

THE NORTH STONINGTON QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2022

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Hello North Stonington! Do you hear it? Do you feel it? The members of the Board of Selectmen do.

Over the last few months, we have felt a renewed pride for our Town by its citizens. We felt it while we were attending North Stonington's first Farmers Market at the beautiful, Town owned, Hewitt Farm. We heard all the comments from first time visitors to the farm on how wonderful a piece of property it is, and some were surprised that the Town owned it. We heard and saw it again while we marched in the first Memorial Day Parade in three years. I have listened to people tell out-of-towners that we have some of the best dining options. They were also bragging about our brewery and winery. Our schools have been known, for a while now, for the fantastic education that they provide, but also this spring we had teams that made State Tournaments. More visitors are hiking our trails and fishing our waters. Did you attend the awesome Holiday Light Parades? And we still have the North Stonington Fair coming up.

We also feel that there is a new confidence in Town leadership. The budget hearings were smooth, and the budget passed on the first try. Also, there doesn't seem to be as much negativity on social media. As a Board, we don't always agree but we seem to work things out in a professional manner. The feeling is that we are all trying to do what is best for the town using input that we get from our citizens.

Now this isn't to say that all is perfect. We do have $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of chatter strips on Denison Hill Road. The speed bumps that the Village asked for two years ago are still not installed, and the old Middle School is still standing. However, we are working on it. Thank you for your support...we feel that too!

BOB CARLSON, NICOLE PORTER, BRETT MASTROIANNI

selectmen@northstoningtonct.gov

NORTH STONINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



This spring we began The Homestead Project: The Historic Landscape as a Model of Sustainability for the 21st Century. With help from the Connecticut Master Gardeners and the Garden Club, we have installed a Clover Meadow for Sulfur Butterflies, a Monarch Milkweed Field, a Nectar Garden, and various native trees and shrubs appropriate to the 1776-1850 era of the Homestead and Dyehouse.

The Dyehouse garden is being rebuilt and relevant programs are being planned to include an Anthotype (plant dye based) Photography Demonstration by Boston based photographer Mary Kocol. Our Dyehouse Day will resume with its celebration of North Stonington's unique 19th Century weaving patterns, recreated for us by local weaver Madeline Jeffrey. Walks planned include Historic Landscaping Techniques and Pollinator Habitat Creation, along with documented tours of the Homestead, recently curated to better feature our collection of antique furniture, cameras, and arts and crafts.

After a long covid-induced hiatus, we will host an intriguing talk by Neil Kirk, leader of the pirate reenactment group "Free Men of the Sea". The talk will be held at the Library on September 30th.

DICK SEAGER

PRESIDENT

dickseager@comcast.net

PAWCATUCK NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

The Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center (PNC) is back to life with volunteers working in the garden, thrift store, senior center and food pantry. Pictured on the right, volunteer and North Stonington resident, John Schneider, helps elementary school students plant seedlings in the PNC Garden. Their vegetables will be distributed from the PNC Food Pantry.



Exercise, cultural and social activities are available Monday through Friday, Hartford Healthcare Foot clinic available twice each month and TVCCA Veterans Coffee Hour runs on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. Beginning in July, seniors will be able to meet in the senior center on Tuesdays and Fridays for free coffee and pastries (9:00 to 11:00).

The Pawcatuck Lions Community breakfast provides a free, full breakfast on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month from 8:30 to 10:00. All are welcome! The thrift store is open to the public, selling low cost clothing, toys and household items.

July 12th Lunch and Learn - Alzheimer's Association – Understanding Dementia & Alzheimer's.

July 13th Lunch and Learn – Nutritionist Andrea DeeDee – “Avoiding FAD Diets”

July 25th Hartford Healthcare Free Neighborhood Healthcare Clinic 10:00 to 2:00

For future events, visit www.pawcatuckneighborhoodcenter.org or call (860) 599 – 3285.

SUSAN SEDENSKY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NORTH STONINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

It is hard to believe that we have just completed our 2021-2022 school year. While this year started out with a great bit of uncertainty, we moved back to a much more normal feel and I think everyone enjoyed things that we missed so much in the past 2 years. We were able to have Fun Nights, Concerts, Drama Club performances, and field trips. Those are some of the events that make the elementary years so special for both students and families and having them back has been fantastic! We looked forward to our end of year special events and enjoyed Field Day and our Sixth Grade Promotion. We were so happy that we were able to have families attend these events this year.

As we prepared to close out this year, we are saying goodbye to some of our family as they move on to the next chapter in their lives. Mr. Noonan, our Music teacher, and Mrs. Coats, one of our Kindergarten teachers will be retiring at the end of this year. Also retiring is our longtime office para, Lynn Mrowka. It is going to be difficult to fill their shoes and we will miss everything they brought to our school on a daily basis. We wish them all much happiness and good health as they take time for themselves. We will miss you all.

We will also be missing our Superintendent, Mr. Nero, as well as some other staff from Central Office. Robbie McCarthy is retiring and our Business Manager, Deb Martin is moving on to work at a new district. I will personally miss all of the guidance and assistance I have received from Mr. Nero the past two years. He has been amazing and I wish him the best, as I'm sure we all do.

We hope everyone has a wonderful summer and gets to enjoy this extended break from school. We are already making plans for the upcoming year and look forward to a great start to our 2022-2023 school year.

