

BROOKLYN, CT

LOCATION:	Geographical Center of Windham County
AREA:	29 Square Miles
MILES OF ROAD:	60
INCORPORATED:	1786
GOVERNMENT:	Town Meeting Board of Selectmen Board of Finance
POPULATION:	8,259

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HISTORY OF BROOKLYN

Brooklyn was once part of the lands claimed by the Mohegan Chief, Uncas. The land, deeded in 1680 to Captain James Fitch, was sold to the first local settlers in 1703. It was settled as part of the Town of Canterbury and Pomfret with the Northeastern third having separate existence as the manorial estate of Mortlake.

Mortlake had been purchased in 1686 as a refuge for Puritans who were forced out of England with the Stuart restoration. It was not part of any town and hence neither collected taxes nor provided services to the tenants residing within its bounds.

The civil disobedience of the inhabitants of Mortlake, along with the difficulty of other residents in attending church or town meeting in Canterbury or Pomfret, led to several attempts to settle a minister, form a church and set up a separate society. Petitions were sent to General Assembly and by 1734, permission was granted to form a society and build a church. Mortlake was finally included in the new society in 1752 and the community grew and prospered.

By 1770 the Meeting House was in need of replacement and the large white church, still standing on the green, was built. One of the owners of Mortlake, Godfrey Malbone, so opposed this construction that he undertook to build and support the first Episcopal Church in the area as an alternative to paying a substantial portion of the cost of the new Meeting House.

Brooklyn was a center of revolutionary activity both before and during the War of Independence. Israel Putnam, married to the widow of the first local minister, owner of the Gen. Wolfe Tavern, and veteran of the French and Indian War, who had served in Roger's Rangers and under both General Wolfe and Lord Amherst, was a key figure in the early stage of the

HISTORY OF BROOKLYN

revolution. Putnam was in overall command at the battle of Bunker Hill and was unanimously chosen as the first Major General in the Continental Army.

The Town of Brooklyn was incorporated in 1786 and in 1819 became the county seat. The large homes, the jail, the courthouse, now used as the town hall, all reflect this period of prominence which continued through part of the nineteenth century. The Agricultural Association was formed about 1820 and continues to attract visitors with the annual fair.

Eastern Connecticut was very much involved in the Civil War and the Town of Brooklyn was no exception. A glance at the local monument will show that local men served in most of the famous battles. Local mills provided clothing and the records of churches and organizations list substantial contributions in man power. Although Brooklyn has been primarily an agricultural community, the many streams provided power for a number of small mills. Eventually areas like West Wauregan and East Brooklyn were built around substantial textile mills. For a time, the center of Brooklyn supported a bank (now the library) and a newspaper, as well as several stores.

In more recent times, Brooklyn has developed into two distinct areas. The central and western parts have continued along a residential and rural path, whereas the eastern sector has become predominantly commercial.

The rural colonial beauty of Brooklyn Center has been preserved in spite of the fact that the Town is one of the fastest growing community's in Windham County. Many of the old churches and homes have been restored. The old Court House has been internally renovated to provide town office facilities, but the colonial exterior was left unchanged.

HISTORY OF BROOKLYN

Planning and Zoning were adapted early to preserve and guide the character and development of the Town. The result has been an attractive residential center in rural surroundings at a density level, which can be supported by the environment. Farming had ceased to be a major factor in the community. A school and recreation complex is centrally located. The former town garage is well screened by trees so as not to disturb the residential surrounding and additional recreational facilities are provided on adjacent property.

Brooklyn's Economic Development Commission continues to work on several projects to promote growth in key areas of the Town's economic front. Brooklyn has joined with Eastern Connecticut Enterprise Corridor (ECEC). This is a competitive incentive program to benefit business that expand, or relocate into the industrial development areas of the participating Town's along our Interstate 395 corridor.

The northeast Connecticut Visitors District has been relocated to the Citizen's Bank building in the center of Brooklyn. This location will be a key launching place for travel, writers and tourists to start their exploration of our quiet corner.

Several initiatives are being looked into to enhance the South Main Street business district in East Brooklyn. Our 'welcome' signs at the Brooklyn Center roads have received much praise. Economic Development Commission members individually are looking at specific programs to enhance our town's presence and friendly atmosphere. The amount of time that the Town receives from the variety of commission and board volunteer members enforces our belief that our citizens 'feel good about Brooklyn.'

