

THE NORTH STONINGTON QUARTERLY

WINTER 2016

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Season's greetings! As we turn the year-end corner and start facing days with longer daylight, the Selectmen will also turn their attention to the beginnings of the annual budget process. Look for meetings in January between the Boards to discuss guidelines on budget development and funding priorities.

Major budget issues to consider this year (and for years to come) will be the continuation of the Center for Emergency Services and the School Modernization Effort. More information on both activities is contained in this issue of the Quarterly. Residents and taxpayers are encouraged to become as informed as possible on these important projects.

The effective governance of the Town is supported by citizens and their participation in the various budget development activities and implementation of approved plans. If you would like to be involved in helping to develop those budgets, or to help carry out the Town's mission, consider participating on a town board or commission. Even after the recent election, there are several openings on commissions and committees. To find out more information, contact the Town Clerk or First Selectman's office at Town Hall.

The Board wishes a Happy New Year to all!

SELECTMEN

860-535-2877 EXT 10

SELECTMEN@NORTHSTONINGTONCT.GOV

NORTH STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The New Year brings a lot of activity to North Stonington Public Schools. It should also make us pause and be thankful for the good things that happened during the past year. As always, the beginning of a new year is also the busiest time of the year.

This month, as Superintendent, I will be presenting the fiscal year 2016-2017 budget to the Board of Education. Putting a budget together is on a continuum. As I have stated in the past, while the budget presented will be specific to the upcoming school year, there is a tremendous amount of strategic planning by the administration, not only looking at next year but future budgets. The fact that we have been the recipient of a significant amount of state and federal grant funds has helped us in this year's budgetary process. Once the budget is presented, the BOE will conduct deliberations before approving a final budget that will then move on to the town's respective Boards.

As Superintendent, one of the many joys is having an office in the Gymnasium. With the winter sports schedule now in full motion, there will not be a lack of activity in the afternoons and evenings. We invite members of the greater North Stonington community to come and enjoy a game and cheer on the Wheeler Lions!

PETER NERO, SUPERINTENDENT



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

In local business, resident Rick Wood, General Manager of a Westerly-based division of RCM Technologies, has opened an office at Quinlan Enterprises on Pendleton Hill Road, relocating a number of RCM employees to the new site.

The revised zoning regulations, adopted in October by the Planning & Zoning Commission, are expected to streamline development approvals with a predictable, modern and flexible framework that encourages quality development, complimenting the town's rural character. The regulations aim to diversify the local economy by allowing several new uses and types of development, including Mixed Use.

Throughout 2016, the Southeastern Connecticut Enterprise Region (seCTer) will be updating their 5-year strategy. Juliet Hodge is asking for input from community leaders, business owners and other interested residents as seCTer compiles an action plan to strengthen the regional economy. A locally-held workshop is expected to occur in early 2016; please contact Sam Eisenbeiser directly at 860-367-6270 if you would like more information.

BRETT MASTROIANNI, CHAIRMAN

SAM EISENBEISER, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR



EMERGENCY SERVICES BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Emergency Services Building project continues to move towards the goal of completion. On December 15th the committee presented an updated budget for project completion to the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance. The project has a projected cost overrun of 2.1 million dollars. The hope is to have this presentation out to a town meeting and referendum in February, so the committee can go out to bid for the construction of the building shortly thereafter.

The committee is also planning a Town hearing to provide information and to get the public's opinion. The time frame for this meeting will be mid-January so please be on the lookout for it on the Town's web page.

On a bright note, Representative Diana Urban notified us that the town has received the first of three state grants, in the amount of \$300,000, which will greatly help with project overruns. We look forward to seeing all of you at the Town meeting and referendum so we may collect as much information as possible to ensure the continued success of this project.

MARK PERKINS JR., CHAIRMAN

NORTH STONINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, INC.

During the months of August, September, October and November of 2015, your volunteers at the North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company responded to a total of 78 emergency 911 calls for "help". Of these calls 8 were brush fires, 21 were false alarms, 2 rendered mutual aid assistance to other fire departments, 26 were motor vehicle accidents (four involved fatalities), 4 involved downed power lines, 2 were structure fires, 1 was an electrical fire, 7 were medical assists to North Stonington Ambulance Association, 2 involved hazardous materials spills, 1 was an investigation of smoke/fire in the area, 1 was opening a locked car containing children and 3 were search and rescue operations in wooded areas.

