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Town of North Stonington
Annual Report
For
Fiscal Year 2007-2008



Town of North Stonington 2007-2008 Annual Report

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Board of Finance

The Board of Finance is comprised of six elected officials. The office term is six years; two seats are up for election every two years. Meetings of the Board are scheduled for 8:00 pm in the New Town Hall Conference Room on the first and third Wednesday of each month and weekly during the budget preparations season through May, and on other times as needed. During the year, the Board met more than thirty (30) times. The following are the Board's major responsibilities and how the Board executed these responsibilities in the past year:

- Monitor revenues and expenditures of the current budget – the year ended with a surplus from the \$16,984,984 budget. The audited budget is part of this Town Report.
- Make adjustments to the current budget – Transfers and Additional Appropriations were made as required.
- Develop the next fiscal year budget – a \$17,840,883 budget (a 5.0% Increase) which provided adequate services to the town was developed.
- Present and endorse the next year's budget and ensure approval by the town – the budget was presented to the town and passed a Town Meeting/Referendum.
- Oversee the publication of this Town report. This Town Report was prepared and reviewed by the Board of Finance. It is on file with the State and the Town Clerk.
- Select the Auditor for the current fiscal year – the firm of Marien + Company (Norwich, CT) was selected by the Board to continue as Town Auditor.
- Review and accept the Audit for the past fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, reviewed and accepted by the Board and available for inspection from the Town Clerk.
- Monitor and stimulate state grants/lobby elected officials for the financial well being of the town – Done.
- Set the taxation mill rate for the next fiscal year – set at 19.5 mills.
- Monitor the investment of the town's funds – Done.
- Monitor bonding and other town borrowing – Done.
- Advise boards, agencies and the town of the financial condition of the town – Done.
- Monitor the five-year capital plans – the Board of Selectmen, Local Capital Improvement, and the Board of Education five-year plans were reviewed by the Board.
- Oversee the Assessor's performance.

The primary goal of the North Stonington Board of Finance is to provide a budget that will provide adequate services to the town and minimize taxation. We always invite public input to help us achieve that goal.

Respectfully,

Mark S. Donahue, Chairman
Larry Southwick, Vice Chairman
Thomas Oswald, Secretary

Gary Herbert
Emil Pavlovics
Elwin Bresette

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Board of Selectmen

The North Stonington Board of Selectmen meet every Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM in the New Town Hall Conference Room to conduct the routine business of the Town and items that came before them during the year. The Board was responsible for overseeing a \$4,144,421 operating budget along with \$433,660 in capital and \$765,325 in Redemption of Debt.

The Board of Selectmen members were Nicholas Mullane, II, William Peterson, and William Hescok.

The Highway Department Union began negotiations with the First Selectmen for a new three year collective bargaining agreement. Important items discussed were pay raises, new medical insurance coverage, and pension benefits. The Town also began discussions on a new school renovation and construction project with the Board of Education and the Permanent School Planning and Building Committee. A joint letter was sent to all residents asking for volunteers to serve on an ad hoc committee to study need and possible projects.

The Board finalized testimony with our Washington, DC attorneys on HR 2837 on Tribal Recognition legislation. The State of Connecticut also implemented and distributed new voting procedures and equipment to all Connecticut voting districts.

The Board of Selectmen proposed and saw implemented a new Right to Farm Ordinance outlining the current farm daily tasks and our desire to protect and keep farming and agricultural practices strong in our community.

November brought two new Selectmen to the Board; Shawn Murphy and William Ricker.

The Board hired an engineer to survey, study and make recommendations on the drainage system in the Kingswood Meadowwood neighborhood.

The Selectmen began a conservation program and signed a "Smart Power Resolution" vowing to reduce energy usage in the Town by 20% by the year 2010. They also purchased renewable energy credits and sent out an RFP for solar power panels for five Town building locations. The Board plans to budget funding for the next five years to complete the project. The first project will be at the Town's Highway Garage and was included for funding in next year's (2008-09) fiscal budget. The Selectmen have also been looking into alternate electricity sources to reduce energy costs.

The Board began discussions on the purchase of the property owned by the Mystic Seaport located behind the old Dew Drop Inn. It is a 104 acre parcel that has a pond, beautiful wooded areas and rolling fields. The Planning and Zoning Commission along with Inland Wetlands have committed some of their open space funds to the purchase of approved. The project purchase will be presented to the residents for approval. The

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Board participated in the Town sponsored Energy Fair in April, it was a huge success and extremely educational for our residents and guests from the entire region.

Thanks to a grant from the State of Connecticut, the Selectmen were able to have a new 2850 foot waterline installed on Main Street from the Wheeler Middle School through and up Wyassup Road to the Highway Garage and across to the Town Hall. This will solve a long standing water supply problem for many of the Village residents.

The Board spent a large amount of time creating a budget for the Fiscal Year 2008-09 due to the concern of the taxpayers ability to pay because of the downturn in the economy. The budget was passed at referendum on the first presentation and was implemented on July 1st.

Nicholas Mullane, II
First Selectman

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Public Schools

Board of Education Members

Dr. Darren Robert –Chair
David McCord- Vice Chair
Robert Testa- Secretary
Bill Briscoe
Eleanor Banker
John Keane
Cres Secchiaroli
Mary Ann Ricker

Administration

Central Office

Dr. Natalie J. Pukas- Superintendent
Sue Costa- Special Services Director

Wheeler Middle/High School

Stephen Bickford- Principal
Carol Keller- Assistant Principal-
High School

Marcia Benvenuti- Assistant Principal-
Middle School

North Stonington Elementary School-

Veronica O. Wilkison- Principal

C. Paraprofessionals

D. General Description of Title
Programs

E. Linguistic Assessment of Limited
English Proficient Students

F. Graduation Rates

G. Unsafe Schools Choice Options

Assessment (Section A) is nothing new to us or the state. Connecticut has had a statewide testing program in place for many years. Testing is now administered by the state to students in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10. Students in grades 3-8 participate in the Connecticut Mastery Testing Program (CMT) and those in grade 10 in the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT). In March of 2007, the fourth generation of the CMT and the third generation of the CAPT were administered. In March of 2008, a new science section was added to the CMT in grades 5 and 8.

Analyses of the results from the required CMT and CAPT continue to help our district in planning for instruction and curricular changes.

Sections B and C- Highly Qualified Teachers and Paraprofessionals have placed higher standards on certification and hiring practices. North Stonington continues to support and comply with these practices.

North Stonington currently meets all of the criteria for highly qualified teachers and paraprofessionals under the provisions of the law.

Compliance with title regulations (Section D) mandate that we provide copies of our Strategic School Profile (SSP) to all parents and place copies on

The 2007-2008 school year brought with it challenges as well as successes. Our students continued to demonstrate their talents academically, artistically and athletically.

No Child Left Behind

The ***No Child Left Behind Act*** continues to play a significant role in education nationally. **NCLB**, as it is known, carries with it many mandates that impact North Stonington as well as the rest of the state and the nation. **NCLB** is divided into seven categories:

- A. Assessment
- B. Highly Qualified Teachers

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file in the Town Hall and Wheeler Library. These reports can be obtained online at www.northstonington.k12.ct.us. We must also notify parents of teachers who do not meet specific certification criteria if they are assigned to work with a class for more than 40 days such as in the case of a substitute.

North Stonington is further required to administer an English Language Assessment under NCLB (Section E) to students whose first language is other than English.

In 2007, our graduation rate (Section F) was 96.4 % and we continue to work in this area. Measurement is not based solely on the number of students who start their senior year and complete it. Information is based on a continuum of all four years in high school.

Fortunately, North Stonington is not on the list of schools within the state that are considered "unsafe" (Section G).

State Testing

The spring, 2008, administration of the CMT marked the third year of the fourth generation of these tests and the first year for the additional science sections in grades 5 and 8. The mathematics portion includes a combination of multiple-choice, grid-in (excluding grades 3 and 4) and open-ended, constructed response, and extended response items. The items are aligned with the state's mathematics content standards.

The reading section of the test is comprised of two subtests; the DRP (Degrees of Reading Power) and Reading Comprehension that assess the two critical components of reading; the process of reading and the product of reading. The DRP requires students to read several informational passages from which some words are deleted.

Students must select the words that have been deleted from the passage. Students are attempting to make sense of the passage or construct meaning as they read.

On the Reading Comprehension test, students read authentic/devised passages and answer related multiple-choice and open-ended questions to assess their comprehension. The types of reading passages for the CMT 4 include a new category. In addition to Reading for Literary Experience and Reading for Information, Reading to Perform a Task has been included in grades 5- 8. Each of the items is designed to measure one of four (4) reading content strands: 1) Forming an Initial Understanding; 2) Developing an Interpretation; 3) Making Reader/Text Connections; or 4) Examining the Content and Structure. Students' performance on each of these content strands is compared to a mastery standard. The strands have been revised to reflect recent changes to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) reading framework.

Editing and revising are also now included with each passage. They will no longer be separated.

Finally, the writing component of the test has two subtests: Direct Writing Assessment and Editing and Revising. For the Direct Writing portion, students are required to respond to a prompt within a 45-minute period. Grades 3 and 4 students are given a narrative prompt, grades 5 and 6, expository and grades 7 and 8, persuasive.

The new science section assessments measure what students have learned over several years about core science concepts in life science, physical science and earth science and how these concepts apply to real world issues and technologies.

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The Elementary Science CMT is a cumulative test administered in Grade 5. It assesses science knowledge and abilities described in the framework expected performance for grades 3, 4, and 5. Expected performance for grades Pre-K through 2 are considered foundational and, although not directly assessed in the Elementary CMT, they play an important role in supporting students' ongoing development of science understanding.

The Middle School is a cumulative test administered at Grade 8. It includes science knowledge and abilities described in the Core Science Curriculum Framework for grades 6, 7, and 8.

To assess students' understanding of inquiry and the nature of science, the CMT science assessments include some questions that assess inquiry within the context of curriculum-embedded performance tasks developed by the CT State Department of Education. Students are not expected to recall specific details or a single "right" answer to any performance task. Rather, the test questions will assess students' general abilities to make scientific observations, pose testable questions, design "fair tests," make evidence-based observations and judge experimental quality.