ROBERT CILLINO, PRINCIPAL

TAX COLLECTOR

Tax bills will be mailed out by the end of June. These bills will include both the July and January installment of taxes. This will be the **ONLY** bill you receive. You will **NOT** receive another bill for the January installment. If you do not pay both installments in July, please keep your tax bill in a safe place and put a reminder in your calendar to pay your January tax installment.

Please be reminded that failure to receive a tax bill does not invalidate the tax, interest, liens, and collection fees per Connecticut General Statutes 12-130 and 12-146. It is the taxpayer's responsibility to call the tax office if you did not receive a bill.

Tax Collection office hours are Monday - Friday 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. A secure drop box is also available outside of Town Hall where payments can be left. Late payments are determined by official U.S. postmark. Payments postmarked or dropped off before 4pm on the due date do not accrue interest. Connecticut General Statutes do not allow us to go by the check date – postmark only!

The on-line tax website is full of helpful information. www.northstoningtonct.gov/payonline. Payments can be made which will include a service fee, search for payment amounts due or reprint a bill(s). There is also an option to view and print payment history that can be used for IRS tax purposes.

All past due Motor Vehicle and Personal Property accounts from Grand List 2006 to 2019 will be placed with a collection agency as prescribed by state statute, regarding proceeding with collection enforcement measures. Once placed with the agency payments can no longer be accepted in the tax office and must be made with the outside agency.

DONNA L. SPELMAN TAX COLLECTOR 860-535-2877ext. 120 taxcollector@northstoningtonct.gov

KEEPING NORTH STONINGTON AFFORDABLE (KNSA)



KNSA is pleased to **welcome** Jennifer Dayton to our board of directors. Jennifer has training and experience in economics as well as a history of community service. She joins other recent additions to our board: Denise Hawk, Toulia Balestracci and Juliet Hodge. Our long-time members Sue Latourette, Jeff Nelson, and Jennifer Welborn look forward to their enthusiasm and help in building affordable housing in North Stonington. We welcome other interested persons to apply for board membership or as a volunteer to help in this mission. Contact Mary Ann Ricker at knsa.president1@gmail.com for information and an application.

Predevelopment work continues our property on 26e Main Street. It has been surveyed and perked, moving us a step closer to our goal of building on that property. We are hoping to combine that work with the rehabilitation of our property on 119 Clarks Falls Road into a funding proposal to our State Dept. of Housing.

A thank you to all who attended, contributed, and spent money purchasing items at our “Night out with KNSA” fundraiser held at Jonathan Edwards Winery on April 8. Our sponsors: Chelsea Groton Bank, Regina McGowan & family, the Colgan Family; and friends: Jim and Cinda Spavins and Jeff Raggon get our special thanks for their early support. Space donated by Jonathan Edwards for the event lent a festive air which contributed to the spirit and enthusiasm displayed by all who attended. It was a great community event!

MARY ANN RICKER PRESIDENT

NORTH STONINGTON AGRICULTURAL FAIR

As this edition of the Quarterly is being put to print, the North Stonington Fair committee is busy at work getting the grounds and schedule ready for opening day! The gates open on July 14th at 4pm, with opening ceremonies at 5pm. Bring the family out to enjoy the unlimited ride bracelet (and again on Sunday); \$35.00 for unlimited rides!!

This year the mechanical pull ring will be busy with a few changes in the schedule. With the CT State Tractor Pullers not in action this year, we will welcome the New England Garden Tractor Pull on Thursday and Eastern CT Farm Tractors on Friday. Saturday and Sunday afternoons will be bustling with the truck pulls and garden tractor pulls.

Be sure to stop by the Grange Hall on Thursday evening and watch the crowning of the Fair Queen, Princess, and Jr. Princess (applications are available online), also stop by the stage and listen to the sounds of Nick Casey! On Friday evening, be ready to rock the field as you dance away to "I Petty the Fool", a Tom Petty tribute band. Saturday, we welcome back North Stonington's Nick Bosse with the Northern Roots Band, Real Shoot Wrestling, a pie eating contest, oxen pulls and more. On Sunday you can enjoy the horse pull, sheep show, horseshoe pitching, carriage driving show and more. And, of course, on all 4 days there will be plenty of food, rides, arts & crafts, livestock, commercial vendors, etc.



A full schedule of events can be found on the website at www.northstoningtonfair.com. Please like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram! In advance, we thank our town, our volunteers, exhibitors, and most importantly our attendees for the continued support in making the fair a successful event. It is an honor to keep this tradition going.

Mark your calendar: July 14th – 17th, 2022!

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION

We are getting ready for some big changes at the Board of Education. After 10 years of serving our district, Peter Nero is heading into retirement. He has seen us through so much and we want to thank him for everything he has done for North Stonington. Mr. Nero came in and worked to immediately trim our budget to be more efficient and continued to find ways to save year after year. He spent years supporting our need for a new facility and transitioned everyone into the new schools seamlessly once they were complete. We counted on his leadership to navigate 2 years of a pandemic, we came through strong under his leadership and he continued to push to get our kids back into the classroom before many districts around us. I am sure he will miss the long Board of Education meetings and Saturday workshops, but I have ensured him, he can come visit anytime. We also are saying goodbye to Roberta McCarthy, she has been the eyes and ears of this district for 33 years, her smile and expertise on everything North Stonington will be missed.