Volunteers expended a total of 773 man-hours while responding to these emergency calls; an average of 13 members responded to each call. Of the 78 emergency calls, 48 occurred during the daytime and 30 occurred during the nighttime periods.

The North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company also conducted a total of 9 training drills to maintain their proficiency in fire/rescue operations. The volunteers expended an additional 202 man-hours while training. Of these drills, training involved: extrication of victims from entrapment from inside of an automobile, simulated structure fires, farm animal rescue, ladder and venting techniques, utility terrain vehicle (UTV) pumping operations, water flow operations, car propane controlled fires, compliance (hazmat, infectious substances, breathing apparatus), and LUCAS automatic pulmonary resuscitation device training.

CHARLES STEINHART V, CHIEF

GARY BARON, PRESIDENT



TAX COLLECTOR

The second half installment of tax bills are due in January. The last day to pay without interest is February 1, 2016. Payments may be made in the Tax Office, Monday through Friday from 9:00 to 4:00. During the month of January, payments may also be made at the Chelsea Groton Bank (North Stonington Branch only) as long as Back Taxes are not owed. The best way to avoid the crowds is to pay by mail. If you would like a receipt, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. You may also find out how much you owe and make payments online by going to www.northstoningtonct.gov/payonline. Service fees for on-line payments are as follows: E-check \$2.00; Visa Debit \$3.95; all other debit or credit transactions 2.5% of payment amount.

Supplemental motor vehicle tax bills for vehicles registered between October 2, 2014 and August 2015 are in the mail. If you purchased a vehicle and transferred license plates from the old car to the new, credit for the payment on the old car is shown on this tax bill. You MUST pay the second half payment on the old vehicle to earn the credit. Please do not disregard the second half payment on the old vehicle.

AMY SNELL, TAX COLLECTOR

WHEELER LIBRARY

Along with a slew of new books and movies for cozy winter nights, Wheeler Library offers a variety of enticing programs to educate and entertain you. As *Downton Abbey* enters its final season, we welcome Susan Jerome on January 11th to talk about that era in fashion and social change.

We'll have a program on olive oils (January 20th); three Saturday night music events; and the "Friends Book Sale" in March. Monday night programs also include talks by Mark Starr and Mike Dibble. Look online at wheelerlibrary.org for movie nights to be scheduled, too.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for the Country Store Sale on May 14th and the Town Wide Tag Sale on June 4th.

AMY KENNEDY 860-535-0383

HEWITT FARM

Winter is a wonderful time to enjoy Hewitt Farm. The property is open daily from dawn to dusk. As always, you can hike, trail bike and exercise your dog or horse. If the snow falls, try cross-country skiing on the trails surrounding the edges of the farm's hayfields or use your snowshoes to explore any of our scenic trails. You can stay in shape while you're enjoying the many different sights.

Download the Hewitt Farm Trail Map from the town website (www.northstoningtonct.gov) or pick one up at any of the trailheads. Park inside the Hewitt Road entrance off Route 2 or in the parking area near the end of Hewitt Road when entering from Ryder Road.

The Hewitt Farm Committee meets biweekly on Monday afternoon in the New Town Hall Conference Room from 3-5 pm. Our agendas are posted on the town website and the public is welcome to attend. The committee currently has an opening for an Alternate Member and we would be pleased to speak with anyone who might be interested in joining us, as we continue to oversee and maintain this wonderful property.



NITA KINCAID, CO-CHAIR

860-535-1416

DICK COOPER, CO-CHAIR

860-535-0528

WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL

Happy New Year from Wheeler! Our staff and students have returned from winter vacation refreshed and rejuvenated! Students are busy preparing for their midterm exams as the first semester comes to an end mid-January.

Our greenhouse is a hub of activity this month. We have officially begun our hydroponics lab. Our Forestry/Agricultural Science students have built a system which allows us to use fish to fertilize vertical tower planters all winter long. Students are busy measuring water samples, as well as collecting a variety of data specific to the life cycles of the fish. Our chicken coop is being designed and built by our Materials & Processing students.