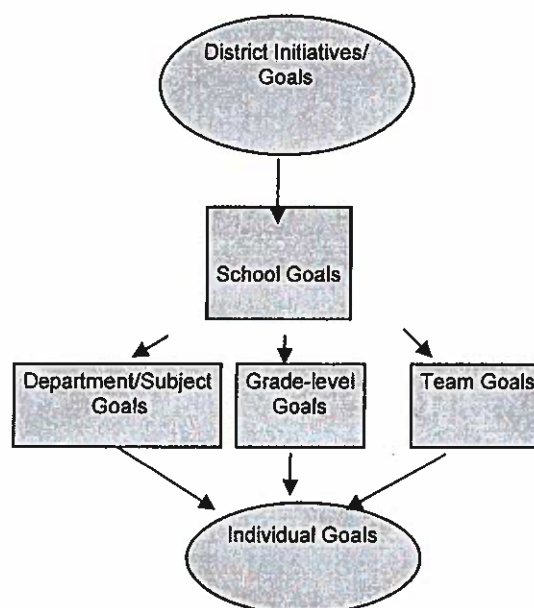
(Source for explanation of the components of the CMT- CT State Dept. of Education- CMT Handbooks)

The results of the 2008 administration of the CMT's and the CAPT were returned to the school district in July. The Superintendent and the administrators analyzed the overall results, reviewed plans already in place and forwarded information to teachers.

The district goal for the 2007-2008 school year will focus on the "use

of data to make informed decisions." The data gathered from the analyses of the CMT's and the CAPT will guide us as we take a closer look at curricular offerings and methods of instruction in the classroom. Areas of continued emphasis will be reading and writing at all grade levels.

Each school is required to develop a goal that is aligned with that of the district. In turn, each grade level/team/department must align their goals with the two.



(Superintendent of Schools- Dr. Natalie J. Pukas- 2004)

Adequate Yearly Progress

Each of our schools as well as the district made AYP (*Adequate Yearly Progress*). Periodically, the targets for making AYP are raised making it more difficult as we approach 2014 which is the year when **ALL** students (100%) must demonstrate proficiency in all areas.

Standards were raised for the 2008 testing and are as follows:

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- **Mathematics:** The CMT Math standard increased from 74 percent (74%) of students scoring at/above proficient to 82 percent (82%). CAPT increased from 69 percent (69%) to 80 percent (80%);
- **Reading:** CMT Reading increased from 68 percent (68%) to 79 percent (79%) at/above proficient. CAPT Reading increased from 72 percent (72%) to 81 percent (81%);
- **Test Participation:** 95 Percent (95%) of students enrolled in the tested grades must participate in the CMT and CAPT testing;
- **Other:** 70 Percent (70%) must be at/above the basic performance level in **writing** on CMT and 70 percent (70%) of high school students must **graduate**.

(Source- "State Department of Education Reports on 'Adequate Yearly progress' of Connecticut Schools and Districts under NCLB" –Wednesday, September 10, 2008- Dr. Mark McQuillan, Commissioner of Education)

Our students performed better than or equal to students throughout the state in most cases. Scores are also compared with those of our District Reference Group (DRG). Districts in this group have similar median family incomes, percentages of families below the poverty level, percentages of single-parent families, percentages of families with a non-English home language, percentages of families in which one or both parents have a bachelors degree, and percentages of families with parents in white collar or managerial occupations. The districts' student enrollments are also considered.

The scores were reported in five levels. As a result of the requirements of

No Child Left Behind the categories that are reported were changed to:

Advanced- students have performed above the statewide goal

Goal- students have demonstrated mastery of the skills identified by the state

Proficient- students have demonstrated proficiency but are slightly below mastery

Basic- students have demonstrated a minimal, functional level of the skills tests

Below Basic- students have shown little grasp of the skills tested

Students who score at the top two levels are reported in the tables that follow. These are not how they are measured for NCLB. For NCLB the top three levels are used. We continue to use the top two as indicators as we have done since the inception of the testing program.

As indicated earlier, after the schools receive the results of the CMT, an analysis of the scores is done. Each individual student's score is also reviewed for areas of strength and weakness. A further analysis of the overall scoring is done to pinpoint specific areas in need of improvement.

In the 2008 results, significant progress was made in many areas. However, there still is concern at the middle level in reading and writing where we fall below the state's achievement level at/above goal in some cases.

Percentage of Students At/Above Goal Level 4th Generation CMT Spring 2008

Test	North Stonington	State
Gr. 3 Reading	67.6	52.1

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Gr. 3 Writing	81.7	63.5
Gr. 3 Math	76.1	60.2
Gr. 4 Reading	62.7	56.0
Gr. 4 Writing	72.9	62.9
Gr. 4 Math	74.6	60.5
Gr. 5 Reading	75.4	62.2
Gr. 5 Writing	75.0	64.6
Gr. 5 Math	72.1	66.2
Grade 5 Science*	77.0	55.2
Gr. 6 Reading	74.2	66.4
Gr. 6 Writing	45.2	61.9
Gr. 6 Math	75.8	66.6
Gr. 7 Reading	66.7	71.2
Gr. 7 Writing	54.4	62.0
Gr. 7 Math	73.7	63.3
Gr. 8 Reading	62.7	64.9
Gr. 8 Writing	53.7	63.4
Gr. 8 Math	47.8	61.0
Grade 8 Science*	76.1	58.9

*- New in 2008

The CAPT is also given each spring to 10th graders. Four major content areas are assessed on the CAPT: Mathematics, Reading, Writing and Science.

The Mathematics test assesses how well students compute and estimate, solve problems, and communicate their understanding. The strands of the test include Number & Quantity; Measurement & Geometry; Statistics, Probability & Discrete Mathematics; and Algebra & Functions.

The test focuses on how well students apply important mathematics concepts to problems that are relevant to their everyday lives. The test consists of 27 grid-in and eight open-ended questions. Students must typically show their work, explain their reasoning, and justify the procedure they used.

Like the CMT's, scores for the CAPT were changed to comply with NCLB and are reported in five levels. Students who reach the state goal receive a Certificate of Mastery in Mathematics.

Students' reading skills are measured with two tests. The Response to Literature test requires students to read a short story and respond to four essay-type questions. This test measures how well students demonstrate their understanding of the story, interpret the meaning of the story, make connections to the story and evaluate. The Reading for Information test requires students to read three short non-fiction articles and answer multiple-choice and short-answer questions. The test measures how well students interpret the articles and evaluates the way the authors wrote the articles.

Like the CMT's, scores for the CAPT were changed to comply with NCLB and are reported in five levels. Students who reach the state goal receive a Certificate of Mastery in Reading.

The Writing Section is comprised of:

- 1) Interdisciplinary Writing
- 2) Editing and Revising

The Interdisciplinary Writing section requires students to apply knowledge and skills that they have gained through many disciplines. For each Interdisciplinary Writing test, the

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students must read three articles representing different perspectives on a controversial issue and use the information to write a persuasive letter. Students are assessed on how well they organize their ideas in a logical effective manner so that their audience understands and follows their thinking, and express their ideas clearly and fluently using their own words. Students are provided with three pages on which to write their responses.

Five areas are considered when evaluating a student's response:

- taking a clear position on the issue;
- using information from each of the three sources that are provided;
- supporting the position with accurate and relevant information from the source materials;
- organizing ideas logically and effectively; and
- expressing ideas in their own words with clarity and fluency.

The Editing & Revising test emphasizes editing, composing, and revising skills. Students are required to read samples of student writing and answer 24 multiple-choice questions to correct common errors in organization, word choice, syntax, capitalization, punctuation, usage and spelling.

Scores are reported at five levels. Students who reach the state goal receive a Certificate of Mastery in Writing.

The Science test assesses students' understanding of important scientific concepts in the areas of life, physical and earth science as well as their ability to apply these concepts to realistic problems. In addition, there is a major focus on experimentation skills and using scientific reasoning to solve problems.

The following areas of scientific knowledge are assessed:

- Life Science- ecosystems, cells; genetics and evolution; and human biology
- Physical Science- structure of matter; reactions and interactions; forces and motion; energy sources and transformation
- Earth/Space Science- astronomy; earth's natural resources; meteorology; earth history and dynamics

Several weeks prior to the test, students participate in a "hands-on" laboratory experiment. Students are required to design and carry out an experiment to solve a problem and write about the results in an authentic format. On the written test, there are follow-up questions to the performance task. Students are given a strand score on experimentation.

The test includes a combination of multiple-choice and short-answer questions which may require students to create diagrams or graphs.

The scores are reported at five levels. Students who reach the state goal receive a Certificate of Mastery in Science

(Source for explanation of the components of the CAPT- CT State Dept. of Education- CAPT Handbooks)

Percentage of Students Scoring at At/Above Goal CAPT - Spring 2008

Test	N. S.	State
Math	70.9	50.2
Science	69.1	46.5
Reading	61.8	45.5
Writing	74.5	57.8

This year, North Stonington was recognized by the state of Connecticut for our increases in CAPT scores. In

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mathematics we made the greatest gain in the entire state, 28.3 points; in writing we shared 10th place with Guilford at 15.2 points; in science we were second in the state with a 15.4 point increase. We continue to score significantly higher than the state on all four sections of the CAPT.

As with the CMT, a careful analysis of the results is conducted for individual students as well as the grade. An improvement plan will ensue from this review.

BY LAW- all local and regional Boards of Education have graduation requirements that apply beginning with the class of 2006 and thereafter. While the CAPT is not a graduation test, results from the CAPT must be included when districts are assessing whether students have met the basic skills necessary for graduation. Wheeler includes the CAPT scores in their graduation requirements, which are available in the Student Handbook.

Other Assessments

At the elementary school, students are given writing prompts four times per year which are scored by trained readers. Also, various reading assessments such as the DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment), DIBLES in grades K and 1, Lexia Software in grades 1-3 and Blue Ribbon Software in grades 3-5 are used.

At the high school, a "writing initiative" continued and students were required to do **significant writing** every two weeks in each class. Mid-year and final exams are administered to students in grades 9 -12 in January and in June.

The middle school students also used the Blue Ribbon Software program as well as quarterly writing prompts scored by *trained scorers*.

All schools in the district continue the use of "rubrics" for scoring student responses. A *rubric* is a standard of measuring how well students performed. Based on the content and other predetermined factors, points are awarded. Most rubrics are based on a 4- or 5- point system. Students are given the standards before doing the work. In this way they know what they will receive for the type of work done.

Students are encouraged to take the PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test) and the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test). Wheeler is a testing site for the PSAT's.

We continue to offer AP (Advanced Placement) testing for those students enrolled in our AP classes. We offer classes in AP Calculus, English, and Biology, and Modern European History as well as other student-selected AP classes through the Virtual High School and North Dakota University Programs.

