landscaping helped showcase this historic 1832 structure, with repaired and repainted windows, thanks to the 1772 Foundation at the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation. Hills Academy is open year-round for research support.

Essex’s only historic house museum, Pratt House (19 West Ave.) welcomed many visitors and school programs, all with free admission, weekends from June - September. EHS strengthened its docent (tour guide) program, always eager for more guides! Pratt’s historic landscapes include the kitchen gardens maintained by members of the Essex Garden Club and its back field contains the Town’s Community Garden, including a reconstructed barn.

EHS engaged new audiences - we held our Annual Meeting at the Essex Veterans Hall in Centerbrook, where a panel of veterans shared their ‘recent history’ experiences in Afghanistan, Iraq and Vietnam. Thanks to the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, our Walking Tour program included Centerbrook’s agricultural and industrial sites along the Falls River, alongside our tours of Essex Village, Prospect Street and Ivoryton, to “take history to the streets.” Plus, we hosted our first bus tour of all three villages! EHS is happy to schedule walking tours, bus tours or lectures for groups throughout the year.

Many popular programs continued: September’s Tri-Town Vintage Base Ball Game; Thanksgiving Weekend at Pratt House as EHS coordinates the Trees-in-the-Rigging land parade and our annual lecture series co-hosted with Essex Meadows on 2017’s topic, “Trains, Planes & Automobiles.”

EHS continues collaborative partnerships with Connecticut River Museum, Essex Elementary School, Valley Regional High School, Ivoryton Library, Essex Board of Trade and Essex Land Trust, among many others. Our area partners have requested our walks or talks and you may have seen our marchers and vintage autos in Town parades. We are always happy to work with new partners.

Please visit www.essexhistory.org for more info. Thank you for your community support!

Melissa A. Josefiak
Director

Essex Land Trust

2016 marks our 49th year in pursuing the Essex Land Trust’s mission. We thank all our members and donors for the sustained support you have provided over many years.

Essex Land Trust Membership continues strong with 383 individual and household members.

Events for 2016 began with an update by Steve Gephard on the condition and future of the Connecticut River. We explored our properties learning about the vernal pools or naming trees in the Preserve and introduced the Johnson Farm to the community.

Operational Income of \$167,000 came from membership dues, donations and grants. Special thanks to The Community Foundation of Middlesex County, MRB Foundation, and Essex Savings Bank’s Community Investment Program. Expenses of \$94,000 are principally for mowing, tree removal, and treatment for invasives along with other core operating expenses. We continue to be fortunate in receiving in-kind support and sponsorships from local businesses. Thanks to Essex Printing, Bartlett Tree Experts, Giroux Landscaping, Ann Penniman Associates and Tree Tender.

Two new properties have been identified for increasing Land Trust open space holdings. The first piece of land is an 11-acre landlocked plot adjoining Windswept Ridge Preserve. The new purchase will increase the acreage of this preserve to over 45 acres. The second land acquisition is adjacent to our new Doane’s Woods/James Glen Preserve. This land is over 18 acres and is accessed from Oxbow Lane. Combined acreage of these three adjoining properties will be 40 acres.

Our stewardship team has been very busy with the development of trails and access points and installation of signs and kiosks. A team of 30+ stewards and volunteers maintains the Land Trust’s 22 properties providing trail maintenance, developing plans for the future and, increasingly, attempting to control the presence of invasive plants, the most notable of which are Japanese Barberry and Knotweed.

This year we would like to recognize some of the volunteers who work behind the scenes, making things run smoothly for us all. Kathy Messier helps with communications and publicity, distributing posters and keeping brochure displays stocked. Stephanie Gatto helped with development and technology. Chris Hill arranged meetings at Centerbrook Architects, setting up the A.V. equipment and arranging the room for the periodic all stewards meetings. Cynthia Field has served the Operations Committee meetings as recording secretary. Lana Westgate handled photo archiving and the photo contest with Lyme Land Trust. Michael Tagatac helped to create and coordinate the ELT Programs calendar.