Our middle school teachers continue to work hard establishing an intervention program that will allow all of our students to find success in the classroom. All of our teachers continue to explore relevant professional development opportunities. Our math teachers recently attended the Atomic Conference (Associated Teachers of Math in Connecticut), while many of our other teachers attended the Grading Reform workshop held at LEARN in Old Lyme. The staff at Wheeler is committed to providing our students with the best educational opportunities we can provide. Thank you to the town for all of your support in these endeavors.

KRISTEN ST. GERMAIN, PRINCIPAL

NORTH STONINGTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The NSEF Will Hold Annual Trivia Event
Friday, February 5, 2016

The Trivia Event will take place at the Pawcatuck VFW. The social time and set-up is from 6-6:45 p.m., and the competition starts at 7 p.m. The cost is \$20 per team member. All teams need to register by filling out the registration form and paying in advance. The registration deadline is February 3, 2016. Registration forms may be picked up at Wheeler's main office and are on the NSEF website www.nsedfoundation.org.

The Foundation Is Also Looking For Distinguished Alumni Candidates.

Wheeler High School and the NSEF are accepting Distinguished Alumni nominations. Nomination forms may be picked up at the main office at Wheeler. For further information, please email nsedfoundation@gmail.com or call 860-235-6471.

BERNARD "BING" BARTICK

860-389-0264

BBesail@aol.com

AVALONIA

Avalonia invites all residents to come out and enjoy our properties. Our most recent acquisitions are the Erisman Woodlands and Babcock Ridge. The entrance to the Erisman Woodlands is on Reutemann Road, ¼ mile west of Hangman Hill Road. It is now possible to hike from there onto the Babcock Ridge Property, and then onto the Henne Preserve (by walking 100 ft. west along Babcock Road), and continuing on the Henne all the way to Surrey Lane and Rt. 184.

Another excellent hiking location is the Reed-Mitchel property. Its entrance is on Northwest Corner Road. Look for a green and white “visitor parking” sign on the south side of the road at a sharp bend between the two Anna Farm Road entrances. There are several well-marked trails through this wooded property. Maps for these properties are available at the Library and will soon be posted on our web site as well. We also invite you to visit our web site www.avalonialandconservancy.org where you will find a list of all our properties and trail maps for some.



NORTH STONINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Winter brings months of exciting learning and many events to share at North Stonington Elementary School.

On December 8th the 5th Grade Chorus & 2nd Year Band Holiday Concert was held. The students performed a morning concert for the school and an evening concert for the families. It was a day of song and cheer to start the holiday season.

We ended 2015 with our PBIS celebration of Movies and Popcorn on Dec. 22nd to recognize all students who demonstrated positive behavior throughout the year. We are proud to say that our students daily demonstrate our expectations of being respectful, responsible, honest, and safe.

During this busy time, we encourage the development of reading with our students every day. Holidays and the cold months ahead are special times to share the love of reading. It will make such a difference when you cuddle up to read a book, no matter what age. It is also a great way to get your child “settled for a long winter's nap”, too!

On behalf of the faculty and staff, I would like to thank the community for supporting our school. If it wasn't for the wonderful parents and guardians, our many volunteers, as well as the NSPTO, we would not have our students achieving at such great levels. We wish each and every North Stonington family the very best in 2016! forward to a wonderful school year and thank the entire North Stonington community for your support of our schools.

VERONICA WILKISON, PRINCIPAL

ANIMAL CONTROL

Hello everyone! It is hard to believe this year has come to an end already; it feels like just yesterday I was writing an article for the Fall Quarterly.

This year has proven to be quite productive for us at Animal Control. We had a very successful rabies clinic this summer and, to help residents keep their pets protected, plan on having another this spring. It is very important to keep our four-legged friends up to date on all vaccines (rabies being top priority). It could keep your pet from having to spend time with us in quarantine or, more importantly, save their lives!

We have successfully reunited families and their lost pets on several occasions and have had great success in finding new, loving homes for stray animals that have come to us in need.

Over the last several months, we have definitely had some interesting calls. Karcher and I spent the better part of a day helping a farmer corral two very large sows and their many piglets!! As you can imagine, they did not want to be caught!! HaHaHa!! We also assisted a local facility to catch, neuter and release more than 30 cats from a feral colony.