Students enrolled in Latin take the National Latin Exam.

School Health

There is one nurse assigned to the elementary school and one assigned to the middle/high school due to an increased number of students requiring skilled nursing intervention.

The school nurses complete an annual survey of the immunization status of all students.

Both nurses conduct screenings as mandated by statute such as scoliosis.

The nursing staff also provides in-service training in such things as blood-borne pathogens.

The nurses continue to attend an increasing number of special meetings. In many cases, the nurse was responsible for writing an

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accommodation plan for those students who qualified under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

Residents who wish to inquire about the services available through the school nurses may contact Stephanie Patrick at the elementary school (535-2805) or Christine Sylvia at the middle/high school (535-0377).

The North Stonington School District is required by law to provide a nurse at the North Stonington Christian Academy. The amount of time requested has increased over the past two years but remains as "part-time."

Summer School Program

Our summer school program for students continued for grades K through 8 was funded by a federal grant for the last time in the summer of 2007. This was the eighth year of the program. Summer School focuses on language arts and math and runs for four weeks each summer at no cost to the student.

Our special education students attend summer school at either the elementary or middle schools instead of in other districts as had been done for many years.

Building Project Studies

For the past few years, the district has been reviewing its facilities needs. The High School Accreditation Report submitted by NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) as well as our own in-house studies have shown that there is a need for expansion and renovation of our existing facilities.

In the spring of 2008, a letter was sent to residents of the town of North Stonington, looking for volunteers who would be willing to serve on a school building committee. In late spring the

Board of Selectmen began talking with the Board of Education about the process and the formation of a School Building Committee for the project.

A Review of the 2007-2008 School Year

It is always difficult to sum up in a few short paragraphs the many accomplishments of our students and of teachers.

For more complete information about the schools and the district as well as links to websites created by our students and teachers and other websites of importance, visit us at: <http://www.northstonington.k12.ct.us>

Many of our teachers post information on schoolnotes.com. Check there to read about assignments, projects, and upcoming activities.

Some of the highlights include the following:

District

- The North Stonington Education Foundation awarded several grants to our schools.
- The North Stonington PTO continued to provide for cultural performances and to support all of our students and teachers.
- Superintendent, Dr. Natalie J. Pukas was elected to serve a third term as chairperson of the southeast area regional superintendents' group and was also elected to serve on the Board of Directors for the CT Association of Public School Superintendents.

Middle/High School

- Parents once again organized an auction to benefit our high school

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classes and cut down on fundraisers.

- Several Wheeler High students continued to be Big Brothers/Big Sisters for elementary students.
- Several Wheeler High students continued to act as peer mentors/tutors at the elementary school.
- New courses were offered at Wheeler including forensics and current issues in science.
- The *Senior Project* was inaugurated and was highly successful.
- For the first time a Wheeler High School Junior was selected as a Governor's Scholar. He and his family were honored at a luncheon at the Aqua Turf in Southington. The Superintendent also attended.
- Two middle school students were honored at the Aqua Turf in Southington as Scholar Leaders.
- Two high school students were honored at the Aqua Turf in Southington as Scholar Athletes.
- Students from the seventh grade participated in SAMJAM sponsored by Pfizer and designed to foster interest in science and math.
- Transition activities, fifth to sixth grade and eighth to ninth, continue to be helpful to students and parents.
- An introduction to high school activity was held for grade nine students before the opening of school. This was sponsored by the National Honor Society.
- Students continued to provide service to our community- there were two blood drives, multiple food drives, drives for clothing and toys. Chickumbuso which

raises funds for orphans in Africa for education and medical care continued.

- The Wheeler Quilting Circle continued for a second year. The club, consisting of students, staff and community members, made and distributed quilts to community members receiving cancer treatments. The club meets on Class/Club Meeting Day and after school every Thursday for the entire year.
- Two students received Honorable Mention at the Scholastic Arts Awards-- a first for Wheeler.
- The second combined Junior-Senior Prom was held last spring. This reduced expenses for parents and students. A great time was had by all.
- The Mystic Marinelife Aquarium and Institute for Exploration once again generously donated its facilities for our Underclass Awards Ceremony in the spring.
- Several new students were inducted into the National Honor Society.
- Three of our students experienced a wonderful trip to Italy last spring.
- Senior Week was well received by seniors. A variety of activities took place culminating in their graduation and all night graduation party.
- Several of our teachers that were enrolled in their second year of the required B.E.S.T. Program (Beginning Educator Support Training) submitted their portfolios and received passing scores which allows them to go on to the next level of certification.

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- Our middle and high school students staged a very successful play again this past year, "A Midsummer Night's Dream."
- Business and Family and Consumer Science students planned and staged the second annual "Chocolate Festival" at Jonathan Edwards Winery with music provided by high school musicians.
- Our business department continued their work with Chelsea Groton Bank and held a personal finance conference for all seniors at Connecticut College.
- Our band and chorus concerts as well as art shows were huge successes and were very impressive for both the quality and for the high number of students participating.
- We continue to work on the recommendations from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.
- High School Band students were selected to participate in the Thames Valley Honor Band Festival.
- The High School Concert Band received an "excellent" rating at their adjudication festival.
- The High School Concert Choir received a "Superior" rating at their adjudication festival.
- One student performed her original musical composition at the annual Connecticut Music Educators' Convention and worked with it in a workshop with several prominent Connecticut Composers. This was a first for Wheeler.
- Several high school students and middle school students were

honored as All-Region and/or All-State in both band and chorus.

- We had many students recognized as All Eastern Conference Athletes.
- Our middle school students participated in the annual Geography Bee and our winner represented us in the state competition.
- Our Virtual High School and North Dakota online courses are used for enrichment and summer school opportunities. We have more seats available to us with VHS as Cathy DeNoia from the science department teaches an online course.

Elementary School

- This year we continued the pre-school program for 3 and 4 year old students attending half-day sessions.
- The All-Day Kindergarten Program was begun and was highly successful.
- A revised report card that was piloted in 2006-2007 was adopted this year which was based on standards and provided improved communication with students' progress.
- The school changed from the traditional four quarters to trimesters or three marking periods per year.
- The Student Assistance Team (SAT) process continued to utilize the Response to Intervention Model which provides students with support at the first indication of difficulties academically or behaviorally. Regular education and special education staff worked together to better support

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- instruction, modification of expectations and student learning.
- The Art Show held each year in March was once again a huge success. Through the generosity of the North Stonington Education Foundation and the PTO, an Australian Artist, John Dahlsen, spent four days with our students and was present at the Art Show.
 - Our 4th and 5th grade Talent Show was very successful directed by Joan Quinn.
 - The school held its annual Fourth Grade Poetry Reading, Author's Day, Grade 4 Museum of Family History, 100th Day Celebration, Read Across America Day, Family Math Day, Earth Day and Technology Week.
 - The Drama Club presented "An African Story-The Zebra Who Had No Stripes" directed by Theresa Broach.
 - There were two successful chorus and band concerts held during the year lead and directed by Peter Williams and Michael Noonan.
 - This year the entire NSES community participated in Flag Day ceremonies held on June 14th.
 - Grade 5 students participated in the DARE program once again.
 - Our students once again actively participated in the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge program over the summer of 2007 and were rewarded with a recognition breakfast and a new book.
 - An after school Homework Club continued.
 - Students in grade 3 participated once again in the *Violence is Preventable* program given by the Women's Resource Center of Southeastern CT.
 - Monthly newsletters were published and sent home to parents.
 - Parent training sessions were held by our schools' social worker.
 - Field Day at all levels was once again a huge success.
 - The PTO continued to sponsor several cultural programs for our students such as Author in Residence, PTO Movie Night, a family dance, fall and spring student pictures, two book fairs and teacher grants. Parent, guardians, grandparents and other family members continue to volunteer in the classroom.
 - Based on CMT results, plans for appropriate instruction for students at proficiency level and below were implemented.
 - Faculty goals to improve reading achievement of students used data to determine success.
 - DIBLES assessment was continued in grades K and 1 to improve instruction based on individual needs.
 - We continued the use of the Blue Ribbon technology program that provides students with experience with CMT's sample questions and provides teachers with student data for continued growth and preparation for CMT's.

In Summary

As indicated within the body of this report, the 2007-2008 school year

Town of North Stonington 2007-2008 Annual Report

has been one of growth, improvement and filled with accomplishments.

Although we noted areas of weakness in our CMT scores and are working on improving them, we have continued to make AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) as required under *No Child Left Behind*.

Our students have been recognized for their accomplishments academically, artistically and athletically.

It is hard to capture all of the events and accomplishments of an entire school year in a few short pages. There is much more that could be said. You are urged to visit our schools in person or via the Internet. We have much to be proud of!

We thank the citizens of North Stonington for their continued support of our children and especially to the PTO and the NSEF (North Stonington Education Foundation) for their dedication and generosity.

Our Board of Education, students, administrators, teachers, and staff work **very** diligently to insure that our mission statement is fulfilled:

***ALL STUDENTS WILL LEARN AT
THEIR HIGHEST POTENTIAL***

Dr. Natalie J. Pukas, Superintendent
Fall, 2008

Town of North Stonington 2007-2008 Annual Report

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT 2007 - 2008 (1)

SCHOOL	Pre-K	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	SPECIAL EDUCATION	TOTAL
Elementary School (2)	18	53	51	63	70	56	62									373
Middle School (2)								63	57	67						187
High School											70	57	52	65		244
Out-of-District																
TOTALS	18	53	51	63	70	56	62	63	57	67	70	57	52	65	3	804

1. Based on October 1, 2007, enrollment data
2. Includes tuition students

STAFF PROFILE 2007 - 2008

POSITION	ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	MIDDLE SCHOOL (1)	HIGH SCHOOL (1)	CENTRAL OFFICE	TOTALS
Classroom Teachers	19	12	15.9		46.9
Special Area Teachers (2)	13.17	10.4	14.45		38.02
Administrators	1	1.5	1.5	2	6
Business Manager				1	1
Network Administrator				1	1
Secretaries (12 Months)	1	1	1	3	6
Attendance Secretary (12 Months)		0.5	0.5		1
Nurses	1	0.5	0.5		2
Health Aide	0.5	0.25	0.25		1
Paraprofessionals/ Assistants (3)	18.6	7.21	3.34		29.15
Maintenance/Custodial/Grounds	4	2.5	2.5	2	11
Total					143.07