Brooklyn has purchased 32 acres of river frontage along the Quinebaug River. Together with two lots already owned by the

HISTORY OF BROOKLYN

Town and the transfer of a lot from the CT DOT, we now own 3550 feet of river frontage. Working with landscape design, UCONN will generate a plan that will encompass activities and passive recreation for this area.

Located in the center of Windham County, proud of its heritage and its preservation but progressive in its outlook, Brooklyn intends to continue to be a vital element in Eastern Connecticut.

TOWN OFFICIALS

Board of Selectmen

Richard Ives – First Selectman
Robert Kelleher, Joseph Voccio

Selectman's Office

Richard Ives – First Selectman
Melissa Bradley – Administrative Assistant

Finance Department

Kathy Erickson – Finance Director
Sherri Soucy – Executive Assistant

Building Office

John Berard – Building Official
Audrey Cross-Lussier – Building/Planning Assistant

Land Use/Planning & Zoning Office

Jana Butts Roberson – Land Use Administrator
Martha Fraenkel – Zoning/Blight Enforcement Officer

Town Clerk's Office

Leona Mainville – Town Clerk
Katherine Bisson – Assistant Town Clerk

Revenue Collector's Office

Jocelyne Ruffo – Revenue Collector
April Lamothe – Assistant Revenue Collector

Assessor's Office

Kathleen Thornton – Assessor
Maryann Szela – Assistant Assessor

Recreation Office

Matthew 'Bucky' Lohbusch – Director
JoAnn Lohbusch – Assistant

TOWN OFFICIALS

Board of Finance

Jeffery Otto – Chairperson

Board of Education

Aimee Genna – Chairperson

Board of Assessment Appeals

Cassandra Leach – Chairperson

Judge of Probate

Leah Schad

Town Counsel

Suisman Shapiro

Animal Control Officer

Kristian Hernandez – NECCOG

Fire Marshal

Doug Kramer

Tree Warden

Richard Regis

Road Foreman

Thomas Rukstela

Agent for Elderly

Tamsen Harris

Water Pollution Control Authority

David Fuss – Chairperson

Planning & Zoning Commission

Michelle Sigfridson – Chairperson

TOWN OFFICIALS

Zoning Board of Appeals

Dan Ross – Chairperson

Board of Fire Commissioners

Peter Considine – Chairperson

Parks & Recreation Commission

Michael Gaudreau – Chairperson

Inland Wetland Commission

Jeff Arends – Chairperson

Economic Development Commission

Robert Simons – Chairperson

Justices of the Peace

Valerie Bruzzi-Krsulic, Cara Coraccio-Bellantone, Marie
Dusseault, Roger Engle, David Fuss, Elizabeth A. Hall-
hecker, Richard Ives, Henry Jeffs, Robert Kelleher, Jessica A.
Maclean, Leona Mainville, William Morrone, James Paquin,
Lisa Roberts-Sangillo, Carolyn Teed-Ives

Town Office Hours

Town Hall & Clifford B. Green Memorial Center Offices

Monday – Wednesday 8:00am-5:00pm

Thursday 8:00am-6:00pm

Friday CLOSED

Town Highway Department

Monday – Thursday 7:00am-4:00pm

Friday 7:00am-11:00am

www.brooklynct.org

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

First Selectman's Report

The Town Government completed another year in good financial and physical condition. Our general fund unreserved balance was \$1,008,432 at year end June 30, 2017. This is up \$404,303 from last year. In addition, our net position, a measure of the Town's long-term financial health went up \$482,874 from last year.

Our short-term bond anticipation notes decreased from \$4,155,000 to \$2,945,000.

The Town did transfer funds from our reserves to balance the budget this year. The tax collection rate in 2017 was 98.3% for the current year compared to the current year levy and 99.3% comparing the current and delinquent tax collections to the total current year levy.

Our pension fund has a 68% funded ratio, which is good considering the current market conditions.

Housing stats for single family dwellings increased from 6 fiscal year end June 30, 2016 to 8 fiscal year end June 30, 2017. Our Town is a choice place for professionals to relocate to while maintaining employment in Providence, Boston, Worcester and surrounding cities.

The strength of town government is measured by its staff, citizen volunteers and customer satisfaction. Our offices are staffed with professionals who are customer friendly as they answer questions, assist our taxpayers and fulfill their myriad of duties. Together the Town employees and Town citizens make Brooklyn a better place to live.

