



# 2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Haley Eklund // @theconnecticutlife

Main Street Park, Essex

## DEDICATED TO: AUGUST "AUGIE" PAMPEL

# DEDICATION

## AUGUST “AUGIE” PAMPEL



It's about safety, it's about service, and it's about giving back. This year it's about August "Augie" Pampel and the Town is pleased to dedicate the 2021-2022 Annual Report to him.

Augie Pampel grew up in Stonington, CT where he says he had a wonderful childhood. An only child, he was busy discovering all things in nature; collecting rocks, butterflies and whatever else

he could find outdoors that could be gathered. He rose in the ranks of the boy scouts and his passion for nature continued to flourish. Augie's dad, who he credits for his love of gardens and trees, worked for a textile company and became heavily involved in supporting the unions. His father prided himself on looking out for the "little guy". Additionally, his uncle was the first selectman in Stonington, so Augie recalls being surrounded by much familial political discourse.

In 1963 Augie graduated from Stonington High School and went on to study at the Thames Valley Technical School. He earned an associate degree in mechanical engineering. After his graduation in 1966 he started working at Electric Boat as a nuclear pipe designer. It was a tenuous time in the country with the Vietnam War raging. Young Americans were being drafted at an alarming pace, but Augie was at a job that was supporting the war effort and therefore didn't expect to be drafted; but he was.

In 1968, Augie started his journey as a soldier in the army. He was trained to be an armored personnel carrier driver. Augie spent one year fighting in the Vietnam War and is grateful he made it home alive, unlike many of his friends. He earned a Bronze Star, awarded for meritorious achievement for his actions at Camp Evans, a base only a few miles from the demilitarized zone between North and South Vietnam.

After arriving home from the war and reacclimating himself as a civilian, he started working for SNET and in 1980 moved to Essex where he built his current home. He



Augie and Judy in Turks & Caicos

spent 38 years with SNET, survived a few mergers, and retired as an area manager in 2008.

Augie shares his life with his partner Judy, who couldn't be a more perfect match for him. They met 22 years

ago while they were both working at SNET. Augie and Judy share a love of travel and adventure, down time at the beach in Watch Hill, and reading good books. Judy says a fun fact about Augie is that he loves to eat! Their favorite places to visit are Italy, Aruba and Turks & Caicos. Augie and Judy also enjoy taking river cruises in Europe.

Augie's service to the Town started with being a member of the Planning Commission from January 1995 to September 2007. He was appointed Tree Warden in 1997 and eventually became chair of the Tree Committee in 2012. He now sits on the committee as an ex-officio member. Between the responsibilities of Tree Warden and



Augie on the top of his bunker, Camp Evans, Vietnam, 1968

the Tree Committee, Augie spends an impressive amount of time giving back to the Town, and ultimately keeping the residents of Essex safe and secure and with electricity! Essex has close to 2,000 trees and Augie's job is to manage all of them. He must work closely with Eversource and the Town's Public Works department to coordinate and schedule tree removal or limb pruning, depending on the situation. Augie is a strong advocate of having trees removed with Eversource's

assistance, which is a huge savings to the Town's budget.

In the little spare time Augie had, he joined the Garden Club in 2012. He served on a few different club committees before taking the presidential reigns from 2018-2020. "You work your way up", he says, having chaired the May Market Committee and being the Programs Chair. It is apparent that Augie was much sought after to be the President. He is a wealth of information, and a savior said one member. Garden Club member Diane Sexton shared that when she was Programs Chair, she needed a considerable amount of help at the meetings. "He was my godsend!" she exclaimed. Once at the meeting Augie would help with the technical aspects of the presentations and all would go well.

"The time and energy that Augie spends is driven by his fierce passion for giving back to the community", says Judy. She adds that he loves planting replacement trees and planting the memorial trees and watching them all flourish and beautify the Town.

There is no doubt. Augie is a very well-liked and well-respected member of the community, and we thank him for all his time, energy and effort over the years.



Augie and Judy in Rome

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# FIRST SELECTMAN'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

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

residents who volunteer their time and effort.

With the COVID-19 pandemic behind us, we've come out stronger and more resilient than ever. The Health Department, along with Nutmeg Pharmacy, hosted booster clinics in November and December and the Town supplied hundreds of masks and COVID-19 test kits throughout the year to those who were in need.

I would like to thank the Essex residents for unanimously supporting the current annual budget. The \$26,042,584 combined Town and Board of Education budget plan was approved by voters at our Annual Town Budget Meeting held May 9th. The total spending package, which reflects a 1.52% increase, includes the Town government budget, an appropriation for Essex Elementary School, and the Town's share of the Region 4 education budget.



The values of used cars were inflated at the time of our 2021 Grand List. To alleviate the burden of this artificial increase in value on our taxpayers, the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance elected to adopt a separate lower mill rate of 19.50 for our 2021 motor vehicle grand list.

Our efforts this

fiscal year focused on distributing the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds the Town received due to the pandemic. Funds were distributed to Town organizations for a variety of uses: a new ambulance and Lucas device for Essex Ambulance Association, the Community Knoxbox Program and two Essex Fire Department vehicles, the Shoreline Soup Kitchen, Tri-Town Youth Services and Essex Veterans Memorial Hall. The pandemic created needs like none other, and I am pleased to have helped in such a significant manner.

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

Onward together,

Norm



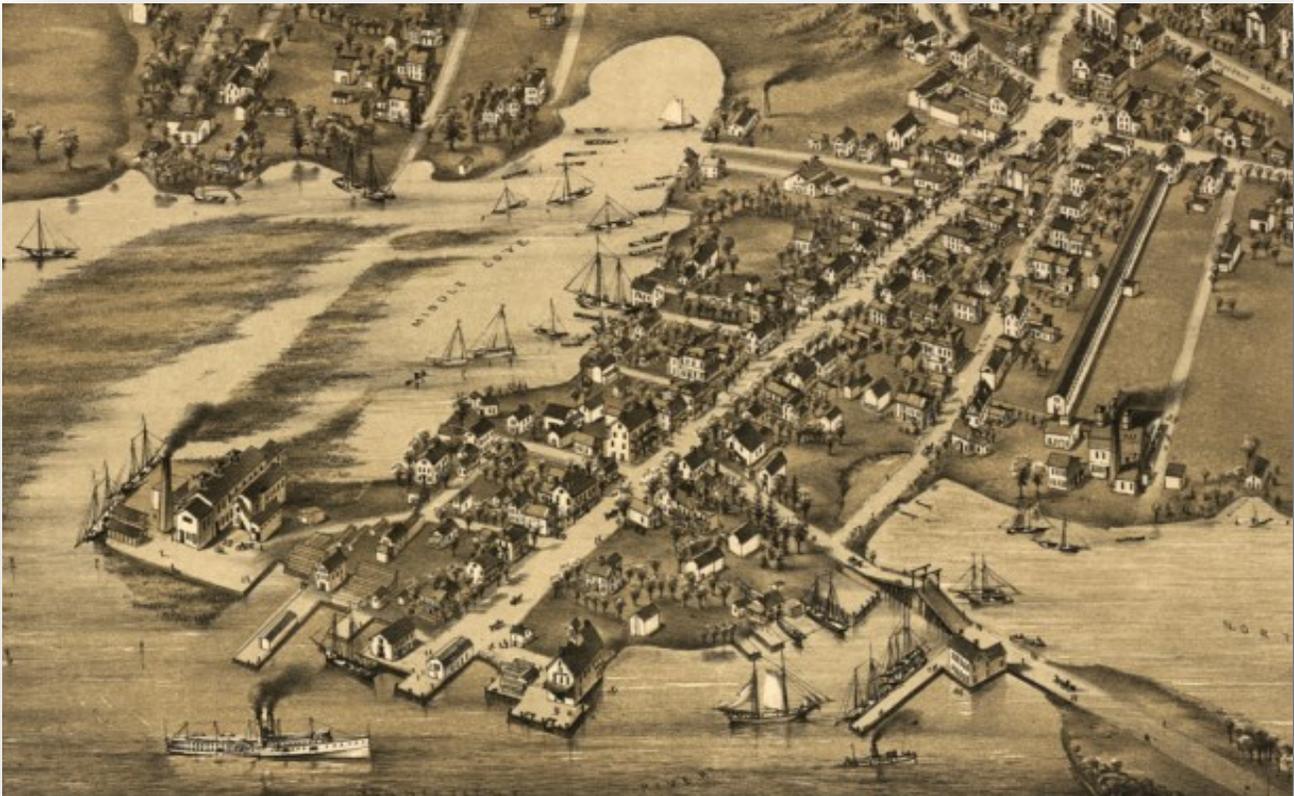
# HISTORY OF ESSEX

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

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

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

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



# ELECTED OFFICIALS

## TOWN OF ESSEX

### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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

### TOWN CLERK

Joel Marzi

### TREASURER

James D. Francis

### TAX COLLECTOR

Megan D. Haskins

### BOARD OF FINANCE

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

### BOARD OF EDUCATION—ESSEX ELEMENTARY

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

### BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

Keith Russell, Chair  
Mark Bombaci  
George Wendell

### BOARD OF EDUCATION—REGION #4

Jennifer A. Clark  
Katelyn Sandmann  
Lon J. Seidman

### JUDGE OF PROBATE

Jeannine Lewis

### REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Caitlin Riley  
Barbara Ryan

## STATE OF CONNECTICUT

### GOVERNOR

Ned Lamont

### LT. GOVERNOR

Susan Bysiewicz

### STATE COMPTROLLER

Natalie Braswell

### STATE TREASURER

Shawn T. Wooden

### ATTORNEY GENERAL

William Tong

### SECRETARY OF STATE

Mark Kohler

### SENATOR 33RD DISTRICT

Norman M. Needleman

### REPRESENTATIVE 36TH DISTRICT

Christine Palm

## FEDERAL

### PRESIDENT

Joseph R. Biden

### UNITED STATES SENATE

Richard Blumenthal  
Christopher S. Murphy

### UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

Joseph D. Courtney



# TOWN OFFICIALS AND SERVICES

## **ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICE**

Harry Plaut, Animal Control Officer  
Caroline Fountain, Animal Control Assistant

## **ASSESSOR'S OFFICE**

Jessica Sypher, Assessor  
Karen Abercrombie, Assistant to the Assessor

## **AUDITORS**

Mahoney Sabol & Company, LLP

## **BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

David DeLeeuw, Building Official

## **CENTRAL REGIONAL TOURISM DISTRICT**

Jacqueline Hubbard

## **CENTRAL SERVICES**

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

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

Richard Stebbins

## **CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Kathleen Tucker, Chair  
Jeffrey Lovelace  
Frank Hall  
Richard Helmecki  
James O'Brien  
Mark Reeves

## **CONNECTICUT RIVER GATEWAY COMMISSION**

Claire Matthews  
Misha Semenov, alternate

## **CONSULTING ENGINEER**

Robert Doane, Jr., Doane Engineering

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

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

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

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

## **ESSEX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Jennifer Tousignant, Principal

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

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

## **VALLEY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**

Mike Barile, Principal  
Carolyn Gbunblee, Associate Principal

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Lisa Fasulo, Director  
Maria Lucarelli, Support Staff

## **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL**

Judith Reynolds

## **ESSEX AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION**

Judith Reynolds

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

Andrew Kressley, Chief

## **ESSEX HOUSING AUTHORITY**

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

## **FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

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

## **FIRE MARSHAL**

John Planas, Fire Marshal

## **HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**

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

## **HARBOR MASTER**

Paul Riggio, Harbor Master  
David Fasulo, Deputy Harbor Master

## **HEALTH DIRECTOR / SANITARIAN**

Lisa Fasulo

# TOWN OFFICIALS AND SERVICES

## INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION

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

## JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Philip Beckman.....860-767-9755  
Thomas Bellos .....860-767-2741  
Mary Bowers.....860-575-9619  
Pamela Carroll .....860-258-2685  
Thomas Carroll .....860-258-0596  
Heather K Chamberlain.....860-552-9529  
Peter Decker.....860-767-9516  
Ann S. Dixon.....860-767-1339  
Keith Foster.....860-373-0043  
Earl Fowler.....860-767-2764  
Larry Freundlich.....860-767-2773  
Donna M. Hyde.....860-767-0061  
Krista Karch.....860-662-0635  
Louisa R. Ketron.....860-767-7473  
Shelley H. Mack.....860-581-3675  
Philip J. Miller.....860-767-7837  
Norman M. Needleman.....860-767-9176  
Stephen L. Phillips.....860-581-8130  
John C. Stannard.....860-767-8051  
Daniel J. Stypa.....860-767-2075  
Kathleen McKinney Tucker.....860-767-0397  
William P. Veillette.....860-767-8519

## LAND USE—ADMINISTRATIVE

Darcy Roper  
Kerry Berardinelli

## LANDFILL/RECYCLING CENTER

Wilbur Armstead

## LIBRARIES

### ESSEX LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Ann Thompson, Interim Library Director

### IVORYTON LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Elizabeth Alvord, Library Director

## LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Alan Kerr  
Sandra Childress, alternate

## LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE

Lisa Fasulo  
John Planas  
Judith Reynolds

## MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY

Mary Ellen Barnes

## PARK AND RECREATION

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

## PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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

## PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

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

## PUBLIC WORKS

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

## PUMPOUT BOAT OPERATIONS

Joel Severance

## REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Winifred Olson

## REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Caitlin Riley  
Barbara Ryan

## RESIDENT STATE TROOPER & ESSEX POLICE

Mark Roberts, Resident State Trooper  
James Paul Kenefick, Corporal  
Todd Belcourt, Corporal  
Christopher McCarthy, Corporal  
Karen Reilly, Police Officer (PT)  
Robert Hart, Police Officer (PT)  
Judson Howes, Police Officer (PT)  
Charles Burns, Police Officer (PT)

## CROSSING GUARD

William Westerman

# TOWN OFFICIALS AND SERVICES

## HARBOR PATROL

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

## RETIREMENT BOARD

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

## SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

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

## SOCIAL SERVICES

Mary Ellen Barnes

## TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

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

## TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Joel Marzi, Town Clerk  
Yvonne Roziak, Assistant Town Clerk

## TOWN COUNSEL

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

## TREASURER

James Francis

## TREE COMMITTEE

Kenneth Bombaci  
Nancy Hudson  
Susan Malan  
Glenn Jacobsen  
Phyllis Pratt O'Neil  
John Molloy

## TREE WARDEN

August Pampel

## VETERANS SERVICES

Doug Haynes

## ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

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

## ZONING ENFORCEMENT

Carey Duques, Zoning/Wetlands  
Enforcement Agent



# SECTION II—DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

## ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICE

The Animal Control Office is staffed by an Animal Control Officer and an Assistant Animal Control Officer that serve the Tri-Town Community. Most of the calls for service to the Animal Control Office regard wildlife. As always, please be mindful of wildlife and keep your distance. If you see wildlife acting strangely, such as walking in circles, walking into things, stumbling, acting overly aggressive or overly friendly, or dragging its hind end, please call our office at 860-767-4340 x 160 or the CT State Police Troop F in Westbrook at 860-399-2100. If you are experiencing an issue with nuisance wildlife, please direct your call to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) at 860-424-3333. You can also call a local Nuisance Wildlife Control Officer who is equipped and trained to deal with nuisance wildlife. If your concern is regarding orphaned wildlife young, please call the DEEP or a DEEP licensed wildlife rehabber. Please note that it is illegal to rehabilitate adult Rabies Vector Species (fox, raccoon, skunk). It is also illegal in the State of Connecticut to relocate any Rabies Vector Species under CT General Statutes sections 26-47(b) and 26-57.

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

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

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

The Animal Control Office promotes responsible pet ownership by encouraging everyone to spay and neuter your pets. There is a large cat overpopulation in Connecticut, including here in Essex. Spaying and neutering also prevents unwanted health issues later in life.

If you have any questions, please contact the office at 860-767-4340 x 160. As a reminder, the following is a list of possible infractions along with their associated fees:

Failure to License a Dog: \$75	Impound Fee/Day: \$15
Failure to Redeem: \$75	Nuisance Dog: \$75
Roaming Dog: \$92	Failure to Vaccinate: \$136
Town Ordinance: An Ordinance Concerning	
Removal of Animal Waste: \$35.00	

## BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

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

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

The Board scheduled two hearings during the month of March 2022; they were real estate appeals.

Keith Russell  
Chair

## BOARD OF FINANCE

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

The Board of Finance is comprised of six members, each of whom is elected to hold office for a 6-year term. Terms are staggered with two members elected at each biennial municipal election. No more than four of the board's members may be of the same political party. The current Board consists of Ethan Goller and Terry Stewart, whose terms expire in November 2023, W. Campbell Hudson, Chairman, and Mary-Louise Polo, whose terms expire in November 2025, and Vincent Pacileo III and Brian Weinstein, whose terms expire in November 2027. Keith Crehan, who served as Chairman for a number of years, left the Board this year when he moved out of town. Regular meetings of the Board of Finance are held the third Thursday of each month at 7pm at the Town Hall. Meetings are open to the public.

