

THE NORTH STONINGTON QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2023

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Town's Budget passed on the first attempt for the 2nd year in a row. There was also an increase in voter turnout compared to the 2022 referendum, with 170 additional voters casting ballots.

So, what does that mean? First it means that the Board of Selectmen would like to thank our residents for having confidence in Town leadership. We always try to listen to the citizens of North Stonington and act on the wishes of the majority. We do not have personal agendas and only have the Town's best interest at heart. Secondly, the first-time passage allows the Town to now move forward with other initiatives and issues that will need to be addressed in the coming months.

Transfer Station – Sticker Fees and Bulky Waste Fees: Bulky Waste Fees will start on July 1st. Vouchers for the Transfer Stickers will be sold at Town Hall Monday – Friday from 8:00am – 4:00 pm starting on July 5th. We will also sell sticker vouchers on Saturdays from 9:00 – 12:00 during the month of July starting on July 8th at the Transfer Station. No one will be turned away through the month of July for not having a sticker providing they have proof of residency. As of August 1st, there will be NO entry to the Transfer Station without a sticker.

POCD Visioning Session - Demolition Site Repurposing: Originally scheduled for Saturday, June 24th, a Community Conversation was postponed to a later date. Part one is a visioning session for the Plan of Conservation and Development. This document must be completed every ten years and sets the Town's direction for the ten years to follow. The second part is to discuss how the Town will address the repurposing of the space formerly occupied by the old middle school. The BOS will then take the information and ideas that were expressed and deliver the best ideas to a Town Meeting for additional feedback and a Town Vote. The Board of Selectmen will advertise a new date for this event once one has been determined. If you have not already done so, please consider filling out the POCD survey.

BOB CARLSON, NICOLE PORTER, BRETT MASTROIANNI

selectmen@northstoningtonct.gov

2023 PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Every 10 years, the Town of North Stonington needs to complete a long-range comprehensive plan, known as the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). The POCD reflects community consensus on all aspects of future growth in town, articulates a clear vision and serves to guide the future development of the town. The recommended goals and objectives of the POCD serve as the town's strategic plan for the future and are in turn supported by the zoning and subdivision regulations, town ordinances, and actual land use decisions.

One of the most effective ways to gather input is through the POCD Survey. We had over 400 responses in 2013, so please help us get to that number and have each individual in your household over the age of 18 complete the survey at: <https://forms.office.com/r/CB1WwqMZZP>.

2023 Plan of Conservation and
Development Community Survey



NORTH STONINGTON AGRICULTURAL FAIR

It wouldn't be the start of summer in North Stonington without the North Stonington Fair! If anyone has driven by the grounds over the last couple of months, you were sure to see anything from the ground being dug, conduit being layed, new electrical panels going in, hydro seeding, structure upgrades, signage and overall maintenance taking place. Our grounds crew and their volunteers have been doing a great job and we can't thank you enough for giving of your time and efforts; the fair means so much to so many and we are proud to continue providing a quality event to all of you.

This year is the feeling of not "Bigger", but "Better". In addition to yearly scheduled events, we have added a Cirque Adventure show, a Stilt Walker, Magician/Juggler, sawmill exhibition and some great stage entertainment. Get your "Hair On" and Rock out on Saturday night to "Raise Your Hands", a Bon Jovi Tribute Band. Visit our website at www.northstoningtonfair.org to see a full schedule of events. We welcome back Nick Casey, Nick Bosse, Ken Atkins, and bands. Real Shoot Wrestlers will perform on Saturday and on Friday night you'll have an opportunity for a photo with your favorite wrestler as they roam the grounds. Be sure to get your entries in for the Home Arts and Crafts and Queen & Princess Pageants. All information is available on the website.



Congratulations to Marissa Perkins on being the recipient of the North Stonington Fair's Annual Scholarship! Marissa has been a participant and volunteer with the fair since early childhood and we wish her success as she continues her education at the University of Tennessee.

Clear your calendar... July 13th – 16th

JODY WHIPPLE pineneedlehomestead@sbcglobal.net 860-599-8498

WHEELER LIBRARY



Wheeler Library has a full calendar of events, programs, and activities to keep kids, teens and adults busy all summer long! Our summer program, READ, EXPLORE, CREATE, kicks off on June 24th with a visit from Riverside Reptiles and concludes on August 18th. Highlights include yoga, chess, magic shows, cooking classes, STEM workshops, a photo contest and a series of programs and classes for teens, weekly workshop activities and more! Mark your calendars for the Summer Music Series on Tuesday evenings June-August. Bring your own chair and a picnic or visit the food truck and listen to great music on the library lawn!



Visit wheelerlibrary.org for more information and to register for programs and reading challenges. If you are not already on our enews list, add your name to keep up to date on all that Wheeler Library has to offer! Save the date for a special evening at Wheeler Library, Saturday, November 4th.

AMY KENNEDY DIRECTOR

PAWCATUCK NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

During the summer months, many families whose children receive free school lunches feel the void that those programs fill. In fact, many families find it difficult to provide weekend food. To meet this need, the PNC Weekend Backpack program provides food for North Stonington children every Friday. The program continues during the summer months.

Terra Firma Farm, located in North Stonington delivers milk each week. Meat, fish, bread, fruit, snacks, eggs and pasta are also provided. Fresh vegetables are donated from the PNC's own garden, local gardens, CT Food Bank and Gemma Moran Food pantry.

North Stonington seniors have volunteered at the PNC since its incorporation in 1986. According to PNC volunteers, they gain as much from the experience as the people that they serve. North Stonington resident, Brian Hager has volunteered for several years in the food pantry. In that role, he has worked with many North Stonington residents as well as volunteers from neighboring towns. PNC volunteers are primarily persons who have retired and are looking to give back to the community, meet new friends and often connect with old ones.