Jim Denham
Communication Director

Essex Lions Club



The Essex Lions Club is proud to have served the Town of Essex for over 67 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 also have our annual Thomas the Tank Engine food concession at the Valley Railroad. Finally, we send out the Essex Eye Charities letter to the community and, as always, get an excellent response. The Club looks forward to another year of service, and thanks to 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 7:00 PM at The Ivory Restaurant and Pub in Deep River. 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 congregate café sites in Killingworth, Lyme/Old Lyme and Old Saybrook. Since 1974, the ECSI's mission has been to promote quality of life, community involvement, and independent living for people aged 50 and over. Last year the ECSI provided over 71 thousand nutritious meals including over 51 thousand home delivered Meals On Wheels, and over 21 thousand congregate meals, 385 rides to medical outpatient appointments outside the nine-town Estuary Region. Also, 1,701 individuals received free preventative health screenings, and participated in social and exercise programs.

In addition to our essential senior services, ECSI is a fun place for mature residents to exercise, dance, play cards, go on trips together, get a massage or facial, hear an interesting lecture, attend an art exhibit, get a haircut, take a painting class, join a book club or writers group, volunteer, shop at the Thrift Shop, use our fitness center, or just sit and enjoy our beautiful view.

ECSI has a lovely, large facility that welcomes senior residents of the Estuary. 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 23 residents a total of 4832 home delivered meals and an additional 65 residents joined us for 1,350 congregate meals. Our Emergency Medical Outpatient Transportation provided 6 individuals with 10 rides to medical appointments. We had over 10 thousand visits by a total of 1,100 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 AM – 4:00 PM and Saturday 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM 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

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

9TT's four deviated fixed routes serve the main corridors of the region and provide connections to public transit providers serving the surrounding regions. In addition, 9TT provides door-to-door service throughout all nine towns of the Estuary region as well as the towns of Durham, East Haddam, and Haddam through its Dial-A-Ride service. All of 9TT's services are open to all persons with no age or disability restrictions.

9TT's services are subsidized by federal, state and local funding, allowing for inexpensive fares of \$1.75 for deviated fixed routes and \$3.50 for Dial-A-Ride. 9TT 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. Over 100,000 passenger trips we provided during the fiscal year.

9TT saw a decrease in funding from the state of 2% in the fiscal year. This reduction will impact levels of service provided. 9TT was also notified that it was successful in obtaining funding for new fixed-route service between Madison and Middletown. The service will begin in the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

The district was able to conduct a needs assessment and site selection for a new operating and maintenance facility for the district. This is the first step in obtaining a permanent facility after over 35 years of service to the shoreline community.

9TT's successfully transitioned from rural to urban funding from the Federal Transit Administration. This has resulted in significantly more administrative responsibilities along with the largest one year capital allocation in the district's history. This new funding source will provide continued access to capital projects that were not previously possible.

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.

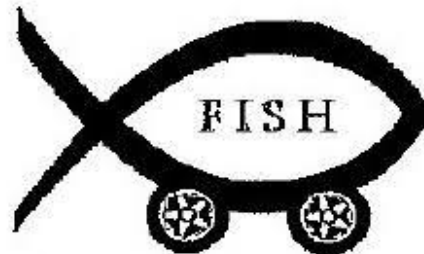
Residents of our three towns wanting rides and having no other means of transportation may call 860-388-2693 up to noon the day before their appointment (Friday noon for a Monday ride) to schedule a ride for the following day. The destinations are within the triangle of Middletown to the north, Guilford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

In calendar 2016, FISH provided 836 round-trip rides to the residents of our three towns. Essex residents accounted for 411 or 49% of the total. Of our 60 drivers, 42 are residents of Essex.

Our officers for 2017 are: Henry May, President, Stuart Warner, Vice President, Alison Nichols, Secretary, Barbara Ryan, Treasurer and Dana Hill, new drivers. John Heiser and Tony Carrano are our Dispatchers.