Richard Ives, First Selectman

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Veterans

Brooklyn held the annual Memorial Day parade on Monday, May 29, 2017. A ceremony was held at the Tatnic Hill Bridge honoring soldiers, sailors and marines lost at sea. A parade followed in the center of Town with observances made by the Parade Marshal, Firing Squad, Clergy and various attendees ending with a final observance at the South Cemetery honoring all veterans of war. Students, Julia Purcell and Jordan Rukstela recited respected poems “Cover them over with beautiful flowers” and Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address.

VFW Post 2650 in Danielson, CT and AMVETS Post 47 participated in our Town’s annual Veterans Day Memorial as well as the Color Guard coordinated by Rodney Bissonnette. The remembrance ceremony was held on Veterans Day, November 11, 2017 at the monuments for the II World War, Korean War and the Vietnam War.

The Town appreciates the support of VFW, AMVETS and those who dedicated their time to these ceremonies and to the help received from the Fire Departments and our Resident Troopers.

Building Official

During the fiscal year of July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, three hundred thirty (331) building permits were issued valued at \$19,778,000. 9 permits were renewed and 13 were new homes. Total receipts to the Town were \$79,740 in permit fees. There were also 11 apartment inspections done with receipts equaling \$165. The office hours of the Building Official, John A. Berard, are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Mondays and 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday evenings.

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Town Clerk

The Town Clerk's office records and maintains all land record transactions for all property owners in the Town of Brooklyn. This office recorded approximately 1350 land records in 2017 and maintains over 600 volumes of land records. The office has an electronic search system available to the public for researching land transactions. In addition, all land records are available online at www.uslandrecords.com. Survey and subdivision maps are also filed in the office and are now available electronically for printing. Twenty-eight maps were recorded and reproduced in 2017. Over 2,500 maps are on file. A total of \$231,028 in fees were collected with 37% of the total submitted to the State of Connecticut.

In addition, the Town Clerk is the Registrar of Vital Statistics on behalf of the State Health Department. In 2017, 65 births, 105 marriages and 86 deaths were recorded, and certified copies were sent to the State. Any resident requiring a certified copy of a vital record can request a copy for \$20 from the office.

Dog licenses are also available from the Town Clerk. Yearly registration is due during the month of June and all dogs must be registered when they become six (6) months old. All dogs must be vaccinated against rabies and the certificate showing the expiration date must be presented to the Town Clerk when licensing. Fees are as follows: \$19.00 per dog or \$8.00 per dog that is spayed or neutered.

The State of Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection provides the Town Clerk's office with a licensing system for obtaining hunting and fishing licenses. Residents also have the option to purchase their licenses online at www.ctwildlifelicense.com.

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Notary application forms to become a Notary Public are available in the office. A Notary Public is required by State Statute to record his/her commission in their Town of residence with the Town Clerk. Notary Public services are available for a fee of \$5.00.

The office provides voter applications throughout the year and accepts new voter registration on behalf of the Registrar of Voters. This office also processes absentee ballot requests and is responsible for the preparation of election material for all elections and primaries.

Leona A. Mainville, MMC

Treasurer

The Treasurer's mission is to help provide the best quality services that are available in an efficient, cost-effective way for the town of Brooklyn residents and tax payers. To work together with all departments of the Town in a spirit of cooperation and trust and keep moving forward developing constructive solutions to help better the Town.

The Treasurer's responsibility is to receive, deposit, invest and disburse all Town funds.

The Treasurer has the authority to invest and reinvest in securities legal for investment of trust funds under the State Statutes.

The Treasurer, by State Statute, has custody of, and disburses all funds belonging to the Town and deposits these funds in banks and trust companies in which the Board of Selectmen and Treasurer are in agreement.

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The interest earned on investments for the budget year 2016/2017, ending on 6/30/2017 totaled \$21,155.

Kathy Erickson
Treasurer

Revenue Collector

The Revenue Collector's Office bills, collects, processes and safeguards the Town's tax receipts and Water Pollution Control fees. The office maintains balanced records of all accounts.