1. The middle and the high school share administration and staff
2. Special Area Teachers include art, music, physical education, media, remedial reading, health, world language, family and consumer sciences, business, technology, special education, social worker, school psychologist, speech-language pathologist, and guidance counselors.
3. The numbers include full-time and part-time assistants

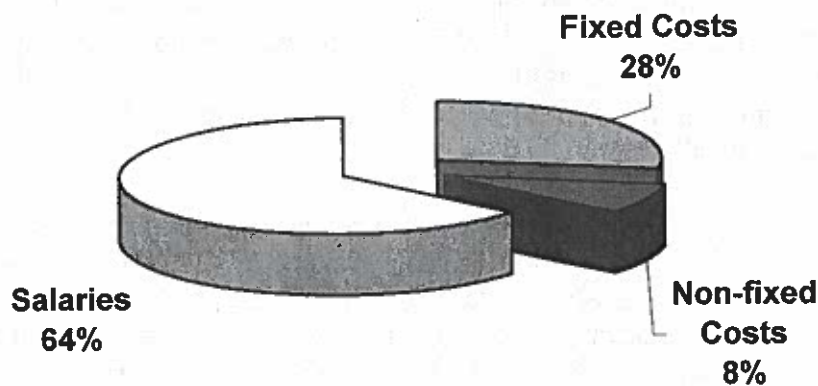
Town of North Stonington 2007-2008 Annual Report

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE 2007-2008 SCHOOL YEAR

The total Board of Education (non-grant) expenditures for the 2007-2008 School year were **\$11,600,673**. These funds were allocated across three categories as follows: **Salaries - \$7,378,197**, **Fixed Costs - \$3,253,065**, and **Non-fixed Costs - \$969,411**.

The approved 2007-2008 budget was **\$11,641,578**, leaving an unexpended balance of **\$40,905**. An additional **\$49,327** in unbudgeted income was turned over to the general fund by the Board of Education for a total of **\$90,2320**.

BUDGET DISTRIBUTION



SALARIES

Administration
Teachers
Guidance
Teacher Assistants
Library
Secretarial
Custodial

FIXED COSTS

Transportation
Heat-Utilities
Social Security
Employee Insurance
Employee Retirement
Tuition
Special Ed. Contracted Svc

NON-FIXED COSTS

Textbooks
Library books
Instructional Supplies
Other Expenses
Health Supplies
Custodial Supplies
Maintenance Services
Replacement Equipment
Student Activities
New Equipment

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Assessor's Office

Property values have remained constant over the last year despite the national and state trends toward lower values. Sales of residential property do reflect the slowing economy but sale prices have not dropped to the same degree that has been seen in other parts of the county. This may be the Connecticut Yankee attitude that if I can't get my price I won't sell or a majority of residents are in a position that I don't need to sell because I did not get an adjustable mortgage that put the payments out of reach. Foreclosures have not made up a large percentage of sales in North Stonington. The current sale price of a home in North Stonington still appears to be above the 2005 revaluation value.

New real estate developments in town stopped because of the moratorium on new projects imposed by the planning and zoning department. That one year moratorium ended in December 2008 and hopefully the town can attract a few new development projects so that the Grand List can grow and hold down the mill rate.

The assessment of motor vehicles underwent a change this year. The state legislature changed the way assessments on classic cars would be done. All cars twenty years or older now carry a \$500 assessment. There is no need to have an early American plate on the car. That means that the taxes on a classic car like a 1988 Chevy Corvette will be approximately \$10.00.

A tax reduction is available for elderly homeowners. The program is for resident homeowners, 65 years or older who had total income of \$37,300 for a married couple or \$30,500 for an unmarried person. Maximum benefit is \$1000.00 off your tax bill. See the Assessor, starting February 1, 2009. Persons with a total disability from social security may also qualify. Veterans also who qualify for the homeowners program also qualify for an additional benefit.

The Assessor's office phone number is 535-2877 X 24

Respectfully submitted,

Darryl L. Del Grosso, CCMA II
Assessor

Town of North Stonington 2007-2008 Annual Report

Zoning Board of Appeals

Chairman: Charlie Burger
Vice-Chairman: Candy Palmer
Treasurer: Winifred Pattison
Secretary: Robin Hall
Allana York

Alternates: Richard Bennardo
James Lord
Wayne Wilkinson

The Board meets on a monthly basis the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Sr. Center, Holly Green Plaza, 391 Norwich-Westerly Road, North Stonington, CT 06359

The Zoning Board of Appeals had Eight (8) applications for the fiscal year.

The Board had an operating budget of \$2,000. Secretarial duties of the Zoning Board of Appeals are staffed by the Administrative Assistant of the Land Use Office who also provides this service for the Inland Wetlands Commission and Planning & Zoning.

This is a five-member board with three alternates.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie Burger

Charlie Burger, Chairman

Town of North Stonington 2007-2008 Annual Report

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

A session was held in September 2007 to hear appeals on motor vehicles on the 10/1/07 Grand List. No applications were heard.

The Board met five times in March 2008 to hear appeals on real estate, personal property and supplemental motor vehicles. Thirty-three appeals were filed – one was withdrawn and one did not attend. Breakdown of appeals –
Real Estate-28; Personal Property-4; Supplemental Vehicles-1.

Members of the Board of Assessment Appeals:

Jeffrey Nelson – Chairperson

Kathleen Trammel

Paula Woodward

Town of North Stonington 2007-2008 Annual Report

Planning & Zoning Commission

Planning & Zoning Commission Members:

Chairman	G. Russell Stewart, III
Vice-Chairman	Elaine Boissevain
Secretary	Vilma J. Gregoropoulos
Regular Members	Louis Steinbrecher Joseph Siner
Alternate Members	Susan Grufstedt Duncan Schweitzer Ann Brown
Senior Planner & Zoning Official	Craig Grimord/Juliet Leeming
Administrative Assistant	Cheryl Konsavitch

Meetings of the Planning & Zoning Commission are held twice a month the first and second Thursday of each month at 7:00 P.M. at the New Town Hall. Special Meetings are held, when necessary, on the third and fourth Thursdays of each month or when scheduled.

For fiscal year 2007/2008 the Commission held twenty-three (23) Regular Meetings, two (2) Workshops, and eleven (11) Special Meetings.

Commission Public Hearings and Application reviews consisted of seven (7) Regulation Change requests, seven (7) Special Permits, three (3) Subdivisions/Re-subdivisions, and two (2) 8-24 reviews.

A total of one hundred sixteen (116) Zoning Permits were issued during the year by the Senior Planner & Zoning Official. These Permits included: seventy-four (74) Accessory Use Permits, twelve (12) Single-Family Residence requests, three (3) Lot Line Adjustments, nine (9) Sign Permit requests, and one (1) Lot Split, eight (8) additions, nine (9) Zoning Permits.

The Senior Planner & Zoning Official addressed thirty-two (32) new Zoning complaints during the fiscal year, issued thirteen (13) Notices of Violation and one (1) Abatement Orders for zoning violations. Nine (9) enforcement cases were closed for compliance;

Town of North Stonington 2007-2008 Annual Report

three (3) cases remain open, one (1) case is pending in the courts. There was one (1) new case appealing the ZEO's decision to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The ZEO's decision was upheld. Ongoing inspections are occurring with one (1) case to bring site into compliance.

The Planning and Zoning Commission placed a moratorium on all development requiring a site plan in December of 2007 in order to reorganize and rewrite the Zoning and Subdivision Regulations. This moratorium was scheduled to expire in September of 2008, but was extended for an additional three (3) months in order to complete the revisions. The new regulations were accepted by the Commission on December 11, 2008 and became effective on December 15, 2008.

The Planning & Zoning Commission had an operating budget of \$197,744.00.

Respectfully submitted,

Juliet Leeming

Senior Planner & Zoning Official

Town of North Stonington 2007-2008 Annual Report

PROBATE COURT

Holly Green Plaza
391 Norwich-Westerly Road

Court Hours: Monday & Wednesday 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Tuesday & Thursday 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Friday by Appointment

Probate Court Statistics for the Fiscal Year 2007-2008

Decedent Estates	57
Trust Proceedings	2
Adoption & Termination	2
Children Matters	7
Conservator Matters	13
Mentally Disabled Persons	2

Other Matters

Passports	38
Name Changes	4

The Probate Courts were recently presented 15 proposals for restructuring the current system. President Judge, Fred J. Anthony discussed a final modified version during an assembly meeting on December 16, 2008. This plan will be presented for a vote on January 6, 2009. If the plan should pass, our Court will be able to remain open for the next election. It has been a pleasure to serve our community and I wish everyone a happy and healthy new year.

Sincerely,

Judge Teresa A. Pensis

Town of North Stonington 2007-2008 Annual Report

Resident State Trooper Program

During the fiscal year 2007/2008, the Connecticut State Police, through the Resident State Trooper Program with the current assigned resident troopers- Tfc. Sonny Soler and Tfc. Vic Lenda have continued to provide services to the Town of North Stonington during this rating period. However, due to the retirement of Tfc. Wm. Bowyer in April 2008, Tfc. Donald Hill was selected to succeed in a permanent position.

The resident troopers continue their commitment to serving the citizens of North Stonington and for the past year several community programs have been offered from the summer four-day Safety Camp whereas the troopers coordinate efforts with both the North Stonington Fire Department and Ambulance teaching children bicycle safety, fire safety, first aid as well as respecting wandering dogs. The State Police resources used consist of a canine demonstration, along with the arrival of Trooper 1 Helicopter. The culmination of safety camp ends with a field trip to Rocky Neck State Park where they meet conservation officers from the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection to learn about Connecticut's marine and wildlife. During this period the calls for service to the Stonington Institute have dropped drastically with the occasional call for services learning that the new management is dealing with the problems that arise internally.

Tfc. Soler also provided ride along program for parties interested in entering the field of law enforcement as well as offering insight to the work preformed by the resident trooper program. The resident trooper program continues to sponsor a two day basketball clinic coordinated by the town's athletic director John Hines. This offers the children in the community a chance to meet and interact with the resident troopers. With Tfc. Hill moving into the third resident trooper's position he brings with him twenty years experience whereas he was the resident trooper in Sterling for a number of years and has taken on the responsibility of teaching the D.A.R.E (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program ending the Dare Program with a baseball game to Dodd Stadium.

Other services provided which have shown an increase for are fingerprint applicants for pistol permits, school positions, daycare positions along with daycare businesses opening, advances for driver's license endorsements and adoptions. The resident troopers have been called upon to conduct speaking engagements in town as well as outside of town at times.