W. Campbell Hudson  
Chair



## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Essex Board of Selectmen forms the executive branch of Town government. The Board is comprised of three members who are each elected for concurrent two-year terms. As of fiscal year end 2022, the members include First Selectman, Norman M. Needleman, and Selectmen Stacia R. Libby and Bruce M. Glowac. The First Selectman serves as the full time chief executive and administrative officer of the Town. The Board works collaboratively to provide the services the residents of all three villages expect from our municipal government while maintaining a fiscally responsible environment.

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

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

For the fiscal year 2021-2022, the Board of Selectmen met for seventeen regular meetings and nine special meetings. The minutes of these meetings are available on the Town website at [www.essexct.gov](http://www.essexct.gov) and are on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

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

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



Town Hall Halloween 2021

# BUILDING DEPARTMENT

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

Building permits are also required for plumbing, heating/air conditioning, solar panels, electrical and mechanical work done to both new and existing residential and commercial buildings. Driveway Approach permits are required for new and/or relocated driveways. Note that building permits are not required for such improvements as painting, shelving, and decorating.

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

In order to obtain a building permit, visit [www.essexct.gov](http://www.essexct.gov), click Online Services, click Online Permitting, follow instructions in Permit Link software.

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

- \* (1) Electronic set or (2) paper sets of blueprints (for new buildings, additions, interior renovations)
- \* Proof of contractor licensure
- \* Proof of contractor worker's compensation coverage or appropriate State of Connecticut waiver form if applicable
- \* Permit fee (fees are based upon estimated value of labor plus materials: current fee is \$30 for the first \$1,000 plus \$10 for each additional \$1,000 or any part thereof). Payment may be made by credit card in Permit Link.

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

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

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

From July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, a total of 891 building permits were issued for an estimated construction value of \$18,808,943.51. The construction value is up 4% compared to the previous year. The

number of permits issued is up just slightly from the 880 permits issued last year. The total fees collected by the building department were \$206,430. Nine permits were issued for new single family residential construction.

David R. DeLeeuw  
Building Official

# CENTRAL SERVICES

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

Maintenance has been tirelessly preserving the beauty of our historic Town Hall building. Each year the staff works on repointing and sealing the brickwork, painting, and making repairs to ensure the building lasts for years to come. The staff also maintains the Main Street Park restrooms which are open year-round for the convenience of Essex residents and visitors. The restrooms require special care as it is a composting restroom. Please adhere to the instructions when using the facility.

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

Andrew Harrington  
Building & Grounds Superintendent



Over a dozen trained, knowledgeable volunteer guides, or 'docents', provide free tours of Pratt House on weekends during the summer.

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Essex Conservation Commission supervises three town-owned preserves, Bushy Hill, Canfield-Meadow Woods, and Viney Hill Brook, maintains the trails and bridges, and works in the field to control invasive vegetation. The commission may advise other land use commissions on the status of conservation and development and inventories conservation easements given to the Town. The commission shares some responsibilities with the Essex Land Trust.

**Bushy Hill Preserve:** New yellow caution tape and red arrows were installed to alert hikers to detour around, rather than under, a large hemlock, damaged by the woolly adelgid. The hemlock leans over the Red Trail leading down to the Falls River. At the request of the Essex Fire Dept., signs were placed at various trail points to direct emergency responders to trails accessible by ATVs if a rescue is necessary.

**Viney Hill Brook Preserve:** The Essex Town Crew cleared a massive oak tree downed during winter storms and mowed the cedar meadow located next to the passive parking area off Cedar Grove Terrace. The cedars are thriving after years of sand and gravel quarrying that occurred before the Town purchased the land for open space.

**Canfield Meadow Woods:** The Essex Land Trust regularly monitors Canfield Meadow Woods, the most heavily used of the three preserves. Stewards reported that a washed out bridge



Due to increased use of our preserves, ECC Commissioners Kay Tucker (Ch), Frank Hall, Jim O'Brien, Richard Helmecki positioned new boundary markers at Viney Hill Brook Preserve. Photo by Jeff Lovelace

was found 30' downstream at the southern end of the trail and was immediately relocated. There was an application made to use the preserve for "Forest Bathing." Permission for the simple meditative hike was granted.

Boundary lines for both Bushy Hill and Viney Hill Brook were recovered and flagged. This important survey will aid current, and future, commissioners in matters concerning the towns' and our abutting neighbors' property lines. A fall workshop is planned to introduce Boy Scouts on how to read survey maps and survey markers. Led by Jim O'Brien, the workshop is intended to meet Scout merit badge requirements.

Long-time commissioners Adrienne Forrest (regular) and Roger Field (alternate) resigned this year. Both served the commission and the Town well. The Commission has immediate openings for 1 regular and

2 alternate members with interest and enthusiasm for environmental issues and land management.

The Conservation Commission meets at Town Hall the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm. Members are: Frank Hall, Richard Helmecki, Jim O'Brien, Mark Reeves, Jeffrey Lovelace, and Kay Tucker.

Kay Tucker  
Chair

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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

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

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

Susan Malan  
Chair



Essex Historical Society provided guided tours of Ivo-ryton to every sixth grade student in town



## EDUCATION OUR MISSION

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

## EDUCATION ESSEX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Essex Elementary School serves students from kindergarten through grade six who reside in 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. In addition to focusing on the academic needs of students, we offer programming to enrich our students' elementary experience. PE, art, music, library and Spanish are among the classes offered. These programs are beneficial to the development of the whole child.

Technology integration has been a focus. Students have access to a wide variety of technological tools. Each student in grades K-6 has his own Chromebook providing a 1:1 environment. Innovative and engaging computer applications are infused into the curriculum to enhance twenty-first century learning.

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

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

The EES Foundation generously provides grants to teachers to support enrichment opportunities for our students. Three of the most instrumental programs funded through the Foundation this past year were our scientist in residence program with the Audubon Society, our historian in residence program with the



Essex Historical Society, and our new collaboration with the Connecticut River Museum.

Our Social Development program promotes a culture, climate, and curriculum that enhances the social, emotional, and behavioral development of students. Social emotional learning and growth has been at the forefront this past year as we continue to navigate the impact of the pandemic on our students.

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

Jennifer Tousignant  
Principal

## EDUCATION SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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

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

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

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

Brian J. White  
Superintendent of Chester,  
Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 Schools

# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Emergency Management Office continues to take a supportive role during the ongoing *Civil Preparedness & Public Health Emergency* for the COVID-19 Pandemic and works closely with the State Dept of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (DEMHS) and Dept of Public Health (DPH) to ensure a coordinated effort for procuring supplies and resources as needed for our community.

The role of the Essex Emergency Management Dept is to ensure the Town is prepared for local emergency response operations and to coordinate with State and Federal agencies for large scale emergencies. This office continues to participate in monthly Regional Emergency Preparedness Team meetings and in the annual Statewide Emergency Planning Preparedness Exercise (EPPI). Continued planning and preparing for All-Hazards strengthens our community's ability to respond and recover from natural or manmade disasters.

Power outages and blocked roads can and do happen and residents should always be prepared to shelter in place for up to 7 days. There were 4 storms last year in which the Emergency Management office and local partners took action to prepare and respond.

In Aug 2021, with Tropical Storm (TS) Henri approaching the State, Eversource declared an Emergency Event Level 3 and alerted towns that power could be out for 5 to 10 days. The Essex Emergency Management Office used the Town's Mass Notification System (called *Safer Essex*), to inform residents of the impending storm and to prepare for extended power outages. A pre-storm meeting was held with key partners in Essex, Chester, Deep River and Region 4 Schools for a situational update, complete storm preparation checklists, and review local shelter operation plan. Essex Fire Boat was hauled out of the water, and Essex Fire Dept and EMS crews reviewed their emergency protocols and prepared for the storm. TS Henri made landfall in Stonington, CT on Aug 22. In Essex it brought heavy rain, fallen trees blocked roads and caused power outages. The storm was much less severe in our community and power was restored within 1 day.

Storm Ida arrived on Sept 1, 2021 and brought significant flooding to areas of Ivoryton & Centerbrook along the Falls River. Residents in these areas sheltered in place for several hours waiting for floodwater to recede and for DPW crews to clear debris from roadways. There were downed trees, and power outages throughout town and significant damage to town-owned facilities. The Autumn Nor'easter on Oct 27, 2021 caused 259 power outages at the height of the storm with many outages caused by downed trees and trees on live wires.

Blizzard Bobby on Jan 29, 2022 brought over a foot of snow to Essex and wind chills between 0 and -15 degrees. Winter storms pose a significant threat to life and safety especially when it causes prolonged power outages and inaccessible roads.

Residents are strongly encouraged to review the

[Town of Essex Emergency Preparedness Guidebook](#) and determine their own family's needs prior to an emergency. If you or someone in your household has special needs which may require evacuation or shelter assistance during emergency, please refer to the [Emergency Planning & Evacuation Registry Form for Citizens with Special Needs](#). Both of these documents are on the Town of Essex website at [essexct.gov](http://essexct.gov).

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

Lisa Fasulo  
Director

## ESSEX HOUSING AUTHORITY

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

The community room at Essex Court is fully backed by a generator in the event of any power outage. Residents have complete access to the community room at all times, but in case of a power outage, the community room is easily accessible for all and may provide access to heat and food. Last year, we were awarded a grant that would allow us to install generators for each bank of buildings. The Grant also provided funds to build an outdoor space to accommodate all residents for meals and events. In addition, the community building will be expanded to make our laundry facility ADA compliant.

Community organizations continue to generously support residents of Essex Court. Each year, the Essex Rotary Club in conjunction with Dr. Tobin, provide holiday meals for residents. Essex Coldwell Banker and the Essex Community Fund contribute funds each year. These funds are used to sponsor social events and entertainment for residents. Residents are most appreciative for all these services.

Essex Housing Authority and the site manager, DeMarco Management Company, strive to make Essex Court a desirable place to live for all residents. We offer a high quality, financially viable housing opportunity for elder and disabled individuals in the community. Applications are available and the wait list is currently open.

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

Mary Mansour  
Property Manager

# FIRE MARSHAL

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

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

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

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

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

-Removal and installation of underground fuel storage tanks: There is a \$30.00 fee associated with this permit and may be obtained in the Fire Marshal's office. An inspection is required for the installation and removal of underground fuel storage tanks. July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022, there were 8 underground fuel tank removal permits/inspections.

-Tent/event permit requirements: There is a \$30.00 fee associated with each tent/event permit. The Fire Marshal inspects tents prior to the event and also determines the extent of fire protection needed based on the size of the tent and occupancy. July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022, there were 10 tent permits/inspections completed.

-Explosives permits: There is a \$60.00 fee for a blasting permit. Blasting permits may be obtained at the Fire Marshal's office as well as guidelines for submitting applications. July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022, there was one blasting permit issued.

-Open burning permits: There is no charge for open burning permits. Permits may be obtained at the Office of the Fire Marshal. Open burning is limited to the burning of brush only, on residential property upon which the permittee resides. Only brush (defined as shrubs, vegetation or prunings, the diameter of which is not greater than three inches at the widest point) may be burned. Burning on property not zoned as residential is prohibited. Further regulations are detailed on the permit. July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 there were 36 burn permits issued. Total revenue for permits issued by the Office of the Fire Marshal from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 was \$600.00.

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

John A. Planas  
Fire Marshal

# HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

The Commission maintains the two Federal Anchorages in Essex (the Main anchorage off the village and the Meadows anchorage) with marker buoys that designate the areas which allow anchoring or mooring within the anchorages without requiring anchor lights. Both anchorages are designated on NOAA charts. Additionally, we mark the two derelict rock piers at the southern end of Thatchbed Island.

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

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

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

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

A key 2022-23 goal for the HMC is updating the Essex Harbor Management Plan to address evolving needs of the Essex boating and waterfront community. An updated plan has been drafted by the Commission and is currently under review by the U.S Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

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

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

Annual expenses and other operating costs are paid through user fees from Mooring Permits, Bushnell storage permits and rarely, occasional DEEP regulatory fines.

Regular meetings of the HMC are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month except in November and December when they are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday. All meetings are open to the public.

Terry Stewart  
Chair

# HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Essex Health Dept focuses primarily on the Environmental Health segment of Public Health. These activities include ensuring safe & adequate drinking water, managing wastewater & sources of pollution, investigating nuisance complaints, preventing foodborne outbreaks, and tracking communicable diseases in the community. These local activities often go unnoticed because they are proactively managed, and issues are resolved before they rise to the level of emergency. The Essex Health Dept has always been involved in communicable disease prevention and outbreak investigation and the past 2 years of the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to light the essential role Public Health plays in the health and wellbeing of a community and the subsequent disruption to a society when things are out of balance.

Throughout the pandemic the Essex Health Dept worked tirelessly to provide guidance, vaccinations, home COVID-19 test kits, and support to residents. Approximately 5,000 primary vaccines and booster doses have been administered. Over 1,000 test kits and 30,000 masks have been distributed in the past year and the Health Dept has procured additional kits and masks for the upcoming fall/winter season. Information and knowledge base has changed frequently in the past year as did personal behaviors, vaccine availability, at-home testing, mask wearing, severity of disease for at-risk-populations, and availability of social & emotional support programs. This is a testament to our collective determination to curb disease transmission, safeguard our families & neighbors, and be stewards of a strong and caring community.

Pandemic-related responsibilities were done in addition to the routine Public Health Code-required environmental functions. The Health Dept completed 124 plan reviews, 15 new septic systems, 40 soil tests, 45 septic system repairs, and 7 new wells. Foodservice inspections, daycare, salons/barber inspections, and public pool inspections were also done. The Health Dept distributed 141 radon test kits, followed up with reminders to deploy the kits, and provided remediation guidance to those whose homes had high levels of radon.

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

Lisa Fasulo  
Director of Health

## INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION

The Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission (IWWC) is chaired by Fred Szufnarowski, Michael Furgueson, Vice-Chairman, Andy Roussel, Ernest "Bill" Cook, David Kirsch, as regular members and Noreen Brennan-Rowe and Carolyn Field as alternate members. Regular member Dan Lapman resigned from the Commission after serving for 36 years. The Commission meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at the Essex Town Hall.

Carey Duques, the Town's Land Use Official, staffs the IWWC and works with Bob Doane, the Wetlands Enforcement Officer (WEO), to review the wetland applications and projects. The Commission regulates all activities occurring in inland wetlands or watercourses and within a 100-foot upland review area. In accordance with CT General Statutes the Town updated its wetlands regulations, which became effective on December 3, 2021. Using a "best practices" approach, the Commission along with its Enforcement Officer and Land Use Official, administers the regulations to protect the Town's resources while helping property owners enjoy the use of their property.

During the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the Commission conducted 4 site walks and issued 8 wetland permits. The Inland Wetlands Agent issued 14 administrative approvals for activities within the upland review area. Three referrals were made to the Zoning Board of Appeals for variances requested for work within 100 feet of the Connecticut River. The IWWC addresses violations as they occur and is pursuing legal action against one specific property that completed work in a wetlands and the 100 foot upland review area without permits. The Commission also actively engages the community through an outreach program to educate residents about the value of the Town's inland wetlands and watercourse resources and help them navigate the IWWC's regulations and permitting process.

## PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT/COMMISSION

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

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 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 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, Summer Concerts Series, and Essex go Bragh. We also supported townwide events such as the Festifall, The Essex Ed Groundhog Day Parade and the Ivoryton Village 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade.

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

Mary Ellen Barnes  
Park & Recreation Director



Essex go Bragh Irish Parade, March 2021

## PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) is comprised of seven regular members and three alternates. The following people were members of the Planning and Zoning Commission in 2021-2022: Russell Smith, Chairman, Jane Siris, Vice Chair, Mark Reeves, Robert Day, Gary Riggio and Chris Riley, as Regular Members, and Jeffrey Lovelace, Thomas Carroll and David Rosengren as Alternate Members. Larry Shipman serves as legal counsel to the PZC. The Commission meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at Essex Town Hall.

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

Since July 1, 2021 the Planning and Zoning Commission has approved six special exceptions, two site plans, one site plan modification, and one coastal site plan. One zone change was approved on Pratt Street and one on Main Street in Essex Village was denied. Nine text amendments were approved; clarification regarding setbacks for accessory buildings Section 40I.2; addition of River Road Residential to list of zones that ADUs are allowed Section 45A; clarification regarding cupolas and height Section 40J; addition of Section 40A.3(E) allowing horses in the Village Residence Zone; addition of Section 105 creation of Route 9 Gateway Overlay Zone; implementation of moratorium relating to applications pertaining to cannabis Section 40A.1; modifications to Section 45 Accessory Dwelling Units of the Essex Zoning Regulations to ensure compliance with Public Act 21-29; Section 40L of the Zoning regulations were amended to address parcels that are split zoned; and Section 90A.3(G) of the Zoning Regulations was added to allow waste collection and container storage facility through a special exception process. A proposed text amendment to prohibit sales of cannabis was denied. One modification to a subdivision approval, Essex Glen Development, was approved.

The Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) worked with Ms. Duques, Mr. Guskowski, and the PZC to write an updated Affordable Housing Plan for Essex. The RiverCOG also wrote a regional housing plan that provides a regional overview of current conditions and recommendations for the future.

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

## PROBATE COURT SAYBROOK DISTRICT

The Saybrook District Probate Court serves the nine towns of Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme, Old Saybrook, and Westbrook, which have a combined population of approximately 62,000. Judge Jeannine Lewis presides over hearings, and is supported by six staff members including Sharon Tiezzi, Chief Clerk, Marge Calltharp, Stella Caione (fka Beaudoin), Helene Yates, Jackie Craco, and Rose Nolin.

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

During the reporting year, the Saybrook District Probate Court administered matters with respect to the following areas of the law: 1,835 decedent's estates; 357 conservatorships; 185 trusts; 158 guardianships of the intellectually disabled; 24 children's matters including termination of parental rights, temporary custody appointments, and guardianships; 45 name changes; 46 compromise of claims/appointments of a guardian of the estate of a minor; and 7 adoptions. The court also performs many administrative functions, and processed 138 fee waivers for indigent individuals to allow full access to its services regardless of ability to pay.

Irrespective of COVID-19 restrictions, the court continues to operate by utilizing the Webex video conferencing platform which allows hearings to take place in person, fully remotely, or a hybrid of the two. In addition to the daily work of the court, Judge Lewis presented to the Haddam 60 Club on the topic of senior scams, authored a short article for the Events Magazine addressing the question of "Do I Need A Lawyer for Probate?", was a guest lecturer at Connecticut College's Elder Abuse Seminar speaking on the topic of the Probate Court's role in addressing and preventing elder abuse, presented on the topic of Conservatorship Hearings & Liability Waivers During the Pandemic to CT attorneys and probate judges, presented on the topic of the Conservator Standards of Practice for the Coalition on Elder Justice, and was a panel participant on the topic of Conducting Conservator Hearings for the CT Probate Assembly.

## PUBLIC WORKS

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

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

**Paving:** Paving was done on Meadow Woods Rd, Ox Bow Ln, and a section of Bokum Rd. These roads showed significant deterioration and required drainage improvements which will extend the life of the new pavement. The total length of new road covered 0.68 tenths of a mile. Having a paving program to support and fund our capital road plan enables us to pave a little over a half a mile each year.

Our pavement preservation and maintenance program is directed to extend the life of our roads which are about 15 years old or half way through their life cycle. Our best practice applications used for pavement preservation include drainage enhancements, repaving sections of pavement, crack repair and Chip Sealing. Chip Sealing is a waterproof layer of liquid asphalt with a stone wearing surface. It allows us to provide a quality road surface free from potholes and cracks. This year we were able to prepare and install 3 miles of Chip Sealing on Town roadways.

**Sidewalks:** We replaced 1,350 feet of sidewalk. 500 feet of that amount was part of a project to connect sidewalks near the Valley Railroad and Essex Plaza. This connection completes a continuous 5-mile length of sidewalk from Busy Hill Rd to the Essex Town Dock. We are very proud to have such a walkable town with 10 miles of sidewalk. As a reminder, please be very cautious and alert as a pedestrian.

**Looking ahead:** We have many projects in the planning phase. Raising the road on Ferry St approximately 18 inches to relieve flooding is a priority. We are also planning to add a sidewalk on Ferry St to improve pedestrian safety. The River Rd Bridge over Falls River needs to be replaced and requires significant planning to minimize the detour and road closures. This bridge replacement may not start for a few years. At the same location on River Rd, we will be adding sidewalks with the assistance of a Community Connectivity Grant award. These sidewalks will improve safety over the River Rd Bridge and at the intersection of Book Hill Rd.

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

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

Ryan Welch  
Director of Public Works

## PUMPOUT BOAT PROGRAM

The Town of Essex manages the Pumpout Boat Program for the Lower Connecticut River. This program is funded through the Federal Clean Vessel Act (CVA) Grant Program in Connecticut. The 2021-2022 Pumpout Boat Season was a very busy time for our pumpout boats. Boaters flocked to their boats since boating was considered a safe social distancing practice during the COVID-19 pandemic and boating is considered one of the safest, most enjoyable thing you can do during the summer. Due to the pandemic, there has been a huge demand for our boats to pump out waste tanks.

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

Joel P. Severance  
Pumpout Boat Program Manager

## REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

It has been an exciting year for the Registrars of Voters. Caitlin Riley, the Democratic Registrar and Barbara Ryan, the Republican Registrar, have been working closely with the Secretary of State's office to ensure safe, secure elections.

The office of the Registrar is a state-mandated, elected position. The two elected registrars, one Republican and one Democratic, continually update the official voter registration list for Essex, and they are responsible for preparing for and managing elections.

The registrars conduct an annual canvass of all registered voters in the Town. The purpose of the canvass is to update changes of residence and mailing address. Please notify the Registrar's office if your address has changed. The registrars can be reached at 860-767-4340 x142 or by e-mail at [registrar@essexct.gov](mailto:registrar@essexct.gov). The office hours are Wednesdays from 12:30-3:00 pm.

The registrars are nominated by their respective parties and elected every two years. Registrars are provided with certification training and on-going professional seminars each year.

Barbara Ryan and Caitlin Riley  
Registrars of Voters

## RESIDENT STATE TROOPER/ ESSEX POLICE

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

In addition to the police and animal control officers, there are four part-time Harbor Patrol boat operators. The police boat can be found patrolling the Connecticut River, coves, and marinas on a regular, seasonal basis. When in operation on the river, the police boat can be reached on Channel 16 of the Maritime radio or via State Police Troop F in Westbrook.

For the reporting year 2021-2022, the Resident State Trooper and Essex Police Officers have been responsible for investigating an array of different criminal and motor vehicle complaints. In addition,

they have responded to a variety of calls for service. As society began to emerge from the pandemic, it was a priority of the Resident State Trooper and Essex Police to maintain an active role in the community by providing police personnel for public events such as parades, road races, and organized town events.

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

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

For this reporting year, the Resident State Trooper's Office, Essex Police Officers, and State Troopers patrolling town and Route 9 responded to 7,463 calls for service. It should be noted that activity levels vary from year-to-year for various reasons, most significantly this reporting year due to the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on motor vehicle operation. Of note, the number of stolen vehicles has dropped significantly over the past two years but does not account for the instances of overnight rummaging of unlocked vehicles (also down from last year). Please continue to heed the warning to lock your cars, hide your valuables, and take your keys.

List of calls personnel responded to during 2021-2022:

Statistic	Total
Total Calls for Service	7,463
Total Nonreportable Events	6,505
Total Criminal Complaints	86
Total Stolen Motor Vehicles	2
Total Accidents with Report	85
Total Accidents without Report	2
Total Fatal Accidents	0
Total OUI's	8
Total Onsite OUI's	1
Total Accident OUI's	7
Total Motorist Assists	109
Total Citations Primary Charge	217
Total Warnings Primary Charge	529
Total Seatbelt Citations	44
Total Seatbelt Warnings	0
Total Marine/Boating Enforcement	20

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

TFC Mark Roberts  
Resident State Trooper

## RETIREMENT BOARD

The Essex Retirement Board (ERB) acts as the fiduciary and administrator of the Town's three retirement benefit assets: Town of Essex Retirement Plan, Town of Essex Police Retirement Plan, Town of Essex Merit Service Retirement Plan (a LOSAP plan) for Volunteer Firefighters, as well as the Other Post Employment Benefit Plan (OPEB.) The role of the ERB is to primarily perform a fiduciary and oversight function over the Town's retirement and merit service plans 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 Peter J. Decker, term expiration November 2026. Current at large members are: Stacia Libby, Mary-Louise Polo, term expiration November 2023, Kelly Sterner, term expiration November 2025, and Robert Parkerson, term expiration November 2026. The ERB meets monthly, on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Town Hall at 5 pm. The meeting schedule, agendas, and minutes are posted on the Town's website. The fund balances at the close of the 2021-2022 fiscal year were: \$6,104,422 for the Defined Benefits Retirement Plans for Town Employees and Police, \$1,248,057 for the Merit Service Retirement Plan, and \$148,463 for the Other Post Employment Benefit Plan.

Peter J. Decker  
Chair



Retirement Board members thanking Ethan Goller for his service to the Board. From left to right, Mary-Louise Polo, Kelly Sterner, Ethan Goller, Tracey Celentano, Robert Parkerson, Peter Decker.

## SOCIAL SERVICES

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

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 the long-standing tradition of collaborating with community partners to enhance services to Town residents. Some of our partners are the Shoreline Soup Kitchen, The Community Renewal Team, The Salvation Army, The Estuary Council, FISH, Child and Family Services, Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley, Operation Fuel, along with the Essex Community Fund, who is a major donor to our Essex Emergency Assistance Fund, which assists local residents with fuel, food, shelter and other emergency services.

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

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

Mary Ellen Barnes  
Social Services Representative



## SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Free food scrap collection is available at the Essex Transfer Station. As food goes to the landfill and rots, it produces methane—a greenhouse gas even more potent than carbon dioxide. The Town utilizes Blue Earth Compost to collect food scraps and deliver them to an anaerobic digester. **This fiscal year, we diverted over 44,000 lbs of food scraps from the landfill.**

Essex residents brought in approx. **4,460 lbs. of household hazardous waste** to the regional collections. That dangerous waste was then disposed of correctly and not added to the municipal solid waste. Approx. **4,645 lbs. of paper** was brought to the paper shredding event. It is nice to know that your old tax records and or medical information will soon be toilet paper or paper towels!

Electric Vehicle (EV) charging use is up at the EV charging station behind the Essex Post Office. **We totaled 688 charging sessions this year, or 6,500 kWh, saving the equivalent of 523 gallons of gasoline.** Discussions are underway for the placement of an additional charging station in Town.

Essex residents participated for the first time in the Connecticut River Conservancy's "Source to Sea" clean-up last September. We had a great turn out and prevented lots of trash from reaching the Connecticut River and Long Island Sound. **We collected over 500 lbs of trash.**

Sustainable Essex hosted a **free toy swap** in November to encourage the community to **reduce** new purchases and **reuse** previously loved toys during the holiday season. Community members could drop off toys, books, and games for others to gift to their children during the holidays. The items that were left at the end of the event were donated to the Ivoryton Library and a thrift store in Deep River.

Sustainable Essex collaborated with neighboring towns to host an Earth Day Event/Repair Cafe at the Bushy Hill Nature Center in April. **Volunteers helped repair 15 items that needed mending**, thereby keeping them from the waste stream, and saving resources needed for their replacement. A future repair café is planned. Volunteers also taught attendees about thin-film plastic recycling, composting, and items that can and cannot be recycled. Children and adults participated in seed-planting and animal visits at the farm. Thank you to all our volunteers!



## TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

This past fiscal year the Town of Essex held the following meetings: 13 Town Meetings, 3 Public Hearings, One Municipal Election and One Regional District #4 Budget Vote.

The following is a list of recordings for the 2021-2022 fiscal year in the Town of Essex including Centerbrook and Ivoryton:

Birth Certificates	37
Death Certificates	100
Discharges	5
Dog Licenses	616
Land Records	1,630
Marriage Licenses	62
Maps & Surveys	6
Trade Names	25

Monies disbursed by Town Clerk to the State of Connecticut:

Sports License Fees	\$ 712
Marriage Surcharge Fees	\$ 2,108
Preservation Fees – State Library	\$ 4,737
Land Records – State Treasurer	\$ 89,037

Monies to the General Fund:

Conveyance Tax	\$312,868
Town Clerk Fees	\$147,363
Dog Fees	\$ 612

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

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

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

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

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

Joel Marzi, Town Clerk  
Yvonne Roziak, Assistant Town Clerk

## TOWN COUNSEL

In January 2022 partners in the firm of Dzialo, Pickett & Allen, P.C., including Attorney Rutkowska, formed a successor firm known as Arch Law Group, LLP. Attorney David M. Royston remains Of Counsel to the firm practicing from its Old Saybrook office at 63 Main Street.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 the firm handled the many miscellaneous matters customary for Town operation, which included drafting proposed Ordinances, interpreting applicable statutes, review and approval of Town contracts and review of responses to Freedom of Information Requests, and the like.

Litigation during the fiscal year was highlighted by the settlement of the long-standing dispute regarding the status of the westerly end of the roadway known as Evans Lane. For many years the Board of Selectmen attempted to reach an agreement satisfactory not only to the Town, but also to the two abutting property owners, who were at odds as to whether portions of the roadway were a public highway or not. When these efforts were unsuccessful, the Board of Selectmen authorized Town Counsel to bring a Declaratory Judgment action in Superior Court. The essence of such an action is to have the Court decide the issues regarding the status of the westerly end of Evans Lane.

The trial of the matter was postponed more than once in the continuing effort by the Board of Selectman to resolve the dispute fairly to all parties. Finally, a Settlement Agreement was reached and signed by all the parties, including the Town, which was then incorporated into a Stipulated Judgment entered by the Court and filed in the Essex Land Records in the Fall of 2021.

The Town continues to have several Building or Health Code violations for which enforcement actions have been taken in order to place the subject properties into compliance.

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

Attorney Sylvia Rutkowska  
Attorney David M. Royston  
Town Counsel

## TREE COMMITTEE

The Essex Tree Committee was established in 1990 to inventory, preserve and replace our priceless resource of street trees. Funding for the plantings comes from the Town and private donations. During the period of 2021-2022 we planted 9 trees bringing our total of trees planted since 1993 to 343.

The type and location are as follows: two October Glory Maples (*Acer Rubrum*) corner of Bokum Road and Route 153, one Red Sunset Maple (*Acer Rubrum*) in front of 33 Highland Terrace, one Red Sunset Maple (*Acer Rubrum*) at Essex Elementary School with the ELT, one Swamp White Oak (*Quercus Bicolor*) at 35 Mares Hill Road, one Swamp White Oak (*Quercus Bicolor*) in Grove Street Park, one Dogwood (*Cornus Florida*) at corner of Old Denison Road and Denison Road, one Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus Hippocastanum*) at 7 High Street, one Weeping Cherry (*Prunus Pendula*) at 114 Main Street, Centerbrook, one October Glory Maple (*Acer Rubrum*) at Sunset Pond, one Red Sunset Maple (*Acer Rubrum*) in Bushnell Park, one Sourwood (*Oxydendrum Arboretum*) at top of Main Street, Essex, two Japanese Snowballs (*Styrax Japonica*) at 35 Main Street, Essex, two Paperbark Maples (*Acer Griseum*) at 37 Main Street, Essex, one Trident Maple (*Acer Buergerianum*) at 39 Main Street, Essex, one Trident Maple (*Acer Buergerianum*) on West Avenue, one Red Sunset Maple (*Acer Rubrum*) at the corner of Kings Lane and New City Street.

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

Augie Pampel  
Chair/Tree Warden



## WORKSITE SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

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

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

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

## ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

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

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

During the 2021-2022 fiscal year there were a total of 23 public hearings held before the ZBA. The Board granted 21 variances and denied two. The ZBA and staff revised the variance and appeal applications and also developed a variance guide for applicants.

## ZONING ENFORCEMENT

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

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

During the 2021– 2022 fiscal year the ZEO approved 133 zoning permits and 14 administrative wetland permits. Carey Duques staffs the Planning and Zoning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission.

Carey Duques  
Land Use Official and  
Certified Zoning Enforcement Officer



# SECTION III—COMMUNITY & SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

## ANCIENT ORDER OF WEEDERS

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

We have continued to enhance and maintain the garden beds with new plants as needed, mulching, and of course, weeding (always needed). In addition, we are caring for two large beds of summer blooming perennials planted two years ago by Eric Sullivan for the Essex Foundation.

We are also a social organization. We gather for coffee every Thursday year-round. During the summer, we enjoy the outside seating at Olive Oyles. Each year we have a “summer party”, currently at the Essex Pettipaug Yacht Club, and a holiday party at one of our member’s homes.

The Essex Weeders has benefitted from the generosity of several individuals and civic organizations who enable our work to continue. The Essex Garden Club provides us with many annuals each year and mulch has been generously donated by our good friends the Bombacis. In addition to financial support, Herb Clark has installed a spigot near the south island beds specifically for our use in keeping the plants watered. Discounts have been provided by Riggio’s Garden Center and Scott’s Farm. 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 water, buy fertilizer, and replace plants and shrubs, as needed.

Our website can currently be viewed at <https://essexweeders.weebly.com/>. We are always happy to welcome new members!