We thank our Facebook friends for helping share our posts of missing or found animals in our town! It has been quite helpful to get them back to their homes quickly and safely.

Karcher and I wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe 2016 and look forward to continuing to serve the community with animal control needs. Also, please remember to follow us on Facebook so that we may keep you informed regarding adoptions, lost and found animals, rabies clinics, or any other animal control concerns. To contact us, call 860-287-2197 or email aco@northstoningtonct.gov.

KRYSTIN MAINE & KARCHER DESHEFY

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS



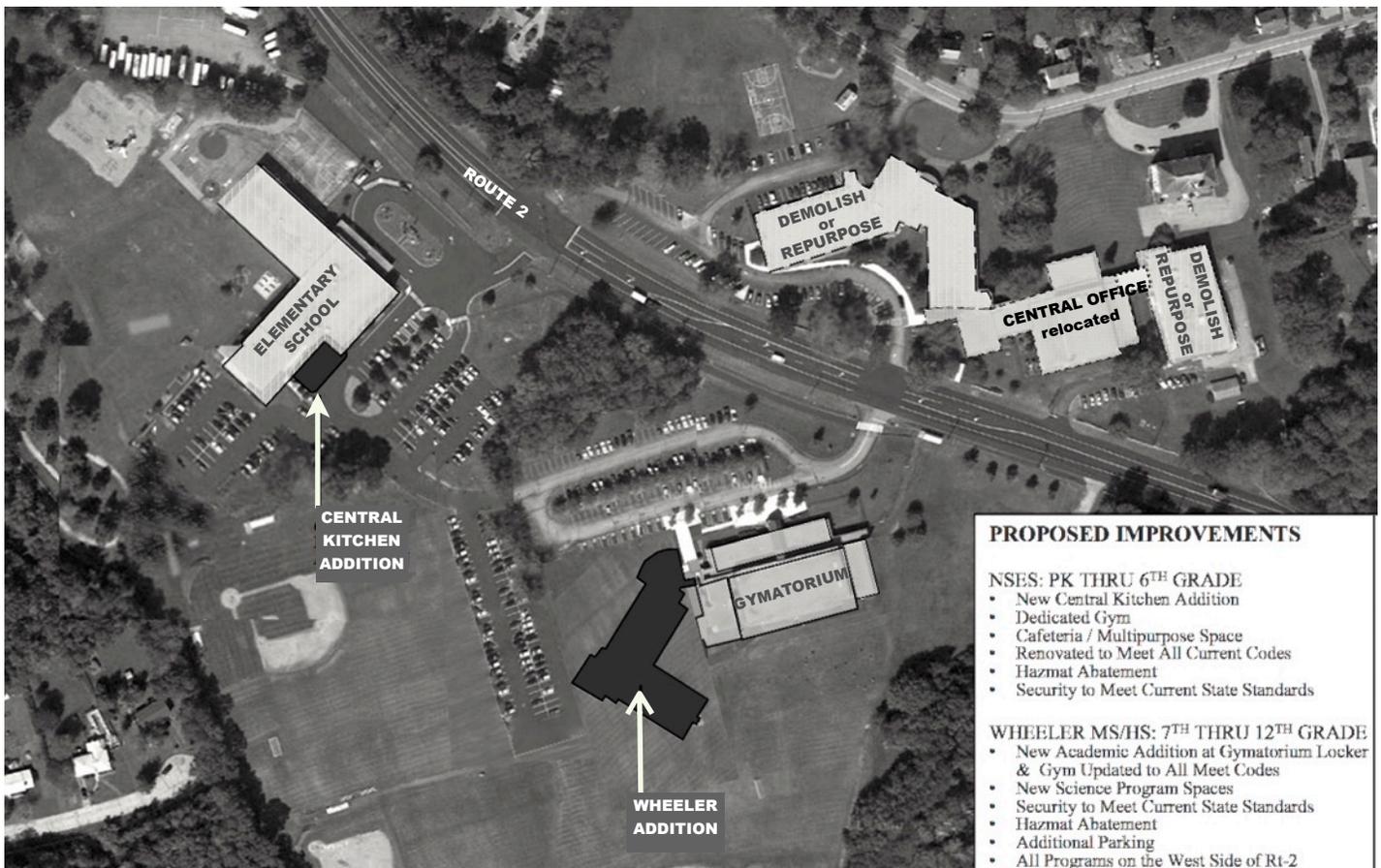
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Wow, where did the first part of our school year go? The writing of this article takes place on the eve of its due date and I am glad I waited. I, along with other members of the BOE, have just attended many of the wonderful celebrations that this time of year has to offer. There were sports awards banquets, a Veterans appreciation day, and 3 fantastic band & chorus holiday concerts, to name a few. Attending events like these reinforces my notion that we have the best students, teachers, coaches and band & chorus leaders in the area. This leads me to my next topic, the School Building Project.