The resident troopers continue to be active in seeking federal and state grants to increase motor vehicle enforcement in the town. The resident troopers took part in the Department of Transportations Expanded D.W.I Enforcement Program, Holiday D.W.I Enforcement Program. These enforcement efforts are conducted to reduce speeding, drunk driving along with other moving violations that attribute to motor vehicle accidents within the Town of North Stonington. Further, Tfc. Hill had applied for and was approved a grant to conduct a Mock DWI fatal accident. This was an involved coordinated effort with the assistance of the Wheeler High School Drama club, Connecticut State Police, North Stonington Fire Department and Ambulance Corp along with Life Flight Helicopter in preparation of the Prom nights and Graduation for the Wheeler High School students.

The Resident State Troopers are also very committed to preventing criminal activity in the town with continued high visibility patrols with rapid response to calls for assistance or crimes in progress. To date there is a high solve rate for crimes committed in the town. To the credit of the resident troopers

Town of North Stonington 2007-2008 Annual Report

the Hewitt Estate which was burglarized and burned down in 2005 ended with three arrests with convictions recently this year. Over the summer three high school students were arrested for committing burglaries in the area. Also two other juveniles were arrested and convicted of destroying the cemetery located on Puttker Road. The resident trooper also assisted in the apprehension of bank robbery suspects as well as the apprehension of an armed rapist from the Foxwoods Casino.

Concerns for security at functions such as basketball games, the North Stonington Agricultural Fairgrounds, Schemitzun, the Lions Auctions and the Junior and Senior Proms are provided by the Resident Troopers. The Resident Troopers were also called by the newly appointed principal for input for conducting fire drills as well as concerns about intruders in the schools. This year there was an increase for police services with the highway department while working on the roadways in town.

Due to the increase of complaints from the towns people regarding speeders in various area's of town the SMART trailer was sent out and repaired then utilized in these area's to show the posted speed limit and a lighted display of the oncoming traffic's speed. That according to a survey of the residents in the area's the trailer was set at they noticed a difference in the slower speeds people were traveling in when the trailer was utilized.

That during the past fiscal year, the resident troopers and troopers from the barracks, Troop-E in Montville responded to and investigated specifically in the town of North Stonington responded to the following calls for service broken down into the below listed categories. The calls for service during this time period had totaled 7885.

Traffic Accidents	218
Fatalities	3
DWI Arrests	25
Disturbances	101
Car V Deer	16
Alarms Responded	214
Assist Citizens	491
Assisted other Agencies	115
Assaults investigated	9
Burglaries investigated	7
Vandalisms investigated	14
Reported Fires	11
Larcenies investigated	36
Medical Assists	125
Narcotic investigations	7
Patrol Checks	1766
Sexual Assaults	2
Sex Offenses	1
Suspicious Incidents	162
Traffic Services	434
Trespass investigations	3
Untimely Deaths	2
Weapons Violations	4

Town of North Stonington 2007-2008 Annual Report

Warnings Issued	1017
Tickets issued**	5959

**Broken down to show some of the important moving violations in town-

Seatbelt- 996

Speeding- 1279

Stop Sign- 164

Signal Lights-102

Improper Passing- 87

Finally we appreciate everyone's concerns and comments regarding motor vehicle problems and encourage people to continue to keep us apprised of these problems in order to rectify them in a timely manner.

Respectfully Submitted your Resident Troopers

Tfc. Donald Hill

Tfc. Sonny Soler (Prepared Document)

Tfc. Vic Lenda

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TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk's office handles a wide variety of tasks including the recording and indexing of land records, filing of maps, trade names and military discharges (DD214). The Clerk's office also issues marriage licenses, liquor permits and voter ID cards. Registering Justices of the Peace and Notaries, issuing and also filing birth, death and marriage certificates is also a responsibility of this office. Hunting, fishing and trapping licenses may be purchased throughout the year. Pheasant Tags and Duck Stamps are also sold in this office. Pheasant Season starts October 2007 and continues through January 2008. Migratory Bird Hunting is September 2007 through February 2008. Dog licenses expire June 30th, new license must be procured on or before June 30 or a penalty of 1.00 per month will be imposed. A low-cost rabies clinic was offered by Dr. Stephen Morrone on Saturday, May 31st at the Highway Garage on Wyassup Rd, the Clerks Office was open for dog registration from 10am to 12pm.

A second Special Town Meeting (Budget) was held on July 30, 2008 at the North Stonington Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room on Norwich Westerly Rd. The Meeting reconvened at 8:30 PM on August 6, 2007 following the Referendum, the results were read by the Election Moderator Lydia Morrison.

"Shall the Town of North Stonington approve the estimates and recommendations of the Board of Finance with respect to the annual budget for fiscal year July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008, in the amount of \$5,368,330 for the general government including redemption of debt and capital and make specific appropriations and authorize expenditures in connection therewith as appear advisable?" Totals: 345 Yes 379 No DENIED

"Shall the Town of North Stonington approve the estimates and recommendations of the Board of Finance with respect to the annual budget for fiscal year July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008, in the amount of \$11,881,092 for the Board of Education, and make specific appropriations and authorize expenditures in connection therewith as appear advisable? Totals: 241 Yes 449 No DENIED

A third Special Town Meeting (Budget) was held on August 27, at the North Stonington Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room on Norwich Westerly Rd. The Meeting reconvened at 8:17 PM on September 4, 2007 following the Referendum, the results were read by the Town Meeting Moderator Larry Southwick.

"Shall the Town of north Stonington approve the estimates and recommendations of the Board of Finance with respect to the annual budget for fiscal year July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008, in the amount of \$ 5,343,406 for the general government, and make specific appropriations and authorize expenditures in, connection therewith as appear advisable?" Totals: 396 Yes 184 No APPROVED

"Shall the Town of North Stonington approve the estimates and recommendations of the Board of Finance with respect to the annual budget for fiscal year July 1, 2007 through

Town of North Stonington 2007-2008 Annual Report

June 30, 2008, in the amount of \$ 11,675,580 Board of Education, and make specific appropriations and authorize expenditures in, connection therewith as appear advisable?" Totals: 250 Yes 306 No DENIED

A fourth Special Town Meeting (Budget) was held on September 24 at 7:00 PM at the North Stonington Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room on Norwich Westerly Rd. The Meeting reconvened at 8:17 PM on October 1, 2007 following the Referendum, the results were read by the Town Meeting Moderator Larry Southwick.

"Shall the Town of North Stonington approve the estimates and recommendations of the Board of Finance with respect to the annual budget for fiscal year July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008, in the amount of \$ 11,641,578 for the Board of Education, and make specific appropriations and authorize expenditures in, connection therewith as appear advisable?"

Totals: Yes 273 No 210 APPROVED

The Municipal Election was held on November 06, 2007 between the hours of 6am to 8pm. Those who ran are as follows:

First Selectman-Nicholas H. Mullane II (R) 745, Bill Hescock (D) 562, Robert L. Testa (PC) 414

Selectman- Shawn P. Murphy (R) 842, Bill Ricker (D) 716

Town Clerk-Norma J. Holliday (R) 908, Norma J. Holliday (D) 626

Town Treasurer-Robin D. Roohr (R) 883, Melissa A. Anderson (D) 700

Board of Finance-Full Term-Gary H. Herbert (R) 757, Mark S. Donahue (D) 723

BOE-Crescentino A. Secchiaroli (R) 603, Darren L. Robert (D) 799, Eleanor B. Banker (R) 1060, Mary Ann Ricker (D) 624

BD of Assess. Appeals-Kathleen Trammell (R) 799, Paula L. Woodward (D) 670

EDC-Full Term-Robert H. Kimball (R) 1070, Brent B. Woodward (D) 871

P&Z-Louis E. Steinbrecher (R) 821, Kellene D. Limpert (D) 626, Anne H. Nalwalk (PC) 655, Joseph J. Siner (R) 707

P&Z Alt.-Ann C. Brown (R) 1074

ZBA-Robin L. Hall (R) 668, Shelly A. Briscoe (D) 491, Joyce M. Elias (PC) 610, Charlie R Burger (R) 753, Colleen B. Hawrylik (D) 513

ZBA Alt.-Richard J. Bennardo (R) 802, James E. Lord (D) 941, Wayne Wilkinson (R) 1092, Peter M. Bogolian (D) 737

A Democratic Primary was held on February 2, 2006 between the hours of 6am to 8pm. Those who ran are as follows:

Barack Obama 236

Dennis Kucinich 4

Mike Gravel 1

Bill Richardson 0

John Edwards 3

Chris Dodd 3

Joe Biden 0

Hillary Clinton 236,

Uncommitted 2

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A Special Town Meeting (Budget) was held on May 19, 2008 at the North Stonington Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room on Norwich Westerly Rd. The Meeting reconvened at 8:14 PM on May 27, 2008 following the Referendum, the results were read by the Town Meeting Moderator Bob Shabunia.

"Shall the Town of North Stonington approve the estimates and recommendations of the Board of Finance with respect to the annual budget for fiscal year July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, in the amount of \$ 5,938,323 for the General Government, including Redemption of Debt and Capital and make specific appropriation and authorize expenditures in, connection therewith as appear advisable?" Total: 447 Yes 303 No
APPROVED

"Shall the Town of North Stonington approve the estimates and recommendations of the Board of Finance with respect to the annual budget for fiscal year July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, in the amount of \$ 11,902,560 for the Board of Education, and make specific appropriations and authorize expenditures in, connection therewith as appear advisable?" Totals: 378 Yes 370 No APPROVED

"Shall the Town of North Stonington approve a donation to the North Stonington Little League in the amount of \$300,000?" Totals: 286 Yes 463 No DENIED

The Town Clerk's Office hours are 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M., Monday-Friday excluding holiday's.

Norma J Holliday
North Stonington Town Clerk

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TAX COLLECTOR

The total amount collected in taxes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, was **\$10,973,587.93** on the current list. Of that amount, **\$48,040.45** was collected in **interest** and **\$397.94** was collected in **Lien Fees**. \$276,996.28 remained in uncollected taxes.

Uncollected or Delinquent taxes are a persistent problem for whatever reason. I encourage folks to try to pay monthly to avoid large payments and large interest penalties and many of the town's people pay their taxes that way. After a certain point, taxpayer's accounts are sent to the Town Attorney for collection at the taxpayers expense.

