

# ANNUAL REPORT

TOWN OF  
WASHINGTON  
CONNECTICUT

2019-2020



## DEDICATED TO MARK LYON

As we reinstitute an old tradition, we would like to take the opportunity to dedicate this year's Annual Report to Mark Lyon. Mark led a life of service to the Town of Washington and its residents. Born and raised in town, Mark went through local schools and was in the first graduating class of Shepaug Valley High School.

Mark served for more than forty years in the Washington Volunteer Fire Department as a firefighter, line officer and chief. In addition to his volunteer work in emergency services, Mark dedicated countless hours to Washington as a member of the Board of Finance. He went on to be elected to the Board of Selectmen and eventually served twelve years as First Selectman. Mark's dedication to the town and its residents was only surpassed by his love of family and friends. For these reasons, this Annual Report is dedicated to Mark E. "Chet" Lyon.

Jim Brinton - First Selectman

Jay Hubelbank - Selectman

Dean Sarjeant - Selectman

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS

OF THE TOWN OF

WASHINGTON  
CONNECTICUT

TOGETHER WITH AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATION  
AND SCHEDULES  
FOR THE FISCAL PERIOD ENDING

**June 30, 2020**

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please visit the Town's website at [www.washingtonct.org](http://www.washingtonct.org)**

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## **TOWN CALENDAR**

**2019-2020**

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>July 1</b>           | Beginning of fiscal year. First payment of property tax due during July.                         |
| <b>August 1</b>         | Interest begins on unpaid taxes.   |
| <b>September 30</b>     | Military discharge to be recorded by new Residents.  |
| <b>Oct. 1- Nov. 1</b>   | All business personal property, excluding registered motor vehicles, to be listed with Assessor. |
| <b>October 1</b>        | Annual Town Meeting.   |
| <b>November 3</b>       | Election Day.  |
| <b>December 1</b>       | Gregory Seeley Bryan Birthday (1868)   |
| <b>January 1</b>        | Happy New Year! Second payment of property tax due during January.                               |
| <b>Feb. 1 – Oct. 1</b>  | Additional veteran's exemption applications received (income requirements).                      |
| <b>February 3</b>       | Interest begins on unpaid taxes.   |
| <b>February 20</b>      | Board of Assessment Appeals must receive written appeals for hearings scheduled during March.    |
| <b>Feb. 1 – May 15</b>  | Elderly or disabled homeowners apply for tax credit (income requirements).                       |
| <b>May 5</b>            | Annual Town Budget Hearing.  |
| <b>May 15 – Oct. 15</b> | Elderly or disabled renters apply for tax credit (income requirements).                          |
| <b>May 19</b>           | Annual Town Budget Meeting.  |
| <b>June</b>             | Dog license fees payable.  |
| <b>June 30</b>          | Fiscal year ends.  |

## **MEETINGS OF TOWN BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS\*\***

### **Board of Selectmen**

Every other Thursday 5:30 p.m.

### **Board of Finance**

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month 5:00 p.m.

### **Conservation Commission**

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month 5:00 p.m.

### **Historic District Commission**

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month 7:30 p.m.

### **Inland Wetlands Committee**

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month 7:00 p.m.

### **Parks and Recreation Commission**

1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month 7:00 p.m.

### **Planning Commission**

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month 7:30 p.m.

### **Zoning Commission**

4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month 7:30 p.m.

### **Zoning Board of Appeals**

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month 7:30 p.m.

### **Board of Education**

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month 7:30 p.m. and as posted.

\*\*Please check Town Clerk's notice board and/or the Town's website [www.washingtonct.org](http://www.washingtonct.org), for changes and special meetings.

## **TOWN OFFICE HOURS**

### **Bryan Memorial Town Hall**

Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.-4:45 p.m.

### **Land Use Office**

Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

### **Building Official**

Monday through Thursday 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

### **Sanitarian**

Monday and Wednesday 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

### **Senior Center**

Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.

### **Agent for the Elderly**

Tuesday at the Senior Center – appointments are suggested

**TOWN OFFICERS AND OTHERS  
SERVING IN A FIDUCIARY CAPACITY**  
As of July 1, 2020

**Animal Control**

**(Appointed)**

Cynthia F. Brissett

**Board of Assement Appeals**

(elected 4-year term)

Reginald K Templeton

Richard O. Carey

Kevin Comer

**Assessor**

(appointed 4-year term)

Daniel Kenny

Sandra G Deacon, Assistant

**Auditor**

Charles P. Heaven & Company

**Building Official**

William T.P. Jenks

**Building & Property Commission**

(appointed 3-year term)

Nicholas N Solley

Robert Papsin

Joseph Fredlund

**Conservation Commission**

(appointed 3-year term)

Susan F. Payne, Chairman

Susan Branson

Tyler O' Hazo

Lisa M Frank

Diane M Dupis

Christian Macdonald

Ryan Conroy, alt

Catherine Rawson

**Economic Development Committee**

Michelle Gorra

Daniel Sherr

Tony Bedini

Wayne Hileman

Michael Jackson

Fran Keilty

Valerie Sedelnick

Lisa Stein

Phillip Markert

Jeffrey Miller

Howard Rosenfeld

**Emergency Management**

(appointed)

Robert J. Tomlinson

**Board of Finance**

(elected 6-year term)

Michael C. Jackson

Craig G. Schoon

Sarah Cornell

Barbara Brown, alt.

Edward S. Bent

Matthew Cain

Harry Wyant, alt.

Phyllis Allen, alt.

Linda Gomez, Finance Director

**Fire Chiefs**

Darryl Wright, Chief

Craig Wilber, 1st Asst. Chief

**Fire Marshall**

(appointed)

Thomas Osborne

**Health Director**

(appointed)



Michael Crespan

**Historic District Commission**

(appointed 5-year term)

Tom Hollinger

Jane Boyer

Susan Averill

Sarah Woodrooffe

Phyllis J. Mills

Louise Van Tartwijk, alt.

**Housing Commission**

(appointed 3-year term)

Lisa Lundberg

Tammy Rill

Shane Mongar

Leslie Anderson

**Inland Wetlands Commission**

(appointed 3-year term)

Bob Papsin

Charles LaMunier

Bruce Bennett

Susan Branson

Larry Gendron, alt

Two vacancies

**Judea Cemetery Commission**

(appointed 5-year term)

Phyllis Allen

Ellen J. Condon

Cynthia Brissett

Pamela Osborne

Robert J. Tomlinson

**Justices of The Peace**

(elected)

Frank Adams

Leslie L Anderson

Matthew Cain

Mary Agnes Collins

Reginald W Fairbairn

Edith C Johnson

Joan Lodsins

Joseph A Mustich

Dwayne E Verstanding

Joshua Miles Weiner

Roderick M Wyant III

**Lake Waramug Authority**

(appointed 3-year term)

Sandra Papsin

Edwin S Mathews

Dean Sarjeant

**Land Use Coordinator**

(appointed)

Shelley White

**Municipal Agent for the Elderly**

(appointed)

Pamela Collins

**Open Burning Official**

(appointed)

Gunnar Neilson

**Parks and Recreation Commission**

(appointed 3-year term)

Christopher Kersten

Sheila M Anson

Timothy A Cook

Joseph B Fredlund

Raymond W Reich

Whitney Ryan

MaryAnne Greene

Carrie Rowe

Alice Demo

Jeff Hammond

**Poet Laureate**

(appointed)

Karen Silk

**Police**

(appointed)

Matt Costella

Patrick J Kessler

Rich Innaimo

Thomas J Accousti

**Planning Commission**

(appointed 5-year term)

Wayne Hileman

Dimitric Rimsky

Region 12 School Board

Washington Representatives:

Megan Bennett, Superintendent

Robert Weber

James Hirschfield

John Buonaiuto

Jennifer Pote

Mary Weber

Peter Tagley

Joseph Abdella III

Richard O Carey

Sarah Gager

Carole Matteo

Three Alt. Vacancies

**Region 12 School Board**

Washington Representatives:

Megan Bennett, Superintendent

Robert Weber

James Hirschfield

John Buonaiuto

Jennifer Pote

Mary Weber

Peter Tagley

Joseph Abdella III

**Registrars of Voters**

(elected 4-year term)

Lois Pinney

Denuse Arturi

**Board of Selectmen**

(elected 4-year term)

James L Brinton, First Selectman

Jay Hubelbank

Michelle Gorra

**Senior Center Director**

(appointed)

Pamela Collins

**Tax Collector**

(elected 2-year term)

Donna W Alex, Tax Collector

Margaret Freeland, Tax Assistant

**Town Clerk**

(elected 4-year term)

Shelia M Anson

**Treasurer**

(elected 2-year term)

Linda M McGarr

**Zoning Board of Appeals**

(elected 4-year term)

Peter Bowman

John Horan

Roderick Wyant III

Phillip Wildman

Dean Sarjeabt, alt.

Rebecca Rebillard, alt.

Daniel Gunnip, alt.

**Zoning Commission**

(elected 6-year term)

Nicholas N Solley, Chairman

Janet Hill

Debra Radosevich

Raymond W Reich

David Werkhoven

Edward Bent, alt.

Mike S Sivick, alt.

Susan Smith, alt.

## **VITAL STATISTICS**

|                      |
|----------------------|
| <b>Births: 19</b>    |
| <b>Marriages: 30</b> |
| <b>Deaths: 19</b>    |

## **LAND RECORDS AND MAPS, DOGS**

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Land Records Filed:  | 845 |
| Maps Filed:          | 28  |
| Dog/Kennel Licenses: | 138 |

Respectfully Submitted,

Mildred Johnson, Assistant Town Clerk

# SHEPAUG VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

## CLASS OF 2020

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Francesca Amato    | Maxwell Nast                           |
| Gabriella Amato    | Elizabeth Neunzig                      |
| Isabella Augustine | Gwenavere Noto                         |
| Erin Bailey        | Devon O' Dwyer                         |
| Amber Bennett      | Sydney Okenquist                       |
| Anna Bialack       | Nadia Ostrosky                         |
| Cameron Brown      | Reese Peck                             |
| Sarah Caprilozzi   | Edward Puskas                          |
| Oscar Cespedes     | Lucy Puskas                            |
| Noah Ciccimarro    | Dardan Racaj                           |
| Clinton Clady      | Rebecca Racz                           |
| Jared Clark        | Henry Roush                            |
| Autumn Collette    | Olivia Saraceno                        |
| Jayden Cornwall    | Lily Schur                             |
| Taryn Crossley     | Julia Sinatra                          |
| Mark Desrochers    | Skylar Soletsky                        |
| Jake Diller        | Colin Southard                         |
| Russell Dirienzo   | Nathaniel Spoviero                     |
| Drew Doerwald      | Mahelet Steinmetz                      |
| Cole Donaghey      | Robert Tanner                          |
| Nathan Douskey     | Gabriel Tatanto                        |
| Robert Dreska      | Alexis Thibodeau                       |
| Isabel Eddy        | Aaryuj Trehan                          |
| Rian               | Chloe Tuz                              |
| Theodore Eichen    | Bryan Vargas                           |
| Isabella Fazzone   | Annika Vikstrom                        |
| Marc Genua         | Gawain Woodward                        |
| Michael Granata    |  |
| Carlye Gruss       |  |
| Spencer Hauspurg   |  |
| Bailey Herron      |  |
| Tiffany Horton     | <b>Valedictorian:</b> Isabel Eddy      |
| Carter Houldin     | <b>Salutatorian:</b> Elizabeth Neunzig |
| Michael Iannucci   |  |
| Paul Jones         |  |
| Cole Kerish        |  |
| Grant Ketchum      |  |
| Gianluca LeClerc   |  |
| Alexa McCarley     |  |
| Maya Missana       |  |
| Owen Moore         |  |
| Sienna Moore       |  |

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Washington's fiscal year 2019-2020 will be remembered for a long time to come.