July 1 we will welcome our new Superintendent, Troy Hopkins. If you have not had the opportunity yet, I encourage you to set some time to come out and meet him. He comes to us from Ashford, CT and has experience in both the elementary and high school settings. Our last day of school was June 10 and our students and staff are looking forward to a well-deserved summer. We reconvene after Labor Day this year to give everyone a full summer off. The Board of Ed will be meeting with Mr. Hopkins to do some goal setting and work on our strategic plan and are looking forward to getting back to some business as normal. Our meeting times will be posted on our website, and we are continuing to meet by hybrid when possible. Have a great summer!

CHRISTINE WAGNER BOARD OF EDUCATION CHAIR

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The Economic Development Commission recently had a get together for members of all boards and commissions in the Town of North Stonington at Buon Appetito on June 6. This was the first time in four years this event was possible due to the pandemic. It was great to meet new people and see old neighbors who volunteer to move our Town forward.



Chairman Sam Cherenzia welcomed the crowd and updated everyone on matters being worked on by the EDC; namely the two (2) grants open to businesses in North Stonington, and our desire to improve the visibility of the EDC to the community. As usual, Mirela and Buon Appetito did a great job, providing a beautiful space and enough food for all. The event was well attended and a great success.

The EDC is continuously evaluating and updating our master list of businesses in Town as well as our information on the Town website in order to provide businesses and the community with more information about available programs, grants, and upcoming EDC events.

Hopefully the summer brings more people to North Stonington, and we can move toward a post-pandemic environment. The EDC will remain available to the businesses of North Stonington to assist with opportunities as well as Covid-related challenges. Be safe and have a great summer!

For more information, go to www.northstoningtonct.gov/economic-development-commission.

CHRISTOPHER P. ANDERSON VICE CHAIRMAN

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Summer is finally here with beautiful weather and with the North Stonington Fair just around the corner! With all 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. Sporting licenses can also be purchased online at www.ct.gov/deep.

Summer is also 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.

Connecticut will be holding both a Democratic and Republican Primary on August 9th. The State Election is on November 8. Absentee ballots will be available starting on July 19th for the August 9th Primary and on October 7th for the November Election. Please contact the Town Clerk with any questions about elections and absentee ballots. Remember that every vote counts and every vote is important!

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 e-mail townclerk@northstoningtonct.gov, call (860) 535-2877 Ext. 121, or stop in.

ANTOINETTE PANCARO, MMC, MCTC, CCMO

TOWN CLERK

BETTER TOGETHER CT INC. FARM & SANCTUARY

Come celebrate with us! We are growing! We have been busy harvesting a variety of beautiful fresh organic vegetables including Swiss chard, romaine, purple romaine, Walden Lettuce, zucchini, dill and bok choy. Tomatoes, yellow squash, carrots, melons, and much more will be available soon! We now offer online ordering and curbside pickup at the Farm and/or the Wellness Center. Please check out our website at www.BetterTogetherCT.org.

We are very excited about hosting our 2nd Annual Hempstock Music Festival! We have great music lined up including the! Mike Crandall Band, the Rowan Brothers, Soul Shot, “Sandman” Sandy Allen, HannaH’s Field, and Lee Mixashawn Rosie. Nikki the Shadow Dancer who will be performing from Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation along with the EPTN Drummers during our opening ceremony. Save the date! August 6th, noon - 9.00pm. Tickets are \$20 for adults and children; 12 and under are free.



This Summer we are hosting “Field Days 2022” at the Farm between July 1 and November 1. We will have participants signed up and working with us under the supervision of Dr Pecher. We are teaching sustainability and addressing food insecurity in our community, Southeastern Connecticut, and beyond. Without the help of all types of people, we would not be able to accomplish the work that is required to produce a full and healthy harvest. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out through the link on our website.

We appreciate the continued love and support we have received from the community. Better Together CT Inc. Farm & Sanctuary, a 501(c)(3), is a nonprofit which benefits Veterans through agriculture, fellowship and the arts. Please call ahead to make sure that the farm is open for visitors, (860)389-2697

STEFANA PECHER, M.D. DIRECTOR

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Your commissioners have spent the spring tying up several long-standing projects including the 5-year monitoring of several conservation easements on private properties, improving the Pocket Park at the intersection of Rte. 49 and Rte. 184 with additional wildflowers and perennials, assisting Avalonia with parking on their newly purchased Sheets Preserve off Putker Road and leading hikes on CT Trails Day. We have led middle & high schoolers along our Historic Hiking Trail in town center, introducing them to the many historic homes, churches, and town green - home to a descendent of the state’s Charter Oak tree, and meeting our First Selectman who shared the essentials of our town government.

We continue to create a biking trail map for existing town roads and forest trails to not only provide knowledge of safer roads to travel, but focus mountain bikers on specific approved trails, saving others solely for hikers.

The 9th annual Community Calendar was sold out with several folks unable to purchase one. The theme for the 2023 calendar will be the schoolhouses in town, sharing archived pictures of the 15 one-room schoolhouses of our past and where they are, and what they look like today. Surely a copy will encourage those who may want to buy.

We meet the 3rd Thursday of the month at the old High School Media Center @ 6pm and welcome your attendance.