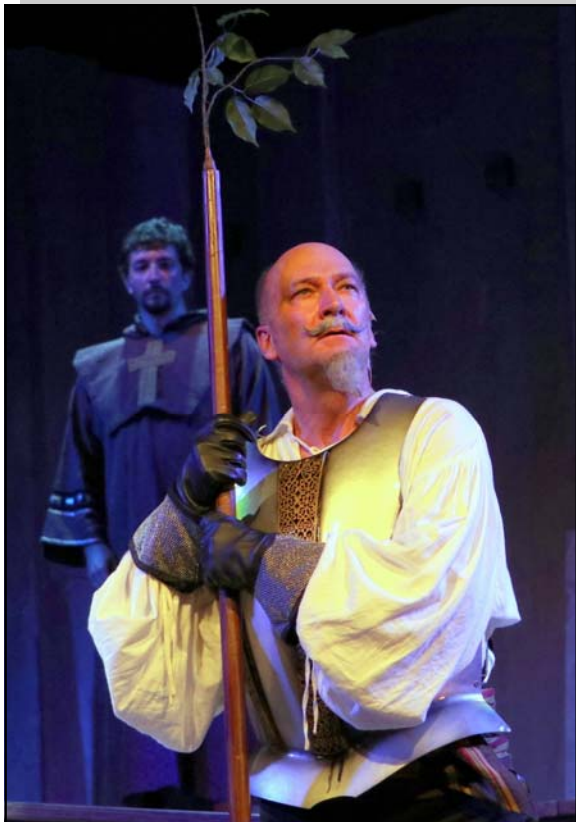
The modest budget for FISH is funded by grants from the Essex Community Fund, the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, the Rotary Club of Essex, the Essex Savings Bank, the Deep River Community Health Committee, the Town of Chester and other organizations, as well as by contributions from our drivers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

Henry May
Driver and President



Ivoryton Playhouse Foundation, Inc.

The history of the Ivoryton Playhouse is based in community. Built in 1911 as a recreation hall for workers at the Comstock Cheney piano factory, it was, and still remains, the heart of the village. Today, over 100 years



Man of La Mancha starring David Pittsinger

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 2016, the annual revenue of the Ivoryton Playhouse exceeded \$1.7 million and the theatre ran at 82% capacity.

As Playhouse Artistic/Executive Director Jacqueline Hubbard celebrated her 25th year with the theatre. Summer 2016 began with the rip roaring Broadway spectacular *Chicago* followed by a poignant and moving production of *RENT* in August. These high energy musicals exploded onto the Ivoryton stage achieving

critical acclaim and sold out houses. September saw the return of world renowned bass-baritone David Pittsinger starring in *Man of La Mancha*. The “impossible dream” musical enjoyed standing ovations every night! And finally, our 2016 season closed with *Tenderly: The Rosemary Clooney Story* – a tribute to America’s favorite girl singer – and the third and final installment of Jacqueline Hubbard’s original series *The Bells of Dublin* in December.

In March 2017, the Playhouse opened its’ 2017 season with *My Way: A Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra* – a show that featured many of his greatest hits. Neil Simon’s *Biloxi Blues* set in a 1943 Biloxi, Mississippi Army boot camp followed in April into May. The music of Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins drew sold out crowds for *Million Dollar Quartet* in June.

In addition to producing great entertainment, the Ivoryton Playhouse partnered with local non-profits including YMCA, HOPE Partnership and Essex and Ivoryton Libraries amongst others. We also welcomed 1,500 school children from Middlesex County to attend performances of *The Hundred Dresses* - a play offering young people the opportunity to discover live theatre while exploring current social issues like immigration and bullying. The Playhouse was also proud to work with Little Wonder in 2016 and 2017 providing free theatre tickets to cancer patients and their families.

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



Ivoryton Playhouse

Ivoryton Village Alliance

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

Now in its seventh year, the Alliance is involved in several popular events during the year. These include; Farmer's Market which is held on the green every Saturday from the middle of June until the end of September; the July 4th Parade; The Pumpkin Festival at the end of October which is sponsored by Essex Park and Recreation and supported by the Alliance; and the Ivoryton Illuminations which is held the first Saturday in December.

The 12th annual July 4th Independence Parade was a huge success. Led by the local color guard, many different groups escorted Santa on his white trike through the village. This year's Grand Marshal was the Essex Ambulance Association who have been in existence for 40 years.

The Ivoryton Village Alliance once again sponsored the Ivoryton Village Farmers Market. Located on the Ivoryton Green, the market provides Essex residents and visitors with fresh Connecticut-grown foods, creations from local artisans and local entertainment. Now in its seventh year, the Ivoryton Village Farmers Market has become an established "Event" on summer Saturdays. It was ranked number 80 among the top 100 Most celebrated Farmers Markets in American Farmland Trust's "I love My Farmers Market Celebration". Some new activities were added this year in the form of a monthly Lawn-a-palooza and a dog wash.