The first half of the year went relatively smooth with the transition to a new Board of Selectmen. Our town enjoyed a mild winter as we looked ahead to spring and all that it brings. At the end of January, we held a town wide discussion on the needs and wants for a new Senior/Community Center. In February we began the budget process with many infrastructure and road repairs planned. All seemed to be going well and then came March.

When the Pandemic hit, everyone's world seemed to turn upside down. There are too many issues to list here but it's safe to say we would be facing a "new normal" for some time to come. The pandemic had two major impacts on our town. Several of our residents tested positive for COVID and tragically we lost two of our own to the disease. Two lifelong residents who dedicated their lives to volunteering and the betterment of Washington. We also witnessed as our community came together to help each other. Truly amazing. Funds were created to help residents and businesses in need, volunteers were mobilized to see to it that all needs were met and the townspeople were extremely cooperative in following protocols to keep our community as safe as possible.

Looking towards the late spring, we reengaged work on the projects that were previously put on hold. Our Highway Department continues all of the planned road improvements, we received conceptual designs for the proposed Senior/Community Center and we added a new full time position of Economic and Community Development Coordinator. Currently we are in the middle of a redesign and rebuild of our transfer station. When completed, the transfer station will be safer, more user friendly and better for the environment.

In closing, I would like to say thank you to all. This transition year has been exciting, interesting and at times challenging but because of the people that make up the Town of Washington, it has always been an honor and a pleasure to serve.

Respectfully Submitted

James L. Brinton

First Selectman

## **ADA CO-ORDINATOR**

The ADA worked with a resident regarding a parking issue in regards to handicap parking with a local restaurant. The issue was resolved with both parties in agreement.

The coordinator has been working with the town web site tech to make sure the web site is handicap accessible and have listed the accessible locations. Arrangements have also been made with Source Interpreting in the event someone who wants to attend any town meetings etc. will have the ability to do so.

Just a friendly reminder handicap parking is available for anyone who needs it and that it is a fine if anyone has been found using said spaces and after attempts to have vehicle removed.

## **ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER/ DOG WARDON**

This department received approximately 1800 calls during the past fiscal year. The majority of calls were for roaming dogs- lost, stray, or injured. The remainder of calls were anything considered animal. Cats, farm/agriculture, wildlife, hawks, owls, snakes, etc. Cruelty/neglect concerns were up this year as well.

The majority of animals found did not have to go to the pound as they had a license and or some sort of identifying tag. Only 14 had to be impounded. All animals were either returned to their owners or new homes were found for them. All wandering farm animals were quickly rounded up and returned to their owners.

The ALL dogs must be on a leash signs posted at the Riverwalk Pavilion as well as all three of the Steep Rock properties are there for public safety. Several dog fights as well as bites to humans have taken place this past year. The ball fields as well as the playgrounds are not to be used as bathrooms for the dogs. Clean up bags as well as garbage cans are provided for public convenience. The overwhelming increase of people and their dogs at these areas make it mandatory to abide by the terms of the state laws.

The wildlife problems are many. Some issues are simply due to wildlife being visible now more than ever. Most problems are simply nuisance, not serious. Any creature that is considered wildlife has made itself known this year. We have to be aware of our surroundings and use caution. We can live peacefully together. Since rabies, distemper, mange etc., are brought in by wildlife, please make sure your pets have the proper vaccines.

Licenses are renewable every June. You must bring in a current certificate of rabies vaccination or have your veterinarian provide one in order to purchase the license. A license is an excellent form of ID and can have your dog returned home quickly if lost. They may be purchased from the Town Clerk.

The world is a different place now. Covid 19 or however one refers to it has changed all of our lives, including the animals. We need to watch out for each other. Stay safe, stay well.

Respectfully submitted,

Cyndy Brissett

**ASAP!**  
**(After School Arts Program, Inc.)**

The mission of ASAP! is to foster creative hand-on learning through the arts: ASAP!. Originally founded in 1999 and based in Washington, CT since 2005, ASAP! serves an audience of nearly 10,000 throughout Connecticut each year and promotes equality, diversity and inclusion in all of its programs. It is ASAP!'s vision that when we honor children's imaginations, invite them to create, encourage them to take risks, and trust their resourcefulness, they will become the empowered, resilient, and compassionate adults the world really needs.

In the 2019-2020 ASAP!'s programs were impacted by Covid-19 and several projected programs were canceled, postponed or moved to a virtual environment. However, despite Covid-19, ASAP! was able to run its programming as planned from July 1, 2019 through early March 2020. Here are several highlights regarding our interaction with the Washington community specifically.

- ASAP! had 96 registrations from Washington families for us in-school programming during the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year.
- ASAP! had 75 registrations from Washington families for our workshops and Summer Camp during the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year
- On average, Washington families receive \$4,257 per year in financial aid and scholarships from ASAP!; over the past 5 years financial aid and scholarships have totaled \$21,286.
- On average, 13 Washington families per year receive financial help from ASAP!.
- In 2019-2020 Washington families attended ASAP! programs at a 20% discount compared to the full rate that non-Region 12 residents pay to participate.
- 137 days of programs, events and exhibitions were available to Washington Families during the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year with the majority of them held in Washington.
- ASAP! provides employment opportunities for Washington residents, including teaching artists and business owners.
- ASAP! stimulates business in Washington by holding events in town.
- ASAP! is a collaborator and works with local businesses and organizations to bring more people to Washington for special events.



o In November 2019 we had over 200 guests attend our annual Celebration of Young Photographers held at the Bryan Memorial Town Hall

- In Summer 2019 we celebrated our 20th Anniversary with nearly 500 guests at the Frederic Gunn School with host Jahana Hayes.
- CYW on August 4, 2019 we had approximately 150 people brought to Washington through this event.
- Summer Camp Festival August 9, 2019 brought 200 parents to the town of Washington

Respectfully Submitted,

Shanley Rowe

## **ASSESSOR**

The net taxable October 1, 2019 Grand List, which is the total assessed value for taxable and tax-exempt property located in the Town of Washington, increased by \$16,054,137 of assessed value from the prior net taxable October 1, 2018 Grand List.

The 2018 Town revaluation of real estate was performed by eQuality Valuation Services, and the new assessments were effective for the October 1, 2018 Grand List.

The net taxable October 1, 2018 Grand List had a net increase of \$76,267,916 as compared to the 2017 net taxable Grand List.

This October 1, 2018 valuation increase was based mostly by the cumulative impact of real estate valuation and property improvement changes since the last Town revaluation. That prior five-year Town revaluation was effective for the October 1, 2013 Grand List.

The mill rates for both the 2018 and 2019 Grand Lists were set at 14.25%.

The next Town revaluation is scheduled for the October 1, 2023 Grand List.

The Assessor's office continues to provide online access to real property assessment data via eQualitycama.com and via qPublic.net for the viewing of digitized Assessor assessment plot maps. There is also access to this data on the Assessor page, located on the Town website, at [www.washingtonct.org](http://www.washingtonct.org).

We administer tax assessment exemption programs for elderly and totally disabled programs homeowners and renters' programs and also exemptions for veterans of military service. Program application periods begin on February 1, 2021 for the October 1, 2020 Grand List

For further information, visit our website or call 860-868-0398.

Respectfully submitted: Daniel J. Kenny, CCMA

## **BOARD OF FINANCE**

Our budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year was based on our Grand List of \$1,225,840,759. Region 12's budget increased to \$22,980,890 from \$22,808,4000 the prior year. Our Town's share of the Region's net to Town increased from 46.50% to 47.82%. After grant credits from the State and reimbursements from the Region are factored in, our actual educational expense decreases by \$67,012 or -.66% to 10,073,161 from the 2019-2020 actual expense. Our Town Operating Expenditures increased to \$5,457,770 including ex-budget appropriations and before debt service, while the Town's net capital budget was \$2,800,952 which includes an appropriation of \$600,000 for road repair and reconstruction. The board has maintained the mill rate at 14.25 since the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

Last year's budget (2019-2020), and actual expenses, were based upon a Grand List which increased approximately \$66,993,463 or 5.88% to \$1,206,937,533. The Region's budget, and expenses increased to 22,808,400 or 4.57% over the prior year. Our Town's share increased to \$10,605,906 before grants and reimbursements as a result of a higher student population. After anticipated credits, our net expense increased by approximately \$461,514.

The Town's operating expense budget in 2019-2020 was \$5,258,767 before debt service, an increase of 3.87% over the prior year's budget. The Town's capital budget increased to \$2,301,500 which includes a separate appropriation of \$600,000 for road repair and reconstruction. Based on the budget for the Region and the Town, your Board maintained the mill rate at 14.25%. The Board is hopeful that future increases in the budgets will be limited.

The projected budget 2020-2021 results in a General Fund Balance of \$6,081,373 after absorbing a projected loss of \$862,934. The General Fund Balance is 3.9 months of 2020-2021 monthly expenses. The value of maintaining such reserves can be underscored by such unanticipated expenses incurred from COVID – 19 and August hurricane.

Again, this year I would like to thank the members of the Board of Finance for their dedication and participation: Craig Schoon, Barbara Brown, Sarah Cornell, Ted Bent, Phyllis Allen, Elizabeth Fenton and Harry Wright.

To better serve our taxpayers, current and past budgets and audits are on our website under the Board of Finance.

Respectfully submitted

Michael C. Jackson  
Chairman

## **BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

Fiscal Year 2019-2020 William Jenks, Building Official

### Construction Activity Report:

Fiscal Year 2019/2020

Permits Issued: **629**

Const. Value# **\$41,008,127**

New Dwellings: **5**

Fee Value: **\$382,655**

### **Construction for fiscal year 2019/2020**

Construction in Washington showed a slight decrease from the preceding year. There were several demolitions and rebuild of homes early in the fiscal year. The Building Department saw the completion of many large projects from the previous year.

### **What's upcoming for 2020-2021:**

The Building Department has been experiencing a resurgence of construction for the beginning of the 2020/2021 fiscal year with many large single-family homes being built in the upcoming year. The trends toward renovations and additions of accessory structures continue to be popular as well.