BILL RICKER CHAIRMAN

HEWITT FARM

The Hewitt Farm, with its open space and 104 acres, continues to draw folks. The clean air and many trails are very popular, along with the lovely pavilion on the Green and the Community Garden with 20 plots to be enjoyed during the summer.

The farm is hosting four Artisan Farm Markets on the Green this summer. Two Markets have already been held and greatly enjoyed: one was held on May 15th and the second on June 12th. The events were a complete success. The next two Market shows will be held on Sunday July 10th and August 14th, during 10am-1pm.

The important John Dean Gallup House, across from the Green, has been rented. Final preparations and cleaning are being done with expected occupancy in mid-July.

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

NTA KINCAID

COMMITTEE MEMBER

860-235-1565

NORTH STONINGTON GARDEN CLUB



Thank you to all our loyal customers who braved cold, wet, and windy weather to come to our Plant Sale on Saturday, May 7! This was the first such sale we were able to hold since 2019, and we are so appreciative of your support. It was heart-warming to see people lining up before the gate opened at 9am; we hope our offerings did not disappoint. The proceeds from the sale will support our plantings at the Village Green and Town Hall gardens, but sadly (given two years without income) will be insufficient to fund our Anna Coit Memorial Scholarship. We hope to resume funding of the scholarship, as well as of our program of community grants in 2023.

Another event that returned after a two-year hiatus was the Memorial Day parade, and for this the weather was much kinder, warm, and sunny, and members were able to enjoy decorating and riding John Anderson's hay wagon (thank you, John!), and distributing free seed packets to parade goers.

NSGC continues its support of the Town's Pollinator Pathway Project. We are happy to report that the crowdfunding initiative to pay for seeds and plants for public lands along the initial pathway qualified for a matching grant from Sustainable CT, and a grant from the CT Master Gardener Association will help fund plantings at the Stephen Main Homestead.

For information about NSGC events and activities, visit our website at nsgardenclub.org, or follow us on Facebook.

JANICE PARKER

ON BEHALF OF THE NSGC COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL

Congratulations to the Class of 2022! Happy Summer Vacation from Wheeler! This was certainly another year for the books! On June 10th, we graduated another great group of seniors on an absolutely gorgeous evening. Special congratulations to educator Kim Haggerty, for receiving the Ellie Banker Outstanding Educator Award that night. Many of our graduated seniors are on their way to the work force, colleges and universities, and the military.



Since the pandemic, we are seeing a real shift of students pursuing the workforce immediately out of high school. To support this change, we graduated three-Wheeler juniors from the pipefitting program at the Westerly Education Center. This certification will allow them to apply at EB at the end of their senior year!

On June 10th, we also celebrated some pretty special 8th graders, promoting to high school. We are happy to announce that many of our current 8th grade students are choosing to stay with us and next year, we are adding an additional nine Preston and Voluntown students into our high school community! They will join the six Voluntown and Preston students who joined our school community last year. We are grateful for the partnership with these two towns. These students pay tuition to attend our high school which directly goes back to the town general fund!

As always, thanks for all your generous support throughout the school year! We are grateful for the partnership on behalf of our Wheeler students.

KRISTEN ST. GERMAIN, PRINCIPAL

A TIP FROM NITA AND LISA

While creating the North Stonington Quarterly,
we enjoy viewing all the wonderful pictures in color.
YOU CAN TOO!

Visit northstoningtonct.gov to view this as well as past Quarterlies.

NORTH STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Greetings! Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Troy Hopkins and I am eager to officially begin working with you on July 1, 2022. As the next superintendent of North Stonington Public Schools, I am excited and ready to join your community to enrich the lives of students as well as the school staff and the community. I bring experience leading schools PK through grade 12. Because of my wide range of experience, people often ask me, "What is your favorite level?" Without hesitation I say, "All of them!" I honestly feel that I have found a special place in North Stonington, a close-knit town that is dedicated to the education of all its young people.

I continue to feel warmly welcomed into your community. My conversations with district and school staff, school administrators, PTO, NSEF, and several community members including but not limited to the Board of Selectman and the Board of Finance, have been informative and inspirational. I am looking forward to learning even more about the North Stonington community and meeting more people. A special thank you to the Board of Education for believing that I can lead the school district into the future.

Many thanks to Superintendent Peter Nero who has worked diligently on a smooth transition and shared numerous sources of school pride and an abundance of resources with me.

Also, thank you to Rebecca Schilke, reading consultant at North Stonington Elementary School, for assisting her students in drawing pictures and writing descriptions of their most treasured parts of North Stonington and assembling them into the book entitled North Stonington: An Amazing Place! A book describing what we love about our town! Please stop by my office for a look. I would love to talk with you.

TROY C. HOPKINS SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS hopkinst@northstonington.k12.ct.us

NORTH STONINGTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION



This spring the North Stonington Education Foundation had three highly successful fundraising events.

We held the Dinner Dance ("NOSTO UNLEASHED") in April, during which Superintendent Peter Nero inducted Roberta "Robbie" McCarthy as a member of the Wheeler Distinguished Alumni.

We had a Drive-in Movie Night on May 21st. Then the annual 5K, "Runners and Walkers in Support of Education" was held on May 28th with record attendance, thanks to the wonderful support of the North Stonington Community.