Delinquent motor vehicles are reported to the DMV twice a year. The State of Connecticut now requires a fee of \$946.00 to **"PUT ON"** delinquent Motor Vehicle bills. Pursuant to State Statute, all motor vehicle bills which are delinquent must be paid to receive a clearance

The Tax Collector attends conferences and seminars to keep current with procedures and legislation.

The Tax Collector now has shorter hours during off-peak collection times (Sep, Oct, Nov, Mar, Apr, May). Regular office hours during the peak months are Mon-Fri 9:00-4:00 excluding holidays.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call 535-2877 x20

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra M. Steinhart, CCMC
Tax Collector

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Inland Wetlands Commission

Chairman: Duane White
Vice-Chairman: Mark Grigg
Members: Ron Lewis
Kevin Geary
Robert Miner
Arthur Doble
D'Arcy Cleveland
Mac Gray
George Brown
Inland Wetlands Enforcement Officer: Wayne Berardi

Meetings of the Inland Wetlands Commission are held on a monthly basis on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the New Town Hall, Conference Room, 40 Main Street, North Stonington, CT 06359.

In 2007-2008, the Commission received 107 applications.
The applications consisted of:

12	Single Family Homes
74	Accessory Permits
10	Wetlands Permits
03	Subdivisions
08	Additions

The IWC has an operating budget of \$1,500.00. The office is staffed with one part-time paid Inland Wetlands Enforcement Officer and by the Administrative Assistant of the Land Use Office who also provides this service for Planning & Zoning and Zoning Board of Appeals.

This is a nine-member commission, with no alternates.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane White

Duane White, Chairman

Town of North Stonington 2007-2008 Annual Report

RECREATION COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

KIP TAYLOR	EMERSON RUSICH
DENNIS WALLEY	CARMEN SUEDMEIER
STEVE AIELLO	TED CONDON

RECREATION DIRECTOR: JOHN HINES

The North Stonington Recreation Commission convenes their monthly meeting at 6:15 P.M. on the first Monday of the month during the calendar year. No meetings are scheduled during the months of July & August. The meetings are held at the Probate Court (2nd floor), Holly Green Complex, 391 Norwich Westerly Rd. An agenda is posted at the town hall in the town clerk's office, the week prior to the meeting.

During the 2007-08 fiscal years the recreation commission received a donation from the Mashantucket Tribal Nation for use in the town's recreation programs. This year, a portion of the donation was given to the North Stonington Little League for use to purchase a batting cage, stone dust for our softball field and new bases. Also, the town gave money to North Stonington's Babe Ruth Baseball program. The money was used to buy team equipment.

The recreation commission is in the process of designing a walking track to be used by children and adults of the town. The track will surround the entire "Rec Area". The commission is also planning to install a portable expandable ice skating rink during the winter months of 2009. This will be installed in our tennis court area. The long range plan is to have this rink moved to the Hewitt property. The commission's plan is to have both these projects completed during fiscal 2009-10. Money received from the Mashantucket Tribal Nation will be used.

Improvements at the "Rec Shack" were completed during the past fiscal year. A contractor was hired to install all new windows in the red shack. Commissioner Steve Aiello generously donated his time and painted the trim around the windows. Electrical upgrades were completed when needed throughout the year. The commission was able to purchase (with soccer registration fees) new soccer uniforms. The in house Cosmos teams (6) were given jerseys that represent different countries. Our Mystic Valley Soccer Bantam teams (3) were outfitted with complete uniforms. The commission's last major improvement to the "Rec Area" was the installation of four new basketball backboards and breakaway rims.

The North Stonington Recreation Commission's goal is to educate our community on the value and importance of participating in a variety of affordable programs and activities. The commission feels we attain this goal by providing our community with a wide range of instructional, competitive and recreational opportunities for all ages. The

Town of North Stonington 2007-2008 Annual Report

commission says "Thank you" to the many volunteers, coaches, program presenters and corporate donors.

If any of our residents have a special skill that you would like to introduce to our children or adults in town, the recreation commission wants to hear from you. Give us a call at 535-2162 or e-mail us at nsrecplay@sbcglobsal.net.

The recreation commission would like to thank first selectman Nick Mullane and his board, Supt of schools and staff, senior center director, fire and ambulance personnel, Wheeler Library, Highway Dept director and his employees, resident state troopers, selectmen's office staff and the many Wheeler High School students who help in our winter and summer programs.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Hines
Recreation Director

Town of North Stonington 2007-2008 Annual Report

Public Works Department

The Town of North Stonington covers fifty-five square miles with sixty-four miles of roadway to maintain. The Public Works Department also operates the Transfer Station and Bulky Waste Area located on Wintechog Hill Road.

Some of the projects the Highway Department performed this year.

- Prepared course for the annual Bike race in May
- Grading of unimproved roads
- Parking area and pathway at Assekonk foot bridge
- Drainage improvements
 - Wintechog Hill Rd
 - East Clarks Falls Rd
- Paving
 - Main St and Wyassup Rd repair of new water main
 - East Clark Falls Rd over new drainage area
 - Wintechog Hill Rd over new drainage area
- Chip sealed following roads:
 - East Clark Falls Rd
 - Legendwood (east off Johnson Rd & west off Rt. 201)
 - Princess Lane
 - Main Street (Rt. 2 – Rt. 2)
 - Rocky Hollow (Rt. 2 to Main Street)
 - Wyassup Rd. (from Main St. north past fair grounds)
- Clean-up ten snow and ice storms.

The Department's routine annual projects include road sweeping, basin and waterway drainage cleaning, roadside mowing, painting of stop-bars and center lines, cutting and trimming trees and brush, maintenance of many of the town's cemeteries, burning and chipping brush at the Transfer Station.

The Public Works Department Garage is located at 11 Wyassup Road. The staff works routinely between the hours of 7:00 AM and 3:00 PM, Monday through Friday. If you need to contact us, please feel free to do so at 535-0924.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Holliday
Public Works Highway Foreman

Karl Sommers
Public Works Assistant Highway Foreman

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Registrars of Voters

Registrars: Gladys Chase, Republican
Marilyn Mackay, Democrat
Stella Neves-Elbaum, Deputy Democratic Registrar
Chris Shelton, Deputy Republican Registrar

Office hours: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Monday & Thursday.
Voice mail messages can be left the remainder of the week
Town Clerk accepts Voter Registration cards when Registrars are unavailable..

Registrars' Duties

During working hours Registrars register new voters, delete deceased voters, make a variety of corrections and changes to the voter list including, but not limited to, active voters moving within town, moving into town and moving out of town, changes of Name, Party Registration, Contact Information, i.e., Phone Numbers, P.O. Box numbers, Street addresses, etc.

Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) updates Connecticut towns re people who have registered vehicles in other towns or changed their existing town address.

The annual voter canvass is a procedure which takes place January 1st to May 1st. Registrars put information obtained from NCOA into a special Canvass Program. Other information is obtained through sale of houses, telephone or personal knowledge indicating a voter has moved. Letters are sent to voters for address change confirmations and responses are processed.

Registrars attended the following conferences:
ROVAC Annual Spring Conference in Cromwell
ROVAC New London County Meeting

Registrars held state-mandated limited registration sessions before the primary and general elections to allow residents to register &/or correct and update the voter list.

Registrars visited Wheeler High School and signed up thirteen (13) new student voters.

Registrars oversaw the following elections during the 2007-2008 Budget period:
Budget Referendums: June 19, 2007, August 6, 2007, September 4, 2007, October 1, 2007
General Election: November 6, 2007
Primary Elections: February 5, 2008 Republican and Democratic Parties
Audit was conducted on February 20, 2008 where all ballots were manually counted to check machine accuracy.
Budget Referendum: May 27, 2008

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Registrars hired election officials, set up equipment to oversee elections and attended official town meetings to verify that voters are registered.

Registrars participated in North Stonington's Candidates Forum on Saturday, September 20, 2008 registering voters, demonstrating the voting machines and explaining ballots.

Respectfully submitted,

Gladys I. Chase & Marilyn Mackay

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Ambulance Association

This year the North Stonington Ambulance Association was requested to respond to 542 emergency calls. We responded with an average response time of 9 minutes. Only 14 calls (2.6 %) were responded to by outside agencies; most of these occurred during large events such as the Mashantucket Pequot Schemitzun Event.

During the past year, North Stonington Ambulance participated in many community events by providing emergency medical services. These events include the North Stonington Agricultural Fair, 4-H Club, Wheeler High School sporting events, and the Mashantucket Pequot Schemitzun Event. We also worked alongside the Connecticut State Police and the North Stonington Fire Department to educate Safety Camp participants in basic emergency information. All donations received from these events are used to offset the cost of emergency care to the taxpayers of North Stonington.

During this fiscal year, North Stonington Ambulance developed bid specifications for a new ambulance to replace our 1998 Chevrolet Type I vehicle. A seven-member committee was formed and tasked with selecting an ambulance manufacturer and design as well as reviewing recent ambulance purchases by neighboring departments. The committee also reviewed the latest technology available to the ambulance market with an eye for improving patient and crew safety. These findings were analyzed and a final bid specification was developed and distributed. The Board of Selectmen, following the recommendation from the Ambulance Committee, chose Eastford Fire and Rescue Sales, distributor of Life Line ambulances, to be the manufacturer. Production began in February of 2008, with an estimated 6 month delivery time frame.

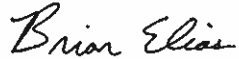
The ambulance committee worked to include new technologies that improve crew safety and patient care abilities. Among these technologies is a highly reflective "chevron" pattern on the rear of the ambulance. This pattern allows for greater motorist visibility, especially when operating on the highway. All emergency lights operate in a low-power mode during nighttime operation. This prevents blinding of oncoming traffic and ensures that emergency personnel are visible on the side of the road. Communication systems were updated to include an on-board vehicle repeater. This device ensures seamless communications in large buildings where portable radio communication was previously difficult. Integrated vital signs monitoring and electronic patient care records allow us to provide the best in pre-hospital patient care.

Volunteers continue to serve as an integral part of the Association. Serving on the Board of Directors, working ambulance shifts and functioning as first responders, their services are the foundation of North Stonington Ambulance. The Association continues to search for new members and EMTs.

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The Association would like to thank the residents of the Town of North Stonington for their overwhelming support of the ambulance association, as well as the members and employees for their continuing dedication to a job well done.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Elias".