Building Department FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020

|                  | # OF PER-MITS | # OF UNITS | TOTAL COST             | TOTAL FEES          | TOTAL WAIVED      |
|------------------|---------------|------------|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| July             | 68            | 1          | \$4,170,525 .00        | \$39,085.00         | \$57.00           |
| August           | 58            | 0          | \$879,862 .00          | \$9,335 .00         | \$0.00            |
| September        | 53            | 0          | \$3,152,236.00         | \$29,475.00         | \$0.00            |
| October          | 48            | 2          | \$1,711,290.00         | \$15,383.00         | \$1,171.56        |
| November         | 52            | 0          | \$599,353 .00          | \$6,641.00          | \$0.00            |
| December         | 34            | 0.00       | \$5,363,841.00         | \$48,979.00         | \$0.00            |
| <b>SUB TOTAL</b> | <b>313</b>    | <b>3</b>   | <b>\$15,877,107.00</b> | <b>\$148,989.00</b> | <b>\$1,228.56</b> |

|                  | # OF PER-MITS | # OF UNITS | TOAL COST              | TOTAL FEES          | TOTAL WAIVED  |
|------------------|---------------|------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| January          | 58            | 0          | \$3,787,306.00         | \$35,497.00         | 0.00          |
| February         | 43            | 0          | \$3,337,858 .00        | \$30,975 .00        | 0.00          |
| March            | 47            | 0          | \$11,631,144 .00       | \$105,749.00        | 0.00          |
| April            | 52            | 0          | \$1,656,38 4.00        | \$16,091. 00        | 0.00          |
| May              | 57            | 0          | \$1,739,680 .00        | \$16,935 .00        | 0.00          |
| June             | 59            | 0          | \$2,978,648.00         | \$28,510.00         | 0.00          |
| <b>SUB TOTAL</b> | <b>316</b>    | <b>0</b>   | <b>\$25,131,020.00</b> | <b>\$233,757.00</b> | <b>\$0.00</b> |

**GRAND TOTAL:**

# Of Permits: **629**

# of Units: **3**

Total Cost: **\$41, 008,127 .00**

Total Fees: **\$382,655 .00**

Total Waived: **\$1,228.56**

**New Homes:**

| Address       | Date      | Cost        |
|---------------|-----------|-------------|
| 35 Potash     | 7/1/2019  | \$1,100,000 |
| 67 Mygatt     | 10/1/2019 | \$247,500   |
| 73 Mygatt     | 10/1/2019 | 247,500     |
| 73 Dark Entry | 5/21/2020 | \$446,500   |
| 21 Kinney     | 6/20/2020 | \$370,000   |

Demo--Not rebuilt: N/A

## **BULDINGS AND PROPERTIES COMMISSION**

This Commission was formed to ensure that all the buildings and properties owned by the Town of Washington are maintained in good condition and provides oversight on all contracted repairs, replacement and new work. It evaluates issues and handles the bids, when required, meets with the contractors and monitors the activity. It reviews the invoices and maintains a yearly budget with the help of our Financial Administrator, Linda Gomez.

The Commission is made-up of four members; first Selectman Jim Brinton, and commissioners Nick Solley, Joe Fredlund and Tony Bedini. They meet once a month on the first Wednesday of the month, if issues are pending. Usually issues are addressed as they arise and only major projects are addressed at the monthly meeting.

A variety of problems are addressed such as the complete repair of the town hall cupola; new doors, new heating/cooling system, new floor system for the personnel portion of the building at the Bee Brook Firehouse. Painting the whole interior and power washing the exterior of the Beach House. New sidewalks around the town hall, restore the south lawn and within the front circle, trim bushes and trees, restore the flagstone walk in front of town hall. New concrete floor at the Riverwalk Pavilion. Paint several offices, etc. This is but a small list of the problems addressed.

Tony Bedini

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Conservation Commission, an advisory commission, was created by Town Ordinance #7096, effective January 1, 2000. Its powers and duties are those set forth in Section 7-131a of the CT General Statutes. Per the statute: “Any town...may establish a conservation commission for the development, conservation, supervision and regulation of natural resources, including water resources, within its territorial limits.... It may make recommendations to zoning, planning and inland wetland commissions and other municipal agencies on proposed land use changes. It may, with the approval of such legislative body, acquire land and easements in the name of the municipality.”

Over the past few years the Conservation Commission has been focused on the preservation of the historic mill foundations along the East Aspetuck River below the New Preston Falls. The mills, built in the 1700 and 1800s, were powered by the 300-foot drop from Lake Warmaug. The mills produced plows, shovels, wagon wheels, cotton, grains, lumber and twine. Some of these foundations are still visible below the Falls. Look for the sign: Welcome to Historic New Preston Falls, No Access Beyond This Point, *Thank You*.

In addition, the Conservation Commission has been managing the 31-acre New Preston Open Space, the former Moore Farm off Route 202, purchased with funds from the Town's Open Space Fund in 2010. There is mowed grass parking right off Route 202 near the traffic light. The hillside is mowed and provides some beautiful uphill hiking. There is the ongoing “battle” to keep the invasive plants in check and protect the substantial watercourse.

The Conservation Commission extends its profound thanks to Dirk Sabin who “retired in 2019” for his many, many years of dedication. In 1995 Dirk initiated and led the Ad Hoc Conservation Commission which, in 2000, published the Natural Resource Inventory Report and Recommendations. We also extend our thanks to Susan Branson for her guidance in the creation of Tree Regulations and their recommendation to the Zoning Commission in 2019.

*We urge you all to be stewards of our beautiful, rural community!*

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Payne, chair; Linda Frank, vice-chair; Ryan Conroy, Diane Dupuis, Tyler O'Hazo; alternates: Christian MacDonald and Catherine Rawson.

**The Conservation Commission meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 5:15 PM**

**Visit the Conservation Commission at the town web site: [www.washingtonct.org](http://www.washingtonct.org)  
for  
detailed info on the New Preston Open Space and Falls, the Natural Resource Inventory, Invasive Plants of Washington.**

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

As required by the State, the Washington Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) was published in the Fall of 2014. Following 18 months of community conversations, the Planning Commission outlined a 10 Year Plan to continue the advance of the social and economic character of Washington.

The Washington Economic Development Committee was formed in 2015 to translate the 10 Year POCD into annual working plans. The WEDC is composed of a cross-section of community activists, including the selectmen, Town commission chairmen, the Washington Business Association and several at-large representatives.

2019 – 2020 WEDC Accomplishments:

- Advance NOW, a program to bring young working families to Washington
- Collaborate with the WBA and local real estate agents to support local merchants during
- Preliminary planning of a new Community-Senior Center
- Continue refinement/expansion of the ExploreWashingtCT.com website and social media program targeted to residents, weekenders and visitors.
- Postal delivery of the Town newsletter - What's Happening in Washington – to households in Washington
- Implement WIFI in the Depot business district
- Publish the Explore Washington Guide to Washington listing museums, points of interest, nature preserves, sports and recreation, gardens, unique shopping, restaurants, gourmets & deli. hotels and inns with a map of the Town
- Support the WBA welcome to the (Kent Chamber of Commerce sponsored) Gilmore Girls tour of Washington, the birthplace of the well-known TV series
- Recruit and implement the Washington Economic Development Coordinator

Implementation of the 2020 – 2021 WED Plan will be managed by the newly appointed Washington Economic Development Coordinator. This is a new position. It recognizes the key role that a focus on economic development plays in assuring the economic and social well-being of Washington, the residents, weekenders and guests, the merchants and nonprofits.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel Sherr



## REGISTRAR

In August 2019 we sadly said goodbye to Elisabeth (Liddy) Adams, Registrar of Voters, when she moved out of town. Denise Arturi, Deputy Registrar, became Registrar per state statute. Elizabeth Rickart was appointed Deputy Registrar. Just shortly before, in April 2019, Lois Pinney became Registrar replacing long time and greatly missed, Registrar Diane Chase.

Between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020 there were 150 new registrations, 159 changes and 111 removals

Due to Corona Virus Pandemic restrictions, the April 28 Presidential Primary was postponed to August 11 and the Region 12 Referendum was cancelled.

At the time of the November 5, 2019 Municipal Election there were 2,585 names in the Registry. 1,323 voted in person, 120 voted by Absentee Ballot and 14 voted through Election Day Registration (EDR) for a total of 1457 votes.

### The Results of the Municipal Election for November 5, 2019

|            | First Selectman      | Selectman              | Town Treasurer      | Tax Coll            | Bd of Fin         | Bd of Fin          | Bd of Fin Vac     |
|------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| DEMOCRATIC | Gorra - 714          | <b>Hubelbank - 727</b> |                     |                     | <b>Bent - 780</b> |                    | <b>Cain - 731</b> |
| REPUBLICAN | <b>Brinton - 732</b> | Gager - 688            | <b>McGarr - 998</b> | <b>Alex - 1,000</b> | Amato - 673       | <b>Brown - 847</b> | Templeton - 635   |

| Bd of Fin Alt      | Bd of AA           | Zoning            | Zoning Alt         | ZBA                 | ZBA                | ZBA                | ZBA Alt               |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
|                    | <b>Comer - 717</b> | <b>Hill - 803</b> |                    | <b>Bowman - 715</b> | <b>Weber - 735</b> | Farrell - 677      | <b>Sarjeant - 741</b> |
| <b>Wyant - 935</b> | Templeton - 635    | Rebillard - 618   | <b>Smith - 859</b> | Bowman - 588        | Caporizzo - 586    | <b>Wyant - 683</b> | Seymour - 624         |

There was less than a twenty vote difference in two races, First Selectman and ZBA, which automatically triggered a recanvass according to State Statute 9-311a. The recanvass was held on November 12 with no change in results.

Respectfully submitted,  
Denise Arturi  
Lois Pinney  
Registrars of Voters

## **FIRE MARSHAL**

The Washington Fire Marshal's Office consists of 3 people:

- Tom Osborne Fire Marshal is a full time employee of the town.
- Troy Kaiser is the Deputy Fire Marshal and is paid on call.
- George Steiner is a Fire Investigator and is paid on call.

This past fiscal year has been a busy year. This office provides plan review and in progress inspection of all public projects, large or small. We have seen major jobs like the Shepaug Ag Stem construction, The Gunnery Performing Arts Building projects come to a close. This year we have provided 44 inspections at the Shepaug project, and 14 inspections at The Fredrich Gunn School.

In total this office conducted 342 inspections this FY.

We have conducted 28 investigations of emergency events in town, including 7 structure fires. Fire loss this FY is estimated at \$1,389,000

We work closely with the Fire Department to provide a fire prevention program for the town's schools, and any others who request help.

The Fire Department and the Fire Marshal's Office work together to offer a free Smoke Detector and CO detector program to Washington residents. Just call the Fire Marshal's office at 860-868-7212 for any help with a smoke detector or CO detector.

This has been a challenging year for us all, since March, the covid virus has stopped all multifamily residential inspections by direction of the governor. If you have concerns about fire safety where you live, you can call me and I will come out and check for you, call my office, 860-868-7212.

Personally, I have gone through two major health events this FY which have kept me out of work for better than 6 months. I want to thank Troy and George for covering for me. I'd like to thank the Town for understanding and helping me and my wife. And I would like to thank Stan MacMillan, Sharon Fire Marshal, very much for coming to town many times to do the construction inspections while I was out.

Some other things the Fire Marshal's Office has done for you this past year are:

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Inspections:       | 342 |
| Issuing permits:   | 13  |
| Plan Review:       | 26  |
| Fire Investigation | 28  |
| Training           | 4   |
| Other              | 48  |

**REMEMBER SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES!**

**Have you tested yours recently?**

Respectfully Submitted;

Tom Osborne  
Fire Marshal

## THE GUNN MEMORIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

The Gunn Memorial Library building was dedicated in 1908 and expanded three-fold in the 1990s. The 1781 building that houses the Museum was bequeathed to the Library in 1965. Today our institution continues its mission of service to the residents of our town. While we have grown in size, we remain true to our historic purpose: dedication to providing free public library services to Washington, Connecticut and the surrounding communities, and to the promotion of literacy, education, and preservation of the Town's history and culture.