Because of our successful fundraising, we were able to give out two Full Grants and eleven Micro-Grants for educational purposes in North Stonington totaling \$9000.00.

This fall we have two fundraising events scheduled: Amazing Race and Disc Golf. Please check our website for updates at nsedfoundation.org.



BERNARD "BING" BARTICK

BBESSAIL@AOL.COM

860-389-0264

BOARD OF FINANCE

Thank you, residents of North Stonington, for supporting this year town budget! The Board of Finance thought it to be a good mix of fully supporting town priorities and providing some modest relief to you, the taxpayer, in the form of a mill-rate reduction. As we go into the summer months our work is still not done. We will continue to have periodic meetings on a number of items, the most important of which is how we make the budget process easier and more transparent. All departments will be asked to provide more information on their budgets and how these finite amounts of funds are being utilized to provide you the service you deserve. More to come on this.

In the meantime, please attend our open meetings in-person, on Zoom or listen to our recorded sessions on YouTube. *Have a great Summer.*

PAUL SIMONDS CHAIRMAN NORTH STONINGTON BOARD OF FINANCE.

ROTARY OF THE STONINGTONS

We are welcoming new club leadership at the end of June and would like to thank our out-going co-president, Sabrina Buehler, for all her contributions over the last two years. We also thank Marti Bradshaw for her continued leadership as co-president and mentor to incoming co-president, Donna Scherer.

This spring our club participated in multiple service projects on April 9 - Rotary Day of Service, and we wish to extend our thanks to community members who worked with us on Avalonia Trail projects at TriTown and Green Falls River Glen. We also volunteered at the Gemma Moran Food Center one morning, to support their efforts for the community members who face hunger and food insecurity. In June, we were pleased to present college scholarship awards to Wheeler High students, Matt Barrs and Zoe Mayhew. We enjoyed meeting them and their parents at a club meeting and learning of their plans for the future. Best of luck Matt and Zoe!

This summer, we would like to invite returning college students who are involved in extracurricular projects or clubs that align with Rotary's areas of focus and/or commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion to attend a meeting and share their accomplishments with our club.

Contact Donna Scherer at dscherer.rotary@gmail.com to get on our schedule. View our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/havingfuninservice.

The Rotary's Seven Areas of Focus:

- Supporting education
- Saving mothers and children
- Promoting peace
- Fighting disease
- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene
- Growing local economies
- Protecting the Environment



DONNA SCHERER CO-PRESIDENT

NORTH STONINGTON COMMUNITY GRANGE #138

North Stonington Community Grange #138 is pleased to say, with all of us vaccinated, we have been meeting in person on a regular basis. We have also presented Dictionaries to the 3rd Graders in town and selected a recipient for the Gene Bromley Scholarship. Congratulations to Matthew Barrs. We wish him well in his future studies. It was pleasing to see our hall so full at our April 22nd meeting when we celebrated Kasha Deshefy as our Community Citizen of the Year 2022, for her outstanding service as our town's Animal Control Officer.



You are welcome to come meet us informally at our picnic on June 25th, which begins at 6:30 in the pavilion, and more formally at our meetings on July 8th, which is titled "Summer Sports", August 12th in which the men will present "Outdoor Sports", and August 26th in which the ladies will present "Dance". July and August meetings will be held at 8:00 pm. We will hold our Installation of Officers on September 9th. 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

NORTH STONINGTON PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

So long, Spring (and long, it was)! We were able to pack so much in since the last quarter! On the business end of things, we appointed 3 new committee chairs and one new event chair. We passed our new bylaws into record, passed our budget for the 2022-2023 school year, filed our annual report, and filed our taxes. We enjoyed watching our fundraising efforts go towards our mission of enriching the educational, social, and emotional development of students while fostering community among families, faculty, and staff.

Along with the money we raised for educational fieldtrips, we also funded a visit from Riverside Reptiles for the 6th graders to teach them, hands on, about the life science of reptiles. For social enrichment, we contributed to the 3rd grade play and The Wizard of Oz, both of which built our students' (many of whom have never tried acting before) confidence and self-esteem. With respect to emotional enrichment, we aimed to provide some FUN! The "Day of Awesomeness" was the most fun I have ever seen staff and students have at school. We also provided the DJ for Field Day, which was a blast! The Basket Raffle again provided the sense of community that makes our schools such a special place. It has been so nice to be able to gather again!



Huge thanks to all who helped, directly or indirectly, to make this school year successful for our organization! We will be taking a little time off, but we can still be reached at our board@northstoningtonpto.com email or via our FB page <http://www.facebook.com/nostopto>. On behalf of the NSPTO, I'd like to wish you all a healthy, fun-filled summer! See you in September!

DAWN GORALEWICZ

PRESIDENT

president@northstoningtonpto.com

LAND USE DEVELOPMENT

Welcome Summer! The 4th of July, the North Stonington Fair and warm weather are all just ahead. The Land Use Department has remained busy through the spring, and we anticipate another busy summer of construction and building activity around Town. Year over year housing starts have remained stable with 15 new homes in 2022 and 15 new homes in 2021. The construction economy has been robust and real estate values have been increasing due to an extraordinarily tight real estate market. Demand is overwhelming supply as families seek to move into North Stonington. With interest rates rising and a continued short supply of houses we will see if strong housing price growth, remodeling and new home construction will continue into the summer and fall.