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

Finally, there is the Ivoryton Illuminations. At this event, community groups (including Lions Club, Rotary Club, local churches, and Boy Scouts among others) promote their work, businesses contribute activities

such as crafts or live performances, and, of course, Ivoryton's famous flying Santa delights children of all ages. Thanks to Jay Wilcox, one of the largest living



Christmas trees in Connecticut is beautifully decorated as passers-by enjoy more than 350,000 lights dancing to music. The light show is on for the whole of December. It is ranked 3rd in the State. Today the Alliance has over 35 members and is more committed than ever to promoting the Village of Ivoryton in positive ways. To learn more about the Ivoryton Village Alliance, please visit www.ivorytonalliance.org.



Libraries

Essex Library Association

The trickle-down effect of cuts to the State of Connecticut's budget that have impacted public libraries presented the biggest challenge that we faced during the past year. Essex Library Director Richard Conroy, working with the Connecticut Library Association, has been active with efforts at the state level to prevent further funding cuts, though with mixed success. For example, a replacement had to be found for the discontinued high speed internet connection that had been provided free of charge by the State, which resulted in a new annual expense for us.

Those who make frequent use of inter-library loan service are also well aware that the State Library's delivery service has been severely curtailed. Consequently, the LION consortium to which the Library belongs has established a supplemental delivery service for library materials in order to make up for the shortfall in the one the State Library provides. Unfortunately, this will represent another new annual expense, but this service is considered to be essential.

On a positive note, the Essex Library was able to pay off the last of its debt obligation from the 2006 expansion and renovation of the building. Even after doing so our endowment remains healthy enough to provide the same level of support for our annual operating budget as it has in recent years.

We are a relatively small library, but we "punch above our weight" as the saying goes when it comes to the quality of our staff members – almost all of whom have Master of Library Science degrees. It is a tribute to the community of Essex that so many highly qualified people want to work here but, inevitably, some of them move on to bigger and better things. This year we said goodbye to Val, who will be a Library Media Specialist in the Windham school system, and Amy, who has been chosen to be the Director of the Auerbach Art Library at the Wadsworth Atheneum. Though they leave big holes to fill, we congratulate them on achieving these significant professional goals and wish them the best of luck.

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

Richard Conroy
Director

Ivoryton Library Association

What a beautiful village and town we live in; we're so proud to be a part of it! Village-wide events we held or in which we participated: 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. Our director appears weekly on Library Chat on iCRVradio.com (located right next door) Thursday mornings. The Children's Room hosted year-round weekly storytimes, Music with Margie bi-monthly programs, afternoon STEAM and LEGO programs and some Lawnapalooza games at the Farmer's Market. The Summer Reading included visits from the Yard Goats mascot and JudiAnn Jones from Dancin' with Hoops.

For adults, we offer classes in Italian, French and Spanish during the school year, and celebrated the 9th year of our Mystery Book Club, **Tea and Murder**. Our meeting rooms were used by 7 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 begun the process of writing Finders Aids for all of our collections with the end goal of adding the information on our local history collections to a state-wide database. This year we supplied images to the PBS special "Africa's Great Civilizations". Didn't see it? We have it on DVD. Six of our images are in episode six. Our latest program in March explored **Immigration: A Tiny Town's Bonanza**. Look for our next exhibit coming in early 2018.

This last year we greatly expanded our Large Print and DVD collection and began buying books for emerging adult readers: Adult Literacy. This small but growing collection features books of high (grown-up) interest and low reading level. We are working with Literacy Volunteers to make books available for their tutors as well as ours.

Through the Neighborhood Assistance Act run by the State of Connecticut, we wrote a grant and were able to replace 8 of the windows in the Children's Rooms. We have also begun the process of replacing our 36-year-old furnace with electric heat pumps. A 0% interest loan from Eversource allowed us to upgrade our lighting to LED. All of this gives us better control of our environment for the protection of our archival materials and our library collections as well as for the comfort of our patrons and staff.

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, our Trivia Night in March (coming again!) and the joint fundraiser with the Essex Library at the Ivoryton Playhouse as well as our annual membership appeal. Plans are in the works for our 2018 House and Garden Tour.