We are pleased to report another successful year, as noted by the statistics below:

- 43,002 people walked through the doors of the library, averaging over 825 people per week.
- We circulated 55,576 items – 59% to adults and teens & 41% children's materials.
- More than 2,100 townspeople are registered as library patrons.
- Our collection comprises nearly 50,000 items in print and non-print format.
- Digital media content and services continue to grow and be integrated into our offerings.
- We loaned over 2,000 titles to other libraries and borrowed over 1,950 items for our patrons.
- Patrons from neighboring communities came into GML and borrowed 12,066 items.
- During the course of the year, 137 people signed in to work in the Connecticut Room.
- 1,515 adults attended 43 diverse programs - lectures, discussions, talks, workshops, or recitals.
- Our volunteer corps sustains us! 24 volunteers work on a weekly basis, 17 students volunteer through the year and a staggering number of individuals assist with exhibits and special events.
- More than 4,955 enjoyed 139 Junior Library programs - for five age ranges (2's, 3-4's, K-1st, and 2nd-3rd grades) – and to Family Events appropriate for all ages.
- The Summer Reading Program drew 246 youngsters who completed 4,834 hours of reading!
- There were 4,806 visitors to the Museum or its sponsored events held off-site.
- The Museum sponsored 53 programs, lectures & workshops, including monthly *Readings from the Archives* at the Senior Center, visits to local schools and hosting class trips.
- The Museum mounted an exhibit showcasing the photographic talents of former resident Nell Dorr, incorporating oral histories of residents and artifacts from the community.
- Our Stairwell Gallery displayed 5 exhibitions of work in various media by talented local artists.
- The Library hosted 12 community groups, providing space for various activities & meetings.
- English as a Second Language classes are offered weekly through Literacy on the Green.
- The Library is open 42 hours per week, as well as Sunday afternoons for 6 months of the year.

- The Museum was open Thursday, Friday & Saturday year round and Sundays for 9 months.
- Over 1,059 registered to use computers in the adult library, in addition to over 2,536 sessions on various databases we offer – many of the resources accessed remotely by patrons at home or on mobile devices.

As always, a multitude of thanks goes out to the trustees, volunteers, staff, donors, and supporters whose contributions on so many levels make all of the above noted accomplishments possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Chapin

Executive Director

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The public health service agreement between the Town of Washington and the Town of New Milford continued during this fiscal year. The services provided cover all basic services related to environmental and public health. These include permitting and approval of subsurface sewage disposal systems and private wells for any building activity, inspections of food service establishments, investigation of complaints, water testing at the Town Beach and follow-up on cases of reportable disease.

Service hours in the Town of Washington are held on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Office hours are from 10:00 to 11:00 AM and field inspections are conducted after office hours and at other times. Business may also be conducted during the regular hours of the New Milford Health Department, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

Some of the activities performed by the Health Department for the period covering July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 were as follows:

|                                 |         |    |
|---------------------------------|---------|----|
| Septic Permits Issued:          | New:    | 14 |
|                                 | Repair: | 28 |
| Private Well Permits Issued: 22 |         |    |

The total amount of permit and licensing fees collected for Health Department activities was **\$5,950.00.**

Suzanne Von Holt, Sanitarian, conducted an investigation related to complaints about illegal storage of garbage, recycling and demolition waste at a private residence in Washington. She conducted several inspections and worked closely with the State of Connecticut, Office of the Assistant Attorney General and produced results in remediating this complaint.

Several bathing water samples were collected at the Washington Town Beach during the year. Results showed that the water quality continues to be excellent for bathing.

This year the reportable disease issue of greatest concern has been COVID – 19. The Washington Health Department has been involved in case management and contact tracing since the start of the pandemic in February 2020. Through June 30, 2020 there were twenty-three (23) case reports received from area physicians and/or medical laboratories of Washington residents testing positive for COVID – 19.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michael Crespan  
Director of Health

## **WASHINGTON HISTORIC COMMISSION**

### **Calhoun-Ives, Sunny Ridge and Washington Green Historic Districts**

The Historic District Commission continues to pursue its mission of stewarding the three historic districts in the town of Washington. Each district has its own unique character which informs the decision-making of the Commission. The HDC, as in the past, has ongoing concerns about the changing nature of the town with more building consuming parts of the town's rural countryside. The Commission is committed to protecting those rural roots within its ability to do so under the enabling statutes.

The HDC decisions are based on established guidelines adopted by the Commission using the statutes approved by the Connecticut state legislature regarding historic districts and historic properties. In general, the residents of the town's historic districts are very conscientious about informing or making application to the HDC regarding improvements, upgrades and other projects which fall within the purview of the HDC. The Commission extends its thanks to these residents for their cooperation.

This year's cycle of meetings of The Historic District Commission (HDC) were made more complicated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Because of the virus, early in 2020 three meetings of the Commission were canceled. Once the town was able to institute the technology for Zoom meetings the Commission resumed its regularly scheduled meetings employing Zoom. The Commission conducted nine meetings, held thirteen public hearings, conducted two site visits, held one special meeting and granted five Certificates of Appropriateness. The Commission will continue to use Zoom meetings until it is deemed safe to once again have in person meetings.

The HDC's Design Guidelines, the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness and other documents relating to the town's historic districts can be found on the Washington, Connecticut town website.

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas H. Hollinger, Chair

## **WASHINGTON HOUSING COMMISSION**

The Washington Housing Commission in 2016 started the Down Payment Assistance program, working with the Housing Development Fund in Danbury CT. In July of 2016 the first applicant received the down payment assistant check. Since then there have been 4 more applicants who have qualified and received assistance. In September of 2020 the 6<sup>th</sup> applicant has applied for assistance and is finishing up the classes to receive the assistance.

In June of 2020 with the support of the Board of Selectmen applied for a grant for affordable housing. The grant was received and the Commission along with members from other commissions and the community with the guidance from Northwest Council for housing has begun the work to establish The Affordable Housing Plan for the town.

The Commission has 4 active members we are looking for another member and have 3 alternate positions available. Feel free to view the Housing Commission site on the town web site. Our meetings are usually the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month. At 5:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lisa Lundberg  
Chairman

## WASHINGTON INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION

Of all the watchdog and regulatory responsibilities performed by town commissions in Connecticut, only those overseeing inland wetlands and watercourse are *mandated* (as opposed to simply permitted) by state statute. The Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act of 1974 states that because wetlands and watercourses perform many valuable functions, they are to be protected from random, unnecessary, undesirable, and unregulated uses and disturbances and destruction. This act requires that the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and each Connecticut municipality follow stated guidelines. Thus, on October 1st, 1973, the Town of Washington established an Inland Wetlands Commission. Regulations have been amended from time to time in accordance with the provisions of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act of the State of Connecticut.

Commissioners are appointed by the First Selectman. All commissioners are volunteers who bring to the table a vast background of knowledge and experience in the field, to which the town is most grateful. Currently serving as commissioners are Dr. Charles Lamuniere, Mr. Tony Bedini, Mr. Bruce Bennett; Esq, Ms. Susan Branson, and Chairman Mr. Bob Papsin; retired from the DEEP. Mr. Larry Gendron serves as an alternate commissioner. Collectively, over fifty years of service and experience currently makes up the commission. All inland wetland commissioners are required to complete training sessions provided by the Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands, and the Connecticut DEEP throughout the year. They are called upon weekly for onsite inspections, and meetings held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. They are required to be proficient in reading and understanding plans presented to them, and making determinations of proposed work done in or near wetland areas.

Decisions made by the commission are not made lightly or for popular consent, rather, the commissioners must follow the letter of the law when granting permits for work, and for issuing fines for violations. It must be noted, that the commission prefers to educate the residents on the importance and value of our watercourses, lakes, ponds and wetlands rather than issuing fines. When in doubt, residents are encouraged to contact the land use office before beginning any work on their properties.

This has been an especially demanding and challenging year for the commission due to the onset of COVID-19, and the fact that more people are regularly in town who desire to conduct work on their properties. From July 2019 to June of 2020, the commission has overseen forty-eight new applications, of which, most require onsite inspections prior to issuing permits. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of my commissioners for the time and service they dedicate, and I commend each of them for their devotion to this process.

It would be remiss of me not to thank the staff of the Land Use Office for the volume of work they sort through each week in reviewing and processing applications to be presented to the commission. Thank you Nick and Shelley.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bob Papsin

Chairman Washington Inland Wetlands Commission



## **JUDEA CEMETERY**

Judea Cemetery is situated on a very picturesque area on Judea Cemetery Road in the town of Washington. It is the oldest cemetery in Town and one of the oldest in the State. Documentation of people buried dates back to 1743. The Cemetery is honored ground and the Town takes pride in having this site to bury and remember our loved ones.

The Annual meeting of the Commission was held in September, 2019 in Bryan Memorial Town Hall. Commission members, appointed by the Board of Selectmen, are as follows, Phyllis Allen, serves as Chairman and Treasurer, Pam Osborne as Secretary and Ellen Condon, Robert Tomlinson, and Cindy Brissett are the remaining Board members. Sexton, Dave Swanson is in charge of all the maintenance and burials. Meadowview Landscaping does the fertilizing for this site. Town's contribution has been increased substantially due to maintenance costs and additional monies given to our neighboring cemetery on Baldwin Hill. Sales and burials this fiscal year were moderately active. One event that brought attention and pride to us was honoring Private Jeff Liberty, a black soldier who was a Revolutionary War patriot and slave at the time.

The Commission is very proud of the operations and maintenance done each year. Judea Cemetery is not only a beautiful site but also a treasure in our Town of Washington.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Allen, Chairman

## **LAKE WARAMAUG AUTHORITY**

The Lake Waramaug Authority was established by ordinance including the Towns of Washington, Warren, and Kent under State of Connecticut statute in 1967. Its primary purpose is to ensure year - round safety and law enforcement for all who enjoy the lake's numerous recreational activities. The lake Authority conducts water patrols on the lake during the summer months, and monitors other safety issues including, but not limited to dock, buoy and float placement, as well as permits and safety patrols for the many rowing regattas. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic this year, sadly, no events took place on the lake. The Towns of Washington and Warren each submit 40 %, and the Town of Kent submits 20% of the costs to financially support the work of the Lake Waramaug Authority.

Under the direction of the Lake Waramaug Authority, the Marine Patrol staff patrols the lake throughout the year, primarily from early spring through October in the Police Boat, which is now in its tenth season. Police and rescue divers are present for special permit activities on the lake such as rowing regattas. The primary function of the Marine Patrol staff is education and enforcement of safe boating practices and Connecticut laws. This summer noted record activity on the lake. Complaints regarding water skiers operating without observers, wake board boaters, and absence of life jackets on paddle boards were addressed. This being the sixth season of implementation, the no wake zone at the north end of the lake between the state park property and the west shore of Arrow Point saw no violations. Non motor craft such as kayaks, canoes and paddleboards saw a large increase of usage. Safety checks were conducted during the random seventeen patrol shifts, logging a total of ninety-one officer hours.

The Lake Waramaug Authority notes that both the absence of observers for water skiers and the hazards incurred by wakeboard boats are of great concern. The increased risk of injury for collision for those both on docks and on non-motor craft is indisputable. Docks and floats have seen damage along the shoreline created by wakeboard boats. Swimmers are also exposed to a greater risk. The Authority asks all boaters to be cautious and to be considerate of others while operating their motor crafts. We are currently looking into how this problem is handled on other lakes with similar concerns.

We are pleased to report that the New Preston Boat Launch has successfully inspected all boats entering the lake. Residents have been most cooperative and recognize the importance of these inspections to prevent invasive species from invading the lake. Car top craft launched at the State Park also require inspection, and this continues to be conducted at Dowler's Garage in New Preston when the boat launch site is not open.