Year over year Land Use Permit activity remains stable. With 14 working days remaining in the fiscal year building permits issued in FY 22 (July 1st 2021 to June 30th 2022) are about to break the record in FY 21 (July 1st 2020 – June 30th 2021) by a narrow margin. Land Use Fees collected for Planning, Zoning and Wetlands permitting has already jumped ahead of FY 21's total.

	Square Feet	Construction Cost	Total Building Fees	Total Land Use Fees
FY 22 to 6-13-2022	450,053.00	\$12,510,069.29	\$121,691.80	\$16,105.00
FY 21 Total – No Large Solar	464,025.00	\$14,681,625.58	\$126,778.22	\$15,903.00
FY 21 - Large Solar Permits		\$15,168,873.30	\$140,096.26	

NATHAN REICHERT

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND ZONING OFFICIAL
860-535-2877 EXT 127

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Veterans who are new to the Town of North Stonington are reminded to file your DD-214 discharge paperwork with the Town Clerk by September 30, 2022, to receive your exemption. The standard exemption is \$6,000 off your assessment on either your motor vehicle or your real estate. There are certain dates of service to qualify for your exemption. Veterans with a disability that has changed must inform the assessor's office of any change.

Farm and forest application (490 program) deadline for filing is 10/31/2022 to be applied to the October 1, 2022 - Grand List. Forest land must be at least 25 acres and a certified state forester report must be included with the application.

Prorates on motor vehicles must have proof of sale and/or printout from the State of Connecticut cancelled plate form.

Declaration of Personal Property Forms will be mailed by October 1 and must be signed by October 31, 2022 to avoid a 25% penalty on the assessment. This includes the exemptions for farm tools, machinery, and buildings. If you do not receive a form, it is available in the assessor's office.

The assessor will be contacting owners who were issued structural building/zoning permits from October 1, 2021 on any open building permit.

DARRYL DEL GRASSO

ASSESSOR

860-535-2877 EXT 123

CECILE MCGRATH

ASSESSOR'S ASSISTANT

860-535-2877 EXT 124

CEMETARY COMMISSION



The spring is always a very busy time for the NSCC. David Fede has organized the initial mowing and clearing of those cemeteries where veterans are interred. He has also ordered and placed over fifty signs with the names and the Hale numbers for each of these burial grounds. In May, all veterans received an American flag to commemorate their service to our nation. The Commission members personally placed these flags in all but Union Cemetery. Boy Scout Troop 71, led by Doug Spracklin, places the flags at Union each May. The Troop has our profound thanks for their participation!

We are discussing a possible event in the Fall which would involve the BSA, members of the NSCC, and resident volunteers, to clean and trim the vegetation from the head stones of the Union veterans, as many of the flat, official US Armed Services stones become overgrown by grass, etc. This is still in the planning stage; Town input is welcomed!

We wish to acknowledge, with great gratitude, the members who have retired from the NSCC this year: William Peterson, an accomplished author, served for many years, sharing his deep knowledge of the history and people. Mac Gray retired this year as well and we will miss his enthusiasm and local knowledge.

We have acquired two new members in Rachel White and Donna Brandelli, each of them bringing a depth of familiarity of the Town and its inhabitants! They have already proven to be great assets! We, once again, wish to thank those residents who so graciously care for the burial grounds on or adjacent to their private properties. The Town owes a debt of gratitude to each of them.

Please feel free to contact the NS Cemetery Commission with any concerns or suggestions.

DIANE PRESTON 860-599-1832/860-961-2580

djdpreston16@gmail.com

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Hello, everyone!

This year's hurricane forecast is expected to be more active than 2021. To stay informed sign-up for "CT Alert", a free Connecticut communication database that automatically keeps you advised of emergency alerts, by text, email, cell phone and landline (it's free and easy! Monitoring weather and news channels also provide updates.

Establish a family communication plan and be prepared to leave. If instructed to evacuate, head away from the threat's direction. If you choose to stay, you may experience extended power outages, property damage or injury.

- We recommend that you gather Needed Supplies, for at least three days including non-perishable food, medications (insulin, oxygen, etc.); an emergency medical kit; hygiene/sanitation items (a 5-gallon bucket and a box of trash bags for use as a toilet); water (1 gallon person, per day); a water sanitation straw; batteries; bees wax candles (no soot or smoke) and matches; and gas for your generator.
- Other recommended items include a radio with multiple power options (hand generator crank, batteries or solar); sleeping bags and blanket; and a tarp and nylon rope available for constructing a lean-to shelter.
- Have cash on hand (in a power outage nothing works, you may need to make cash purchases).
- Fill your gas tank and propane tanks. Never use a generator, gasoline powered equipment, a grill or camp stove within 20 feet from doors, windows, vents, to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Keep your cell phone and laptop charged. Stay away from ALL power, cable, and telephone lines.
- If you remain, stay indoors, and go to a windowless room on the lowest level that is unlikely to flood. Do not take shelter in the attic.
- Do not drive through flooded areas; (6 inches of flowing water can float a car) and do not wade through flooded areas (water can be contaminated by sewage, dead animals, oil, gas, debris, etc.).
- Bring animals indoors.