The food pantry is available to North Stonington residents of all ages, Monday through Friday, 9:00 to 3:30. Patrons also find hygiene items, diapers, and pet food. For more information, visit the PNC, 27 Chase Street, Pawcatuck during the hours listed above, go to www.pawcatuckneighborhoodcenter.org, or call (860) 599 – 3285, ext. 103.

SUSAN SEDENSKY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

It is hard to believe that Summer is finally here, and the North Stonington Fair is just around the corner! With all of the great outdoor activities to enjoy in the area, don't forget to come to the Town Clerk's Office to purchase your fishing and hunting licenses. If you are a legal resident of Connecticut and have reached the age of 65, you are entitled to a free fishing license at the Town Clerk's Office. There are Fishing, Hunting/Trapping, and Boater's Guides available in the office. Sporting licenses can also be purchased online at www.ct.gov/deep.

Summer is a very busy time for weddings. If you plan on being married in North Stonington, a marriage license must be obtained from the Town Clerk's Office. Please contact the office for details.

It is also not too early to think about the November 7, 2023, Town Election to elect Town officials and many board and commission members. Absentee ballots will be available starting on October 6, 2023. Please call the Town Clerk with any questions about elections and absentee ballots.

The Town Clerk's Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM, except on legal holidays. Please feel free to stop in or call (860) 535-2877 Ext. 121 or e-mail townclerk@northstoningtonct.gov.

ANTOINETTE PANCARO, MMC, MCTC, CCMO TOWN CLERK

NORTH STONINGTON LIONS CLUB

Once again, the North Stonington Lions Club have been hard at work raising money for our charities account. In May, we held our first Steak Dinner Fundraiser. We had quite a crowd on hand for this event. Our members prepared a delicious dinner that was enjoyed by all who attended. It was so nice to see so many residents gathered together and catching up with one another and having a good time. After dinner we raffled off several prizes donated by local businesses. If you were unable to grab tickets for this year's dinner, we hope you will join us for the next one.



In May we held our 57th annual Memorial Day Parade. We thank everyone who lined the town's streets to cheer on all those who participated in this year's parade. Our Grand Marshall this year was fellow Lion Claude Flory. After the parade a ceremony was held to honor the brave men and women who served in the armed forces and lost their lives defending our country and its ideals.

In June we installed our officers for another year of service at a potluck picnic and will be at the North Stonington Fair in July parking cars. We will be taking the month of August off to enjoy the rest of the summer with our families.

We hope you will join us in the fall for our popular Dahlia Day event. We have over 400 bulbs planted. If Mother Nature cooperates, we should have a nice crop on display to photograph and pick, along with lunch and some tasty treats to enjoy. Look for our fliers and on Facebook for details.

In closing, we would like to congratulate all the North Stonington graduates and wish them success for the future. We also hope all our town's students have a fun and safe summer!

TERRY BYASSEE PRESIDENT

BOY SCOUTS TROOP 71



Troop 71 has had a busy few months! We participated in trail cleanup at Yannatos Preserve - six truckloads of brush and invasives were removed, which helped to open up the view of Green Falls River. The troop visited the Trolley Museum and had a day led by Troop 71's own Sully Mwroka! The Scouts learned about the history of the CT Trolley system.

The troop participated in the annual Veteran's flag placement at Union Cemetery, as well as marching in the Memorial Day Parade. We had a number of scouts attend the East of the River Spring Camporee at JNW Scout Reserve. A large number of Troop 71 will be heading back to JNW at the end of June to attend a week of Scout Camp. Merit badges,

swimming and camping are just a few of things in store for that week! Troop 71 is prepared to raise the flags, and open the North Stonington Fair in July, as well as assist with organizing parking at the event. In August, the Troop will be heading to Adventure Bound, Maine to spend the week white water rafting, hiking, camping and other amazing adventures! If you are interested in Scouting email Scoutmaster Ramsey Allen at mmjadi3d@gmail.com.

JENN RICHTER

COMMITTEE MEMBER

WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL



Happy Summer! We had another fantastic year at Wheeler with 56 students graduating on June 21st! We continue to see a split with a little over half of our students now entering higher education in the fall at colleges and universities including: The Coast Guard Academy, Endicott College, Middlebury College, Eastern, UCONN, WPI, Three Rivers and many others. We have also successfully graduated our first 7 pathway students in the areas of business and engineering. These students completed over 60 internship hours their senior year to gain more experience in their field of study. We had 3 seniors graduate with a pipe-fitting certificate from the Westerly Education Center through their Electric Boat program as well as successfully complete over 500 hours of work study in their senior year!

We continue to modify and update our programming to fit the needs of ALL learners and will continue to do so in these changing times. We are grateful for the many community connections in and around North Stonington and the consistent support from the town in allowing us to use some space in our old building to support a new alternative education program, as well as a wood-working class. We are so proud of all of our 7-12 students and continue to prepare for our District NEASC Accreditation Collaborative Conference in 2024.

KRISTEN ST. GERMAIN, PRINCIPAL



NORTH STONINGTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The NSEF 5K and 2 Mile Walk, and Annual Dinner Dance (NOSTO UNLEASHED: An Evening with Sugar) were a tremendous success. Both events were our largest to date. We would like to thank the North Stonington community for being so supportive of what we do; education is the beneficiary.