Ice rescue drills are conducted throughout the winter months with a team of about a dozen trained members for both under water and under ice rescues. The Lake Authority has provided upgrades in gear for the members throughout the year.

The Town of Warren is represented by Chairman; Ed Berner, Bill Hopkins, and Rebecca Holmes. Kent is represented by Treasurer; Sal Lillenthal, Kevin Brady and Chris Garrity. Washington is represented by Secretary; Sandy Papsin, Ed Matthews and Dean Sarjeant.

The Lake Waramaug Authority extend thanks the Selectman in the three towns for their continued support regarding the operation of the Authority and their response to issues that may arise throughout the year. We also are most appreciative of all town residents who understand and realize the fragility of the lake, and take measures to continue to protect it and follow the environmental laws and safety measures that have been established throughout the years for the enjoyment of all both in this generation and all subsequent generations who choose to enjoy the beautiful water of the lake.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandy Papsin

Lake Waramaug Authority Secretary

## **LITCHFIELD HILLS CHORE SERVICE**

The Litchfield Hills Chore Service is a 501 (c)(3) tax deductible charitable organization. Our mission is to help individuals age 60 and over living in the towns of Litchfield, Goshen, Morris, Roxbury, Warren, and Washington to remain independent and stay in their homes in the community for as long as possible. The Chore Service provides local workers to help with house-keeping tasks, transportation to medical appointments and grocery shopping, light gardening and outside chores.

The Board of Directors is comprised of the First Selectmen of each member town plus one additional member from each community as follows: Philip D. Birkett – President, Thomas Weik - Vice President, Jerrilynn Tiso - Treasurer, Timothy Angevine – Secretary, Robert Valentine, Denise Raap, James Brinton, Barbara Henry, Coleen Frisbie, Pamela Collins, Patricia Jennings.

During the past fiscal year, October, 2019 to September, 2020, the Chore Service had the difficulty of dealing with the Corona Virus pandemic. Initially many of our clients decided to stop their services and stay quarantined in their home. A number of our chore workers also did this as well. We found that our clients with the most health issues and mobility problems opted to retain their Chore Worker. Now that the pandemic has gone on so much longer than anyone expected, we are beginning to get a significant number of requests for services from both new and previous clients. We are very careful to protect both our clients and workers and all our workers wear masks and clients are asked to do so also. To date we have had no cases of the virus with Chore Workers and nothing with clients while they are using our services.

We supplied 4,408 total service hours, 3765 service hours for seniors covered by our federal grant, 92.5 for Goshen, 2188.85 for Litchfield, 391.25 for Morris, 610.25 for Roxbury, 87 for Warren and 393.35 for Washington. This is a 17% decrease from the previous year due to the pandemic. However, as I noted there seems to be a marked increase in new requests for service recently, and I believe we are on track to regain if not have a significant increase over the past years.

Income for the Chore Service totaled \$137,669 from the following sources: Fund Raising – 23,764; Grants - \$22,500; Private Pay Clients - \$4219; Town Contributions - \$15,000; Client Payments for Services - \$26,441; Federal Grant from Western Connecticut Area Agency on Aging - \$42,795; and Miscellaneous - \$2951. Expenses totaled \$119,909, the largest being wages for our Chore Workers at \$55,463, and the Coordinator at \$28,925. In addition to the Federal Grant from WCAAA, we also received \$10,000 from the Connecticut Community Foundation, and \$10,000 from the Marion Isabell Coe Fund administered by the Bank of America, \$1500

from the Eversource Energy Foundation, and \$1000 from the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation.

The Litchfield Hills Chore Service is consistently seeking additional sources of funds to support our operations. We seek and gratefully accept donations and conduct an active fund drive in December and participate in the “Give Local” on-line giving campaign sponsored by the Connecticut Community Foundation in April.

A town by town analysis of the services is as follows:

- Litchfield – total service hours: 2564.85, 2188.95 hours for 51 seniors in the WCAAA program, 116.3 service hours for 3 Disabled and 3 Private Clients, and 259.5 driving hours.
- Goshen – total service hours: 139.75, 92.5 hours for 7 seniors in the WCAAA program, and 46.25 hours for 2 Private Clients, and 1 hour of driving time.
- Morris – total service hours: 482, 391.25 for 7 seniors in the WCAAA program, 26.5 hours for 3 Private Clients and 64.25 driving hours.
- Roxbury – total service hours 686.75, 610.25 for 9 seniors in the WCAAA program, 54 hours for 1 Disabled Clients and 22.5 driving hours.
- Warren – Total service hours 105.5, 87 hours for 5 seniors in the WCAAA program, 18.5 hours for 1 Private Client and no Driving hours.
- Washington – Total Service Hours 429.25, 393.25 for 13 clients in the WCAAA program, 4.25 Hours for a Private Client and 31.75 Driving hours.

Respectfully submitted

Sally Irwin, Coordinator

## **MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY**

The office of the Municipal Agent is responsible for assisting elders by providing information and referrals to services and benefit programs. In the calendar year 2019, this office received approximately 402 inquiries from seniors and the disabled. The services of this office are available to all residents of the Town of Washington over the age of 60 and their families, as well as the disabled. There are no fees or income limitations. My office is open by appointment. The phone number is 860-868-0735.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Collins

Municipal Agent for the Elderly

## **NORTHWEST HILLS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

The Northwest Hills Council of Governments (COG) consists of the Mayors and First Selectmen from 21 member towns in the Northwest Corner. It is one of the nine Councils of Governments that have been established in Connecticut.

The COG meets on a monthly basis to discuss issues of municipal concern, oversee COG planning projects, and explore new opportunities for regional cooperation. More information on these and other COG activities is available at: [www.northwesthillscog.org](http://www.northwesthillscog.org).

A major focus area in 2020 was implementing the COG's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Region. Major strategies in the CEDS include expanding access to high speed fiber optic broadband, promoting tourism/arts/culture, supporting local farms, strengthening manufacturing, and encouraging entrepreneurs/innovation.

The COG also initiated an update to the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plans for all 21 towns in the region this year. FEMA requires that these plans be updated every 5 years for towns to remain eligible for various FEMA funding programs.

The NHCOG also continued to promote the on-line Interactive Regional Trail Map that was developed by the COG in cooperation with the Housatonic Valley Association to promote access to the public access trails in the region. A statewide CT Trailfinder website is now under development which will further draw attention to the outstanding trail resources we have in the Northwest Hills.

A Corridor Management Study of East Main Street in Torrington is a major transportation planning project that was initiated this year. The purpose of this study is to develop recommendations to enhance the safety, traffic flow, and streetscape of this heavily travelled corridor. The COG also continues to coordinate the popular Rural Independent Transportation Service, which offers trips to the elderly and disabled for medical appointments.

The COG is allocated about \$2M each year from ConnDOT for priority local road improvement projects and projects are currently underway in Burlington, Kent, Litchfield, Torrington, and Winchester. The NHCOG also serves as the oversight agent for about \$350,000 in Homeland Security Grant funding that is received each year for DEMHS Region 5. One of the projects

funded with this grant is creation and update of digital parcel mapping for all 43 towns in DEMHS Region 5 to enhance emergency response.

In 2020, the COG continued coordination of a number of popular programs such as a prescription assistance program in cooperation with the Foundation for Community Health, a Neighbor-to-Neighbor program in cooperation with the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, a fuel bank program, the Northwest Hills Public Works Equipment Cooperative, and the region's cooperative purchasing program.

The COG also assists a number of organizations in the region including the Regional Housing Council, Northwest Hills Road Supervisors Association, Recycling Advisory Committee, the Regional Coordination Center for COVID-19 response and recovery, and the Housatonic River Commission. In addition, the COG hosts a quarterly "5th Thursday" forum for area Planning, Zoning, and Conservation Commission members to meet and discuss items of mutual interest, hear guest speakers, and provide input on regional plans.

Serving as officers of the COG in FY 2019-2020 were Don Stein, Chairman; Bob Valentine, Vice Chairman; Charlie Perotti, Secretary; and Michael Criss, Treasurer. COG staff includes Darlene Krukar, Office Manager; Jocelyn Ayer, Community and Economic Development Director; Janell Mullen, Regional Planner; and Rick Lynn, Executive Director.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Lynn, AICP

Executive Director



## **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

The Parks and Recreation Commission is committed to organizing, coordinating, and conducting recreational activities and special events throughout the year for persons of all ages residing in the town. The Commission is also responsible for the inspection and maintenance of its facilities as well as working on new projects to enhance the existing structures. It is fortunate to have a recreation coordinator, a groundskeeper, program directors, staff members, and volunteers who accomplish these goals.

The Parks and Recreation Commission has seen some changes in the years since this report was last published. In December of 2018, the Commission welcomed Alice Demeo as commission member. In July of 2020 the Commission welcomed Greg Kraft and, after 9 years on the Commission, said goodbye to Whitney Ryan as she stepped down to start the next chapter of her life away from Washington. We welcome the new ideas and enthusiasm from Alice and Greg and thank Whit for all she has contributed in her 9 years on the Commission.

In October 2019, in collaboration with the Washington Business Association, the Commission hosted the Second Annual Harvest Festival at the River Walk Park. Held annually in mid-October, this event has quickly become a popular event for folks of all ages. Featuring live music, food, drinks, vendors, a hay maze, pumpkin carving and of course, the scarecrow contest, there is something for everyone.

To support a variety of live music events, a portable stage has been built to offer opportunities for performances in different locations as needed.

In February, Parks & Rec brought back family movie night in the Town Hall's main hall. After a well-attended show, and not too much spilled popcorn, we have invested in a bigger screen and look forward to offering more family friendly movies.

From festivals, concerts and movie nights to summer camp, morning swim and karate, Parks & Rec is here for the Washington community as it is the community that makes Washington Parks & Rec.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Hammond, Recreation Coordinator

C.J Kersten, Chairman

Sheila Anson, Vice Chairman

Tim Cook

Alice Demeo

Joe Fredlund

Greg Kraft

Ray Reich

Carrie Rowe

Mary Anne Greene, Recording Clerk

## **PLANNING COMMISSION**

The Washington Planning Commission meets on the first Wednesday of each month, except in January and July if New Year's Day or July 4th fall on the first Wednesday. Regular Meetings are held at 7:30

p.m. in the main level meeting room, Bryan Memorial Town Hall, Washington Depot, Ct. However, due to Covid-19 Meetings have been held via Zoom Video Conference since the April 1, 2020 Meeting.

During the past fiscal year, the Planning Commission conducted 11 Regular Meetings. The August 2019 Meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum. A Special Meeting was held October 1, 2019, because of scheduling conflicts.

No subdivision or resub division applications were submitted in 2019-2020.

The Planning Commission is responsible for considering and approving scenic road designations, at the December 4, 2019, meeting a scenic road application was approved for a portion of West Church Hill Road.

The Commission considered a referral from the Zoning Commission regarding proposed revisions to Section 12.8 of the Washington Zoning Regulations. The proposed revisions of Section 12.8 - Temporary Uses, were determined to be inconsistent with the Plan of Conservation and Development by a unanimous vote by the Planning Commission.