Put Together Your Survival Kit Now!! Remember ... it wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

GARY BARON, DIRECTOR

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



AVALONIA LAND CONSERVANCY

Summer fun is on the trails. If you missed the 7 Rivers Festival and ribbon cutting activities, investigate Avalonia's newest acquisition and trail network. Sheets Forest Preserve is on Puttker Road with ample parking there and on Loin Hill Road. These 87 acres along the Green Fall River have diverse topography and interesting remnants of 18th century farmsteads and manufacturing. Look to the website Avalonia.org for more trails and activities on the many preserves or to become a member.

Contact Pat Turner for jmt.pst@gmail.com or Toby Glaza for tglaza@avalonialc.org

NORTH STONINGTON LIONS CLUB

Hello fellow residents. It is wonderful see everything green and the trees and flowers blooming. As spring comes to a close, we celebrate and congratulate all our graduates from North Stonington and our neighboring towns.

In the last Quarterly, we were in the midst of planning our first Soup Potluck Supper. It was a huge success, and we thank all of you who were able to attend and everyone that made donations. Thanks to your generosity, we raised \$2,113 for the Refugee and Displaced Persons Fund for the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. We hope to make the Soup Potluck Supper an annual event to help beat those winter blues.



We also worked toward a goal of collecting 500 pounds of plastic film in a 6-month period for the Trex Recycling Challenge. With your help, we reached our goal and, in return, Trex donated a park bench to be placed at the Wheeler Library. Through the summer months we will continue to collect your plastic at the Wheeler Library and the North Stonington Senior Center to get ready to take on another challenge in the fall. Thank you for helping the Lions to preserve the environment.

In May we held our Night of Giving, in which we invited representatives from several organizations in our community and our district Lions to join us for an evening of fellowship. Each organization received a donation and shared with our club what they use their donations for.

You will be seeing us selling hamburgers and hot dogs at the North Stonington Farmers Market in June and parking cars at the North Stonington Fair in July. Our dahlias are planted, and we are keeping our fingers crossed for a good crop so we can hold our annual Dahlia Day event in September. Look for updates on our Facebook page.

If you are interested in joining the North Stonington Lions, please contact me and join us at one of our meetings beginning in September, on the 4th Wednesday of each month. We hope all our fellow residents have a safe and fun summer.

TERRY BYASSEE, PRESIDENT TWBYASSEE@GMAIL.COM 860-535-4380

NORTH STONINGTON SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Formed in June 2021, our mission includes:

- Supporting the cultural fabric of the community.
- Supporting the local economy and sustainable agriculture.
- Preserving natural resources.
- Promoting renewable energy.
- Promoting the health and well-being of current and future residents.

We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm.

We are seeking new members who have an interest in any of these topics.

Check out our website: www.northstoningtonct.gov/home/pages/sustainable-north-stonington or visit our Facebook page: [Facebook.com/sustainablenosto](https://www.facebook.com/sustainablenosto) to learn more.

BOY SCOUTS TROOP 71

Happy Summer! Troop 71 has been busy these last few months. Scouts attended a biking campout at Mashamoquet Brook State Park, and on the Miner Farm. They enjoyed a troop swim at the Mystic YMCA and worked hard on numerous merit badges and advancement requirements. The troop will have the opportunity to work on even more merit badges and advancement opportunities, meet other scouts, gain independence, and have fun at Camp JN Webster in Ashford, and Camp Sequassen in New Hartford. The scouts will be heading to Niagara Falls and upstate New York for a High Adventure trip in August.



For community service, the troop assisted at the Mystic 1/2 marathon at two water stations. It was a wonderful experience, and we look forward to doing it again. Additionally, flags were placed at Union Cemetery for Memorial Day, and the troop participated in the Memorial Day parade. They will be parking cars at the North Stonington Fair on Saturday, July 16th.

We would like to congratulate Joshua Porterfield on his high school graduation. We believe he will move on to do great things and live out the Scout Oath and Law.

For more information, please contact Scout Master Ramsey Allen at mmjadi13d@gmail.com.

JENN RICHTER COMMITTEE MEMBER

NORTH STONINGTON HALLOWEEN LIGHT PARADE

Summer has barely begun, but Halloween will be here before you know it! Save the date, Friday October 21st, the Halloween Light Parade returns and this year, we are bringing you the biggest and best event yet. Join us on Main Street for a Halloween-themed block party featuring live music, vendors, activities, and lots of food! But to make this event a success, we need people to join us. We need individuals and businesses to participate in the parade, vendors and crafters for the Block Party, and restaurants and food trucks to fill the street. Please visit us at [Facebook.com/nslightparade](https://www.facebook.com/nslightparade) or email NSLightparade@gmail.com for more information or to get involved.

JEN STRUNK, CHAIRMAN

FARMERS' MARKET

Have you heard? North Stonington has its own Farmers' Market! The North Stonington Artisan Farm Market is a joint effort by the North Stonington Business Association and Milltown Arts North Stonington. The 2022 season will have monthly markets hosted at the Hewitt Farm on scheduled Sundays from 10am until 1pm.