Richard Levene  
Treasurer



The Essex Weeders

## CONNECTICUT RIVER GATEWAY COMMISSION

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

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

The Gateway Commission concentrates much of its attention on the protection of the valley’s scenic qualities. Since its inception, the Commission has worked with others to acquire over 1,100 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, 2022 included: Jenny Kitsen and Tom Brelsford of Chester; Jerry Roberts of Deep River; Crary Brownell of East Haddam; Claire Matthews and Misha Semenov of Essex; Susan R. Bement and Mike Farina of Haddam; J. Melvin Woody and Wendy Hill of Lyme; Suzanne Thompson and Greg Futoma of Old Lyme; Bill Webb and Diane Stober of Old Saybrook; Raul Debrigard, Judy Preston and Marilyn Gleeson of RiverCOG; and Katherine Perzanowski of the Connecticut DEEP (Commissioner’s Representative). Fenwick Borough has been designated an ad hoc member and is periodically represented by Borough Warden Newt Brainard.

*Continued on next page*

# CONNECTICUT RIVER GATEWAY COMMISSION

*Continued from previous page*

For more information, contact Gateway Essex Representative Claire Matthews at [cmatthews@comcast.net](mailto:cmatthews@comcast.net). Contact information can also be found on the web at [www.ctrivergateway.org](http://www.ctrivergateway.org).

J. H. Torrance Downes  
Deputy Director

## CONNECTICUT RIVER MUSEUM

The Connecticut River Museum (CRM) wishes to thank the community, our members and the thousands of visitors who have helped to make the past year successful.

The Museum's significant activities included the ever-popular Holiday Train Show, our summer exhibit *Speed: Hydroplane Racing on the Connecticut River, 1900-1940*, RiverFare, the Antique and Classic Boat Show, Dogs on the Dock, Cruises on the *Onrust* and *RiverQuest*, the Connecticut Sea Music Festival, environmental paddles, Thursdays on the Dock, and a variety of lectures and educational programs. Many of these accomplishments would not have been possible without community support and critical collaborations.

For the upcoming year, CRM is looking to expand its partnerships and community impact. New environmental and cultural exhibits and programs are currently being planned that will help celebrate the history, people, and nature of New England's most influential and picturesque river. The Museum is also reviewing and building long range plans for its waterfront and campus. Together, these projects will help CRM become a greater asset to local communities as well as a vital cultural force along the River.

Membership and volunteerism are essential to CRM. If you are not a member, but enjoy the unique place of the Connecticut River and want to support the Museum, then please join today. There are also numerous volunteer opportunities for people who are interested in teaching, assisting with special events, preserving boats, or who are just looking for ways to meet people interested in being stewards of this great river.

For more information on upcoming events, exhibits or to get involved please contact CRM at 860-767-8269 or via the web at [www.ctrivermuseum.org](http://www.ctrivermuseum.org).

## ESSEX AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

The members of the Essex Ambulance Board of Directors and Corps would like to thank our residents and local businesses for your continued support. As we continue to recover and adjust our operations in response to the pandemic, emerging and reemerging threats we will use the skills gained to improve our delivery of care in the safest possible way.

We are excited to be partnering with the Town of Essex in purchasing our first new ambulance since 2009. Due to pandemic related manufacturing issues we don't anticipate delivery until sometime in 2023. During the next year we will continue to raise funds to purchase and upgrade equipment that will be needed when the new vehicle arrives. We would like to thank everyone who responded to our fund drive, as those funds are essential to this project.

The Town also assisted with the purchase of our first CPR automatic compression device, a Defibtech Lifeline Arm Rescue. This device will deliver high quality compressions during a cardiac arrest allowing our medical personnel to focus on other essential interventions.

Essex Ambulance personnel responded to 961 calls last year, including medical emergencies, traumatic injuries, cardiac arrests, and psychiatric emergencies. We provided assistance at fire scenes, responded when requested to our neighboring mutual aid towns and stood by at Town events. It was a busy year!

We are looking for exceptional people to join us. If you are a certified EMT or EMR and are interested in learning more about how to serve your community contact us or ask one of our members for information. If you are not certified but think you may be interested in becoming involved in Emergency Medical Services, contact us. The work is challenging but rewarding.

Our funding is acquired through donations and memorial gifts. We also have assistance from the Town for insurance coverages and billing. The Board of Director's and members of the Corps would like to thank our residents, businesses, and the Town of Essex for their continued support, without which we would be unable to continue to serve. Equally important, we thank our members, staff, and their families for their commitment to the health and safety of our community.

Thank you to all our supporters and best wishes for a healthy and safe year.

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

# ESSEX BOARD OF TRADE

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

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

EBOT enhances primary streetscapes with seasonal décor and organizes many of the Essex events that attract residents and visitors to our villages and businesses for recreational enjoyment:

- Essex Ed Parade honoring Groundhog Day
- Daffodil Days celebrating Essex Foundation’s 30,000+ daffodil blooms
- American Flags from May – August on Main Street, Essex & Centerbrook
- Annual Sidewalk Sale
- Scarecrow FestiFall & Contest
- Dogs on the Dock at the Connecticut River Museum
- Essex Holiday Stroll
- Holiday Lights and Garlands on Main Streets, connecting Essex, Centerbrook & Ivoryton

Highlights for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 include:

- In October, EBOT increased the entertainment value of the Scarecrow FestiFall with a themed event *The Wizard of Oz* and LIVE characters - “The Wicked Witch of the West” and “Glinda the Good Witch” – who flew in for photo opportunities with event attendees.
- In January, EBOT donated two trees to the Essex Tree Committee, as part of our streetscape beautification program including seasonal decorations. EBOT will continue to donate one tree annually to the Essex Tree Committee.



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

- In May, EBOT implemented its first-ever sponsorship of *The E-List* shopping event, “Ladies Night,” to jumpstart post-Covid, spring retail and restaurant sales.
- In June, EBOT launched an [Alfresco Essex](#) summer advertising campaign to emphasize outdoor experiences including alfresco dining and shopping, boating, sightseeing, walking, biking, hiking, etc.

Behind the scenes, EBOT updated its bylaws in March, continues to digitize all files, and has migrated to a more visual and user-friendly e-mail platform using Constant Contact.

Looking forward, EBOT is working on content and design for a NEW website to be introduced in Spring 2023...stay tuned!

Susan Dee  
President

## ESSEX COMMUNITY FUND

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

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

**Evening of Giving** – In April of this year we were fortunate to be able to celebrate and reconnect with our grant beneficiaries at our Evening of Giving. Over 25 grants were distributed to local non-profit organizations that support the residents of our community.

**Many of our donors** contribute year after year. They endorse ECF's stewardship of their donations, whatever the size, and entrust ECF to ensure that their donations provide our local non-profits with the support they need to best serve the residents of Essex, Ivoryton and Centerbrook. **ECF would like to thank our donors, for without your support, this vital work would not be possible.** For more information on Essex Community Fund, please visit our website at [www.essexcommunityfund.org](http://www.essexcommunityfund.org).

Jean Schneider  
Treasurer

# ESSEX FIRE ENGINE CO. #1

The Essex Fire Engine Co. #1 has provided fire suppression, vehicle rescue, emergency medical services, marine rescue, ice rescue, mitigation of hazardous conditions, and search operations for the Town of Essex for the past 189 years and continues to do so on an entirely volunteer basis. This adds up to thousands of man hours each year that our firefighters donate their time to handle these emergencies. This past year the department responded to 529 calls for aid throughout all of the categories mentioned above. Our firefighters and EMTs have continued to advance their educations in the fire service by completing additional certification classes and re-certifying their EMT and EMR licenses as mandated by the State of Connecticut. As usual, this has been a very busy year for the department, which has been bolstered by the addition of several new and productive members.

The COVID-19 pandemic is still affecting our daily lives and continues to add challenges to the department in the way we respond to calls and handle emergencies, though we have adapted to this “new normal” condition. Our new fireboat, the *Joseph H* has been a huge asset on the river over the past year, bringing our marine capabilities to a new level. The department has placed an order with Pierce Manufacturing for a new heavy rescue truck to replace the 23-year-old rescue truck that has served us well, but is showing its age. The new truck will allow us to carry additional rescue equipment that will not fit on the current vehicle and give us a much more efficient and safe vehicle to work with. The truck was paid for with funds the Town received through the ARPA program. As with many vehicle and construction projects these days, the lengthy lead-time on building the vehicle means that we will not see it until sometime next summer.

We are always looking for new volunteers to join our ranks at The Essex Fire Engine Co. #1. If you have an interest in exploring a new career as a firefighter, stop down at the firehouse on Wednesday evenings and see what we do. We have worknights or training every Wednesday evening from 7 – 9pm. You can also contact us at [membership@essexctfd.org](mailto:membership@essexctfd.org) or go to our website [www.essexctfire.org/membership/](http://www.essexctfire.org/membership/) or follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/essexctfire/](https://www.facebook.com/essexctfire/).

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

# ESSEX GARDEN CLUB

The 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 100 members. We welcome new members, both women and men, living in the villages of Essex, Centerbrook and Ivoryton, who are interested in gardening and working in the community.

May Market was our big fundraiser this year. The proceeds from May Market are used to support the club's civic projects, to provide education programs in the elementary school, horticultural programs in the middle and high schools, camperships 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.

Our civic projects focus on garden club members actively participating in beautifying and maintaining spaces in our Town including the Essex Town Park, Dickinson Park, and three traffic islands: the Foot of Main, the Silent Policeman, and South Main Street. In addition, the members gathered greens at holiday time to decorate the merchants window boxes 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 provided 19 weeks of camp for 17 children from Essex. These camp programs are offered by the Essex Park and Recreation Department and The Incarnation Center.

The proceeds from the club's annual May Market and donations make these scholarships possible.

Pam Peters  
President



May Market 2022

# ESSEX HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Essex Historical Society's (EHS) Board of Directors, volunteers and staff continue our active, collaborative approach to history with in-person as well as virtual programming. Essex's only historic house museum, Pratt House (19 West Ave.), safely opened to the public two afternoons a week this summer. EHS's offices and library at the Hills Academy History Center (22 Prospect Street) stayed open year-round, fielding research questions and requests for information.

EHS provided a series of live, online lessons in grades 4, 5 and 6 serving 140 students monthly,



Essex Historical Society brought objects into the classrooms of grades 4, 5 & 6 to teach Social Studies with hands-on learning.

supported by the Essex Elementary School Foundation.

Using inquiry-based learning with objects, documents and images from EHS's collections, we complemented the Social Studies curriculum while developing hands-on activities through distance learning. By March, we were very pleased to return to the classroom (after a two-year hiatus!) and later field studies to Pratt House, Hills Academy and walking tours of Centerbrook or Ivoryton.

EHS transitioned to a hybrid system of public programming, offering a number of outdoor events, including group tours at Pratt House, in-town and at historic sites. We hosted the annual Holiday Food Drive at Pratt House and welcomed a number of visitors to the historic site's Kitchen Garden and Pollinator Garden.

EHS was thrilled to bring back our popular Walking Tours, thanks to audio devices supported through a grant from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County. Purchasing these individual devices allowed our audience to spread out, explore busy

The Lyme Art Association used the Pratt House's Pollinator Garden as plein air inspiration.



neighborhoods and never miss a moment of the guide's program.

We offered our popular Lecture Series in a hybrid format – two virtual sessions and one in-person, based on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Flood of 1982. Those talks can be viewed on our YouTube channel. EHS was pleased to collaborate with Ivoryton Library and Trinity Lutheran Church on that Flood project and a



Essex Village historical walk July 2021

number of related initiatives with Essex Land Trust (ELT). We continue to work with ELT on our multi-year Follow the Falls Project as we "Celebrated Centerbrook" at a Gala Lobster Bake at Centerbrook Architects in September.

Collaborations continue with Hope Partnership, Essex Indoor Golf, Lyme Art Association, the Witness Stones Projects, Westbrook School Systems and celebrating Indigenous Peoples with the Connecticut River Museum.

Please visit [www.essexhistory.org](http://www.essexhistory.org) to learn how we can bring history to you.

Melissa Josefiak  
Director

## ESSEX LAND TRUST

2021 was the 53<sup>rd</sup> year of Essex Land Trust operations. Even with Covid restrictions in place, we accomplished a great deal this year. Our finances are in excellent shape, reflecting sound budgeting and expense planning as well as strong, ongoing financial support from our members and sponsors.

Highlights for the past year include: Membership at an all-time high of 438, including 22 corporate supporters, volunteers contributed over 4,800 hours, increased social media presence significantly with over 600 Facebook followers, developed and updated our Strategic Plan which drives everything we do, added Deb Carreau and Leif Owens to our Board of Directors, acquired 3 acres in Essex and Westbrook to expand our Fern Ledge Preserve, updated historical signage at the Millrace, established the Falls River Society for members wishing to make a legacy contribution, updated our website with enhanced features including a PayPal donation option, and

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# ESSEX LAND TRUST

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completed two VRHS Capstone projects: a bench at Falls River by Kaid Matesky and a video featuring drone work by Jason Swerling.

Over the past year, the stewardship team completed many projects: Added 1 mile of new trails and 10 bridges at Bushy Hill-Platt Preserve, installed 10 viewing benches, worked with Essex Fire Engine Co. #1 to create 18 new access points and signage at 16 other access points in case of emergency, built a new entrance bridge at the Millrace, participated in an archaeological dig, started replacing aging kiosks, created a Steward's Handbook, and our Bird and Pollinator Garden stewards continued to expand their work.

We had solid financial performance in 2021 with income from donations exceeding operating expense by over \$5,000. Income was up 15% while expenses were down 7%. We also had strong investment results with our portfolio returning 11% in 2021. We maintain a balanced portfolio of stocks and fixed income under the guidance of Essex Financial Services and our Finance Committee. 75% of the funds we have in our investment accounts are encumbered and dedicated to generating income for maintenance of our preserves.

The following slate of officers were elected by the Board after the May 19 Annual Meeting: Jeff Croyle, President, Bob Nussbaum, Vice President, Deb Carreau, Treasurer, and Carrie Daly, Secretary.

Jeff Croyle  
President

## ESSEX LIONS CLUB

The Essex Lions Club is proud to have served the Town of Essex for over 72 years. During this past year, the Lions were able to support their vision-related organizations. Contributions were made to the CT Lions Eye Research Center, Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation, and the CT Low Vision Center. We paid for eye exams and eyeglasses for Essex residents who could not afford them. We also have a collection box for old eyeglasses at the Town Hall.

With the worst of the Covid-19 pandemic behind us, we resumed our "Night of Giving" and made donations to numerous organizations such as the Essex and Ivoryton libraries, the Essex Ambulance Association, the Essex Fire Engine Co. #1, and the Shoreline Soup Kitchen, just to name a few.

During the year we hold multiple fundraisers. The always popular Essex Lions Lobster Bake is held on the first Saturday of August. We have our annual Thomas the Tank Engine food concession at the Valley Railroad. At the Ivoryton Pumpkin Festival we serve free hotdogs, and at the Ivoryton Illuminations we have our concession stand. This year we were able to continue to hold the majority of our fundraising events, and our Eye Charities Letter will go out to the community in November. As always, we hope to get an excellent response. We are continuing to accept vehicle

donations as an additional charity fundraising endeavor. The club looks forward to another year of service, and thanks to all who generously donate in many ways to help us in our continued efforts to support our community.

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

Bruce Lawrence  
Treasurer

## THE ESTUARY COUNCIL OF SENIORS, INC.

The Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc. (ECSI) is a non-profit regional senior center located at 220 Main St. in Old Saybrook with congregate café sites in Killingworth, Lyme/Old Lyme, Old Saybrook and Clinton. Since 1974, the ECSI's mission has been to promote quality of life, community involvement, and independent living for people aged 50 and over. Last year the ECSI provided over **81k** nutritious meals including over **63k** home delivered Meals On Wheels, over **11k** congregate meals, and **352** rides to medical outpatient appointments outside the nine-town Estuary Region. Also, **1,800** individuals received free preventative health screenings, and participated in social and exercise programs.

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

During the reporting period for the Town of Essex, the Estuary served **25** residents a total of **4,836** home delivered meals and an additional **16** residents joined us for congregate meals. Our Emergency Medical Outpatient Transportation provided **3** individuals with **39** rides to medical appointments. We had over **5,000** visits to the senior center made by a total of **43** Essex residents.

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 fundraising efforts. I would like to thank the Town of Essex for their support of our programs.

For information and schedules of our services and programs, please call 800-388-1611 weekdays from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm and Saturday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm or visit our website at [www.ecsenior.org](http://www.ecsenior.org). If you do

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# THE ESTUARY COUNCIL OF SENIORS, INC.

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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 the Town of Essex and be an integral part of services for seniors in the Estuary Region.

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 have now grown to twelve and include Clinton, Chester, Deep River, Durham, Essex, Killingworth, Lyme, Middlefield, Middletown, 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) and XtraMile.

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 second Friday of every month at 9:00 A.M. at the Estuary Transit District. All meetings are open to the public.

ETD's five routes serve the main corridors of the region and provide connections to public transit providers serving the surrounding regions. Door-to-door service is provided 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. ETD also provides a taxi voucher program to provide half price taxi trips to seniors and people with disabilities and is the operator of the Clinton Trolley.