Congratulations to the newly inducted members of the Wheeler Distinguished Alumni Award, Cheryl Haase and Wayne Coates. This event was attended by 190 people. Our 5K event included over 200 participants. The Top Male Winner was Mark Olivier, with a time of 16:45. Our Top Female Winner was Jenna Cobb, with a time of 23:47. Congratulations Troy Hopkins, North Stonington Superintendent, for running a respectable race.

The Foundation would like to welcome four new board members: Heather Sawyer, Nick Bolt, Andreea Dugas, and Laura Tillinghast. If anyone is interested in becoming a board member, please contact Marc Tardiff (marctard1@yahoo.com).

Our Fall Disc Golf Scramble will be back, along with a brand-new fundraiser, The Amazing Race NoSto Edition, which will be held on September 30th.

For more information on each event, please check out our website at www.nsedfoundation.org, or visit our Facebook page (facebook.com/nostoedfoundation).

BERNARD "BING" BARTICK bbesail@aol.com LAURA STEFANSKI Lazzavra@aol.com

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Hello, my friends. Here we are once again, looking at the beginning of our hurricane season. The official forecast for the Atlantic hurricane season which runs from June 1 to November 30, predicts a 40% chance of a near-normal season, a 30% chance of an above-normal season and a 30% chance of a below-normal season. NOAA is forecasting a range of 12-17 total named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher). Please remember that it only takes a “tropical storm” level event to wreak havoc on our town. Do you recall Tropical Storm “Irene,” 2011?

The impact/influence of El Niño (warmer water and temperature) usually “feeds” a storm system, so the impact of this condition on our weather is still somewhat unpredictable. The best advice I can give to you is to ALWAYS stay prepared to survive for at least three days for ALL emergency events. It doesn't always have to be a storm that causes an emergency situation for North Stonington.

During the interim, I have participated in many behind-the-scenes training events regarding school active-shooter hazards and fire drills. The school staff and students’ excellent responses during these drills are impressive.

I’ve sworn in my new Deputy Director of Emergency Management, Fire Chief Charles Steinhart V. Welcome, Charley!

So, stay prepared...watch weather reports and sign-up for “CTAlert,” to keep apprised of emergency weather conditions. **Stay Well! Stay Safe!**

GARY BARON DIRECTOR

PLANNING AND ZONING OFFICIAL/LAND USE OFFICE

My name is Ariel Lago and I am currently a resident of Haddam, CT. I am a small farm owner and enjoy learning the farming life. Since accepting my new position as Town Planner for North Stonington, I have been focused on expanding my knowledge of conducting planning and zoning in a rural town. I am enjoying my time here and working with great people, such as those who serve on our Economic Development and the Planning and Zoning commissions. I have set my goals to identify the interest of the town’s residents and hope to meet their expectations in reaching some of our POCD goals. I am very grateful for this opportunity and hope to provide guidance and support to the goals of our town’s residents. As time goes on, I hope to share more success stories that reflect a farming community.

New Pending Project: The proposed Wedding Barn falls under the "Hospitality" use which is permitted in the EDD Zone. It is not being proposed as a ‘winery’ as there is no proposed production of wine on the site. The grapes being grown currently are to be used elsewhere. They can essentially be thought of as landscaping/buffer for this project. As alluded to above, the use could also be considered “Mixed Use”.

The Parcel is perfectly situated right by exit 92 on and off ramps— and all primarily access to the property is over state roads. Other than the single residence across the street, the property is surrounded by commercial and industrial uses, a church and cemetery and other open fields/vacant parcels — except for the one residence, church and cemetery, all abutting parcels are located within the EDD, or I district.

The proposed Vineyard and Wedding Barn beautifully enhances the property while preserving the existing farmland on the former Crider Farm; only a portion of the parcel is being used. The project represents an excellent balance of appropriate small- scaled development and conservation of land, which is the primary goal of the POCD. The use will complement similar uses in Town and serve as an attraction for visitors. Our Planning and Zoning department looks forward to sharing more exciting news for the town and all its residents.

ARIEL LAGO, PLANNING AND ZONING OFFICIAL

NORTH STONINGTON PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION



If you have a student in one of our schools, you KNOW how busy Spring was! Staff Appreciation Week, Day of Awesomeness, Basket Raffle, Family Fun Nights, Book Fair, Wellness Days, Fieldtrips, Field Days, Drama Performances – all sorts of fun activities sponsored in part (or fully!) by the NSPTO. We are so grateful for the support our community has shown us this year. Together, we raised over \$26k to help make programs like the ones mentioned above happen. Truly incredible!

Summer marks the end of the terms for our PTO Officers. I'd like to thank Sally Timmons (VP), Rosanne Salisbury (Treasurer), and Breeze Floyd (Secretary) for everything they've contributed over the last two years. I like to think they'll miss my love of in-person meetings, the countless text and email messages I sent them, and the corny puns I used every chance I could get!

We really hope to keep the momentum going for the 2023-2024 school year. Fall will be a better time than ever to get involved! The new Board has already begun to plan! Looking forward to keeping traditions alive and adding some new events too! Hope you'll join us!

We wish everyone a fun-filled healthy Summer!

DAWN GORALEWICZ president@northstoningtonpto.com

ROTARY OF THE STONINGTONS

We are a small but mighty club that fulfills the Rotary International mission to alleviate poverty, and improve health, education, and the environment. We contribute annually to both global and local organizations aimed at bettering the lives of people and their communities.

Our 30th Annual Golf Tournament, at Fishers Island NY, on May 25th was a hole in one hit! Over 100 supportive golfers enjoyed a stellar sunny day for our biggest fundraising event of the year!