The market committee (Brett and Stephanie Mastroianni, Emily Lewis, and Laura Tillinghast) is working hard to bring a well-rounded selection of farms, artists, artisans, and crafters. There are over twenty vendors including North Stonington based Beriah Lewis Farm, Better Together CT, Gobble Mountain Elderberry Co., Hen of the Woods Homestead, Lulu's Blooms, Mystical Gardens, the North Stonington Congregational Church, Stonyledge Farm, Terra Firma Farm, and the Wheeler Library offering beef, chicken, pork, vegetables, specialty juices, eggs, flowers, pies, milk, yogurt, books and more. Though we give priority to North Stonington based businesses we also have vendors from across Connecticut.



We hope to see you at our next markets. Be sure to mark your calendar for **July 10** and **August 14, 10am to 1:00pm**. There is a Harvest Market in the works for September and October. Be sure to join the North Stonington Farmers Market Facebook page for regular updates and vendor information.

If you'd like to volunteer to help on market days, become a vendor, or need more information please reach out to one of the committee members or email nostofarmmarket@gmail.com. Donations gratefully accepted to help defray the costs of music, insurance, signage, and sanitation.

WHEELER LIBRARY

Our Summer Reading Program is in full swing, with thanks to the North Stonington Education Foundation for their grant, making the many activities and programs possible. This is the first year the library is offering a Summer Reading Challenge for Adults and Teens as well. Join us for hikes, kids' story times and yoga, magic, henna class, and more. We're launching 1000 Books before Kindergarten, which promotes reading to newborns, infants, and toddlers.

On the library grounds, we've added comfortable seating and picnic tables for all to use, anytime. The WiFi is always on, there's room for kids to play, and we are happy to add another outdoor space in the village for reading, relaxing and enjoying our town.

Townwide Tag Sale Day will be Saturday, October 1st. Sell from your home, business or on the library lawn.

Save the Date for a very special Farm to Table Dinner to be held at Wheeler Library on October 22nd. We are excited to be working with local farmers and artists, A Thyme to Cook, and event planner Jen Strunk to ensure a memorable evening for all.

Details on library events and resources are available wheelerlibrary.org. If you want to stay up to date on everything going on at your library, email us to receive our weekly e-newsletter.

AMY KENNEDY

DIRECTOR

North Stonington Quarterly bids a fond farewell to our friend, Peter Nero, who served our schools and community for the past ten years as Superintendent of Schools. The NSQ is a result of North Stonington's first community conversation which was funded by a grant written by Mr. Nero. It was first published in September of 2013. Mr. Nero has been a huge source of support over the years and has contributed to all 33 editions!

Enjoy your well-deserved retirement, Peter! We will miss you.



THE NORTH STONINGTON RECREATION COMMISSION

Fun Summer 2022 Programs

Summer Playground Camp:	Seven-week morning camp starts June 20 (ends Aug 3 rd)
Youth Tennis Clinics:	Multiple offerings Saturday/Sunday mornings (see website)
Summer Youth Golf Lessons:	Saturday mornings 11:00 - 12:00pm starting June 11 th
Summer Drama Camp for Kids:	Week of July 11th to 15th (11:30 – 2:30pm)
Summer Youth Archery:	Week of July 18th to 22nd (9:00 – 12:00pm)
Youth Soccer Clinics:	Evening clinics week of July 25 thru 29th
Summer Drama Camp for Kids:	Week of August 8 to 12th (11:30 – 2:30pm)
Adult Golf Lessons:	Multiple offerings starting in September
Woman Only Golf Lessons:	Multiple offerings starting in September
Fall Youth Golf Lessons:	Saturday mornings 11:00 - 12:00pm starting September 10
Yoga / Pilates:	Instructor working on modified summer schedule

Periodically check the recreation website: www.northstoningtonrec.com
for newly added or updated programs / activities

SUMMER EVENTS

July

8	FRIDAY	8:00 pm	NS Community Grange	NSCG meeting, presenting "Summer Sports"	
10	SUNDAY	10-1 pm	Hewitt Farm	North Stonington Artisan Farm Market	
14-17	THURS-SUN	Hours Vary	NS Community Grange	North Stonington Agricultural Fair	

August

6	SATURDAY	12-9 pm	Better Together CT	Hempstock Music Festival	
9	MONDAY	6am-8pm	NS Education Center	Democratic and Republican Primary	
12	FRIDAY	8 pm	NS Community Grange	NSGC meeting, presenting "Outdoor Sports"	
14	SUNDAY	10-1pm	Hewitt Farm	North Stonington Artisan Farm Market	

September

6	TUESDAY	Half Day	NS School District	First Day of School	
30	FRIDAY	6:30 pm	Wheeler Library	Neil Kirk & the NS Historical Society on "The history of piracy on the North Atlantic Coast"	



Mark Your Calendars for October 1st!!

Townwide Tag Sale: go to www.wheeler.org for details

Lions Club Dahlia Day: check Facebook page for updates

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

**PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM-Retail**

**Local
Postal Customer
North Stonington, CT 06359**

POLL WORKERS ARE NEEDED

Casting your own ballot on Election Day
is one of the most important things
you can do as a citizen of the United States.

Being an election worker is a truly rewarding experience.

Half Day shifts from 5:15 am to 8:00 pm
will be needed for the upcoming Primary on August 9th.
If interested, please contact Connie Berardi or Emily Lewis
at registrar@northstoningtonct.gov or 860 535-2877 ext. 113.

Go to the North Stonington Town website at www.northstoningtonct.gov!

Sign up for News and Announcements to stay informed.