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

ETD continued to be severely impacted by COVID-19 during the year. Supply chain issues impacted the ability to repair and replace vehicles, fuel costs had significantly increased and labor shortages had impacted staffing. Despite these challenges, ridership grew during the year, and by June we were near pre-COVID levels. Federal relief funds have been critical in allowing ETD to continue operating service at regular

service levels.

Throughout the year, ETD worked with Middletown Transit District to transition into one combined agency. The towns of Durham, Middlefield and Middletown joined ETD in preparation for the July 1, 2022 merger date. The newly combined ETD will operate 66,000 hours of service over 1.3 million miles annually. Property has been purchased in Middletown for a shared maintenance facility for the combined fleet of 40 buses.

The Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments completed a study of the countywide transit needs in the seventeen town region served by ETD. The study provided many service improvement suggestions including expanding the span of service hours, new Sunday service, increasing frequencies and improving transfers between routes. ETD will begin implementing the suggestions over the next year, pending availability of funding.

Joseph Comerford  
Executive Director

## FISH (FRIENDS IN SERVICE HERE)

FISH was founded in Essex in 1970 to provide free rides to medical appointments for the residents of Essex, Deep River and Chester. Residents of our three towns wanting rides and having no other means of transportation may call 860-388-2693 up to noon the day before their 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.

Because of the Coronavirus, we drove intermittently from July through December 2021. In January 2022 the FISH Board decided to once again suspend driving. We then restarted driving in April 2022. Our riders and drivers are vaccinated and wearing masks. FISH is complying with CT State and local health laws and the health departments of Essex, Deep River and Chester.

Our Officers and Directors for 2022 are: Henry May, President; Stuart Warner, Vice President; Mary Samburg, Secretary; and Barbara Ryan, Treasurer. In addition, Jack Frost is a Director working with new drivers. John Heiser and Tony Carrano are our Dispatchers as well as Assistant Secretaries.

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

Henry May  
Driver and President

# IVORYTON PLAYHOUSE

Ivoryton Playhouse has been that light, shining in our community, and making folks feel welcome since 1930. 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. Katharine Hepburn first set foot on our stage in 1931 and ignited a spark that has burned brightly ever since. For over 110 years of good times and bad times, feast and famine, Ivoryton Playhouse has been an artistic beacon, lifting the spirits of our family, our community and our visitors.

The Playhouse is a year-round professional theatre that produces six professional shows a year, showcasing talented directors, actors and musicians from all over the country. The theatre is owned and operated by the Ivoryton Playhouse Foundation, Inc., a Connecticut non-stock corporation with Section 501(c)(3) status. Pre-Covid, the annual revenue of Ivoryton Playhouse exceeded \$2 million and the theatre ran at 76% capacity. COVID-19 closed the Playhouse in 2020 for only the second time in its history – the first being because of WWII.

Ever hopeful and anxious to open, Ivoryton Playhouse was determined to produce live theatre again in 2021. Summer 2021 began a five show, socially distanced to half capacity season with *Murder for Two*, a riotous blend of classic musical comedy and madcap mystery that delighted audiences who were eager to enjoy live theatre again. Next up was *Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters First 100 Years*, the story of two trailblazers, activists and best friends, Sadie and Bessie Delany. The third show was a world premiere musical created by David and Sherry Lutken called *The Porch on Windy Hill*. This new musical, written for Ivoryton Playhouse, was a heartfelt production about a not-so-traditional yet thoroughly American family. In November, Playhouse favorite R. Bruce Connelly truly graced our stage once again with the remarkable one-man show *Say Goodnight Gracie*. This uplifting, hit Broadway play tells the love story of George Burns and Gracie Allen. In December, we were finally able to bring back the tradition of a holiday show with the staging of *Christmas Survival Guide*.

The outbreak of Omicron in early 2022 did not dampen the determination of the Playhouse and a six show season was planned with the launch of a world premiere – a new musical called *Star of Freedom*. Directed by Jacqueline Hubbard from a concept by Jeff Blaney and featuring his original score and book by Lawrence Thelen, this new work featured music reminiscent of traditional Irish folk and American gospel. *Native Gardens* followed in May featuring a set that was awarded Best Scenic Design by the Connecticut Critics Circle. June and July saw the Playhouse back to full houses with an outstanding production of *Smokey Joe's Café* – a 40 song show celebrating the legendary songwriting duo Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller.

We encourage everyone to enjoy live theatre again. When you are ready, Ivoryton Playhouse will be here to welcome you back!

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

Jacqueline Hubbard  
Artistic/Executive Director



*Native Gardens*



*Say Goodnight Gracie*



*Smokey Joe's Café*



# IVORYTON LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

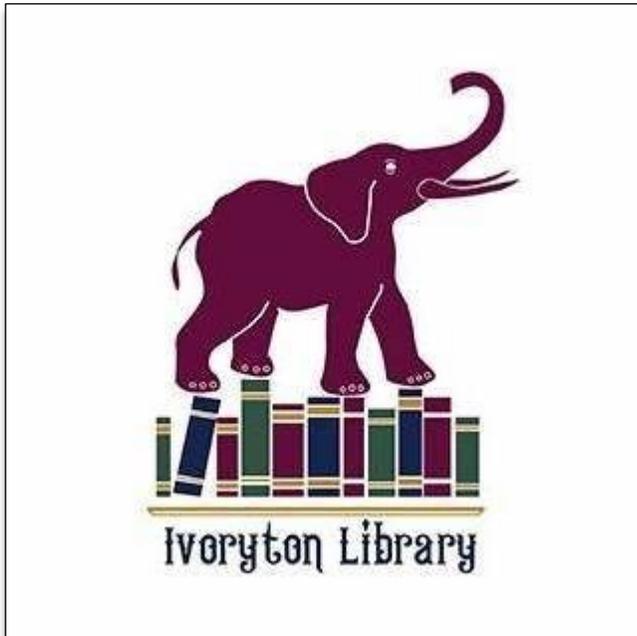
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Possibilities with sea-related programs and more, including events with CT's DEEP, Ocean Conservancy, and the Monterey Bay Aquarium. We also hosted multi-cultural family proms with a Hawaiian hula dancer, a Chinese acrobat, and an African-American storyteller.

We observed the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Falls River Flood of 1982 with an exhibit of photos and more from our local history room and joined with the Essex Land Trust to support the Essex Historical Society's three session program on the Flood this past spring.

We opened up fully this year from the sudden closure due to the pandemic. Our language classes and book clubs are meeting in person, most children's programs are in-person - although outdoors - and we held our annual Book and Plant Sale this May, hooray! We sincerely thank our patrons for taking safety precautions and following our pandemic protocols. You are the best and made this difficult time so much easier!

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 9 students from Essex and benefitted from the good work of 29 volunteers from the town including 19 tutors. Overall, LVVS tutored more than 218 students. In addition to the 16 New Tutor Training Workshops, LVVS held 2 Tutor Continuing Ed sessions with other state Literacy agencies to reinforce ESL techniques.

While interactions and institutions were not as affected by COVID-19 this past FY, there was still a lingering effect on the number of hours that tutors meet with their student to teach English skills.

Number of client contacts through this fiscal year:

- 10,353 hours of tutoring (includes independent study hours)
- 4% reduction in hours/tutor vs. last FY (25% lower than pre-Covid)
- 4.5 hrs/mo per student vs 4.8 last FY and 5.8 pre-Covid
- 281 Student Independent hours (41% increase over last FY)
- 456 hrs of Non-Tutoring Administrative support

## Tutor and Student Challenges and Future Initiatives:

To help our tutors and our students to re-engage and continue to improve the student's proficiency in English, we implemented the following:

- Updated information and support to tutors on how to conduct tutoring sessions virtually. Published on-line resources for reading and writing ESL lessons.
- Obtained a grant through which LVVS is obtaining free ESL workbooks for students to keep and use during lessons or for homework. This was a very successful approach from our National Book Fund Award last year.
- Reached out to employers in our service area to offer English language tutoring services to their employees. LVVS participated, for example, at an Employee Fair at Whelen Engineering in June.
- Encouraged tutors to continue to work on student goals, such as those under Community Activities and English Language Proficiency, while other goals, such as interactions with teachers may have been limited.
- Promoted student independent study to increase time exposed to English.

Joanne Argersinger  
Office Manager

# LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT

RiverCOG, one of Connecticut's 9 Councils of Governments, includes 17-member municipalities: Chester, Clinton, Cromwell, Deep River, Durham, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme, Middlefield, Middletown, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Portland & Westbrook. RiverCOG is responsible for the planning of regional land use, transportation, emergency preparedness, environmental conservation, economic development, and homeland security, and serves as the county-equivalent government for federal purposes.

Projects in FY 22:

- Finalization and adoption of the Regional Plan of Conservation and Development (RPOCD)
- Creation of the first Regional Housing Plan (RHP) to examine affordable housing, and housing in general, at the regional level.
- Work began on a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).
- Completed an update of the Regional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP).
- Worked with UCONN's Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) to review all of our municipalities' NHMP strategies and began to create resiliency corridors.
- Continued a legacy of legislative engagement with the state and federal governments on the behalf of our member municipalities.
- Continued reviewing proposed zoning text and map changes that affect property within 500 feet of municipal boundaries as well as municipal POCDs through its Regional Planning Committee (RPC).
- Hosted and staffed the non-profit Gateway Commission which serves 8 towns along the CT River as the guardian of the scenic and ecological values of the Lower Connecticut River.
- Supported the health of the Connecticut River by educating communities about invasive species and monitoring and removing harmful plants.
- Continued to host and staff the Lower Connecticut River Land Trust (LCRLT).
- Acted as the fiduciary agent for the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) Region 2 of the state's emergency planning efforts through grants provided by the federal government.
- Offered Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and paper shredding collections from April to October for the region.
- Hosted Connecticut's only Regional Agriculture Council (RAC).
- Served as the area's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Completed the Regional Transportation Safety Plan, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan and coordinated with CTDOT on the update of the Locally Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan.

- Aided with the merger of Estuary Transit District with Middletown Area Transit.
- Continued working with CTDOT on LOTCIP, TAP and other types of projects throughout the region, such as
  - \* East Haddam swing bridge walkway and Haddam roundabouts
  - \* Middletown Rt 9 at Miller/Portland St.
  - \* Route 9 CCTV installation
  - \* Municipal traffic counts
  - \* ADA and Title VI compliance measures

Samuel S. Gold  
Executive Director



The Essex Pollinators carefully tend the Pollinator Garden at the historic Pratt House.



Louie the Labrador visiting Dickinson Park.

## ROTARY CLUB OF ESSEX

Solving real problems takes real commitment and vision. For more than 110 years, Rotary's people of action have used their passion, energy, and intelligence to take action on sustainable projects. From literacy and peace to water and health, we are always working to better our world, and we stay committed to the end.

Rotary members believe that we have a shared responsibility to take action on our world's most persistent issues. Our 35,000+ clubs work together to:

- Promote peace
- Fight disease
- Provide clean water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Save mothers and children
- Support education
- Grow local economies

We are also committed to providing support for local needs. During this last year, The Rotary Club of Essex Scholarship Foundation provided approximately \$27,000 in scholarships for 9 students including a new 2-year vocational scholarship for a student training in HVAC. Qualified applicants are members of non-Rotarian families, living in Centerbrook, Essex and Ivoryton. The application is available for download on our website <https://www.rotaryclubofessex.com/> or it can be obtained directly from any of our members.

Additionally, our Rotary Club has supported The Ivoryton Alliance, FISH, Estuary Council of Seniors in memory of Dr. Peter Pool, Essex Social Services and Sister Cities Essex Haiti.

Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

Money for our mission is raised primarily from our widely anticipated annual Shad Bake, which has been held for 61 years. Unfortunately, this event was cancelled for 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We successfully hosted an on-line version this year that proved very successful thanks to donations from individuals and businesses, many of whom have been regular supporters of our efforts. We are hopefully looking forward to having our Shad Bake again in 2023.

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

If you are interested in learning more about Rotary or join would like to join us at a meeting, visit <https://www.rotaryclubofessex.com/> or visit the Rotary International website at <https://www.rotary.org/> or email [couper2006@gmail.com](mailto:couper2006@gmail.com). We are always looking for individuals who will help us improve our world and be inspired by our Rotary motto, "Service above Self".

Gerri Lewis  
Secretary

## SHORELINE SOUP KITCHENS AND PANTRIES

Founded 33 years ago in Essex, the mission of Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries (SSKP) is to provide food and fellowship to those in need and to educate our community about hunger and poverty.

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

In 2021 we shared 1.5 million pounds of food through our pantries. The total number of people registered at one of our pantries last year was 11,337 - 40% more than before Covid. This year we continue to see many more guests than in pre-pandemic years. Our pantries offer fresh meat, bread, fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs, dairy and canned and packaged foods. Those who come are not required to prove they are in need; all those in our 11-town service area can simply come and receive food. Many residents in Essex continue to need help. Last year we registered 235 Essex residents at one of our pantries - 82 from Essex, 46 from Centerbrook, and 107 from Ivoryton.

Your support makes a real difference in the lives of your neighbors in need in Essex. Your annual funding of \$6,000 provides much-needed food for Essex families who are struggling, especially as the basic cost of housing, transportation, and groceries continues to rise. The additional funding of \$10,000 through ARPA will help with the purchase of a new refrigerated truck that will enable us to safely deliver more food to our pantries. On behalf of all the residents of Essex we serve, we are truly grateful for this generous support.

More information about SSKP, how we accomplish our mission, and how you can give help or get help is available on our website [shorelinesoupkitchens.org](http://shorelinesoupkitchens.org). You can also find us on Facebook or call us at (860) 388-1988.

Claire Bellerjeau  
Director of Development



SSKP volunteers 2022

# THE ESSEX FOUNDATION

The Essex Foundation had another active year of community stewardship, partnership and financial support for initiatives that benefit all Essex residents. The Foundation continued to honor the memory and bequest of the late Elizabeth Callender through ongoing gateway beautification and maintenance efforts. An additional 3,000 daffodil bulbs were planted at Sunset Pond in November, contributing to the thousands and thousands of spring blooms which were the main attraction of the Essex Board of Trade's Daffodil Days event. Ms. Callender's bequest also seeded educational opportunities. The Elizabeth Barnes Callender and Mary Francis Barnes Annual Scholarship was presented to Kyra Brennan, a 2021 Valley Regional High School graduate currently enrolled in the University of Maine's forestry program. The \$3000 scholarship is awarded to one Valley Regional High School graduating senior or graduate or an Essex resident who is pursuing studies related to land conservation and preservation at a college, a technical school, or graduate school, or taking accredited courses in biology, botany, agronomy, ecology, horticulture, floriculture, forestry, landscape design, or environmental science.

The Essex Foundation also continued to fund the ongoing operation and maintenance of the Bumpy Warner Youth House on Bushnell Street used by the Boy Scouts and other scout-related projects. In July, the Board of Directors approved a new matching fund initiative to help Essex Veterans Memorial Hall members raise \$100,000 to expand the building's kitchen and outdoor spaces. Every dollar up to \$50,000 donated by individuals, businesses, and other organizations through The Essex Foundation to the EVMH project fund will be matched 100%. The nonprofit veteran's group relies on income from food and drink purchases as well as event space rental fees to cover operational expenses. Local nonprofit groups including scouting organizations and the Lions Club use the meeting space at no charge. The building expansion will better serve our local veterans, their families, and the greater community.

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

More information can be found online at [www.theessexfoundation.org](http://www.theessexfoundation.org) or by emailing [contact@theessexfoundation.org](mailto:contact@theessexfoundation.org).

Bruce Glowac  
President



Chester's Kyra Brennan was presented with a \$3000 check by Jay Tonks, Vice President of The Essex Foundation, as this year's recipient of The Elizabeth Barnes Callender and Mary Francis Barnes Annual Scholarship award.



Essex Library held their program "Our Constitution" in June, 2022 at the Essex Town Hall.

## TRI-TOWN YOUTH SERVICES

Tri-Town Youth Services served 125 unduplicated youth who participated in: VRHS Peer Advocates (32); Girls' Circles and "Tag In" social skills group (43 elementary and JWMS youth); Babysitter Training and Job Bank (23); and Summer Programs (8). Due to the on-going behavioral health impacts of the pandemic, TTYSB's Clinical Department carried its largest caseload, providing Counseling Services to 27 youth, including the successful pilot of school-based mental health services at VRHS. TTYSB provided comprehensive Case Management to school avoidant youth (6) and youth referred to the Juvenile Review Board (5). We supported our community's healing and social-emotional skills development through education programs and events, including:

- 4 Wellness 6th Grade Prevention Program: 110 students educated

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

- Peer Advocates Training Program: 32 Valley students trained

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

- Mental Health Awareness Month: 10,000 people engaged

A multi-media campaign included: 4-postcard series mailed to 8,295 households and businesses addressing social determinants of health, adolescent substance use, self-care planning and suicide prevention.