The Town of Brooklyn collects real estate and personal property taxes quarterly and are due July 1st, October 1st, January 1st, and April 1st. East Brooklyn Fire District taxes are due once a year on July 1st. Motor vehicle taxes are due July 1st. Sewer usage taxes are due twice a year July 1st and January 1st. Bills are mailed each year in July. Motor Vehicle Supplemental taxes are due January 1st. If for any reason a resident does not receive a tax bill for property that they own, they should contact the revenue office as soon as possible. Failure to receive a bill does not excuse a taxpayer from paying late charges. Sewer use fees are billed at the request of the WPCA upon passage of their annual budget.

Current collections this year on the October 1, 2015 Grand list totaled \$14,638,370.50. Collections resulted as follows:

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Type of Tax Bill	Amount Collected	Percent Collected
Real Estate	\$11,562,176.55	99.00%
Personal Property	\$1,119,239.00	99.00%
Motor Vehicle	\$1,418,664.20	97.00%
Motor Vehicle Supplemental	195,079.63	90.00%
Sewer Usage	\$292,954.89	97.00%
East Brooklyn Fire District	\$50,256.23	99.00%

How Your Tax Bill is Computed

Grand Levy: The total amount of money that must be raised by the property tax to meet Town expenses during the ensuing year.

Grand List: An official listing of the assessed value of all taxable property in Town. Compiled each October 1st by the Assessor.

Tax Rate: Grand Levy divided by the grand list; usually expressed in terms of ‘mills’.

Mill: One thousandth of a dollar (.001)

The taxpayer’s bill is determined by multiplying the net assessed value of taxable property by the tax rate. Example: If net value is \$10,000 and the tax rate is 26.34 mills, then the taxpayer’s bill is \$263.40.

If you have any questions regarding your taxes, please do not hesitate to call the office at 860-779-3411, option 5.

Jocelyne Ruffo – Revenue Collector, CCMC

April Lamothe – Assistant Revenue Collector, CCMC

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Assessor

October 1, 2015 Taxable Grand List

Real Estate	\$ 445,799,180
Personal Property	\$ 41,709,754
Motor Vehicles	<u>\$ 55,966,295</u>
Total	\$ 5543,473,229

The total grand list represented an overall decrease of 1.94 % from the October 1, 2014 Grand List due to the state mandated town wide revaluation.

Tax Relief Programs/Exemptions Filing Date

- Elderly and/or Totally Disabled Homeowners Program* February 1st to May 15th
- Elderly and/or Totally Disabled Renters Program* April 1st to October 1st
- Veterans Exemption (DD214) Before October 1st
Additional Veterans* Before October 1st

*Income based

Property field cards are available online at www.vgsi.com

Assessor maps are available online at www.neccog.org

Both sites can be accessed from the assessor's webpage at www.brooklynct.org

If you have any questions regarding the Grand List or any of the tax relief programs, please call the Assessor's Office at (860) 779-3411 Option #6 or visit the assessor's webpage at www.brooklynct.org

Kathleen M. Thornton, CCMA II
Assessor

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Board of Assessment Appeals

The Board of Assessment Appeals members (3) are elected positions for a two-year term. The Board is a review board to hear appeals of assessment for real estate, personal property, and motor vehicles. The Board meets twice a year in the months of September and March.

We would like to remind taxpayers of the State Statue, Section 12-112 that no appeal shall be heard by the Board, except at the dates set by the Board. A legal notice is filed for the September hearing. A petition needs to be filed by February 20th for the March hearing. The petition can be accessed on the Assessor's page of the Town's web site, www.brooklynct.org, or by contacting the Assessor's office.

Cassandra Leach, Chairperson, and Diane Wimmer decided not to run for re-election. Buddy Conway and Loni Wright were voted in to replace them. Robert Simons took on the position of Temporary Chairperson until the next meeting scheduled for March.

The Board wishes to extend our thanks for everyone's cooperation and understanding of our decisions during this past year.

Cassandra Leach, Chairperson
Diane Wimmer, Member
Robert Simons, Member

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Registrars of Voters

Annual Canvass and Voting History:

- The annual canvass of voters was conducted from February throughout May; in compliance with Connecticut General Statutes. The canvass of electors was completed by the Registrars using the National Change of Address System which is a product that most town registrars used within Connecticut that is available from the U.S. Postal Service. The purpose of executing the canvass is to update existing voter records as well as to purge voter records for those voters who have moved out of the town and/or state.