As seabirds flew overhead, golfers from all over the United States played a hearty round of golf, enjoyed breakfast and dinner, and took home some amazing raffle prizes! We want to thank Fishers Island Golf Club for hosting us, and all the sponsors and participants for their generous support. All the money raised from the golf tournament goes back into the community to support.

Once again, the North Stonington Lions Club have been hard at work raising money for our charities account. In May, we held our first Steak Dinner Fundraiser. We had quite a crowd on hand for this event. Our members prepared a delicious dinner that was enjoyed by all who attended.



DONNA SCHERER PRESIDENT

MESSAGE FROM YOUR WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

The WPCA has posted important information on the Town's web site under the WPCA and Land-Use departments, "TIPS FOR SEPTIC SYSTEM CARE". The guidance provides important information regarding the proper maintenance and operation of an on-site septic system for both residential and commercial use. Because North Stonington almost exclusively relies on on-site septic systems and drinking water wells, following the guidance, and properly maintaining one's septic system, will help prevent public health nuisance conditions, ground water pollution and, in the end, avoid the expensive cost of repairing or replacing the septic system, which can be tens of thousands of dollars.

Please call Bill Warzecha at 860-535-2877 ext. 126 with any questions.

NORTH STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

As the school year comes to a close, I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation for everyone's contributions in making this year such a wonderful success.

First and foremost, I cannot say enough about the incredible efforts of our staff. Teachers, paraprofessionals, custodians, bus drivers, food service, counselors, and administrators alike have all dedicated themselves to providing our students with the best education possible. They have gone above and beyond to ensure that our students are thriving, and I am grateful for everything they've done. Because of our compassionate staff, we are a school system where everyone feels safe, valued, and a sense of belonging.

Our students have played the leading role in the success of this year. They have worked tirelessly, both in and out of the classroom, and their accomplishments are a testament to their hard work and dedication. From concerts, plays and athletic events to academics, internships, and service, our students displayed outstanding perseverance, teamwork, and character. Our whole staff is incredibly proud of all that our seniors have achieved, including their personalized senior projects, and we know that they will continue to do great things in the future.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest thanks to our parents and the community. Your enthusiasm and support for our school system has been truly inspiring. Your participation in school events and your commitment to our budget have allowed us to provide our students with the best possible resources and opportunities. Among other groups, our PTO, Giving Closet, Food Pantry, and the North Stonington Education Foundation performed important charitable services and exemplified what a caring community looks like. Without community support, we could not have accomplished everything that we have this year.

The fact that Wheeler principal Kristen St. Germain was named the 2023 Connecticut High School Principal of the Year is just one additional indication of the high quality of our entire school system. So, to all the staff, students, parents, and community members who helped make this year great, thank you. Your hard work, dedication, and support have truly made a difference. I hope everyone has a productive and enjoyable summer!

TROY C. HOPKINS

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

hopkinst@northstonington.k12.ct.us

KEEPING NORTH STONINGTON AFFORDABLE



Keeping North Stonington Affordable (KNSA) is proposing building 25 affordable rental apartment homes at Wrights Road on town owned land. Gaining site control of approximately 10 acres is the first step in seeking state or private funding to build these rental apartments. Gaining site control is governed by state statute 8-24. It states the following: the Board of Selectmen must consider and pass approval to the Planning and Zoning Commission; upon P&Z consideration and approval, the question is passed to the people either at a town meeting or referendum for consideration. If site control is obtained, but funding is not secured within a specified time, the land would revert to the town.

Use of this land for affordable housing would honor the desire of the donors when they gifted 109 acres of land to the town. Our Plan of Conservation and Development supports the need for more affordable choices in housing.

North Stonington has only 1.2% deed restricted affordable housing, the lowest in our region. This is an opportunity to address that need. Keeping North Stonington Affordable is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt corporation with a board of directors comprised of North Stonington residents. Our motto is "Providing a Hometown Solution". Your support will help provide a solution to the housing shortage in our town.

MARY ANN RICKER PRESIDENT

NORTH STONINGTON COMMUNITY GRANGE #138



North Stonington Community Grange #138 is pleased to say that we are meeting on a regular basis. It has been a busy spring. Our Grange Hall was transformed into a "hospital" for a movie due out next year - "The Fog of War" being the current title.

The Lions have held a "soup supper" and a steak dinner here, and the North Stonington Education Foundation held their race, starting and ending here. Some of our members have decorated both the Rec Department and the memorials again. The recipient of the Gene Bromley Scholarship is Isabella Anderson. We wish her well in her future studies. It was pleasing to see our hall so full at our April 28th meeting when we celebrated Nick Mullane as our

Community Citizen of the Year 2023 for his outstanding service to our town and many organizations herein. We also recognized Dot Gurnee's 75 years as a Grange member! We enjoyed taking part in the Memorial Day parade.

You are welcome to come meet us informally at our picnic on June 23rd, which begins at 6:30 in the pavilion, and more formally at our meetings on July 7th which is titled "Trivial Pursuit", August 4th which the ladies will present "Operation", and August 25th in which the men will present "Battleship". July and August meetings are at 8:00 pm. We will hold our Installation of Officers on September 08th. The fall schedule is not developed yet...stay tuned.

You are welcome to join us at any time. Please contact Lecturer Sue Pianka at 860-599-4528 or Secretary Nancy Weissmuller at 860-535-2703 for the latest on meeting status.

SUE PIANKA PROGRAM DIRECTOR

BOARD OF EDUCATION

It's that time of year again, with Summer comes the end of another school year. I would like to thank the community for supporting our budget, which allows us to continue to offer a high-quality educational experience to all our students in the North Stonington School District. We are wrapping up our first year with our Superintendent, Troy Hopkins, and would like to thank him for a year full of energy, optimism, and devotion to innovative learning. There were a lot of changes to manage, and we are so fortunate for his leadership. Congratulations to our High School principal Mrs. St. Germain for her recognition as Connecticut's Principal of the Year for 2023. She makes a positive impact on our students and staff each day.