Postcards corresponded to a series of weekly emails to 400+ subscribers, social media posts, and iCRV "Feel Good Friday" conversations hosted by the Community Foundation of Middlesex County.

- Valley Wellness Week: 500+ students participated, in-person

With support from Rachael Rose and Denise Dalton, VRHS, Melissa Keilty, TTYSB, and Nicole Gaudreau, Essex Library, students planned a week of activities to build a supportive community and share strategies for managing stress. Activities included DIY Exam Survival Kits, yoga, collaborative art, rock painting and mindfulness activities. Alicia Farrell, PhD spoke to students about resilience and persevering during uncertain times.

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

Allison Abramson  
Executive Director

## VISITING NURSES OF THE LOWER VALLEY

Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley is a non-profit organization dedicated to home and community-based health care. In FY 2021-2022, we received 272 referrals for home care in our service area; 23.09 % of those home visits were to patients in Essex, Centerbrook and Ivoryton. Despite the continued pandemic, home health clinicians still provide the exceptional care patients and their families expect, allowing them to remain in the comfort of their homes while they heal. We continue to assist our patients in developing emergency preparedness plans in the event they need to evacuate or shelter in place. Flu shot clinics were held by appointment at our location as part of our wellness program. We distribute monthly health promotion newsletters via email and health messages via Facebook. We continue to value our community and provide the services needed to keep individuals and families in their homes.

We are the parent organization of Lower Valley Care Advocates whose staff provides private care services for surgical recovery, caregiver respite, and home management. Special programs are designed to help the frail, elderly, terminally ill, disabled, and clients with dementia, remain in the comfort of their own homes. All 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 from Essex; Ted Heiser, Susan D Murphy, and Peg Lieberman from Chester; Rueben Manning, President, from Scotland; and Bob Sampson, from Mystic. And, a special thank you to all Essex, Ivoryton and Centerbrook residents who support the work of VNLV.

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

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

# SECTION IV— TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Town of Essex  
Special Town Meeting  
July 21, 2021  
Meeting Room A

Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:32 PM. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance. Finance Director Tracey Celentano was also in attendance. Bruce Glowac was elected Moderator. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately fourteen in person plus one zoom person for fifteen (15) people in attendance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve the acceptance of the American Rescue Plan Act Funds as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

**SECONDED: Stacia Libby**  
**Yea 11 Nay 0**

RESOLVED: To consent and approve appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$35,000 to be allocated from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the Fire Department for the coaching, training, team building and counseling due to the impact of the Covid pandemic.

**SECONDED: Norman Needleman**  
**Yea 11 Nay 0**

RESOLVED: To consent and approve appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 to be allocated from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the installation and grounding of new antennas on the Essex Town Hall building.

**SECONDED: Stacia Libby**  
**Yea 11 Nay 0**

RESOLVED: To consent and approve appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$75,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the purchase of a 2021 Ford Utility Interceptor vehicle and all necessary computer, radio and lighting equipment. If ARPA funds are deemed ineligible, an appropriation from the Police Vehicle Sinking Funds will be utilized.

**SECONDED: Norman Needleman**

An opportunity arose for an alternate source of funding despite the Town Meeting approval on June 16, 2021 for \$65,000 and an additional

amount of \$10,000 for a total vehicle cost not to exceed \$75,000.

**Yea 11 Nay 0**

RESOLVED: To consent and approve appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 from the Police Vehicle Sinking Fund, contingent upon non-eligibility of ARPA funds, for the purchase of a new police vehicle and all necessary equipment as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

**SECONDED: Stacia Libby**  
**Yea 11 Nay 0**

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

Meeting adjourned at 4:41 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Marzi  
Town Clerk



Louie the Labrador in the daffodils at Sunset Pond

# TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Town of Essex  
Special Town Meeting  
September 1, 2021  
Meeting Room A

Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:54 PM. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance. Finance Director Tracey Celentano was also in attendance. Bruce Glowac was elected Moderator. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately eight (8) people in attendance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectman of Brian Weinstein as an alternate member to the Harbor Management Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December 2022.

**SECONDED: Kelly Sterner**  
**Yea 5 Nay 0**

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectman of Susan Malan as a regular member to the Harbor Management Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December 2023.

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

RESOLVED: To consent and approve appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$285,000 to be allocated from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the purchase of a new Ambulance and Lucas Device for Essex Ambulance due to the additional extra wear and tear because of the impact of the Covid pandemic.

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

RESOLVED: To consent and approve appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$26,000 to be allocated from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the Community Safety Knoxbox Program to support first responders in providing rapid access to community individuals affected by Covid

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

RESOLVED: To consent and approve appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 to be allocated from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the Shoreline Soup Kitchen to aid a local non-profit organization due to the Covid pandemic. Funds are contingent upon a minimum of at least 8 towns participating, including Essex. (for a refrigerated vehicle)

**SECONDED: Kelly Sterner**  
**Yea 5 Nay 0**

**MOTION TO CLOSE: Norman Needleman**  
**SECONDED: Bruce Glowac**

Meeting adjourned at 5:02 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Marzi  
Town Clerk

# TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Town of Essex  
Special Town Meeting  
September 22, 2021  
Meeting Room A

Selectman, Bruce Glowac called the Town Meeting to order at 6:50 PM. Selectman Libby was in attendance while First Selectman Norm Needleman was absent. Finance Director Tracey Celentano was also in attendance via zoom. Kelly Sterner was elected Moderator. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately four in person plus two zoom persons for six (6) people in attendance.

Selectman Bruce Glowac made the motion to consolidate all items for a single vote with the exception of item number 5 as listed on the call of the meeting.

**SECONDED: Stacia Libby**  
**Yea 4 Nay 0**

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2020-2021 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$23,347 to Employee Benefits as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

It was discussed that the Town was able to reduce this amount by the sum of \$90,000 by benefitting from other sources of revenue.

**SECONDED: Bruce Glowac**  
**Yea 4 Nay 0**

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2020-2021 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$37,755 to the Land Use Department as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2020-2021 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$74,757 to the Town Clerk Department as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2020-2021 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$41,240 to the Police Services Department as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2020-2021 Town

of Essex Budget in the amount of \$27,521 to the Health Department as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2020-2021 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$25,000 to the Technology Sinking Fund as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2020-2021 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$50,000 to Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEB) as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2020-2021 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$100,000 to Capital for Ferry Street Rebuild as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2020-2021 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$100,000 to Capital for Road Reconstruction as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2020-2021 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$50,000 to the Public Works & Highway Department Budget Grounds Maintenance and Repair as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

**SECONDED: Bruce Glowac**  
**Yea 4 Nay 0**

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Marzi  
Town Clerk

# TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Town of Essex  
Special Town Meeting  
November 4, 2021  
Meeting Room A

Selectman Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:55 PM. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance. Finance Director Tracey Celentano was also in attendance. Terry Stewart was elected Moderator. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately twenty (20) people in attendance both in person and via Zoom.

RESOLVED: To adopt an Amended and Re-Styled Ordinance Providing a Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighter(s). A copy of said Ordinance is on file in the Town Clerk's office and posted on the Town website.

**SECONDED: Stacia Libby**  
**Yea 16 Nay 0**

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation not to exceed \$44,500 for the purchase of police cameras and related necessary equipment as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance. If eligible, said funds are to be appropriated from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant Fund. Otherwise, a transfer from the Board of Finance Contingency would be the secondary source of funding.

**SECONDED: Norman Needleman**  
**Yea 16 Nay 0**

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation not to exceed \$50,000 from the Park and Recreation Sinking Fund for the cleanup and restoration of Town parks due to flooding from Tropical Storm Ida as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance. If FEMA funds are received related to this project said funds will be returned to the Park and Recreation Sinking Fund

**SECONDED: Bruce Glowac**  
**Yea 16 Nay 0**

**MOTION TO CLOSE: Bruce Glowac**  
**SECONDED: Norman Needleman**

All in favor

Meeting adjourned at 5:04 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Marzi  
Town Clerk

Town of Essex  
Annual Town Meeting  
November 15, 2021  
Town Hall Auditorium

First Selectman Norman Needleman called the Annual Town Meeting to order at 7:04 PM. Bruce Glowac was elected Moderator. Stacia Libby and Bruce Glowac were in attendance as well as Board of Finance chair Keith Crehan, Finance Director Tracey Celentano, and Treasurer James Francis. Town Clerk, Joel Marzi, read the call of the meeting. There were approximately eleven (11) people in attendance along with two (2) viewers on zoom meeting.

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 2020-2021 Annual Town Report.

**Second: Stacia Libby**                      **ALL IN FAVOR**

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

**Second: Ethan Goller**                      **ALL IN FAVOR**

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Terry Stewart** as a regular member to the Harbor Management Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2021 to December 1, 2024.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **John Senning** as a regular member to the Harbor Management Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2021 to December 1, 2024.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Carolyn Field** as an alternate member to the Park and Recreation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2021 to December 1, 2024

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Barbara Sarrantonio** as a regular member to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Term to run from December 1, 2021 to December 1, 2024.

# TOWN MEETING MINUTES

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Philip Beckman** as a regular member to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Term to run from December 1, 2021 to December 1, 2024.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Richard Rybak** as an alternate member to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Term to run from December 1, 2021 to December 1, 2024.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Robert L. Day III** as a regular member to the Planning & Zoning Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2021 to December 1, 2024.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **Richard Helmecki** as a regular member to the Conservation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2021 to December 1, 2024.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **Kathleen Tucker** as a regular member to the Conservation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2021 to December 1, 2024.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **Peter Decker** as a regular member to the Economic Development Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2021 to December 1, 2023.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **James H. Vineburgh** as a regular member to the Economic Development Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2021 to December 1, 2023.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **Michael Furgueson** as a regular member to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2021 to December 1, 2024.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **David Kirsch** as an alternate member to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2021 to December 1, 2024.

**Second: Norman Needleman ALL IN FAVOR**

Upon the motion of **Ethan Goller**, seconded by **Jim Francis**, meeting adjourned at 7:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Joel Marzi  
Town Clerk

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

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:46 PM. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance via Zoom. Finance Director Tracey Celentano was also in attendance. Kelley Sterner was elected Moderator. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately twenty two (22) people in attendance both in person and via Zoom.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectman of Chris Riley as a regular member to the Essex Planning and Zoning Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December 2024.

**SECONDED: Bruce Glowac**  
**Yea 18 Nay 0**

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount of \$39,820 to be allocated from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for Tri Town Youth Services, a local non-profit organization, as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance. Said funds to be used to fund a per diem clinician to expand and support youth mental health services during COVID. Funding is contingent on the full participation of the Towns of Deep River and Chester.

**SECONDED: Norman Needleman**  
**Yea 17 Nay 0**

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$775,000 to be allocated from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the purchase of a Heavy Rescue vehicle by Essex Fire Engine Co. No. 1, as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance. Vehicle design specifications support the safety protocol of the Town's first responders during COVID. If ARPA

# TOWN MEETING MINUTES

funds are subsequently deemed ineligible, an appropriation from the Fire Department sinking fund in the same amount will be utilized.

**SECONDED: Joshua Painter**  
**Yea 18 Nay 0**

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$85,000 to be allocated from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the purchase of a vehicle for the Essex Fire Marshall as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance. The Fire Marshall provides critical emergency response which has expanded significantly during COVID. If ARPA funds are subsequently deemed ineligible, a special appropriation to the fiscal year 2021-2022 budget in the same amount will be used to provide funding.

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

**MOTION TO CLOSE: Norman Needleman**  
**SECONDED: Paul Fazzino Jr.**

**All in favor**

Meeting adjourned at 4:52 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Marzi  
Town Clerk

Town of Essex  
Special Town Meeting  
February 16, 2022,  
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 6:55 PM. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance, the latter via Zoom. Finance Director Tracey Celentano was also in attendance. Kelley Sterner was elected Moderator. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately nine (9) people in attendance both in person and via Zoom.

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

**SECONDED: Jim Francis**  
**Yea 7 Nay 0**

**MOTION TO CLOSE: Jim Francis**  
**SECONDED: Stacia Libby**

**All in favor**

Meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Marzi  
Town Clerk

Town of Essex  
Special Town Meeting  
March 9, 2022  
Town Hall Auditorium

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:45 PM. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance via Zoom. Kelly Sterner was elected Moderator. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately thirty-seven (37) people in attendance both in person and via Zoom.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectman of Mary Ellen Barnes as a regular member to the Essex Economic Development Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December 2022.

**SECONDED: Stacia Libby**  
**All in Favor Nay 0**

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectman of Carolyn Field as a regular member to the Essex Park and Recreation Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December 2022.

**SECONDED: Bruce Glowac**  
**All in Favor Nay 0**

RESOLVED: To consent and approve the irrevocable acceptance of the ARPA funds in the amount of \$1,973,399 as revenue loss utilizing the standard allowance provision as permitted by the US Treasury under the Final Rule. Such funds would be used to pay for general government services during the period of performance which must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and expended by December

# TOWN MEETING MINUTES

**SECONDED:** Norman Needleman  
**All in Favor** Nay 0

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

**All in favor**

Meeting adjourned at 4:51 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Marzi  
Town Clerk

Town of Essex  
Special Town Meeting  
April 20, 2022  
Meeting Room A

Selectman Bruce Glowac called the Town Meeting to order at 6:55 PM. Selectmen Libby and First Selectman Needleman were not in attendance. Finance Director Tracey Celentano was also in attendance via Zoom. Kelley Sterner was elected Moderator. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately five (5) people in attendance both in person and via Zoom.

**RESOLVED:** To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$48,900 from the School Capital Sinking Fund for capital projects at the Essex Elementary School as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

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

**MOTION TO CLOSE:** Bruce Glowac  
**SECONDED:** Lon Seidman

**All in favor**

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Marzi  
Town Clerk

Town of Essex  
Annual Budget Town Meeting  
May 9, 2022

First Selectman, Norman Needleman, called the Town Meeting to order at 7:33 PM. Terry Stewart was elected Moderator. Selectmen Norman Needleman, Stacia Libby and Bruce Glowac were in attendance as well as Treasurer Tracey Celentano, Director of Finance. Town Clerk Joel Marzi read the call of the meeting. There were approximately twenty three (23) people in attendance in person and via Zoom.

The following Resolution was Read, Seconded and VOTED:

**RESOLVED:** To make the necessary appropriations as prepared and recommended by the Board of Finance for the support of schools, highways and the general government and other necessary objects in an amount of \$26,042,584.

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

**SECONDED:** Bruce Glowac  
**Yea** 18 **Nay** 0

The following Resolution was Read, Seconded and VOTED:

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

- a. All Motor Vehicle tax bills will be due and payable in full on July 1, 2022.
- b. All real estate and personal property tax bills \$100.00 or less will be due and payable in full on July 1, 2022.
- c. Real Estate and personal property tax bills over \$100.00 may be paid in two installments with one half due on July 1, 2022 and one half due on January 1, 2023.

**SECONDED:** Norman Needleman  
**Yea** 18 **Nay** 0

# TOWN MEETING MINUTES

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Stacia Libby  
**SECONDED:** Norman Needleman  
**All in Favor**

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Marzi  
Town Clerk

Town of Essex  
Special Town Meeting  
May 18, 2022  
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 6:56 PM. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were also in attendance. Kelly Sterner was elected Moderator. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately eleven (11) people in attendance both in person and via Zoom.

**RESOLVED:** To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$35,000 to be allocated from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for the upgrades to the Town Hall Meeting Rooms A and B to include furniture, audio, and video equipment.

**SECONDED:** Bruce Glowac  
**Aye** 8      **Nay** 0

**MOTION TO CLOSE:** Bruce Glowac  
**SECONDED:** Norman Needleman

**All in favor**

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Marzi  
Town Clerk

Town of Essex  
Special Town Meeting  
June 1, 2022  
Meeting Room A

Selectman Stacia Libby called the Town Meeting to order at 4:58 PM. Selectman Bruce Glowac was also in attendance. Kelly Sterner was elected Moderator. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately twelve (12) people in attendance both in person and via Zoom.

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

**SECONDED:** Bruce Glowac  
**All in Favor**      **Nay** 0

**RESOLVED:** To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Carolyn Field as an alternate member to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December 2024.