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 2017 was an unexpectedly eventful year for RiverCOG. Our activities included:

We welcomed a new staff planner Jon Curtis. RiverCOG was awarded an Honorable Mention for Outstanding Coordination by the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations for its work on the USDOT MPO reform regulatory process.

Executive Director Samuel Gold was asked by the Secretary of USDOT to present at the National Summit on Transportation and Opportunity in Washington, DC. RiverCOG worked with Old Lyme and other towns to have a proposed high-speed rail bypass from Old Saybrook to Kenyon, RI from the Federal Railroad Administration's

Record of Decision for improvements to the North East Corridor rail line.

RiverCOG worked with a consultant to create a mathematical inland flooding model for the Lower Connecticut River Valley Region. The model will be used to predict areas of flood risk that may arise from more frequent intense rainfall events. Comprehensive ridership count of bus passengers on all runs operated by 9 Town Transit (9TT) and Middletown Area Transit. Creation of a new four year regional Transportation Investment Plan (TIP) for federal highway and transit funding

Completion of a Case Statement and Shared Services Study for the regions land trusts, cooperating via RiverCOG's Land Trust Exchange. Kicked off public outreach and research for a new Regional Plan of Conservation and Development

Started an implementation phase of the GrowSmart economic growth strategy focused on investigating the establishment of a regional development agency

Partnering with the Connecticut Tourism Coalition to further efforts to more effectively capitalize on tourism in the RiverCOG region

Continued household hazardous waste collections and paper shredding events, and partnering with the state on new recycling efforts on plastic wraps and bags.

RiverCOG hosts and staffs various regional initiatives and commissions including: the Shoreline Basic Needs Task Force, the Lower Connecticut River and Coastal Land Trust Exchange, the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, the Regional Agricultural Commission, and other groups as space and time permits.

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 Bake. Local businesses also 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, Guilford Savings Bank, Essex Savings Bank and Financial Services, 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 for our local community during the 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 \$10,000 scholarship to two graduating seniors pursuing a college level education. Each student receives \$2,500 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, look 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

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 housing. 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.

Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley

Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley is a nonprofit organization dedicated to home and community-based health care. In FY 2017, we made over 17,466 home visits to patients in our service area; 27.48% of those home visits to patients in Essex, Centerbrook and Ivoryton. We provide weekly walk-in blood pressure screenings, monthly B12 injections, community educational sessions, and local flu shot clinics as part of our wellness program. We distribute monthly health promotion newsletters via email and co-sponsor a health fair annually. We are pleased to report we received a **Top 500 Home Care Elite** distinction 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 Dick Levene 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 860-767-0186 for service information or flu clinic dates and locations.

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

A decorative horizontal line consisting of a series of small, stylized diamond shapes arranged in a repeating pattern.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Town Meeting Minutes

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2015-2016 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$50,000 for the Fringe Benefits – Retirement Fund for the Merit Service Pension Plan as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a special appropriation to the 2015-2016 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$100,000 for the Fringe Benefits – Employee Incentive as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2015-2016 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$30,000 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 2015-2016 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$20,000 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 2015-2016 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$75,000 for the Capital & Sinking Funds – Road Reconstruction as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in amount of \$5,200 from the EES Capital Sinking Fund for a snow blower attachment for the Essex Elementary School's tractor as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

Seconded: Bruce Glowac
Aye 5 Nay 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment of **Richard Rybak** to serve an unexpired term as an alternate member to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December 2018.

Seconded: Bruce Glowac
Aye 5 Nay 0

MOTION TO CLOSE: Bruce Glowac
SECONDED: Stacia Libby

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 PM
Respectfully Submitted,
Joel Marzi, Town Clerk



Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
October 5, 2016
Meeting Room A

First Selectman Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:50 PM. Bruce Glowac was elected Moderator. Selectmen Libby was also in attendance. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately five (5) people in attendance. The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: That the Town of Essex adopt Amendment No. 5 to the Town of Essex Retirement Plan. Copies of said amendment are on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Seconded: Stacia Libby
Aye 4 Nay 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2015-2016 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$26,629 for the Resident Trooper as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

Seconded: Stacia Libby
Aye 4 Nay 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2015-2016 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$65,026 for the Highway Department as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

Seconded: Stacia Libby
Aye 4 Nay 0

MOTION TO CLOSE: Norman Needleman
SECONDED: Bruce Glowac

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



Town Meeting Minutes

Town of Essex
Annual Town Meeting
November 21, 2016

First Selectman Norman Needleman called the Annual Town Meeting to order at 7:03 PM. Nicholas Denegre 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 thirty one (31) 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 2015-2016 Annual Town Report.