Our athletic teams performed top of the ECC this year in many of our sports and we are so proud of our chorus, drama and so many other clubs that make our schools special. The Board of Ed will continue our work on the district goals and policies throughout the summer and we will have our annual summer workshop in July. We are currently working to address the needs of our athletic fields as well as our playground at the elementary school. Enjoy the summer, see you next fall!

CHRISTINE WAGNER CHAIRMAN



CONNECTION = Volunteering & Veterans Coffeeshouses



Now more than ever community support is so important and impactful! The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) offers the support someone needs to remain living at home, either with grocery shopping needs, visiting, or local medical rides. If you are 55+ contact us to hear how your help may improve the quality of life of an elderly or disabled person by volunteering around your schedule to help a neighbor in your community.

We have a North Stonington community member who needs rides to her doctor appointments!

Contact: Renee LaBonte, Program Coordinator, at 860-425-6608 / rlabonte@tvcca.org

Visit our website at tvcca.org or facebook.com/TVCCArsvp/

Connect with veterans! TVCCA hosts monthly veteran coffeeshouses to meet and socialize with other veterans and their spouses and receive information about veteran benefits and services:

- 2nd and 4th Thursday: Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center, 27 Chase St.
- 1st and 3rd Thursday: (New location) Mystic Congregational Church, 43 East Main Street.
- Meeting time is 9-11am; free baked goods and coffee.

JAMES HODGE Veterans Coffeehouse Coordinator 860-425-6615 jhodge@tvcca.org.

NORTH STONINGTON GARDEN CLUB

Thank you to all our loyal customers who attended our Plant Sale on Saturday, May 13th! We are very appreciative of your support. It was wonderful to see young families and their young gardeners enjoy the Sale. The proceeds from the Sale support our plantings at the Village Green and Town Hall gardens.

After a 2-yr hiatus, the Club will resume funding our program of Community Grants and the Anna Coit Memorial Scholarship. We have received applications for the scholarship, and we hope to announce the recipient in July.



NSGC joined this year's Memorial Day Parade. The day was perfect for members to enjoy decorating and riding John Anderson's hay wagon (thank you, John!). Plenty of hats, flowers, flags, and smiles as members distributed free seed packets to parade-goers.

NSGC, via Community Education, continues its support of the Town's Pollinator Pathway Project. In April, members joined children, parents, and grandparents at the Library to plant zinnia seeds in newspaper pots to take home to transfer to the Children's Pollinator Garden the following month. In May, the Annual Children Pollinator Garden Planting Day was a great success. Emily Noyes, Library Assistant Director, and Club members showed local young gardeners how to sow seeds and plant zinnia seedlings (started the previous month). It was fun for everyone involved and new plants were added to the Town's Pollinator Pathway.

For more info about NSGC events and activities, visit our website at nsgardenclub.org, or find us on Facebook.

BARBARA DUNCAN PRESIDENT

HEWITT FARM

With summer rapidly approaching, the Hewitt Farm continues to draw visitors for the clean air and the many trails that are so popular. Visit the community garden and enjoy the maturing flowers and vegetables. The pavilion sits across the field from the farmhouse inviting visitors to stop, sit and enjoy the day after walking the trails.

The Artisan Farm Market will host five events at the farm through spring, summer and fall in 2023. Last year's events were very successful. Upcoming events are currently scheduled for July 23rd, August 20th, September 17th and October 15th. The pavilion can also be reserved for a private event by visiting the Recreation Department website and scheduling the event.

One of our trail bridges leading to the Plains Cemetery was showing signs of decay and was repaired by committee member Bob Dunn.

Hewitt Farm is open daily from dawn to dusk. It's free, easy to get to, right near the village and Holly Green. Park just inside the Hewitt Road entrance off Route 2 or at the parking area down Hewitt Road from Ryder Road. Download the Hewitt Farm Trail Map from the Recreation Department town website (www.northstoningtonct.gov).

ED HARASIMOWIZ CHAIRMAN 860-245-5305

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Following many, many hours of planning for two grant applications to create a universally accessible wheelchair trail, they were not accepted. The town cannot handle the expense in its yearly budget, so we must forgo what we hoped would be a worthy addition to our trail system.

If you haven't been by the Pocket Park at the intersection of Routes 49 and 184, please do so. Many passersby comment on the beauty this park has contributed to the area. More improvements to come as the arborvitae trees along the rear are becoming overgrown.



We regularly monitor over 30 conservation easements in town to assure landowners are compliant with what is written in their deed. This assures others who may want to conserve all or part of their property in its natural state that the town will protect their wishes. One such breach has occurred necessitating enforcement actions.

We participated in CT Trails Day in June and have led high school groups along our "Historic Hiking Trail" through town center. They are always amazed at the different types of architecture along Main Street and the history surrounding them.

By fall we hope our efforts to complete a biking trail map will be finished. As numerous bikers use our roads this map will include several routes around town, their level of difficulty, mileage, and elevations.

BILL RICKER williamricker@comcast.net 860-535-2426

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

As July approaches, Tax Bills are going out. Remember, **if you sold or junked a motor vehicle** and did not use the same license plate on a replacement vehicle, you need to submit the plate receipt to the Assessor's Office. The Department of Motor Vehicles does NOT inform my office when a motor vehicle is sold or junked. All you need to do is go online to the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles website, cancel the vehicle registration, and print the receipt. Turn in that receipt to the Assessor's Office, and a correction will be made on the tax bill for that vehicle.