Our newly appointed Ad Hoc School Building Committee has been working very hard to come up with a more affordable building project that still fulfills the district's needs moving forward. I have attended all of the TriBoard meetings and after listening to the Ad Hoc Committee's newest proposal, I am very pleased to say that, in my opinion, they have succeeded. I think it is time, as some would say, to stop "kicking the can down the road". We are in need of a facility upgrade now. Please take the time to learn more about the proposed project. Thank you and best wishes for this holiday season.

BOB CARLSON, CHAIRMAN

NORTH STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROPOSED RENOVATION PLAN (12/17/2015)



AD HOC SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

At the beginning of 2015, the Boards of Selectmen, Education, and Finance agreed that improvements to North Stonington school facilities were necessary. They decided to hold regular TriBoard meetings to identify what needed to be done to modernize the schools. In August 2015, our new Ad-Hoc school building committee was appointed to further study and develop the recommendations and priorities outlined by the TriBoard meetings.

Our committee consists of your neighbors: Michael Urgo (Chairman), Jay Peterson (Vice Chair), Walt Mathwich (Secretary), Michael Anderson, Brad Borden, Michael Osborn, Pamela Potemri, Dan Spring and Tyler Dibrino (Wheeler High School Senior). We volunteered for this committee because we care about our children, respect our neighbors' budget concerns, and believe something must be done about our aged school facilities.

On November 23rd, our group presented a proposal for school modernization to the TriBoard. The proposal encompasses renovation of the Elementary and Middle/High Schools and the Gymnasium. It addresses essential educational upgrades, security/safety problems and significant building code issues. We spent many hours weighing different approaches, including everything from swapping buildings to fixing things in a piecemeal method. We believe the project we are proposing makes the most sense for our town from a fiscal and educational standpoint.

The project scope would provide the following benefits:

- ◆ All educational facilities would be located together on the west side of Rte. 2
- ◆ The use of the Rte. 2 "Tunnel" connector to move between classes would be eliminated
- ◆ All educational needs would be met and all NEASC citations would be addressed
- ◆ Hazmat & health concerns, as well as security and safety issues would be addressed

Updates to the Elementary School would include:

- Relocating the 6th Grade to the Elementary School to establish a PreK - 6th configuration. Studies show this would be educationally beneficial for 6th Graders. The school has ample space on the 2nd floor to accommodate such a move.
- Building a 2,600 SF addition to the Elementary School to serve as the Central Kitchen for both Elementary and Wheeler/Middle High Schools.

Updates to Wheeler Middle/High School would include:

- Building a 44,500 SF addition to the existing gymnasium to provide a 7th–12th grade school on the west side of Rte 2. The 2-story addition would be a new facility with "flexible space" for Middle/High classrooms.
- The existing gymnasium building would be renovated to meet code and educational requirements.

Other proposed changes include:

- Relocating the Central Administration Office to the 1996 addition at the existing high school on the east side of Rte. 2.
- The proposed project currently includes demolition of a large section of the remaining old Middle/High School building. The committee is now exploring alternative uses (not public school related) for this space.

As of 12/17/2015, the estimated cost to the Town of North Stonington for this project would be \$21,470,000 after a reimbursement of \$17,090,000 from the State of Connecticut. Major work will not begin until the reimbursement funds are secured. Currently, the committee continues its work to determine if there are other potential cost savings.