Submitted by

Shelley White

Land Use Administrator

## **POET LAUREATE**

Poet Laureate Report: In early 2020 a group of poet laureates met with Margaret Gibson, Connecticut Poet Laureate at the New Britain Museum of

American Art to plan for the year. The Academy of American Poets was offering grant money to states to enact programs celebrating poetry

in local communities. One idea was to celebrate poetry and the natural world by having poetry readings in "green cafes" open to all who wish to read their own work or the work of a poet they admire. Because of Covid-19, plans are now on hold. My hope is as the vaccine becomes available we will be able to once again gather safely. As always, I welcome ideas our local lovers of poetry have to meet and celebrate all things poetry.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Silk

## POLICE

The Washington Resident Troopers Office is located in the center of the depot and is currently staffed by Resident State Trooper Costella, full-time Officer Kessler, part-time officer Accuosti and School Resource Officer Innaimo. The department is looking to add one more full-time officer by spring of 2021. Throughout this challenging year the town's officer has continued to show their dedication to serving the people of this great community and commitment to keeping the town of Washington safe. Whether its assisting in bringing a family food or working tirelessly to arrest the accused who had committed seven burglaries in town.

The department has added one new police vehicle as well as speeds signs which also are able to compute statistical data such as date, time, number of vehicles and speed. Particularly this year with the increase in both pedestrian and motor vehicle traffic in town, this has allowed officers to review this data to address speeding with a more targeted approach. As always residents are encouraged to contact the department by phone or coming into the office to discuss any concerns they may have.

Throughout the year SRO Innaimo works at Shepaug, The Primary school (as well as the two elementary schools in Roxbury and Bridgewater) in addition to working patrol in town. Officer Innaimo has implemented and continues to teach the SPARTAN (Safety Positivity and Reinforcing Thoughts Against Narcotics) program to kids in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Detailed Statistics for 2020 are as follows:

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Motor Vehicle Accidents | 62  |
| Alarms                  | 217 |
| Assist Citizens         | 128 |
| Burglaries              | 12  |
| Disturbances            | 14  |
| DWI                     | 4   |
| Larcenies               | 11  |
| Missing Person          | 3   |
| Suspicious Incidents    | 67  |

It is encouraged for all homeowners to clearly mark their residence with their assigned street number. The numbers should be visible from the road, both during the day and at night. This will allow emergency personnel to locate your address as quickly as possible during an emergency.

Thank you to the citizens of Washington, for their continued support of the Police Department.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Trooper Matt Costella  
Washington Resident Trooper

## SENIOR CENTER

Washington Senior Center was established to provide services and activities to senior citizens of the town. The Senior Center serves as a resource for the community, providing information on aging for family caregivers and for assistance in addressing aging issues.

During the past year the following programs and activities were provided:

- **Regularly Scheduled Activities** offer fun and socialization. Alternating monthly Gunn Museum Series of “Readings from the Archives” and a Washington History Discussion Group are among the regular activities. Luncheons are held, often with speakers or entertainment. This year’s topics included “Avoiding Common Estate Planning Mistakes” with Probate Judge Domenick Calabrese, Pain Management w/Dr. Antonio Paz and “Fire and Fall” Prevention Program. Also offered at the Center is Technology Instruction for Seniors.
- **Fitness:** The Senior Center exercise program has a regular 50-minute low impact aerobics video workout at 9:00 on Monday, Wednesday & Friday and Better Bones on Wednesdays @ 3:15. These exercise programs are free of charge. Fee based classes are: Chair Yoga on Tuesdays at 10:30 & Mat Pilates on Thursdays at 10:30.
- **Health:** Blood pressure screenings continue to be held at the Senior Center on the third Wednesday of each month by Visiting Nurse and Homecare Northwest. The New Milford VNA conducted the annual flu clinic in the fall. Also, free hearing screenings.
- **Trips:** This past year trips offerings were to the Aqua Turf Club, Painted Pony, Cracker Barrel, Saybrook Fish House, Maggie McFly’s, Jim Barbaries, and Leaf Peeping at Mohawk Mtn. & Stateline Pizza. Other trips offered included Seven Angels Theater, Sights, Sounds and Tastes of Lancaster, Radio City Christmas Spectacular, Basketball Hall of Fame, Nantuckett Daffodil Festival, Boston Pops, Niagara Falls, South Cost of Maine, Trains of New England, 911 Memorial & Museum, Newport Cabaret & Playhouse and Statue of Liberty & Ellis Island.
- **Senior Van Transportation:** The town van provides free transportation for seniors and disabled persons on Wednesdays and Thursdays. In addition, shopping trips to the Danbury Fair Mall take place monthly. Reservations for the van can be made by calling the Senior Center at least one day ahead.

- **Litchfield Hills Chore Service:** This program is available to help elderly and handicapped residents to stay safely independent and at home in the community. The service is available to anyone. Chore Service workers provide light and heavy house-keeping, shopping, laundry, cooking, yard maintenance and minor home repairs. Suggested client contribution is based on a sliding scale of monthly income.
- **Additional Programs Offered:** Other speakers and topics include, “Five Wishes”, Medicare Made Clear, Part D Enrollment, Medicare Savings Program, AARP Mature Driving Course, three programs presented by Probate Judge Dominick Calabrese titled “Probate Updates”, “Estate Planning and Probate”, and “Estate Taxes”. Additionally, Reverse Mortgage Misconceptions, Seniors in Steep Rock, Silk Scarf Painting, Mocktail & Trivia, Holiday Gnome Crafting, Holiday Cranberry Chutney Making, Tarot Card Reading, Art in Your Heart”, Lotus Flower & Lantern Workshop w/Korean Spirit & Culture Project, and Home Energy Audit Program. The Center members continues to collect” Box tops for Education” for the Washington Primary School and offer a free Veteran’s Lunch. The Senior Center Advisory Board has also established a yearly award program to be given to a Washington Primary School 5<sup>th</sup> grade boy & girl. It consists of a \$25 gift card to the Hickory Stick Bookshop.
- **Volunteers:** Volunteers play a vital role in the workings of the Senior Center. Our dedicated volunteer staff offers their time and expertise in newsletter preparation, office tasks and assisting with programs.

We invite those who may not currently participate to stop in or call for information

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Collins

Senior Center Director

## **SHEPAUG VALLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #12**

Regional School District 12 began the 2019-2020 school year with a push for academic excellence and fiscal efficiency. The entire staff focused on intentional planning for success. Teachers designed lesson plans to target learner outcomes, the facilities team designed a five-year map to include upkeep and improvements for our buildings and equipment, the business office transitioned purchasing to leverage more savings, the technology department is moving to a leasing plan that allows our staff and students to have the most up-to-date equipment to meet the demands of the 21st century, and food services are evolving to modernize the dining experience at Shepaug and beyond. Additionally, our Board of Education has shifted its efficiency this year by redesigning committee structures to allow for ideas to transition into project completion with less bureaucracy. From these Board of Education committees; finance and operations, curriculum and educational programming, as well as long-range planning have merged from the nine committees of the past. Academic excellence, building and financial planning, as well as marketing, branding, and showcasing of our public schools continue to be priorities for the district. Our small district is a gem whose shine must be seen.

On March 13th, Region 12 closed the buildings to prepare for a two-week shutdown of the schools in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Beginning March 23, 2020, Region 12 Schools began distance learning for all learners that continued until the end of the school year. Our mission statement, The Region 12 community educates, challenges, and inspires all learners to become compassionate, creative, and courageous individuals who are empowered by the knowledge, character, and perseverance to achieve their greatest potential within the global society, was challenged while we transitioned to learning remotely. Our staff, students, and community proved that learning environments are not defined by school walls. Region 12 schools provided boundless learning opportunities.

Region 12's small school district allowed for all students in grades Pre-K through 12 to continue their education with individualized attention and support both while in-person and distance learning occurred. The children of Bridgewater, Roxbury, and Washington thrived with the care and support of the adults in the schools and our communities. Each of our elementary schools in their respective towns as well as Shepaug Valley School provided instruction, resources, supplies, and food to our students and families throughout the entire school year.

The financial support of our towns over the years allowed the district to respond quickly and efficiently to the school closure. The technological infrastructure, as well as access to devices, allowed our students and staff to pivot from in-person learning to distance learning. Our students continued to have access to learning and their teacher each school day of the 2019-2020 school year. The experiences and opportunities changed dimensions but remained open and accessible to all. Senior Projects were completed and presented utilizing web-based telecommunication platforms.

This year's report reflects the impact of the COVID-19 shutdown. There are no standardized assessments to report and many goals and plans were altered to make sure that we survived as a community. We succeeded in providing education during unprecedented times.

We are proud of Region 12's legacy of strong relationships. This year tested our bonds, and we proved the strength of our connections and communities.

### **Elementary Schools**

The Region 12 elementary schools include The Burnham School, Booth Free School and Washington Primary School. The three elementary schools provide nurturing and responsible learning environments that foster educational excellence while building relationships. Our goal is to create independent, compassionate thinkers. The classroom expectations are established by the curriculum and growth targets. Teachers plan lessons that provide unique, rich learning experiences. The Burnham School's multiage classrooms allow students to transcend the grade-level boundaries and create learning opportunities based on the students' needs. The district proposed a multiage model for Booth Free School beginning 2020-2021. The model would shift the grade level configurations from singular grade-level assignments to dual grade level (K-1, 2-3, and 4-5). This transition needed to be abandoned in light of the impact of the pandemic. Currently, both Booth Free School and Washington Primary School offer singular grade-level classrooms. All our elementary schools provide enrichment opportunities through STEM and MakerSpace. In our classrooms, students develop personal responsibility, and the ability to collaborate, promote creativity, think critically, and solve problems. The power of technology is harnessed to enrich lessons.

Each school provides a comprehensive academic and social-emotional learning curriculum. The students build their capacities for social interactions while building strong academic foundations. Lesson planning is the hallmark of our teachers' ability to intentionally design meaningful learning experiences. Reflection of success, struggle, and ability for each student generates better learner outcomes. Habits of mind are emphasized with Second Steps, Ben's Bells and an emphasis on Growth Mindset. Instruction is dynamic and integrates learning to support success for all learners. Students demonstrating academic, social or behavioral needs are supported and monitored. Students are given the support they need as we leverage their strengths to promote learning growth.

Our websites, social media pages, emails, and community communications allow us to showcase our schools and students.

### **Shepaug Valley School**

Students and teachers in grades 6-12 continue to emphasize the importance of rigor, relevance and relationships. Shepaug Valley School emphasizes the importance of experiential learning through a variety of opportunities.

Students are given choices to explore curiosities and passions within the school setting. The high expectations coupled with the project-based learning makes Shepaug Valley School stand out in its ability to cultivate scholars. The staff continuously aligns all curriculum with the Connecticut State Standards while striving to push the limits of grade-level expectations. All teachers embed technology into the instructional program to ensure that lessons are engaging and relevant.



Shepaug Valley School, affectionately known as "Shepaug", prides itself with providing strong academic programs. There is a push to increase Early College Experience and Advanced Placement opportunities within the school as well as beyond through the Virtual High School offerings. The Humanities program allows students to have integrated learning experiences in language arts and social studies. Science, technology, engineering, and math is infused in the core instructional program at Shepaug. Students can take either French or Spanish as a core language to develop linguistic skills and additional languages online if desired. The Arts options have increased at Shepaug. In addition to art, music, and physical education, students participate in pre-engineering and computer technology classes. The Agriscience Academy of Shepaug Valley School is our newest program. Students from our three towns as well as six sending towns receive their Agriscience education in our state-of-the-art facilities.

The middle school grade levels are designed on the developmental needs of young adolescents. A connected student is a better student. Students are encouraged to explore their interests and get involved in the school community. The nature of the middle/high school model allows our middle school students to access high school courses or materials.