Renters looking to qualify for the State of Connecticut Renter's Rebate Program need to apply to the Assessor's Office before October 1, 2023. The income-based program for renters who are 65 years old on January 1, 2023, or anyone with a S.S. disability who has an income less than \$49,300 for a married couple or \$40,300 for a single person, may apply. The State of Connecticut will send a check based on your expenses and income to all renters that qualify.

To apply for the Connecticut Renters Program, proof of income including your social security statements and your tax return for 2022, plus your rent expense and your statements for utilities, including heat and electricity. The Assessor's Office will assist in completing the paperwork.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy summer.

DARRYL L. DEL GROSSO, CCMA 11 ASSESSOR 860-535-2877 ext. 23 or 24

NORTH STONINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

It is hard to believe but we are just about to complete our 2022-2023 school year. We have been enjoying all the fun events that the end of the year brings us. We've had all our chorus concerts and our band concert. Classes have been attending some awesome field trips and taking some extra time to get outside and enjoy the beautiful weather. Our annual Art Show took place on June 8th and featured some amazing work by our talented students.

We had a fun Field Day on June 15th and the following day we bid farewell to an awesome 6th grade class. We will certainly miss them but wish them the best of luck as they move on to Wheeler Middle School!

We have just completed our state testing for this year. We are thankful to our students for their efforts on these tests as they can be quite taxing on the students. We also thank our families for supporting your children through these assessments. Results should be out late summer/early fall. Our students are also completing other end of the year assessments that help teachers determine student growth over the course of the year. We are preparing for our Extended School Year, which will start on July 10th and run until August 3rd, four days a week. Notices will be going home soon for students who are invited to attend.

I'd like to thank all the parents and families of NSES for another great year! I so appreciate the support you have for our school, our staff, and your children. I hope everyone has an amazing summer!

ROBERT CILLINO PRINCIPAL

TAX COLLECTOR

Hello North Stonington. Hopefully summer will be in full swing soon and we will all be complaining about how hot it is, but as of this writing it is chilly, windy, and only 60 degrees. Unfortunately, with summer comes tax bills. Bills will be sent out in the mail at the end of June with a due date of July 1st. Remember you have until August 1st to pay without interest. On August 2nd the interest will be 3%, due to state statutes, which say interest accrues from the due date. Therefore, 1½% for July and 1 ½% for August. Please do your best to pay before August 1st. If you have any questions, upon receipt of your bills, please do not hesitate to call my office or the Assessor's Office. It would be best to call immediately, in case you need to obtain documentation for a correction or change.

ONLINE BILL PAY: When using your online bill pay, through your personal banks, be sure to put a current year bill in the memo. We receive many without any bill information to process the payment. We will only spend so much time looking and will then return the check or apply to the oldest bill due in the name on the check. Also, be advised that these payments come **without a postmark** on the envelope. This can become a problem when closing in on the deadline to pay. According to state statute, we can only back date a payment using a post office post mark. Therefore, if you choose to use this service give your bank plenty of time to get that payment to the tax office before the last day to pay.

Please stop by, say hello, and receive a receipt for your payment.

ZAYNE R. RING, CCMC TAX COLLECTOR

NORTH STONINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Our Second Saturday open house programs are a chance to explore something new. The Society has had a demonstration of hügelkulturs in the dye garden, metal detecting on the Stephen Main Homestead property, a workshop of anotype natural photo process, and more. Join us this summer for programs and displays in the Stephen Main Homestead. In **July**, come tour the three gardens and see our new spinning wheel. The Homestead is featuring floral paintings by Harriet Main Greene, daughter of Stephen Main, and the dye house will be open.

For an **August program**, check the website at northstoningtonhistorical.org, but summer is a good time to use the genealogical library to research your family history, open Tuesday afternoons or by appointment. Phone 860-535-9448 or 599-3608 or go to the website. **September 9th** is Dye House Day. Join us for a day of dying demonstrations, spinning, and weaving. Ellen Stone, our expert, will be here to show how to dye fibers and answer your questions. We will also have children's activities in dying and weaving.

DICK SEAGER PRESIDENT dickseager@comcast.net

NORTH STONINGTON CITIZENS LAND ALLIANCE

Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council

In everyday life, North Stonington's two rivers, the Shunock and Green Fall, are seemingly shy watercourses. Yet they are both important partners with five other Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed rivers as they enter the Pawcatuck River and empty into the Sound!

The Shunock and Green Fall Rivers and their tributaries can be dynamic when unleashed by a tropical storm or high rains, as most of us have learned! Mostly, though, they flow through town quietly and unnoticed. Shunock is serpentine: Green Fall is straight as a ruler. They pass within peoples' back yards, out in the fields, under road crossings, and around fallen trees and scrub; now and then we have a lucky glimpse.

The WP Wild and Scenic Stewardship Plan meshes easily with North Stonington's own Inland Wetlands and Land Commission regulations. Here is one shared item: educating ourselves about the importance of retaining riverine natural ground cover so that the Shunock, Green Fall, and their tributaries will be able to boast that every one of their embankments is, or will soon be, a buffer of 100 feet that is green, not mowed, and natively planted. Click on WPWildRivers.org and North Stonington, CT Town Hall Inland Wetlands for more!

MADELINE JEFFERY mjeffery211@gmail.com ELAINE CALDARON Eecaldarone@yahoo.com

CEMETARY COMMISSION

The Commission has overseen the flag placement for Memorial Day to honor all our Veterans. Once again, I must give my sincere thanks to the volunteers both within and without the commission membership. Special thanks go to Boy Scout Troop 71, for their participation at Union Cemetery. It's a large cemetery but they were stellar in completing the task.