Brian Elias
President

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Permanent School Building and Planning Committee

Chairman: Steve Aiello

Members: Wayne Coats, Bob Testa, Bob Shabunia, Sal Costanza, Ken Gilles

The North Stonington Permanent School Planning and Building Committee is empowered by the general town government and Committee members are appointed by the Selectmen. Its primary task is to manage construction projects identified by the Board of Education for the Elementary, Middle, and High schools. The Committee carries out directives to provide students with updates and efficient facilities necessary for an effective educational environment. The Committee meets two times a month at North Stonington Elementary School.

Projects Completed

Installation of fence in back of Elementary School for increased security at the same time repairs were made to the existing fencing.

Permanent sound proof wall to separate 1 large classroom into 2 classrooms.

Corrected drainage problems at Gymnasium and High School/Middle School entrances with the cooperation of the Town Highway Department.

Resealing and restriping of 1 of the 3 parking areas.

Currently Elementary School multi-purpose room doors are being replaced.

Additional outlets were added to the Tech Ed room.

Longer Range Plans

To improve safety for all at school.

Flashing at Gymnasium is a high priority to be fixed.

An additional bathroom for the kindergarten.

To improve the ability for outside Maintenance to operate more efficiently with the building of a new Maintenance building. The new Maintenance building is to be built for additional storage and all hazardous materials to be stored correctly i.e.: gasoline, oil, etc.

Doors at end of High School are on list to be replaced.

Respectfully Submitted,
Steven J. Aiello, Chairman

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Building and Sanitation Departments

For the Fiscal year 2007/2008 the following permits were issued:

New Houses-10

Addition/Repairs/Alterations (i.e. reroof, reside, windows replacement)-88

Outbuildings-25

Commercial-7

Pools-11

Tents-4

Demo-7

Electrical-35

Heating-68

Plumbing-7

Septic-30

Wells-31

The total cost of construction covered by these permits was \$3,825,829.00, which equates to \$35,524.24 being collected in permits fees.

Wayne Greene, Assistant Building Official

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Senior Center

This year at The North Stonington Senior Center, I have implemented a new computer class, in which Cathy Hill has been hired, part-time, to help teach the seniors how to do basic computer work. She is teaching one-on-one as we are putting our two new computers to good use! Each senior, who is interested in taking this 6 week course, comes on Monday afternoons, for two hours and learns basic "how-to's" to accessing the internet and learning how to e-mail, etc...We have had four new students so far and currently have a waiting list of four more interested seniors.

We currently remain having our Craft classes on Mondays. This years project, we recently made twenty-five lap pad blankets and distributed them to two local nursing homes in our area, Pendleton Nursing Home and Mystic Manor, both in Mystic, Ct. It was another "giving-back-to-our-community" projects we take on each year! We presented them to seniors, personally, and they were so grateful and surprised that someone had thought of them around the holidays! It was a gratifying experience! The Nursing facilities were very appreciative to receive these and thanked the senior women who volunteered in making these beautiful pads.

There are only a few men who come into the center on Tuesdays to play, "Pitch" card games, but are currently seeking more interested seniors to join them.

Wednesdays are still a fun-filled day to mingle & eat a wonderful, (usually), home-cooked meal prepared by Kim, the Director and Coordinator. The head count for lunches are gradually going back up as more and more seniors are hearing of the great time we all have at our center! Bingo is still played right after lunch and usually, Jerry Ward does the calling!

Thursdays, we start at 10 a.m. for an aerobics exercise class still headed by Joy Fidrych. This class is seeking more seniors to join in on the fun of exercise with a touch of "dance" added in for more enjoyment! Afternoons still hold two more classes. First, a professional Quilter & Sewing teacher, Susan Stedman comes in for two hours and teaches the fundamentals of sewing and quilting techniques. Whatever kind of projects a senior starts, Susan is there to aid and assist in helping them learn the proper way to finish it! This year the senior women donated their time to volunteer their time to assist in making costumes for a Wheeler Elementary School play, which was held earlier this year. The children loved the costumes and everyone thanked the class for helping make their play a great success! All of the cloth remnants came as a donation to the Sewing Class. Some seniors just bring in some rug-hooking projects or embroidery, etc...whatever they feel like bringing in and join in on some wonderful chat time also! Next, our Arthritic Tai Chi Class finishes the afternoon off as Gary Donovan, a wonderful and talented Instructor of Tai Chi. This class is always growing, with new students all the time! A very educational and beneficial class to all!

Fridays, the Art Class, headed by professional and local Artist, Susan Stafford has also increased in size. Many new beginners want to learn how to paint with acrylics, oils, etc... as the other talented, more advanced seniors are continually expressing their

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beautiful art work in so many beautiful ways. We had another Art Day, held at the center, where the Art Class brought in several of their favorite works of art, crafts, hand-made jewelry and pocketbooks to display as well as for sale to the public.

Many seniors participated in many special events that were held at the center this year. Beginning with a very special Valentines Day Luncheon, an Easter luncheon, a "picnic" day, and a yearly picnic with the Golden Agers of North Stonington, an Ice-cream Social, A Thanksgiving dinner, a Christmas and New Years eve, day party with a five-piece band. About 55 seniors came and enjoyed themselves as Kim hosted and prepared appetizers, then a delicious buffet was served, with a decadent chocolate-mouse truffle cake was presented to each person! The cost of these wonderful special events is all possible through personal donations given to the center to use specifically for the use of senior education, fun and many needs here at the center. Many different speakers came in to hold certain classes on hearing loss, Medicare issues, Insurance speakers and even tax returns were done for free to all the seniors who needed to file. Two, AARP, IRS-trained senior volunteers have made our center a tax return site for the upcoming years. We had a wonderful response and will continue holding these free seminars and classes as many more seniors hear of the wonderful things we're doing at our local senior center!

Donations given in Memory of our dearly missed senior, Harry Scheller went directly into purchasing the newly acquired computer desk for the two new computers. The two computers were a new purchase to the center this year.

A continued set budget for the Craft Class is still being used at A.C.Moore in New London, as we continue to make and create many beautiful things. Some actually get sold and the money generates back into the purchase of new items bought for the class! The mini-Coach is still, constantly being used by many seniors for their weekly and monthly trips, doctor appointment for handicapped seniors and field trips for the Art Class. Mystery Lunches are still a big hit as well as a monthly "Breakfast Club" outing to a local restaurant of their choice. We currently have only two wonderful and dedicated, volunteer bus drivers, Joyce Curtis and John Holiday. Their safety-conscious driving abilities have kept the seniors happy and safe on all this years trips! They both possess a valid CDL, P-endorsed license.

This years "big" trip was to the California Coast for 9 days, with 32 seniors joining us! The seniors had a wonderful time and are looking forward to the Alaska Land & Cruise trip set for August 7th, 2009.

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Economic Development Commission

Chairman; Bradford W. Currier II, **Vice Chairman;** Robert Boissevain, **Treasurer;** Robert Kimball, **Secretary;** Linda Pershaec, **members:** Marilyn Mackay, Mark Perkins , Peter Bogolian, Brent Woodward and **Recording Secretary;** Gladys Chase.

Erik Caster resigned and Mark Perkins was appointed by the Selectman's office to fill the position.

Town Ordinance for EDC was changed making the Commission terms four years starting with the biennial election, November 2009. Vacancies will be filled by the Selectmen until the following November at which time that member will run for election to fulfill the unexpired term.

In addition to our scheduled monthly meetings held for the purpose of implementing and providing direction for the Town of North Stonington Economic Development, the commission also was involved in the following;

Mark Tate, GIS coordinator, met with the commission on several occasions to discuss several web-site updates, the implementation of Commercial links, (State, Regional and local) and commission changes to the town website; including prompt response to each inquiry received; and creating a new web-site map showing the Town of North Stonington centered between Boston, MA and New York City. The map would also shows State and local Populations within a 100 mile radius of North Stonington broken into 25 mile radials. The Commission also asked that the Top Commercial Tax Payers for 2007 – 2008, namely; Lake of Isles LLC, Congeries Realty LLC, Connecticut Light & Power Co, Yankee Gas Service Co, Raspberry Junction Properties LCC, Mashantucket Pequot Tribe, North Stonington Properties, Inc, The Mashantucket Tribal Tribe, Esplanade Hill Top LLC, Nautilus Development Inc, Tinaco Plaza Real Estate, American Auto and Lorenz - Perry Real Estate, be listed on our web-site,

Town of North Stonington, Conservation Commission: presented their working draft "PLAN FOR CONSERVATION AND RECREATION LANDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR USE OF LAND AREAS", DATED: January 31, 2008. and corresponding Commission Maps illustrating the changes and recommendations being made, The Conservation Commission was commended on the outstanding work, research and endless hours put into preparing the Plan. Several recommendations were made by the EDC commission on the proposed plan, which they are to take into consideration.

Donald Thornley, from Vision Appraisal Technologies and Darryl Del Grosso, North Stonington Assessor met with the Commission to discuss "How Businesses and Commercial Building Were Appraised" and which type of industries creates the highest tax base with the least amount of town services.

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Patrick Levantino, *prior owner-developer of Hill Top Inn & Suites and current owner-developer of the Bellissimo Grande Hotel*, attended an informal question and answer session as to what kind of development would be wanted and needed in North Stonington.

A Special meeting: was held to discuss the proposed Planning & Zoning moratorium, its concerns and impact it would have on potential economic growth for the Town. The EDC Commission forwarded a letter to P & Z, requesting that the commercial Zoning Regulations to be omitted from the moratorium.

Christine Kraus, from the Center of Survey Research and Analysis at the University of Connecticut met with the commission to discuss the possible Town wide survey on Economic Development in the Town of North Stoning and what type of industries the residents would like to see in town

Ann Renehan: *representing Clarks Falls Environmental Trust* discussed their reasons for changes to RC#07-139 403.4 & 403.5.

EDC Retention Program: A special sub-committee consisting of Bradford Currier, Chairman, Marilyn Mackay, Peter Bogoian, and Brent Woodward was established for the purpose of creating the EDC Retention Program, mission statement, guidelines and implementation of the program, and to prepare a list of questions to be asked, collect the organizational / agencies information, printed brochures / flyers, email, address & telephone numbers. Prepare printed list. Make packets for handouts, etc. Set up guidelines and record keeping suggestion for the program.

The Retention Program established that each commission member would have the responsibility of visiting three commercial / business owners each month. They would receive a copy of the Assessor property card, personal property information, along with a packet of information and a questionnaire that would need to be filled out. They would then bring this information back to the commission at the following meeting, where they would share the information with the commission and surrender the data to the recording person'

The sub-committee is scheduled to have the program finalized and information completed and implemented in September 2008.