We believe that our schools are a cornerstone of our community's identity and that this project will attract new families, increase real-estate values, and support economic development. We will work hard to provide you with clear, thorough information about the project, before any decision can be made. The entire proposal and any updates will be available on the town website at www.northstoningtonct.gov. We will use newspapers, mail, email, public meetings and other means to keep you informed. We welcome your input and questions.

MIKE URGO & THE AD HOC SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

NSSCHOOLMODERNIZATION@GMAIL.COM

NORTH STONINGTON AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE

North Stonington residents can celebrate the New Year with an important step in recognizing the need for affordable housing, with their approval of the contract to sell the tax-foreclosed property at 101 Anthony Rd. The Mutual Housing Association of South Central Connecticut, a non-profit developer, will rehabilitate and sell as a deed restricted affordable home. This will put a home that meets Energy Star and Healthy Homes guidelines back on the tax rolls and a qualified buyer in residence.

Why is deed restriction important? It ensures that a home will remain affordable to qualified buyers for the period of the deed restriction (in this case, for a proposed 15 years). This means that the price of the home cannot exceed the reach of buyers that meet the income guidelines of 80% of the area median income. This will ensure that the selling price of the home cannot appreciate out of the range of those buyers whose incomes qualify. For a family of 4, income to meet affordability has been capped at \$68,300. This home will also count toward the percentage of affordable housing needed to comply with the State mandate of 10% affordability in our town, which now stands at less than 1%.

MARY ANN RICKER, CO-CHAIR

NORTH STONINGTON GARDEN CLUB



As I write this article, I'm wondering how much this incredibly mild weather will impact our gardens in 2016. This past summer, after what was a pretty brutal winter, we had abundant flowers on perennials and the fruit trees were laden with some of the largest, healthiest crops ever. Guess we'll just have to wait and see.

In the meantime, the garden club has scheduled all its programs, workshops and garden visits for 2016. Our theme this year is "Fun in the Garden". We engage knowledgeable, interesting speakers for our monthly meetings (February to October) so that we can learn more about subjects like "Native Trees and Shrubs", "Creating Successful Rock Gardens" and "The Fascinating

World of Mushrooms". Those are only a few of this year's topics! We provide many ways to expand your gardening know-how.

If you'd like to attend one of our meetings or learn more about joining the North Stonington Garden Club, please contact us.

NITA KINCAID, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

860-535-1416

NORTH STONINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

With the restoration of our 1857 A.H. Gale piano, the society is moving in a new direction! The instrument is once again one of the most beautiful pianos, both in visual quality and complex sound quality. Aymeris Dupré la Tour is now the society's artistic director, overseeing the restoration project. Aymeric and the society have scheduled three Sunday afternoon concerts at the Stephen Main Homestead in the Village. We are excited to announce the first concert will be on January 31 at 4:30 pm. He will play again on Valentine's Day, February 14, and on April 24. Tickets are \$20 for each concert. Space is limited.

We are also still seeking sponsors for the restoration project. You may purchase a "white key" for \$60 or a "black key" for \$35.

A white key includes two concert tickets. A black key includes one ticket.

For reservations or questions, please phone Gladys at 860-599-3608 or Laurie at 860-245-5322 or visit nostonhistoricalsociety.homestead.com



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The 2016 annual calendar has been selling fast. There are still a few available at the Library and Town Clerk's office.



The Conservation Commission has developed a set of criteria for recommending to the public the acceptance or rejection of future offers of private conservation easements. In the past there has been a general acceptance of all conservation easements offered, as it was believed any and all parcels of land were worthy of protection. Science and technology has evolved whereby a species or locale needing protection today, may not be needed or wanted for protection in the future. One example, right here in town, is the extensive tree removal by the State in Pachaug Forest along Wyassup Road. Whereas State conservation efforts to protect our forests in their natural condition was once the standard, the preservation of the New England Cottontail Rabbit has changed that thinking and near clear cutting has occurred.

A list of these criteria is available at the land use office in Town Hall. It is a working document and subject to modification as needs arise. Your thoughts are welcomed. We meet on the 4th Thursday at 6:00pm in the Town Hall conference room.

BILL RICKER, CHAIRMAN

NORTH STONINGTON AGRICULTURAL FAIR

Happy New Year! The North Stonington Fair Committee is busy planning for this year's event. We are excited to welcome back to our stage this year, Nashville recording artists Frankie Lamprey and Steve Daggett, as well as Lenny Domina; all local entertainers.