I would like to take this opportunity to explain field stone cemeteries. These could be Native American, children, slave, or simply the markers for those who could not afford a more ornate stone. Typically, they consist of rounded, squared, or triangular stones in a grid, or group, which are not inscribed. Often the trees have grown throughout the site. Regardless, these are grave markers. Please treat them with respect, as you do with all cemeteries.

David Fede continues to do the hard work of coordinating the basic upkeep of our veteran sites. Lucky for all of us, there are many townspeople who are ready and willing to assist in this task! Robert Dean is one of our newer volunteers. We want to thank Mr. Dean, and every one of you who take the time and effort to help!



DIANE PRESTON

Home 860-599-1832 / Cell 860-961-2580

BETTER TOGETHER CT INC. FARM & SANCTUARY

At Better Together CT Inc. we aim to address the root cause of suicide and opioid epidemic in Combat Veterans, First Responders, and the community at large, and are providing free wellness services to veterans already.

New Programs for 2023:

- **Reiki & Health & Wellness Coaching, Yoga** - Christine Gentry, BS, MA, RN, HN-BC
- **Free Art Therapy - By Veteran for Veterans** - Felicia Stevens, BAAT, NLP
- **Farm to Table Nutritional Ed Program (PTSD Diet)**- Stefana Pecher, MD & Guest Chefs
- **Purpose Changes You(th)** (Focus on Change through Community Service)
- **Cloning/Growing & Harvesting** with UCONN students & Professor Matt DeBacco.
- **Beading Classes** - Led by EPTN Member & Veteran Val Gambrell

Save the Date!! - September 23rd - 3rd Annual Hempstock Music Festival

The Junction @ Better Together Country Farm Store & gift shop is now open on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday. This store is run by our volunteers. Proceeds from sales benefit programs and operations at Better Together.

Thank you to our volunteers & supporters! Without your generosity with your time and financial support it would not be possible to help as many people as we have. We are truly "Better Together"!

DR. STEFANA PECHER

DIRECTOR

CAROLYN HOWELL

SECRETARY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The North Stonington Economic Development Commission (EDC) recently closed the North Stonington Covid-19 Small Business Assistance Program and voted to return the remaining ARPA funds back to the Town. It was a very successful program which granted \$66,818.91 to seven local businesses impacted by Covid-19. The Commission found it very satisfying to help those affected.

We are working on a local business trifold that can be placed around Town providing information about the businesses, restaurants, and attractions our Town has to offer. This is a relatively inexpensive way to provide information to those traveling through Town and give exposure to North Stonington businesses.

Finally, we are still working with the committee updating our Plan of Conservation and Development. There is still time to give your input into what you would like to see in your community moving forward. Questions and/or suggestions can be emailed to pocd2023@gmail.com.

Our Commission is here to assist the business community. We hope you have a safe, productive summer.

CHRISTOPHER P. ANDERSON

canderson@northstoningtonct.gov

BOARD OF FINANCE

Hello North Stonington taxpayers. We have completed all of the heavy lifting associated with the town's budget, and just in time for summer! You, the voters, overwhelmingly approved the town Government, Board of Education, and Capital expenditure budgets by a 2:1 margin. The new budget will result in a modest increase to the mill rate, but this was needed to support North Stonington initiatives.

Going into this new fiscal year, the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen will work together to develop a sound capital investment plan. Once the capital list is fully vetted, we will commit to spending what is needed to maintain our capital equipment and facilities. More to come on this critical initiative. In the meantime, enjoy the summer!

PAUL SIMONDS, CHAIRMAN



AVALONIA LAND CONSERVANCY

In North Stonington nature is at our doorstep, including on the many land trust properties in town. Find a preserve new to you at www.avalonia.org and check the events schedule. Families can explore with the activity Hike & Seek. At the website, find info and clues and targets for properties in North Stonington and beyond.



- Sound Finances
- Ethical Conduct
- Responsible Governance
- Lasting Stewardship

Would you be interested in joining a work party? Contact Toby Glaza at tglaza@avaloniaalc.org. Your membership is always welcome. For information, to volunteer to monitor a property or help keep trails clear, you may contact Pat Turner at jmt.pst@gmail.com.

NORTH STONINGTON PUBLIC ALERTS AND INFORMATION



Get alerted about important community news by signing up for our Alert Program. This system enables us to provide you with information quickly in a variety of situations, such as community notifications, upcoming special events, unexpected road closures and more! You will receive time sensitive messages wherever you specify, such as your home, mobile or business phones, email address, text messages and more. You pick where, you pick how.



Scan the QR code or Text “NOSTO” to 888-777

POLLINATOR PATHWAY PROJECT

A big thank you to all who donated to the Crowdfunding Campaign last year to kickstart the project. Please visit the growing Children’s Pollinator Friendly Garden behind the library. The children read books, started seeds, and planted them in the bed. The project attempts to provide a contiguous path of pesticide free and pollinator friendly plantings along Main Street for pollinating bees and others.

Although Main Street is designated as the pathway, everyone is encouraged to manage their properties in ways that encourage and sustain the various pollinators. You can participate and spread the word by displaying a 6” yard sign. You will find brochures at the library or at the Town Hall.