As students continue through our Region 12 education system, we provide more responsibilities and challenges. Our small school population allows our school counselors to guide each student and their family through the high school experience into their post-graduate pursuits. From the beginning of their freshman year to their culminating Senior Project, students are encouraged to make important discoveries about themselves as learners and apply those discoveries to college and career readiness decisions with the help of our faculty and their families. The Shepaug learning expectations are proudly displayed in all open areas and classrooms to provide a definition of what it means to be a good citizen and Shepaug student.

In addition to a rigorous, comprehensive academic program, the secondary program offers a wide variety of extra-curricular activities including: junior and varsity sports, art, music and theatre programs, and clubs to make the Shepaug experience an enriching one. Shepaug Valley School continues to produce high-quality video productions in our state-of-the-art television studio which has allowed our Region to showcase the students' work. Shepaug Valley School is proud of its NEASC accreditation.

### **Shepaug Valley Partnership**

Students ages 18-21 are able to thrive in the Shepaug Valley Partnership Program. Our students are given the opportunity to explore jobs within the community while developing life skills such as banking, wellness, keeping house, and socializing. The students are able to make community connections within our three towns to help our students transition into adulthood.

### **The Region**

Region 12 believes in supporting the success of each student. Our staff utilizes the qualitative and quantitative information from students to determine how to build on students' strengths to meet higher achievement. Schools couple the academic data with social and emotional information to generate our goals for the school year. Region 12 prides itself on using head and heart on all matters of education. Instructional models and programs are chosen to support students' needs. Time within the school day and beyond are considered for student learning.

Our full-day kindergarten has been a successful and beneficial experience for students and families. The Region expanded its REACH preschool program to service additional students for expanded time.

Consultant Peter Prowda's December 2019 report on the Region's projected enrollment numbers have been adjusted to include tuition-in students and continues to show evidence of the downward enrollment trend. The addition of the tuition-in option as well as the new Agriscience Academy introduced in Fall of 2019 will help stabilize and increase our enrollment projections.

Region 12 continues to implement education initiatives including the teacher evaluation program (TEVAL), the implementation of the Connecticut State Standards, Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), and the new SAT for Grade 11 students. These initiatives will be the focus of professional development for all staff members as they work to achieve the new high expectations for the Region.

The Board of Education's committee for long range planning will focus on goals and marketing strategies. The five-year plan will be codified during the 2020-2021 school year.

## **2019-2020 Enrollment Information**

### **October 1, 2029 Enrollment Information**

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Burnham School            | 60   |
| Booth Free School         | 71   |
| Washington Primary School | 93   |
| Middle School             | 160  |
| High School               | 272  |
| REACH                     | 45   |
| SVP                       | <u>4</u>   |
|                           | 705 (Note: Includes tuition students and REACH students) |

## **Financial Information**

1. The appropriated 2019-20 budget was \$22,808,400.
2. The bond rating for the district is AA (Fitch rating).
3. Percent distribution between towns for student population and budget payments -(assessment) for 2019-2020 based upon October 1, 2018 student population:

|                    |                |                   |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| <u>Bridgewater</u> | <u>Roxbury</u> | <u>Washington</u> |
| 19.5%              | 34%            | 46.5%             |

4. Recent history of budget and enrollment over previous years.

|             |           |           |           |           |           |           |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|             | 2014-2015 | 2015-2016 | 2016-2017 | 2017-2018 | 2018-2019 | 2019-2020 |
| Enrollment* | 747       | 728       | 706       | 688       | 682       | 705       |
| Budget      | (.20%)    | (.26%)    | (.93%)    | .12%      | 1.98%     | 4.57%     |

Notes: The budget increase for 2020-2021 is 0%.

\*Enrollment matches PSIS (Public School Information System)

## **2019-2020 BOARD OF EDUCATION - REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 12**

|                                 | <b>Town</b> | <b>Term Expires</b> |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Joseph Abdella                  | Washington  | 2023                |
| John Buonaiuto (Treasurer)      | Washington  | 2021                |
| Gregory Cava (Chairman)         | Roxbury     | 2021                |
| James Hirschfield               | Washington  | 2021                |
| Alex McNaughton                 | Bridgewater | 2023                |
| Justin Ongley                   | Roxbury     | 2023                |
| Jennifer Pote                   | Washington  | 2021                |
| Lisa Roush (Secretary)          | Roxbury     | 2023                |
| Michael Sinatra (Vice Chairman) | Bridgewater | 2021                |
| Julie Stuart                    | Bridgewater | 2023                |
| Peter Tagley                    | Washington  | 2021                |
| Mary Weber                      | Washington  | 2023                |

### **2019-2020 Student Achievement**

80% accepted to Post-Secondary Education

84% of the class of 2020 will be continuing their formal education 73% will be attending four year colleges/universities

### **Top "5" Seniors/Class of 2020 and College/University Attending**

Isabel Eddy - Harvard University

Elizabeth Neunzig - Mount Holyoke College

Sienna Moore - University of Connecticut

Reese Peck - Notre Dame University

Lily Schur - United States Military Academy at West Point

### **CAS (Connecticut Association of Schools) Scholar-Athlete Awards <High School>**

Isabel Eddy

Owen Moore

### **CABE (Connecticut Association of Boards of Education) Student Leadership Award <High School>**

Lily Schur

Owen Moore

### **National Honor Society Members at High School**

#### **Present Members**

|                  |                   |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Francesca Amato  | Carlye Gruss      | Nadia Ostrosky    |
| Gabriella Amato  | Bailey Herron     | Reese Peck        |
| Erin Bailey      | Noah Levine       | Edward Puskas     |
| Sarah Caprilozzi | Owen Moore        | Lucy Puskas       |
| Jayden Cornwall  | Sienna Moore      | Lily Schur        |
| Taryn Crossley   | Elizabeth Neunzig | Julia Sinatra     |
| Isabel Eddy      | Gwenavere Noto    | Mahelet Steinmetz |
|                  | Devon O'Dwyer     | Annika Vikstrom   |

#### **Newly Elected Members**

|                       |                         |                     |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Ava Adiletti          | Isabella Guzman Abigail | Brooke Mercier Kyle |
| Rachel Andrews        | Abigail Harty           | Mieczkowski Samuel  |
| Lily Blyn             | Owen Hibbard            | Quigley Henry Roush |
| Claire Buckley        | Maya Jacob              | Anna Sprong Aaryuj  |
| William Cario         | Henry James             | Trehan Sydney Vidal |
| Brooke Donaghey       | Mark Kibbe              | Jakob Wild          |
| Cole Donaghey Michael | Haylie Lasky            |                     |
| Michael Granata       | Gianluca LeClerc        |                     |

#### **Superintendent's Awards (CAPSS)**

|                                       |   |                             |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Washington Primary School Burnham     | - | 5th grade, Agnes Schiesel   |
| School                                | - | 5th grade, Lyric Collentine |
| Booth Free School                     | - | 5th grade, Paige Palumbo    |
| Shepaug Valley School (middle school) | - | gth grade, Mia Melatti      |
| Shepaug Valley School (high school)   | - | 11th grade, Spencer Herron  |
| Shepaug Valley School (high school)   | - | 12th grade, Rebecca Racz    |

### **GRADE EIGHT AWARDS**

#### **CABE (Connecticut Association of Boards of Education) Student Leadership Awards**

##### **<Middle School>**

Annabelle Churyk      Cameron Goethner

#### **General Excellence Award Recipient**

Annabelle Churyk

**Awards in Excellence**

Excellence in Language Arts - Aurora Kearney  
Excellence in 8th Grade Mathematics - Mia Melatti  
Excellence in Algebra-Claire Kersten  
Excellence in 8th Grade Science - Kip Faison  
Excellence in Social Studies - Amanda Hodge  
Excellence in Spanish - Amanda Hodge  
Excellence in French - Claire Kersten

**Awards in Achievement**

Achievement in Language Arts - Jacob Okenquist, Madox Wodjenski  
Achievement in 8th Grade Mathematics - Nicholas Adiletti  
Achievement in Algebra - Amanda Hodge

Achievement in 8th Science - Kerstin Ambruso  
Achievement in Social Studies - Abigail Hendy  
Achievement in Spanish - Faith Bargellini  
Achievement in French - Mia Melatti

**Unified Arts Awards**

Excellence in Art - Mason Sche ll, Marie Sprong  
Excellence in Chorus - Ona Swanson, Alice Blyn  
Excellence in Instrumental Music - Grey Pomeroy, Ethan Denning Excellence in Introduction to Agriscience - Faith Bargellini, Mia Melatti Excellence in Technology - Faith Bargellini, Logan Creighton-Rullo  
Excellence in Physical Education - John Wild, Faith Bargellini, Claire Kersten

**2020 ASSESSMENT RESULTS - No testing this year due to COVID-19**

| SAT                     |                                |      |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|------|
| Grade 11 (Levels 3 & 4) | Evidence-Based Reading/Writing | Math |
| Scores                  | 75%                            | 59%  |

| Mean SAT Scores, Class of 2020  | Mean Scores* |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Evidence-Based Reading/Writing: | 560          |
| Math:                           | 543          |

\*source CollegeBoard annual report based on last exam date by student

## **SUSAN B ANTHONY**

Your support allows Susan B. Anthony Project to continue its critical mission of promoting safety, healing and growth for all survivors of domestic and sexual abuse.

Last year, YOUR GIFTS helped 1,662 people—survivors of domestic and sexual abuse

### **24-hour Crisis Response**

We respond to crises 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year with our hotline and response to walk-in appointments. Why? Because family and sexual violence never sleep.

Last year, we responded to 1,903 requests for crisis intervention via our 24/7 hotline. 860-482-7133, press 1.

### **Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing**

Our safe shelter and transitional housing are available for women and children so they do not have to return to their abuser, and may begin the process of rebuilding their lives.

Last year, we provided safe housing for 45 women and 47 children.

### **Court Advocacy**

Every adult and child victim has an advocate who supports them when they must face their abuser in court.

Last year, we advocated in court for an average of 144 new victims of domestic and sexual violence every month.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanne Fusco

Executive Director

## **TREE WARDEN**

Tree wardens are appointed public officials responsible for trees alongside public roads and in public spaces, other than those on state property or under the jurisdiction of a park commission. Each municipality is required to have a tree warden.

The tree warden's responsibilities include approving the planting, pruning or removal of trees under his or her authority. Public safety is among the chief concerns of the tree warden.

In Washington I work closely with Kevin Smith the town highway foreman keeping track of trees that pose a threat to public safety in the towns' area of responsibility. The town has cut down many trees that have been determined to be dangerous. We know that the Emerald Ash Borer will be providing many others in the future. We will be working diligently to remove dangerous trees.

In the future I would like to see us planting hardy trees that are disease and pest resistant throughout town.

Before You Cut That Tree...

If a tree is near your property side line, talk to your neighbor to make sure you both agree where the property line is located.

If the tree, or bush, you want to cut is within 100 feet of any stream, river, lake or wetlands, you may need to get a permit. Get in touch with the Inland Wetlands Commission. There are several different permits according to different situations.

If a tree is close to a Town road, it may be in the Town's right-of-way.

If you have questions, please give me a call.