Permits are in place to begin extending the length of the motorized pulling track! We are seeking any local contractors that may be able to donate trucking to bring in material, in exchange for advertisement during our motorized events (including banners). If you know of anyone able to assist or would like to work on that committee, contact Greg at 860-287-5598.



Congratulations to Doreen Banker-Gerrish, who represented the Fair at the State Convention, for taking 2nd place overall in her quilt entry. It's not too early to start planning your entries in our Home Arts and Crafts Department. Young ladies may take part in the Princess, Jr. Princess or Queen Contest; we are one of the few fairs in Connecticut that holds this contest and look forward to seeing our Fair represented at the local parades. There's something for everyone!

Our meetings have been relocated to the Firehouse until April. Feel free to join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7pm. We are always seeking new members, ideas, etc. Like and Share our Facebook page, North Stonington Agricultural Fair, Inc. or go to www.northstoningtonfair.com.

JODY WHIPPLE

PINENEEDLHOMESTEAD@SBCGLOBAL.NET

860-599-8498

BOARD OF FINANCE

We are coming up on mid-year of the current fiscal year budget 2015-2016. Copies of the budget are available at the Town Hall and can be viewed on the Town website, www.northstonington.ct.gov. The 2014-2015 budget year Audit Presentation was presented to the Board of Finance for final closeout on December 16th by the Town Auditor, Sandra E. Welwood.

During the coming months the Board will be conducting budget preparations, meeting with Town Departments and reviewing the Grand List for the Town. There have been presentations made by the Emergency Service Project and Ad Hoc School Building Committee which will be forthcoming in 2016.

TIM MAIN, CHAIRMAN

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Town Committee Party Member endorsements will be held January 8th-12th, 2016. If you would like to become a member of a party, contact Mark Donahue, Chairman of the Democratic Town Committee, or Brett Mastroianni, Chairman of the Republican Town Committee.

The Presidential Primary will be held on April 26, 2016 between the hours of 6:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Old Town Hall, 40 Main Street. As always, absentee ballots will be available. Contact the Town Clerk's Office if you will be out of Town and would like to vote.

Hunting and Fishing Licenses and the 2016 hunting guides are available for the coming year.

My staff and I would like to wish everyone a safe and joyful New Year!

NORMA J HOLLIDAY, TOWN CLERK

NORTH STONINGTON COMMUNITY GRANGE #138

The Grange organization meets on the second and fourth Fridays at 8:00 pm with certain exceptions. Due to the usually cold and/or snowy weather, January and February have only one meeting scheduled, each with a potential "snow day". Each meeting we discuss the events we will be participating in, the needs of our community, and the needs of our grounds and upkeep; then we have a program. Often we have guest speakers, in varying interests, as well as committee programs.

This fall we learned more about Alzheimer's, discussed the upcoming elections, and learned about training a Therapy Dog. Through our "Words for Thirds" program, we provided dictionaries to each third-grade student in town. We hosted a Halloween party and a Christmas party, with Santa visiting and interacting with the youth. We also helped provide Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets where needed.

ALL are welcome to come. Our upcoming schedule has our Agriculture committee providing our Jan 8th meeting at 8:00 (snow date Jan 22); to liven mid-winter monotony, Feb. 12th will be game night, at 8:00 pm (snow date Feb 26). We are back to 2 meetings in March, with March 11th being Officer Exchange and Ritual (a good time to learn about the Grange), and March 25th being the Lecturer's contest entry "What's Cookin?". We've had a number of 1st place entries in the past, so come expecting a great program!

SUE PIANKA, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

860-599-4528



ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Revaluation

As everyone is now aware, the Town of North Stonington has conducted and completed a state mandated revaluation of all real estate located within the town. If you have not opened the letter from Vision Government Solutions, please do so now to check out your new assessment. Also, Vision Government Solutions has loaded all the new assessments on its web site. The site is located at Vision Appraisal CT. Look for North Stonington on the list of towns. Questions should be forwarded to the Assessor's Office (860-535- 2877 ext 24). You may also go to the town's web site to see your assessment located at www.northstoningtonct.gov.