PAT TURNER No.Sto.Pollinators@gmail.com

GIVING CLOSET



Do you know we have gifted 5,000+ items of clothing since December 2022?! We would like to thank the many families that have donated, Operation Fresh Start, Bob Carlson and Troy Hopkins, those who have volunteered their time, Wheeler's Give Back Club, and those who have shopped. We carry new, or like new, sizes ranging from 0-3 months up to 3XL. Please stop by and shop! We are located at The North Stonington Education Center, 298 Norwich-Westerly Rd, room 126

For now, you can check for the weekly hours on the North Stonington Town Group page on Facebook. If you would like to set up a time to shop privately, please reach out to one of us. Confidentiality is of utmost importance to us. Have a fantastic summer!

SARAH VAILLANCOURT, ROBIN PIELA, REBECCA SCHILKE COORDINATORS

NORTH STONINGTON GIRL SCOUT TROOPS



Our troops were busy with cookie sales in April. In addition to that, Brownie Troop 63283 participated in a special program at the Mystic Aquarium for Scouts to learn about sea life. Brownie Troop 63283 and Brownie Troop 63813 marched in the Memorial Day parade in town. Troop 63813 also participated in a clean-up for ORCA.

There is a sleepover at the Mystic Seaport with Lighthouse Service Unit where scouts will sleep on the Joseph Conrad and participate in boating and ropes course. We are looking for new leaders for troops. If interested, contact Mandy Brink at trekeragb@sbcglobal.net.

MANDY BRINK GIRL SCOUT TOWN COORDINATOR

trekeragb@sbcglobal.net

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM OUR REGISTRARS

Summer is just around the corner and below are updates we'd like to share. As I'm sure all of you have heard, Early Voting has passed in Connecticut. While all the details are ironed out and policies put in place, we will be starting this process with the 2024 Presidential Preference Primary, scheduled for April 2024. Once this is implemented, we will share all the details with you in our next update. Changes are inevitable, so get ready for the ride!

Once again if you are interested in helping us at the polls, volunteers (with pay) are welcomed. Contact our office for additional details. As a reminder, our office is open every Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10am-12noon.

CONNIE BERARDI AND EMILY LEWIS

REGISTRARS

North Stonington Recreation Summer 2023 Programs/Activities

- **Beach Volleyball League:** starts June 15th
- **Youth Tennis Clinic:** starts June 18th
- **Summer Playground Camp:** starts June 26th (a seven week morning camp for kids)
- **Extended Day Camp:** week of July 24th, week of August 7th
- **Summer Drama Camps:** week of July 10th, week of July 17th, week of August 14th
- **Youth Baseball Clinic:** July 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th
- **Youth Soccer Camps:** week of July 24th
- **Archery For Kids:** starts week of July 25th
- **Summer Arts & Crafts:** Session #1 (July 5th- 7th); Session #2 (July 17th – 21st)
- **Youth Volleyball Clinic:** pending
- **Youth Basketball Clinic:** pending

Please visit northstoningtonrec.com for more information.

THOMAS FABIAN

DIRECTOR



SUMMER EVENTS!!!



July

8 th	Saturday	11:00am to 2:00pm	Stephen Main Homestead	Garden Tours
10 th , 17 th 24 th , 31 st	Mondays	10:30am	Wheeler Library	Chess for Kids
11 th , 18 th 25 th	Tuesdays	10:30am	Wheeler Library	Chess for Adults
13 th -16 th	Thursday to Sunday	Hours vary daily	North Stonington Fair Grounds	North Stonington Agriculture Fair
11 th -27 th	Tuesday or Thursday	10:30am	Wheeler Library	Story Time on the Go (alternating Tuesday and Thursday mornings)
18 th	Tuesday	6pm	Wheeler Library	Summer Music Series (Cora Post)
23 rd	Sunday	10:00am to 1:00pm	Hewitt Farm	North Stonington Artisan Farm Market

August

1st-17 th	Tuesday or Thursday	10:30am	Wheeler Library	Story Time on the Go (alternating Tuesday and Thursday mornings)
1 st	Tuesday	6:00pm	Wheeler Library	Summer Music Series (Nick Bosse)
15 th	Tuesday	6:00pm	Wheeler Library	Summer Music Series (Ben Freiert)
16 th	Wednesday	6:30pm	Wheeler Library	Mister Magic
20 th	Sunday	10:00am to 1:00pm	Hewitt Farm	North Stonington Artisan Farm Market
29 th	Tuesday	6:00pm	Wheeler Library	Book Group

September

17 th	Sunday	10:00am to 1:00pm	Hewitt Farm	North Stonington Artisan Farm Market
26 th	Tuesday	4:00pm	Wheeler Library	Book Group
27 th	Wednesday	6:00pm	Wheeler Library	Cookbook Club

**Town of North Stonington
40 Main Street
North Stonington, CT 06359**

**PRSRT STD
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North Stonington, CT 06359**

ELECTION DAY WILL BE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH

Would you like to have an active role in our town's future?

July is an important month for anyone interested in running for an office.

The North Stonington Democratic Town Committee will call a meeting on Tuesday, July 18th at 7pm at the Senior Center for the purpose of selecting party-endorsed candidates for each available municipal office. Contact Chairperson Toula Balestracci by email (nostodem@gmail.com) or phone (860-514-2929) to express interest.

The North Stonington Republican Town Committee will hold a Caucus of all enrolled NS Republicans on Monday, July 24th at 6:30, at the North Stonington Education Center for the purpose of selecting Republican party-endorsed candidates for each office vacancy. Contact Brett Mastroianni by email at NStoningtonRTC@gmail.com to express interest.

Unaffiliated candidates may seek endorsement from either Party or petition to be placed on the November ballot by obtaining an Application for Nominating Petition by contacting the Secretary of State. The petition must be filed with the Town Clerk by Wednesday, August 9th, by 4pm. For more information, contact the Town Clerk's office at 860-535-2877 ext. 21.