Tom Osborne  
Washington Tree Warden  
860-868-7212

## VNA NORTHWEST, INC

VNA Northwest, Inc. provided a variety of health care services to Washington residents\* during the past year, including:

- **487 skilled nursing** visits
- **319 physical therapy** calls
- **328 home health aide** service hours
- **64 adult health guidance** visits
- 

*\*Washington, Washington Depot, Marbledale, and New Preston*

**Blood pressure clinics** were held at the Washington Senior Center. These sessions have been found to be invaluable in early detection of a wide range of health problems.

### Full Report of Services:

| <u>Town Paid or Grant Paid Service</u> | <u>Paid by Other Payer</u> |
|--|----------------------------|
|--|----------------------------|

Blood Pressure Screening Clinic: 7 hours

#### Nursing:

|                       |          |            |
|-----------------------|----------|------------|
| Adult Health Guidance | 55 visit | 9 visits   |
| Skilled Nursing       |          | 487 visits |
| Physical Therapy      |          | 319 visits |
| Medical Social Worker | 1 visit  | 22 visits  |
| Occupational Therapy  |          | 78 visits  |
| Home Health Aide      |          | 328 hours  |



## WASHINGTON AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

Washington ambulance is one of the oldest all volunteer services in the state of Connecticut. Our operating budget comes from community donations by residents and nonresidents. The town covers our annual insurance and fuel costs which allows us to focus funds on direct patient care and capital equipment costs. We operate 2 BLS (basic life support) ambulances which are certified by the office of emergency medical services under Connecticut department of public health. We are licensed as a 911 service to provide transport to local emergency rooms. We primarily transport patients to New Milford or Danbury Hospital but occasionally have transports to Charlotte Hungerford, Waterbury Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital and Sharon Hospital.

Since 2016 our call volume has been steadily increasing past 350 calls per year. Our call volume includes calls where both our ambulances are needed to transport patients (multi vehicle accidents). We provide mutual aid to Warren, Roxbury, Kent and New Milford on a regular basis. Our call volume consists of 30-50 mutual aid responses a year.

Washington Ambulance is the only non-billing 911 ambulance service in southern Litchfield county. Our members take pride in providing care at no cost to patients under state protocols using the newest technology possible. Over the last three years we have been able to standardize equipment on both of our ambulances. This included purchasing a second power cot, power load, stair chair, automated cpr device, 12 lead ekg/heart monitor and vehicle mounted wifi. These upgrades give our members the best equipped BLS ambulances in the region.

Advance life support is provided to patients through a regional paramedic contract with Trinity Health of New England. This is a paramedic intercept program operating with one fly car based at New Milford Ambulance. The Medic 4 program is funded by the towns of Washington, Warren, Roxbury, Kent, New Milford, Sherman and Bridgewater. Cost per town is based upon use. The Town of Washington pays into this program and the medic is dispatched when needed through Litchfield County Dispatch based on information dispatchers receive when 911 calls are answered.

COVID 19 has affected our crew in a large way. During the beginning of pandemic operations, we lost half of our active crew due to age. This left us with eight active EMT's for the first few weeks. We kept open communication with mutual aid services to ensure we all had needed supplies and were available to cover calls for each other if needed. Some of our members who were not responding due to age became our logistics division helping pick up PPE and other needed supplies at Department of Public Health distribution events.

COVID 19 has brought to light the need for younger members of our crew. We hold EMT classes at the Depot Firehouse when it fits the schedule for the instructors teaching the course. Volunteer EMS truly is a part time job where you learn the skills to make a difference in your community. Our members are motivated to provide the best care to our patients in a professional and courteous manner when called upon. If you are interested in joining an organization that operates 24/7 please reach out to us by email, facebook, instagram or phone and arrange a meeting to learn more about becoming an EMT.

Sincerely,

Adam Woodruff

Chief

Washington Ambulance Association

## WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Washington Volunteer Fire Department responded to 288 call between July 1st 2019 to June 30th 2020.

The calls varied:

|                                   |
|-----------------------------------|
| <b>160</b> automatic alarms       |
| <b>34</b> motor vehicle accidents |
| <b>17</b> wires down              |
| 14 mutual aids                    |
| <b>13</b> brush fires             |
| <b>12</b> carbon monoxide alarms  |
| <b>7</b> smoke investigations     |
| <b>5</b> EMS assists,             |
| <b>5</b> structure fires          |
| <b>4</b> HazMat incidents         |
| <b>4</b> lost Hikers              |
| <b>2</b> chimney fires            |
| <b>1</b> ice Rescue               |
| <b>1</b> citizen Assist           |

The department participated in 2019 community events cooking, making a scarecrow and giving fire truck rides at the annual Harvest Festival. The annual Slices with Santa was also a success donating all profits to the Washington Community Fund.

Our 2020 annual Fisherman's Breakfast, all parades, and Ladies Night had to be cancelled due to the pandemic.

On Memorial Day I was privileged to receive the Stephen Reich Award on behalf of all the first responders in town. We were chosen in order to acknowledge the tireless efforts dealing with Covid 19 and everything associated with the pandemic.

In August, Storm Isaias struck causing many of our volunteers to spend days away from their own family to man the firehouse and help manage blocked roads, live wires, and help citizens who needed portable generators because of medical concerns.

Sadly, this year the department lost three members: Past Chief Mark Lyon Sr, Past Chief Tom Hearn, and firefighter Mark Averill.

It is truly an honor to be the face of an organization that is the Washington Volunteer Fire Department.

Respectfully Submitted  
Darryl Wright  
CHIEF WASHINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

## **2019 - 2020 Variance Approvals – Zoning Board of Appeals**

**July 1, 2019 – July 1, 2020**

### **JULY 2019 -**

ZBA-1081: Request of Adams, 19-21 East Shore Road, for a Variance from Section(s): 11.6.1.C – Minimum Setback and Yard Dimensions, 12.1.1 – Wetlands and Watercourse Setback – for air conditioning units and propane tank.

ZBA-1082 – Request of Braverman, 48 Wykeham Road, for a Variance – Section(s): 11.6.1 – Minimum Setback and Yard Dimensions – for a deck.

ZBA -1079, Request of Tendler, 66 Old North Road, for a Variance from Section(s): 11.6.1.B – Minimum Setback and Yard Dimensions – On Interior Lots – Convert Existing Garage to an Accessory Apartment

### **AUGUST 2019 –**

ZBA-1078, Request of Jacobs, 257 West Shore Road, Variance from Section(s) – 11.6.1.C, 11.6.3 – Setbacks, 12.1.1 – Wetlands/Watercourse Setback – for a patio.

### **DECEMBER 2019 –**

ZBA: 1084, Request of Toman, 18 East Shore Road for a Variance – Section(s) 11.6.1.C – Minimum Setback and Yard Dimensions – to enclose an existing covered porch within a side and front yard setback.

### **JANUARY 2020 –**

ZBA: 1087: Request of Pouraghabagher/Javaheri-Saatchi, 5 West Church Hill Road, for a Variance from Section(s): 12.1 – Wetlands and Watercourse Setbacks, for a generator, air conditioning units and deck extension.

### **MARCH 2020 -**

ZBA-1091: Request of The Gunnery, 28 School Street, for a Variance from Section(s): 11.6 Minimum Setback and Yard Dimensions – for a storage shed.

ZBA: 1088: Request of Rathe, 40 Hinkle Rd., for a Variance from Section(s): 11.6.1.C – Minimum Setback and Yard Dimensions – for placement of a propane tank.

ZBA: 1090: Request of Everything Botanical, LLC, 253 Old Litchfield Rd., for a Variance from Section(s): 16.4.2 – Residential District Signs – for a Business sign exceeding two square feet.

ZBA-1092- Request of Adams, 19-21 East Shore Road, for a Variance from Section(s): 12.1.2 – Wetlands and Watercourse Setbacks – for an open flagstone terrace.

JUNE 2020 –

ZBA:1094 – Request of Frontier Communications, 8 Calhoun Street, for a Variance – Section(s) 11.6.1.A – Minimum Setback and Yard Dimensions – for an above ground fuel tank

ZBA:1095 – Request of Glover, 63 Wykeham Road, for a Variance – Section(s): 11.6 – Minimum Setback and Yard Dimensions, and 12.1.1 – Wetlands and Watercourse Setbacks – for a generator.

ZBA:1097, Request of Pakula, 66 Bee Brook Road, for a Variance from Section(s): 17.4.A – Nonconforming Structures – for two front dormers and a front door overhang, two steps and front stoop.

ZBA:1093: Request of Donovan, 127 West Shore Road, for a Variance – Section(s): 11.5.1.A – Maximum Lot Coverage – 11.6.1 – Minimum Setback and Yard Dimensions and 12.1.1 – Wetlands and Watercourse Setbacks – for a boathouse

ZBA:1096 (Continued), Request of Mudge, 240 Woodbury Road, for a Variance from Section(s): 11.6 – Minimum Setback and Yard Dimensions – for a privacy fence

**2019 - 2020 Variance Denials – Zoning Board of Appeals**

**July 1, 2019 – July 1, 2020**

NOVEMBER 2019 –

ZBA-1086: Request of a Variance from Section(s): 12.1.1 – Wetlands and Water Course Setbacks and 11.6.1 – Minimum Setback and Yard Dimensions – to restore shoreline

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Rill

## **ZONING COMMISSION**

The Washington Zoning Commission meets every fourth Monday of each month, except in May they meet on the third Monday to accommodate for Memorial Day. Regular Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. in the main level meeting room, Bryan Memorial Town Hall, Washington Depot, Ct. However, due to Covid-19 Meetings have been held via Zoom Video Conference since the May 18, 2020 Meeting.

During the past fiscal year, the Zoning Commission conducted 10 Regular Meetings. The March and April meeting were cancelled due to Covid-19, as video conferencing had not been set up at the time. A Special Meeting was held July 8, 2019, to discuss the revisions of Section 12.8 of the Zoning Regulations.

In the fiscal year of July 2019 through June 2020, there were 168 Zoning Permits approved administratively. The Zoning Commission scheduled 12 Public Hearings from which resulted in 7 Special Permits granted, 2 Special Permits denied, 2 requests for Special Permits withdrawn. The eleventh Public hearing was regarding revisions to the language of 12.8 - Temporary Uses, which the Zoning Commission had not made a decision by the end of June 2020.

Submitted by:

Shelley White

Land Use Administrator

## **TOWN ORGANIZATIONS**

American Legion Gage Zumpf Post #87  
Daughters of the American Revolution  
Devereux-Glenholme School  
First Congregational Church  
First Ecclesiastical Society of New Preston  
Foothills Visiting Nurse & Home Care  
Frederick Gunn School  
Gunn Memorial Library & Museum  
Lake Waramaug Association  
Lake Waramaug Authority  
Lions Club of Washington  
New Preston Cemetery Association  
New Preston Congregational Church  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
Parent Teacher Organizations  
Rotary Club of Washington  
Rumsey Hall School  
Salem Covenant Church  
RVNAHealth  
Scouts – Boy & Girl  
Shepaug Valley Middle High School  
St. Andrews Episcopal Church  
St. John's Episcopal Church  
Steep Rock Association  
Village Improvement Society  
Washington Ambulance Association  
Washington Business Association  
Washington Cemetery Association  
Washington Citizen's Scholarship  
Washington Community Fund  
Washington Community Housing Trust  
Washington Democratic Town Committee

Washington Environmental Council  
Washington Garden Club  
Washington Montessori School  
Washington Rod & Gun Club  
Washington Primary School  
Washington Republican Town Committee  
Washington Volunteer Fire Department & Auxiliary  
Washington Warren Food Bank