Moved: Norman Needleman
Second: Bruce Glowac
ALL IN FAVOR

There was a discussion to consolidate the nominations of all appointments into a single vote rather than by individual approvals.

Moved: Norman Needleman
Second: Jeffrey Going
ALL IN FAVOR

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **Jeffrey Lovelace** as a regular member to the Conservation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2016 to December 1, 2019.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **Frank Hall** as a regular member to the Conservation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2016 to December 1, 2019.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **Janet Peckinpagh** as a regular member to the Economic Development Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2016 to December 1, 2018.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **Edward Cook** as a regular member to the Economic Development Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2016 to December 1, 2018.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **George Sexton** as a regular member to the Economic Development Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2016 to December 1, 2018.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **David Winstead** as a regular member to the Economic Development Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2016 to December 1, 2018.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Jeffrey Going** as a regular member to the Harbor Management Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2016 to December 1, 2019.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Joseph Zaraschi** as a regular member to the Harbor Management Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2016 to December 1, 2019.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Earl Fowler** as an alternate member to the Harbor Management Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2016 to December 1, 2019.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **Stephen Knauth** as a regular member to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2016 to December 1, 2019.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **Jim Hill** as a regular member to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2016 to December 1, 2019.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **Daniel Lapman** as a regular member to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2016 to December 1, 2019.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **Andre Roussel** as an alternate member to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2016 to December 1, 2019.

Town Meeting Minutes

The following Resolution was Read, Seconded and VOTED:

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

All Motor Vehicle tax bills will be due and payable in full on July 1, 2017

All real estate and personal property tax bills \$100.00 or less will be due and payable in full on July 1, 2017.

Real Estate and personal property tax bills over \$100.00 may be paid in two installments with one half due on July 1, 2017 and one half due on January 1, 2018.

SECONDED: James Francis
All in favor

MOTION TO ADJOURN: James Francis
 SECONDED: Bruce Glowac

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Joel Marzi
Town Clerk



Town of Essex
Special Town Meeting
June 21, 2017
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 6:53 PM. Kelley 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 eight (8) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a special appropriation to the 2016-2017 Town of Essex General Fund Budget in the amount of \$42,107 for the 2007 EES building project deficit as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

SECONDED: Lon Seidman
Aye 8 Nay 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$43,000 from the EES Capital Improvements Sinking Fund for the security enhancements to the Essex Elementary School main entrance as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

SECONDED: Bruce Glowac
Aye 8 Nay 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **James O'Brien** 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: Stacia Libby
Aye 8 Nay 0

MOTION TO CLOSE: Lon Seidman
SECONDED: Norman Needleman

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM
Respectfully Submitted,
Joel Marzi
Town Clerk

ESSEX TOWN DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY

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

Selectmen's Office

Norman M Needleman—First Selectman, X114..... nneedleman@essexct.gov
Maria Lucarelli, X112..... mlucarelli@essexct.gov
Betsy D'Amico, x145..... bdamico@essexct.gov

Animal Control Officer—860-388-7082

Jae Wolf jwolf@essexct.gov

Assessor

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

Building Department and Fire Marshal

David DeLeeuw—Building Official, X117 ddeleeuw@essexct.gov
John Planas— Interim 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
Zachary Faiella, X151 zfaiella@essexct.gov

Land Use—Administrative

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

Mary Ellen Barnes—Director X110..... mbarnes@essexct.gov
Tim LaChance, x145..... tlachance@essexct.gov
Kaiulani Recchia, x145 krechia@essexct.gov

Public Works—860-767-0715

David Caroline—Director dcaroline@essexct.gov
Ryan Welch—Working Foreman rwelch@essexct.gov
Boris Churyk, Richard Gallacher, David Martin

Registrars of Voters

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

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

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

Social Services

Mary Ellen Barnes, X201..... mbarnes@essexct.gov

Tax Collector

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

Town Clerk

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

Town Hall Operations

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

Tree Warden

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

Zoning Enforcement

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

www.essexct.gov

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