**SECONDED:** Bruce Glowac  
**All in Favor**      **Nay** 0

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

**SECONDED:** Stacia Libby  
**All in Favor**      **Nay** 0

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

**All in favor**

Meeting adjourned at 5:01 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Marzi  
Town Clerk

# SECTION V - Financial Information

## Town of Essex 2021-2022 Annual Report

### Finance Report

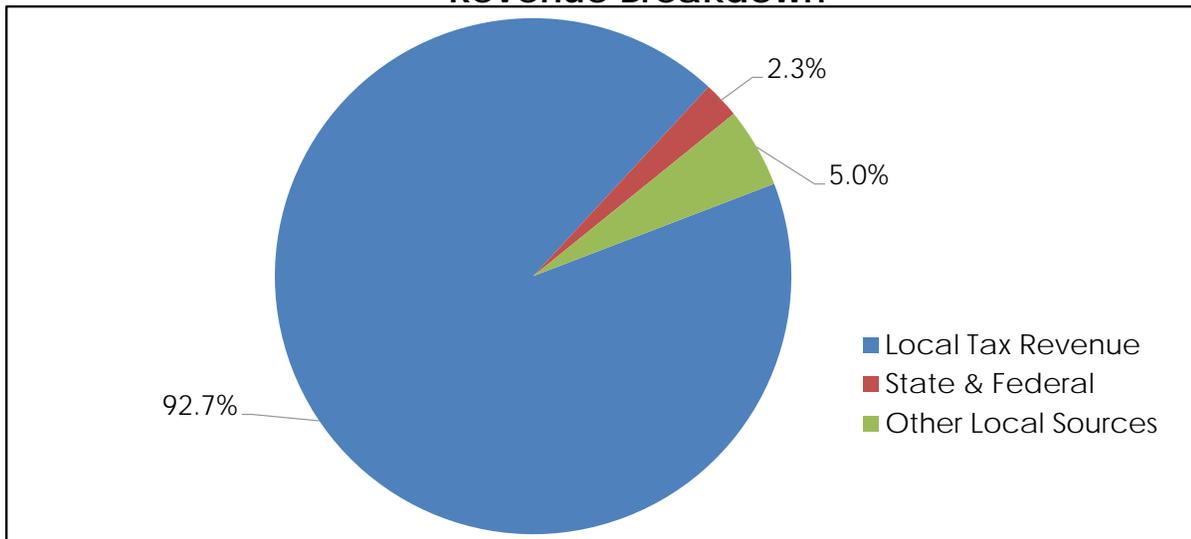
#### Historical Data - Revenue

*(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			
2022-23*	1,104,755,939	2.01	24,742,585	0.75	100.00	22.65	452,676	617,200	25,812,461
2021-22	1,083,003,798	0.99	24,557,742	4.20	99.53	22.43	604,591	1,324,175	26,486,508
2020-21	1,072,369,339	0.91	23,567,069	1.44	99.06	21.81	568,372	1,233,309	25,368,750
2019-20	1,062,738,700	1.05	23,232,129	0.28	99.00	21.65	452,638	925,276	24,610,043
2018-19	1,051,675,920	0.67	23,168,279	(0.05)	98.90	21.85	449,653	965,451	24,583,383
2017-18	1,044,700,428	0.41	23,179,381	3.02	99.05	21.96	468,951	988,362	24,636,694
2016-17	1,040,470,701	0.35	22,498,997	2.15	98.89	21.58	560,049	818,718	23,877,764
2015-16	1,036,820,170	0.51	22,025,102	1.36	99.05	21.08	714,155	689,425	23,428,682
2014-15	1,031,550,311	(7.93)	21,730,417	1.89	99.04	20.99	792,404	688,487	23,211,308
2013-14	1,120,431,426	0.02	21,326,486	2.72	98.69	18.99	827,756	747,553	22,901,795
2012-13	1,120,189,036	0.33	20,761,480	3.05	98.97	18.47	894,632	785,568	22,441,680
2011-12	1,116,538,776	0.57	20,147,562	2.35	99.02	17.98	741,531	581,334	21,470,427
2010-11	1,110,265,319	(0.31)	19,684,655	4.10	99.16	17.63	802,863	503,727	20,991,245
2009-10	1,113,762,454	8.16	18,908,813	4.50	98.80	16.95	897,178	542,978	20,348,969
2008-09	1,029,770,435	1.41	18,093,950	4.96	98.72	17.60	1,127,338	743,094	19,964,382
2007-08	1,015,492,968	1.67	17,239,184	11.44	98.91	16.90	919,922	1,277,775	19,436,881

\* Budgeted figures

**FY 2021-2022  
Revenue Breakdown**



# Town of Essex 2021-2022 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		
2022-23*	7,872,875	(3.97)	1,203,747	8,144,643	8,821,319	16,965,962	1.38	26,042,584	(0.55)
2021-22†	8,198,534	4.67	1,253,663	7,775,659	8,959,784	16,735,443	5.29	26,187,640	4.83
2020-21†	7,832,830	3.19	1,253,878	7,582,124	8,312,696	15,894,820	2.50	24,981,528	2.76
2019-20†	7,590,655	1.09	1,211,612	7,173,247	8,334,539	15,507,786	(2.16)	24,310,053	(0.45)
2018-19†	7,508,460	3.22	1,060,151	7,200,903	8,650,035	15,850,938	(1.86)	24,419,549	(0.17)
2017-18†	7,274,090	7.13	1,036,483	7,430,471	8,721,064	16,151,535	1.21	24,462,108	3.14
2016-17†	6,790,149	1.66	968,896	7,503,288	8,454,525	15,957,813	1.12	23,716,858	1.49
2015-16	6,679,061	3.50	908,881	7,588,815	8,192,147	15,780,962	0.41	23,368,904	1.50
2014-15†	6,453,373	2.61	854,369	7,603,406	8,112,489	15,715,895	0.53	23,023,637	1.22
2013-14†	6,289,526	2.13	824,579	7,551,034	8,081,772	15,632,806	2.60	22,746,911	2.17
2012-13†	6,158,576	4.25	869,741	7,534,205	7,701,887	15,236,092	2.91	22,264,409	3.04
2011-12	5,907,651	7.14	895,238	7,400,069	7,405,135	14,805,204	3.91	21,608,093	4.49
2010-11	5,513,713	(1.36)	917,916	7,109,503	7,138,437	14,247,940	2.09	20,679,569	2.13
2009-10	5,589,745	(6.56)	701,808	7,074,443	6,882,305	13,956,748	3.32	20,248,301	0.21
2008-09†	5,981,962	8.42	716,198	6,783,586	6,724,040	13,507,626	5.92	20,205,786	6.25

\* - Budgeted figures

† - Includes STEAP Grants &/or Special Appropriations

### Pension Trust Funds

#### Town Employees, Volunteer Fire Department & Police Department

	Defined Benefits Retirement Plan for Town Employees/ Plan for Police	Merit Service Retirement Plan for Volunteer Fire Responders
<b>Fund Balance at Beginning of Fiscal Year</b> (market value)	\$ 7,133,369	\$ 1,510,574
<b>Contributions:</b>		
From General Fund and Members	453,804	60,120
<b>Income:</b>		
Net Investment Income/(Loss)	221,367	45,534
Investments Market Value - Gain/(Loss)	(1,241,953)	(253,928)
<b>Total Beginning Balance, Contributions &amp; Income</b>	\$ 6,566,587	\$ 1,362,300
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Retirement Benefits Paid	431,981	106,517
Administration	30,184	7,727
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	462,165	114,244
<b>Fund Balance at End of Fiscal Year</b> (market value)	\$ 6,104,422	\$ 1,248,057

# Town of Essex 2021-2022 Annual Report

## Finance Report

### Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Revenues

REVENUE SOURCE	FY 2020-2021 Actual	Fiscal Year 2021-2022			FY 2022-2023 Budget
		Budget	Actual	Variance	
<b>TAX COLLECTION</b>					
Property Taxes	\$ 23,469,404	\$24,201,775	\$24,428,115	\$ 226,340	\$ 24,692,585
Interest and Lien Fees	97,665	50,000	129,627	79,627	50,000
<b>Total Tax Collection</b>	<b>23,567,069</b>	<b>24,251,775</b>	<b>24,557,742</b>	<b>305,967</b>	<b>24,742,585</b>
<b>STATE &amp; FEDERAL</b>					
Veterans' Tax Relief	3,370	3,962	2,426	(1,536)	3,962
Education Cost Sharing Grant	105,087	103,926	120,341	16,415	103,926
Town Aid Road Grant	215,735	215,735	215,815	80	215,735
LOCIP	40,921	40,765	40,852	87	40,765
PILOT Grant	10,393	10,393	13,150	2,757	10,393
Municipal Revenue Sharing	74,547	105,617	79,220	(26,397)	74,547
Misc. State and Federal	118,319	3,348	132,788	129,440	3,348
<b>Total State &amp; Federal</b>	<b>568,372</b>	<b>483,746</b>	<b>604,591</b>	<b>120,845</b>	<b>452,676</b>
<b>LOCAL REVENUES</b>					
Interest Income	4,005	25,000	3,422	(21,578)	15,000
Miscellaneous Permits	6,757	3,500	3,254	(246)	3,500
Phone "Access Line" Tax Share	20,650	20,000	17,459	(2,541)	20,000
Transfer Station Fees	77,507	80,000	81,635	1,635	80,000
Building Permit Fees	201,676	125,000	192,101	67,101	125,000
Circuit Court Fines	790	4,000	1,165	(2,835)	4,000
Planning & Zoning Permits	13,502	9,600	5,164	(4,436)	9,600
Zoning Board of Appeals	4,300	2,160	898	(1,262)	2,160
Conveyance Tax	333,607	110,000	313,866	203,866	110,000
Park and Recreation	0	2,000	0	(2,000)	2,000
Miscellaneous Receipts	264,144	25,000	454,372	429,372	25,000
Town Clerk Fees	218,933	115,000	170,239	55,239	115,000
Inland Wetlands Permits	3,000	1,440	2,332	892	1,440
Regional Recycling Fees	49,722	62,000	49,258	(12,742)	62,000
Health Department Fees	13,645	7,500	13,155	5,655	7,500
Local PILOT	21,071	35,000	15,857	(19,143)	35,000
<b>Total Local Revenues</b>	<b>1,233,309</b>	<b>627,200</b>	<b>1,324,175</b>	<b>696,975</b>	<b>617,200</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE ALL SOURCES</b>	<b>\$ 25,368,750</b>	<b>\$ 25,362,721</b>	<b>\$ 26,486,509</b>	<b>\$ 1,123,788</b>	<b>\$ 25,812,461</b>

# Town of Essex 2021-2022 Annual Report

## Finance Report

### Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Expenditures

DESCRIPTION	FY 2020-2021	Fiscal Year 2021-2022			FY 2022-2023
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>					
Selectmen	\$ 175,310	\$ 259,862	\$ 207,813	\$ (52,049)	\$ 264,693
Assessor	125,123	127,155	125,687	(1,468)	134,006
Central Services	207,846	229,223	204,779	(24,444)	234,575
Elections	52,640	48,065	37,393	(10,672)	48,560
Probate Court	3,166	3,460	3,166	(295)	3,460
Tax Collector	123,817	131,856	131,856	(0)	133,394
Town Clerk	253,440	228,151	228,151	(0)	186,039
Finance	205,626	229,323	227,715	(1,608)	240,214
Fringe Benefits	1,139,361	1,191,419	1,154,037	(37,382)	1,184,720
General Insurance	165,746	196,650	178,195	(18,455)	200,900
Legal Services	77,943	69,500	52,190	(17,310)	66,000
Public Restroom Facilities	13,050	14,250	13,564	(686)	14,250
Technology	239,450	253,072	253,072	(0)	265,876
Board of Assessment Appeals	586	1,330	597	(733)	1,330
Board of Finance	31,027	36,047	31,916	(4,131)	112,660
Conservation Commission	11,207	13,830	13,830	(0)	12,125
Economic Development Comm.	7,266	1,850	576	(1,274)	1,850
IWWC Commission	21,308	2,018	2,018	0	1,590
Land Use Administrative	228,417	287,233	280,313	(6,920)	303,663
Park & Recreation	195,504	189,430	181,596	(7,834)	206,336
Park & Recreation Comm.	450	1,100	619	(481)	1,100
Tree Committee	7,278	7,000	7,000	-	7,000
Zoning Board of Appeals	6,993	5,450	3,967	(1,483)	3,200
Planning & Zoning Commission	80,091	1,350	-	(1,350)	1,350
<b>Total General Government</b>	<b>3,372,644</b>	<b>3,528,624</b>	<b>3,340,050</b>	<b>(188,574)</b>	<b>3,628,891</b>
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>					
Ambulance Association	14,269	31,700	31,668	(32)	37,200
Animal Control	10,000	12,500	12,500	-	15,000
Building Department	79,334	83,874	83,874	0	83,996
Emergency Management	10,673	19,700	11,648	(8,052)	19,700
Emergency 911	123,567	123,706	123,706	(0)	128,011
Fire Department	371,518	384,938	379,989	(4,949)	394,885
Fire Marshal	50,987	52,402	52,402	(1)	54,012
Harbor Patrol	36,982	36,335	36,335	(0)	32,300
Police Services	449,029	509,398	509,398	0	497,277
Resident State Trooper	171,960	176,553	176,553	(0)	186,129
Water	180,950	190,000	186,646	(3,354)	194,636
<b>Total Public Safety</b>	<b>1,499,269</b>	<b>1,621,106</b>	<b>1,604,719</b>	<b>(16,387)</b>	<b>1,643,146</b>

continued on next page

# Town of Essex 2021-2022 Annual Report Finance Report

## Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Expenditures *(continued)*

DESCRIPTION	FY 2020-2021 Actual	Fiscal Year 2021-2022			FY 2022-2023 Budget
		Budget	Actual	Variance	
<b>HEALTH AND WELFARE</b>					
Estuary Transit	\$ 20,415	\$ 20,825	\$ 20,825	\$ -	\$ 21,245
Health Department	179,661	160,057	146,771	(13,286)	188,040
Transfer Station	254,277	257,567	257,567	0	265,972
Social Services	114,760	101,949	93,238	(8,711)	95,498
Visiting Nurses	70,218	68,546	66,874	(1,672)	68,546
Total Health and Welfare	639,331	608,944	585,275	(23,669)	639,301
<b>LIBRARIES</b>	423,776	432,252	432,198	(54)	443,059
<b>HIGHWAYS &amp; TRANSPORTATION</b>	921,066	1,001,990	1,001,990	(0)	963,478
<b>DEBT SERVICE</b>					
Principal Payments	985,000	1,015,000	1,015,000	-	963,968
Interest and Finance Charges	268,878	238,663	238,663	0	239,779
Total Debt Service	1,253,878	1,253,663	1,253,663	0	1,203,747
<b>CAPITAL AND SINKING FUNDS</b>	976,743	1,247,900	1,234,302	(13,598)	555,000
<b>TOTAL BOARD OF SELECTMEN</b>	9,086,708	9,694,479	9,452,197	(242,282)	9,076,622
<b>EDUCATION</b>					
Elementary School	5,320,331	5,614,415	5,528,667	(85,748)	5,760,828
Reg. School Operating	7,700,916	8,339,652	8,338,980	(672)	8,490,890
Reg. Supervision District	2,261,793	2,246,992	2,246,992	(0)	2,383,815
Reg. Bond & Interest	611,780	620,854	620,804	(50)	330,429
Total Education	15,894,820	16,821,913	16,735,443	(86,470)	16,965,962
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	\$ 24,981,528	\$ 26,516,392	\$ 26,187,640	\$ (328,752)	\$ 26,042,584

## Fiscal Year End Revenue Excess/(Deficit)

DESCRIPTION	FY 2020-2021 Actual	Fiscal Year 2021-2022			FY 2022-2023 Budget
		Budget	Actual	Variance	
Total Revenue	\$ 25,368,750	\$ 25,362,721	\$ 26,486,508	\$ 1,123,787	\$ 25,812,461
Total Expenditures	24,981,528	26,516,392	26,187,640	\$ (328,752)	26,042,584
Excess (Deficit) of Revenues over Expenditures	\$ 387,223	\$ (1,153,671)	\$ 298,868	\$ 1,452,539	\$ (230,123)