North Stonington Economic Development Commission: hosted several educational workshops & seminars for the benefit of town's commissions and residents on the Planning of "Good Economic Growth" and the bennifits that can be achieved including, but not limited to economically, financially, "New" Jobs creations, broader tax base, updating and exspantion in infrastructure and public services.

Southeastern Connecticut Enterprise Region: Also known as seCTer held a presentation / workshop on the services seCTer provides to the towns and businesses in South Eastern Connecticut, Today's Economy and Commercial Growth in S E

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Connecticut; and up-coming events. SeCTer is a public-private regional economic development agency in which NS EDC has been a member for several decades. It serves the Towns of New London County. Their mission is to promote and preserve the region's attractiveness, encourage new businesses, and to assist/nurture existing and expanding local enterprises. The power point presentation was given by John Markouicz, Executive Director and Deborah Donovan, Director of Marketing.

"Planning for Economic Development" Workshop: was held on May 15. This workshop was on the community planning process used to stimulate and guide economic development, covering why an economic development plan is needed, who are the local officials involved, a suggested planning process and how to coordinate the plan with the local Plan of Conservation and Development. Emphasis will be placed on recent legislation that requires local plans to designate certain areas as "funding areas," as a prerequisite to receiving state grants.

The workshop was Presented By: C. James Gibbons Jr - A Professional Land Use Planner. Mr. Gibbons is a Land Use and Natural Resource Program Coordinator with the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System. He is a professional land use planner who has been part of the faculty for 31 years. Prior to his UConn appointment, Mr. Gibbons was employed as a Land Use Planning Consultant for 10 years, developing land use plans and writing land use regulations for communities throughout the northeast.

John P. Johannemann from GREEN MACHINE BIO LLC: Made a public presentation to the commission on Wind Turbine Generators Providing Green Power and Reducing Greenhouse Gasses and the economic issues associated with Wind Turbines.

North Stonington Wind Introduction: The idea for North Stonington Winds grew from a series of discussions on green energy and a need for energy independence. It started with ideas for the installation of Solar PV (small wind at homes) and grew to an idea for a Mega Watt size wind farm. At the same time North Stonington was kicking off their green energy movement and that solidified in our minds the location for the project. At that time, the people of North Stonington were the only community actively seeking to make a difference.

The vision for the North Stonington Wind Farm is that the people of the town will own the project. This can be accomplished by either direct ownership by the Town of North Stonington or thru the formation of a NFPPO (Not for Profit Organization). In both cases the revenue generated from the project will be used to directly benefit the taxpayers of North Stonington.

Income will be received on the sale of the electric power generated by Wind Turbine Generators (WTG). The power will be transmitted to the grid and sold for the highest possible price. We will seek to negotiate a long-term contract with a power distributor and apply for all renewable energy incentives ensuring the highest possible income for the project. The most important features of this project is that the net profit from the

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generation goes back to the townspeople. The profit will be used to install a perpetual motion machine of renewable energy. Profits will be used to install Solar PV on residences and town buildings, assist those on fixed income with both paying and reducing their energy bills, provide low interest loans to townspeople seeking to reduce their carbon footprint thru installation of geothermal heating and more. The possibilities are endless.

Please see the Community Clean Energy Program description. Based upon preliminary data the net profit after all the Loans, Operation and Maintenance, Insurance and Miscellaneous bills are paid, there will be approximately \$1,000,000 per year to go into these energy incentives for the taxpayers. Grants from the State and Federal Governments, environmental organizations and private foundations will all contribute to lowering the overall expenses of the project and in the end increase the give back to the community. For this reason we will aggressively seek all available grants and creative funding ensuring the financial success of the project.

We are asking the people of North Stonington to look at this project with an open mind and an eye towards energy independence. We will reduce our carbon footprint, make our contribution to reducing global warming and set the example for other communities across the State. Copies of their presentation "North Stonington Wind Project" can be obtained at our website or by contacting GREEN MACHINE BIO LLC, at john.johannemann@yahoo.com.

Town of North Stonington Highway Signage: The last several Town's Highway signs were purchased, bringing the total number of signs to eight.

The highway signs were assigned the following locations by the EDC Commission; **Signs-1 & 2)** Pentleton Hill Road (*Route 49*) at both the far North and South areas, **Signs-3 & 4)** Norwich-Westerly Road (*Route 2*), at both the far East and West areas, **Signs-5 & 6)** Providence – New London Turnpike (*Route 184*) at both the far East and West areas, **Sign 7)** Mystic Road (*Rte 201*) at the far South area and **Sign 8)** Cossaduck Hill Road (*Route 201*) at the far North area, as you enter into the Town of North Stonington.

First Selectman, Nickolas Mullane submitted the site locations to the State of Connecticut Highway Department and is waiting their approval. Immediately upon approval the Town will have the signs erected

The Budget for 2008-2009: was prepared and submitted to the finance board.

Officers were elected.

Respectfully Submitted
Bradford W. Currier II
Chairman

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North Stonington Volunteer Fire Co., Inc.

The 2007/2008 Fiscal Year was very busy for the North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company, Inc., responding to 257 alarms. The breakdown is as follows:

76	Structural Responses
92	Rescue MVA's
11	Vehicle Fires
16	Brush Fires
12	Mutual Aid Responses to surrounding departments
14	Hazardous Materials
36	Other type responses

These incidents accounted for 216.05 hours of "on-air" time, were attended by an average of 9 emergency personnel, and accumulated 2703.94 man/hours of service to the community.

We also held 35 scheduled training sessions during the same period. They accounted for 52.80 hours of time, were attended by an average of 10 personnel, accounting for an additional 612.50 man/hours of time. The training also includes sessions to comply with the following OSHA standards:

1910.120	Hazardous Materials First Responder Operational
1910.134	Self Contained Breathing Apparatus
1910.1030	Infection Disease Control

Not included is time expended for certification in other areas

It was also another good/productive year administratively for the North Stonington Vol. Fire, Co., Inc. We continued to submit the various Federal, State, and local reports required to maintain our tax exempt status as a non-profit organization under IRS Tax Code 501 (c) (3).

Our financial records are audited annually by an outside professional accounting firm. As a civic commitment, we continue to support Troop # 71, Boy scouts of America. We provide the Troop with a meeting place, as well as an annual donation to help off-set their re-charter costs with the National Council. We also sponsor a North Stonington Little League Team.

We also provide water for the Town's Recreational Complex.

We fund the repair and maintenance of the Fire Station. The funds for these expenses come from the lease of a small portion of our property to SBA Towers. This income also funds our annual banquet, gifts and flowers for members, food after the annual Memorial Day Parade, member uniforms, and miscellaneous donations to other worthy nonprofit organizations.

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The eleven (11) members of the Board of Trustees (Directors) meet monthly to approve payment of all invoices, and monitor the financial status of the Fire Company.

We would like to thank all the Town residents for their continued support of the North Stonington Vol. Fire Co., Inc.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Shabunia
President

Timothy O. Main, II
Fire Chief

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IT/GIS Department

Department Description:

The IT/GIS department is staffed with a 25 hour per week IT/GIS Coordinator. The primary focus of the department is the stability, efficiency and management of the Town's information systems as well as updating/improving the GIS data needed by multiple departments and town commissions.

2007-2008 Accomplishments:

Document Imaging:

Completed the folder build out for all street addresses in Laserfiche from the Assessors database.

Started to import scanned and index the Town Clerk Maps assigning 1600 map entries to parcel folders based on previous research.

Designed a folder maintenance tool that will simplify data management and linking to Assessor data.

Scanned-Indexed 1/2 of the Building Department files. Also with the help of Cecile McGrath assigned street addresses to old Septic Information so that the records could be indexed.

GIS – Imaging Integration:

Work is being finalized to allow access to scanned documents via GIS queries. This will allow users to see what parcels have available scanned information, decreasing research time for Building, Planning Zoning and the Assessor.

Ability to perform a basic export of parcel information for relating to GIS was made available through our Document Imaging Maintenance Utility.

GIS Mapping of Catch Basins and Other Drainage Features:

The AutoCAD information provided from Development Associates was converted to a GIS Shapefile for use in area planning and mapping.

I added additional information for flow direction, pipe size and pipe heights (From an Excel spreadsheet not stored in CAD) to make the information more usable and create a standard for all future additions to the data.

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GPS of Conservation Features:

There are a many historic features in the town that are not identified. The IT/GIS department has been working with the Conservation Commission to create a detailed index of town features with the initial focus being the 125 Cemeteries. Currently only cemeteries 40 are identified on Assessor maps. 25 Cemeteries were located and documented by the IT/GIS Department as of 6/30/2008.

GIS Updates:

With the use of an intern I was able to update/create the following Shapefiles for \$3,000:

Pavement Edge/Access ways/Driveways from 2004 Arial
Easements Polygons from line work
Buildings from 2004 Arial
Driveway Centerlines 2004 Arial – To determine length
Fire Department Water Holes – Per Fire Company List
Water Features

To outsource the same projects would cost at least \$15,000.

Conservation Commission Map:

Completed map for Conservation Commission outlining categorized parcels. Created to map to outline conservation focus areas.

Updated Planning and Zoning Map:

Completed revision to the Planning and Zoning Map making it more readable.

Survey North Border:

Under the instruction/supervision of Towne Engineering GPS located rock piles used to identify the town northern boundary.

GIS Website Upgrade – www.NorthStoningtonGIS.com:

With reduction of funding the planned upgrade to our new Online GIS service was expedited. The product was still in BETA testing at the time we went live with only minor corrections that needed to be addressed.

The new online GIS service has the functionality of the old product with many additional features that were not available before including Weekly Assessor Information Updates, Buffer lists, Arial photographs, Premade Maps and much more.

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FOI Compliance For E-mail:

Implemented software that archives viewed E-mail and enters into a searchable read-only database.

Centralized Cash Collection:

Installed cash collection software to track all cash transactions of the Town Clerk's office and streamline reporting.

The auditor has supported this direction and we have had success at the Transfer Station with the same project.

QDS Upgrade:

We upgraded the Tax Collection Package from the old DOS version to the new SQL server version. The town no longer has any DOS Applications that it uses for daily functions.

Town Website – www.NorthStoningtonCT.gov:

There were several improvements made to the town website including the ability to E-mail updates. Also the ability to automatically receive E-mailed copies of selected posted content was added to the website features.

Prepared by Marc G. Tate

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Management and Financial Statements