The Board of Assessment Appeals will hold hearings on the new assessments. Please call the Assessor's Office before February 20, 2016 if you would like to make an appointment to discuss your new assessment. In order to appeal, you must have yourself or an agent appear before the Board. A letter is NOT acceptable and your appeal will not be heard.

Elderly Homeowners Program

Homeowners who are at least 65 years old on January 1, 2016, can apply for the Elderly Homeowners Program starting February 1st thru May 15th. Maximum income for a married couple is \$42,900, including both of your Social Security 1099 incomes. Single homeowner's maximum income is \$35,200, also including the income on your Social Security 1099 form. Homeowners who are required to file a federal tax return must wait until you complete the IRS 1040 form and then bring a copy plus your Social Security 1099 form(s). If you are not required to file with the IRS, please bring all forms showing income for 2015, including your Social Security 1099.

The renters program begins April 1, 2016. More on that program will be in the next newsletter.

DARRYL L. DEL GROSSO (860-535-2877 ext.23 or 24)

PLANNING AND ZONING OFFICIAL/LAND USE OFFICE

The Planning and Zoning Commission had a successful year by completing the main action item in the Plan of Conservation and Development, with a comprehensive revision of the Zoning Regulations. Former Planner Juliet Hodge, along with Attorney Mike Zizka, presented well-written regulations that allow for a more streamlined and clear reading of the Zoning Regulations that better serve the Town. The new Economic Development Zoning District allows for uses that are more compatible to the area and more in line with today's economic climate.

The Commission looks forward to implementing more action items from the POCD in 2016 and working closely with the businesses and citizens of North Stonington to help create a more livable and prosperous town for all. The Commission will continue to meet on the 1st and 2nd Thursdays of the month. All are welcome to attend.

TOM ZANARINI

SENIOR PLANNING AND ZONING OFFICIAL





WINTER EVENTS

January

9	SATURDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	Cabin Fever Bluegrass band & refreshments	Page 4
11	MONDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	Susan Jerome on Downton Abbey: Fashion & Social Change	Page 4
20	WEDNESDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	Olive Oil Program: Tastes & Benefits	Page 4
31	SUNDAY	4:30 pm	NS Historical Society Stephen Main Homestead	Piano Concert performed by Aymeris Dupré la Tour	Page 11

February

5	FRIDAY	6 pm	Pawcatuck VFW	NSEF Trivia Event - pre-register by 2/3	Page 5
14	SUNDAY	4:30 pm	NS Historical Society Stephen Main Homestead	Piano Concert performed by Aymeris Dupré la Tour	Page 11
19	FRIDAY	6 pm	NSES Multipurpose Room	Magic Show featuring Justin Mazz! Benefits the Class of 2023	
20	SATURDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	Poor Richard Irish music & refreshments	Page 4
22	MONDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	Mark Starr on Local Native American Stone Structures	Page 4

March

9-12	WEDS.-SAT.	Library hours	Wheeler Library	Friends Book Sale	Page 4
18	FRIDAY	5:30 pm	NSES Multipurpose Room	NSPTO 26th Annual Basket Raffle	
19	SATURDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	Phil Rosenthal - Songs of Pete Seeger	Page 4
28	MONDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	NS Historical Society: Mike Dibble on North Stonington Cemeteries	Page 4

Town Of North Stonington
40 Main Street
North Stonington, CT 06359

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NORTH STONINGTON, CT 06359

Welcome 2016

The New Year brings you the 10th issue of the North Stonington Quarterly! In partnership with our Town's boards and commissions, non-profit organizations, and the Wheeler High School Print Shop, we have worked to provide important, current and accurate information to all North Stonington residents. We are thankful to all contributors for filling each issue with interesting, thoughtful articles. A very special thanks goes to the students at the Wheeler High print shop; their support makes it possible to produce the NSQ.

We would appreciate receiving your comments or questions about the Quarterly. If you have any photos of community events or local landscapes, please consider submitting them for a future issue. Contact us at NSQeditors@gmail.com.

In addition, we post updated community information on the ICONS (Informed Citizens of North Stonington) Facebook page. Please visit us at <https://www.facebook.com/ns.icons/>.

Nita Kincaid & Lisa Mazzella, NSQ Editors