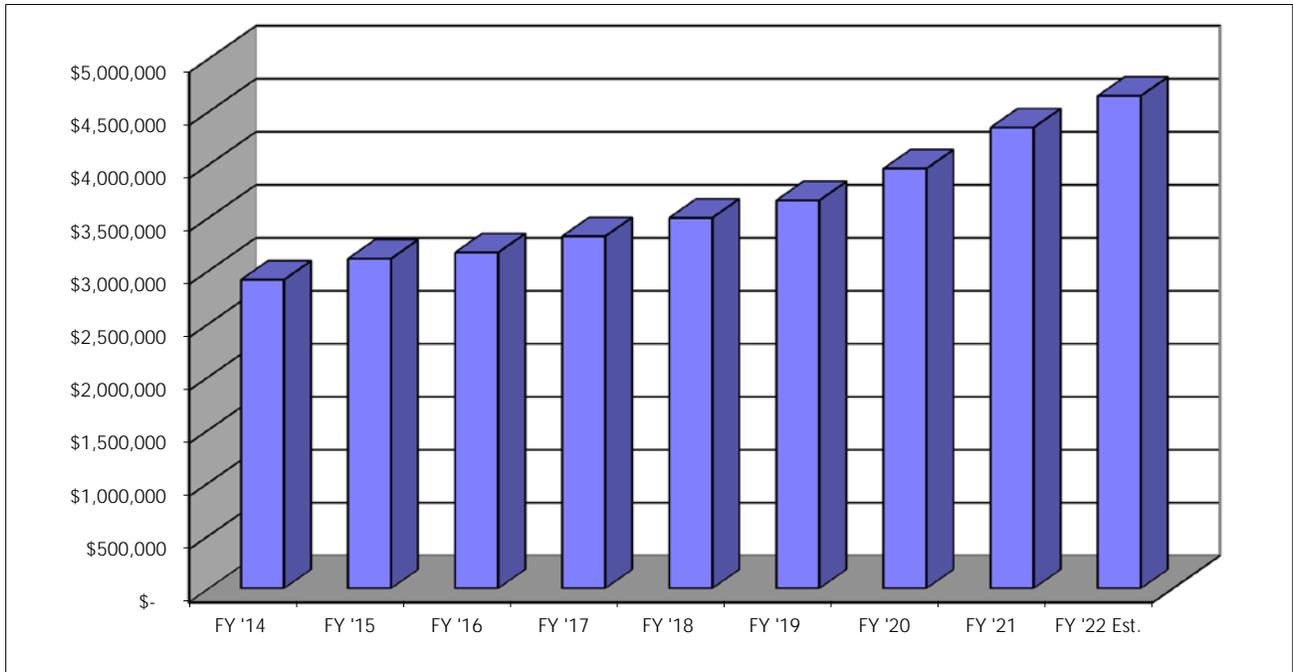
# Town of Essex 2021-2022 Annual Report

## Finance Report

### Capital Project Sinking Fund Balances

Fund Name	Beginning Balance at 7/1/2021	From General Fund	Interest Rec'd. /Other	Expenditures	Ending Balance at 6/30/2021
Fire Department	\$ 1,031,192	\$ 195,000	\$ 454	\$ 3,225	\$ 1,223,421
Trucks & Equip.	2,911	100,000	1		102,912
Police Vehicles	87,137	15,000	38	-	102,175
Assessor Revaluation	123,186	15,000	-		138,186
Wastewater Study	130,581	-	51		130,631
Harbor Patrol Boat	60,158	5,000	25		65,183
Park & Recreation	200,769	15,000	70	46,480	169,359
Municipal Property	215,525	20,000	89		235,614
Open Space	165,180	15,000	68		180,248
EES Capital Improv. Technology	255,296	60,000	104	70,245	245,155
Harbor Management	52,317	7,500	-		59,817
Infrastructure/Bridges	197,052	20,000	82		217,134
Ambulance Assoc.	73,388	15,000	33		88,421
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 2,594,692</b>	<b>\$ 517,500</b>	<b>\$ 1,024</b>	<b>\$ 119,949</b>	<b>\$ 2,993,267</b>

### Unassigned Fund Ending Balance by Fiscal Year



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

\*Total includes Magnet school and out of district placements

### Regional School District #4 Budget History

	Budgeted 2018-2019	Budgeted 2019-2020	Budgeted 2020-2021	Adopted 2021-2022	Adopted 2022-2023
Region. School District 4 Expenses	\$ 16,597,818	\$ 17,102,304	\$ 17,349,183	\$18,130,600	\$18,461,588
Supervision District Expenses	<u>1,771,488</u>	<u>2,002,146</u>	<u>2,275,358</u>	<u>2,307,272</u>	<u>2,429,851</u>
Total Operating Expenses	18,369,306	19,104,450	19,624,541	20,437,872	20,891,439
Revenue	249,487	249,487	249,487	285,681	493,499
Debt Service	<u>1,683,375</u>	<u>1,468,225</u>	<u>1,539,200</u>	<u>1,500,250</u>	<u>793,800</u>
Total Billings - Region-wide	19,803,194	20,323,188	20,914,254	21,652,441	21,191,740
Total Billings-Essex Share	8,650,035	8,334,539	8,312,693	8,960,506	8,821,319
Increase from Prior Year (\$) - Region	240,466	519,994	591,066	738,187	(460,701)
Increase from Prior Year (\$) - Essex	(71,029)	(315,496)	(21,846)	647,813	(139,187)
Increase from Prior Year (%) - Region	1.23%	2.63%	2.91%	3.53%	-2.13%
Increase from Prior Year (%) - Essex	-0.81%	-3.65%	-0.26%	7.79%	-1.55%
Number of Students	946	929	868	811	745
Total Operating Exp / Student**	\$ 19,418	\$ 20,565	\$ 22,609	\$ 25,201	\$ 28,042

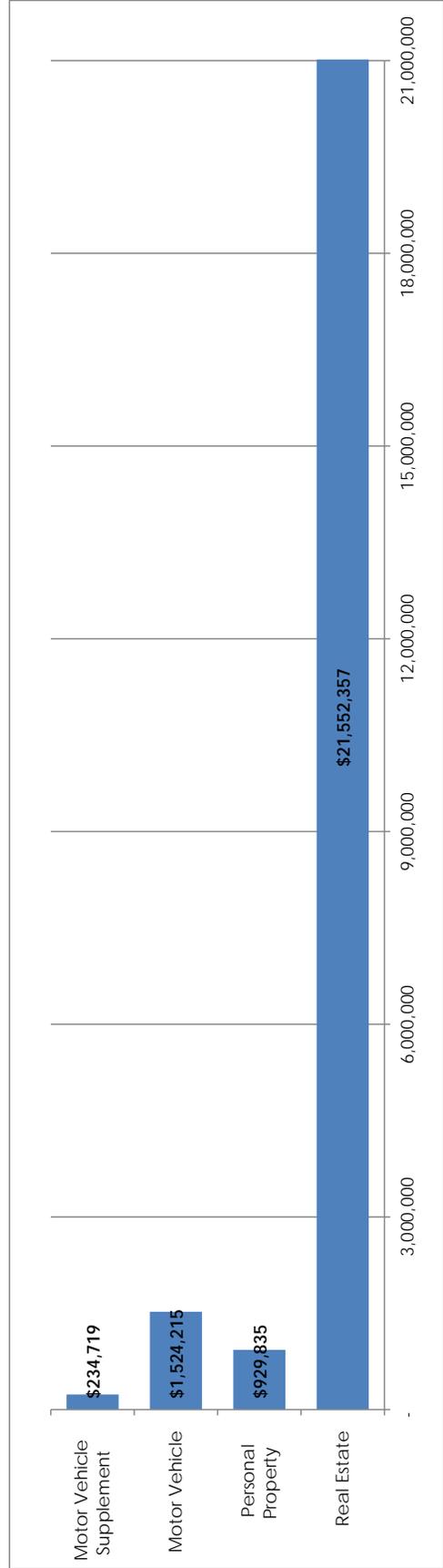
\*\*This number does not represent the Net Current Expenses per Pupil (NCEP) reported by the CT Department of Education which excludes Special Education and other costs

# Town of Essex 2021-2022 Annual Report Tax Collector's Report

## Schedule of Property Taxes by Grand List Year June 30, 2022

GRAND LIST YEAR	UNCOLLECTED TAXES 6/30/2020	CURRENT YEAR LEVY	Lawful Additions	Corrections	Transfers To Suspense	Balance To Be Collected	COLLECTIONS		LIEN FEES	TOTAL	UNCOLLECTED TAXES 6/30/2021
							TAXES	INTEREST			
2020	-	24,439,429	10,440	38,571	-	24,411,298	24,241,125	54,457	96	24,295,680	170,173
2019	221,822	-	4,695	1,399	-	225,118	125,285	25,566	432	151,283	99,833
2018	122,998	-	-	927	28,604	93,468	55,105	18,427	264	73,796	38,362
2017	53,868	-	-	-	-	53,868	16,229	8,820	120	25,170	37,639
2016	43,121	-	-	-	-	43,121	7,745	7,048	120	14,914	35,375
2015	33,352	-	-	-	-	33,352	13,048	9,503	120	22,671	20,304
2014	15,135	-	-	-	-	15,135	4,969	8,080	48	13,096	10,167
2013	13,259	-	-	-	-	13,259	9,661	4,660	72	14,393	3,598
2012	4,219	-	-	-	-	4,219	-	-	-	-	4,219
2011	5,286	-	-	-	-	5,286	-	-	-	-	5,286
2010	3,357	-	-	-	-	3,357	-	-	-	-	3,357
2009	3,247	-	-	-	-	3,247	-	-	-	-	3,247
2008	4,990	-	-	-	-	4,990	-	-	-	-	4,990
2007	3,137	-	-	-	-	3,137	-	-	-	-	3,137
<b>Total</b>	<b>527,793</b>	<b>24,439,429</b>	<b>15,136</b>	<b>40,897</b>	<b>28,604</b>	<b>24,912,857</b>	<b>24,473,168</b>	<b>136,561</b>	<b>1,272</b>	<b>24,611,003</b>	<b>439,688</b>

**FY 2022 Collections for Grand List 10/1/20 by Type**



# Town of Essex 2021-2022 Annual Report

## Assessor's Report

### 2021 Grand List Annual Report

	REAL ESTATE	
	Grand List Year 2020	Grand List Year 2021
Gross	\$ 970,259,830	\$ 974,750,030
Exemptions:		
Veterans'	\$ 949,500	\$ 913,500
Veterans' Additional	90,000	90,000
Vet. Add. Reimb.*	452,250	434,250
Disability	14,000	13,000
Blind	6,000	6,000
Other	-	-
Net	\$ 968,748,080	\$ 973,293,280

	PERSONAL PROPERTY	
	Grand List Year 2020	Grand List Year 2021
Gross	\$ 63,032,150	\$ 65,158,890
Exemptions:		
Farm & Mechanics	\$ 36,351	\$ 25,120
Manufacturers*	20,479,270	22,939,550
Misc.	1	118,471
Solar Energy/Pollution Control	-	-
Net	\$ 42,516,528	\$ 42,075,749

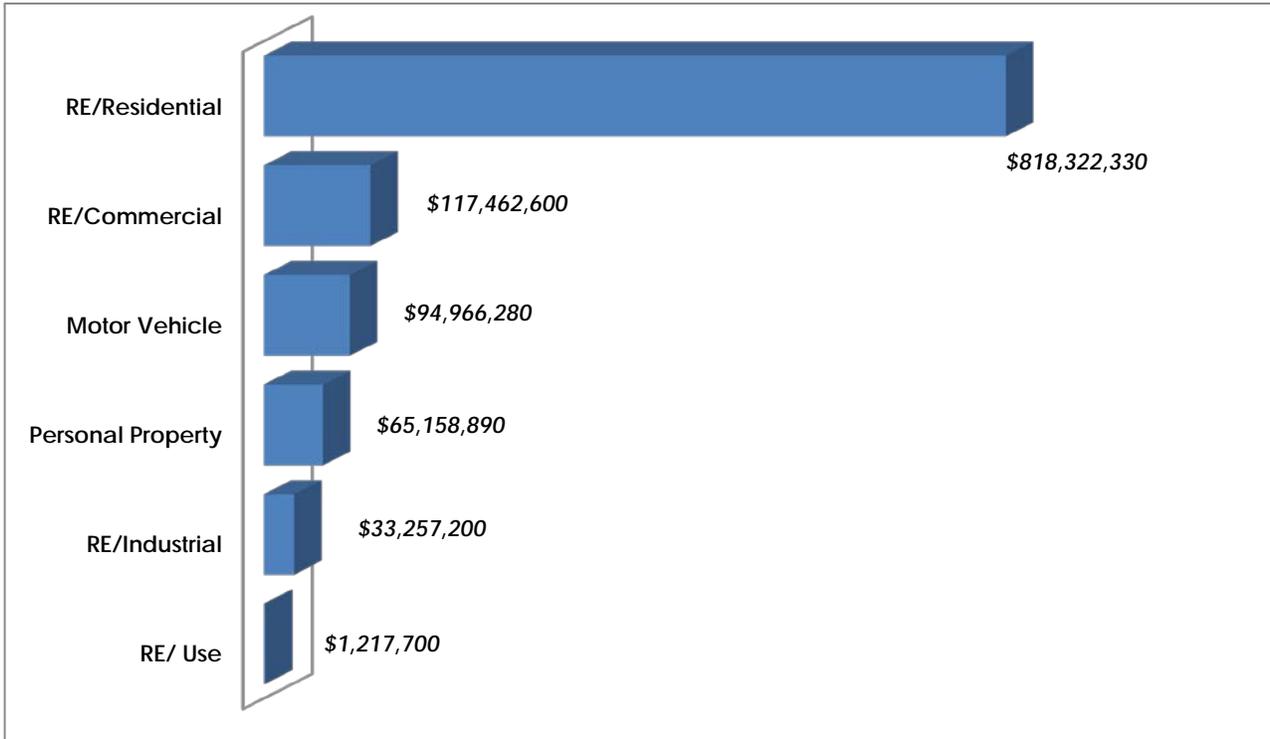
	MOTOR VEHICLES	
	Grand List Year 2020	Grand List Year 2021
Gross	\$ 76,959,090	\$ 94,966,280
Exemptions:		
Veterans'	\$ 212,650	\$ 231,120
Veterans' Additional	85,720	69,280
Disability Reimb.	1,000	1,000
Disability	21,990	19,400
Other	-	6,000
Manuf. Truck Reimb.*	4,898,540	5,252,570
Net	\$ 71,739,190	\$ 89,386,910

	TOTALS	
	Grand List Year 2020	Grand List Year 2021
Gross	\$ 1,110,251,070	\$ 1,134,875,200
Exemptions:		
Veterans'	\$ 1,162,150	\$ 1,144,620
Veterans' Additional	90,000	90,000
Vet. Add. Reimb.*	537,970	503,530
Blind	6,000	6,000
Disability	36,990	33,400
Other	36,352	149,591
Manufacturer & Truck*	25,377,810	28,192,120
Net	\$ 1,083,003,798	\$ 1,104,755,939

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

# Town of Essex 2021-2022 Annual Report Assessor's Report

## Grand List 2021 Assessment by Category



## Comparative Grand Lists - Net Taxable

Item	Grand List Year 2020	Grand List Year 2021	Increase/ (Decrease)
Real Estate	\$ 968,748,080	\$ 973,293,280	\$ 4,545,200
Personal Property	\$ 42,516,528	\$ 42,075,749	\$ (440,779)
Motor Vehicle	\$ 71,739,190	\$ 89,386,910	\$ 17,647,720
Total	\$ 1,083,003,798	\$ 1,104,755,939	\$ 21,752,141

## Tax Revenue Comparison

	Grand List Year 2020	Grand List Year 2021
Net List Real Estate/Personal Property	\$ 1,083,003,798	\$ 1,015,369,029
Mill Rate	22.43	22.65
Net List Motor Vehicle		\$ 89,386,910
Mill Rate		19.5
Grand List Tax Revenue	\$ 24,291,775	\$ 24,741,153

# Town of Essex 2021-2022 Annual Report

## Assessor's Report

### Gross Top Ten Taxpayer Accounts

#	Taxpayer	Primary Activities	10/1/2021	
			Assessed Value	# of accts
1	Essex Meadows, Inc	Health Care Living Facility	\$ 25,104,500	11
2	Conn Light & Power Co.	Public Utility	12,114,110	1
3	Lee Company	Manufacturing	7,885,940	4
4	SHM Dauntless LLC	Marina	5,296,900	7
5	Essex Savings Bank	Financial Services	4,439,840	9
6	Stephen R. Cline Successor	Real Estate Development	3,775,400	7
7	Griswold Inn LLC	Inn & Restaurant	3,552,900	3
8	Carlson Landing LLC	Real Estate Development	3,272,700	3
9	Macbeth Ventures LLC	Real Estate Development	2,779,400	2
10	Herbert T. Clark	Real Estate Development	2,777,140	18
Total			\$ 70,998,830	

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

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

# Essex Town Department Directory

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

## Selectmen's Office

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

## Animal Control Officer

Harry Plaut, x160.....hplaut@essexct.gov  
Caroline Fountain, x160.....cfountain@essexct.gov

## Assessor

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

## Building Department and Fire Marshal

David DeLeeuw—Building Official, x117.....ddeeuw@essexct.gov  
John Planas—Fire Marshal, x146.....jplanas@essexct.gov

## Finance and Treasurer

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

## Health Department

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

## Land Use—Administrative

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

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

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

## Park and Recreation

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

## Public Works—860-767-0715

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

## Registrars of Voters

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

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

Mark Roberts—Resident State Trooper, x130.....mroberts@essexct.gov  
James Paul Kenefick—Corporal.....jkenefick@essexct.gov  
Todd Belcourt—Corporal.....tbelcourt@essexct.gov  
Christopher McCarthy—Officer.....cmccarthy@essexct.gov  
Karen Reilly—Officer.....krellly@essexct.gov  
Robert Hart—Officer.....rhart@essexct.gov  
Judson Howes - Officer.....jhowes@essexct.gov  
Chuck Burns - Officer.....cburns@essexct.gov

## Social Services

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

## Tax Collector

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

## Town Clerk

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

## Town Hall Operations

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

## Tree Warden—860-388-7209

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

## Zoning Enforcement

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

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

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

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

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

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