Bi-Annual ERIC Reports and Maintenance:

- The ERIC reports were provided to Registrars by the Secretary of State's office twice this year. These reports identify those voters who have not voted in over 4 years, have changed their address locally, or have moved out of state without notifying the Registrars. It requires well in excess of 32 hours of effort to complete this process each time it is done but is necessary to ensure that the official voter list is as accurate and up-to-date as possible.

Mandated Voter Enrollment Sessions:

- The Registrars hold state mandated (Sec. 9-17) enrollment sessions at the Woodstock Academy and Killingly High School during March and April. We expect to encounter at least 50 students registering to vote in these sessions and estimate that 10-12 of these students will come from the Town of Brooklyn.

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- The registrars held several extra day-long enrollment sessions throughout the year to permit eligible residents to register as voters prior to the November elections. The Sec. of State increased the number of registration enrollment sessions in an effort to ensure all voters had ample opportunity to enroll as a qualified voter.
 - In addition, during the day of the November election, the Registrars conducted a ‘Election Day Registration - EDR’ process at the Registrar’s Office which also attracted another 7 new voters to register and vote in the November Election.

Required Training:

- The registrars attend 2 state-wide Registrars Conventions – in June and in September as an on-going effort to comply with Sec. of State Continuing Education requirements. State Law (Sec 9-192b) requires each registrar to obtain at least 10 hours of instruction for elections training processes per year.
- The registrars maintain active memberships and participated in both the State ROVAC Association and the Windham County ROVAC Association meetings.
- The registrars facilitated and implemented successful training sessions prior to the November elections for poll workers in order to ensure an accurate and uneventful election process.

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- The registrars facilitated and implemented successful training and implementation of the new Handicapped Voter system which completely automates the handicapped voter access and generation of an actual ballot instead of a strip of paper for the counting of the votes on a ballot.

Election Results:

- **Primaries:** There were no primaries held this past year.
- **Municipal Election:** The Municipal November 2016 election saw a total of 5468 eligible voters registered for the election. 3919 resident voters did not vote resulting in 1549 voters or 28.33% of the eligible voters who chose to vote in the Municipal Election.

Respectfully Submitted by
Registrars of Voters

Recreation Commission

Parks & Recreation Commission Members:

Michael Gaudreau, Chairperson	Cliff Soucy
Harry Adams	Chris Toney
Stephen Danna	Scott Allen
Kim Conroy, liaison	David Wilterdink
Mae Lyons, liaison	Secretary: Christine Boyle

This fiscal year the department's programming once again included annual events and seasonal programming. The Before School Program (for grades K-4th) and After School Program (for grades K-6th) were offered again, but as full-time options only. Both programs are near or at capacity

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throughout the year. We also offered our Full Day Recreation Program. This was offered from 8am-4pm on days when school as not in session, but staff had development days. This was open to K-6th grade.

The Brooklyn TEEN Center also was offered again this fiscal year. During the 2016-17 school year, the Center offered after school activities such as homework help with computer lab, game room with pool, ping pong and more. Our TEEN members helped out at both Bunny Breakfast and Spooky Nights.

The Summer Day Camp Program – 2016 was attended by approximately 150 children during the six-week program. Campers enjoyed daily camp activities and weekly field trips that included Quassy Amusement Park, Southwick Zoo and more. The TEEN Center offered Summer Camp also, with trips including Six Flags and PawSox. This camp is open to campers in grades 6th – 8th.

The holiday season programs offer an opportunity to bring our residents together through our annual events such as Letters to Santa, Toys for Giving Toy Drive and our Holiday Coloring Contest which is presented in partnership with the Brooklyn Post Office. Our Toy Drive was again a success thanks to the generosity of our local businesses and residents. The program continues to see a yearly increase in families requesting assistance, and the department is always fortunate to have many residents and businesses step forward to fill those needs. Many children got creative and entered our Coloring Contest with entries displayed at the Brooklyn Post Office. Our Spooky Nights event, held at the Brooklyn Fairgrounds during one weekend in October was a huge success. Attendants enjoyed a hay wagon ride through haunted scenes, including actors portraying scary characters, a “haunted house” located in the Better Living Building and a bonfire

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area with family friendly activities. Our Easter Egg Hunt was very well attended, and the annual Breakfast with the Bunny which included a breakfast cooked and served by the Danielson Lions Club went well. Our TEEN Center members and staff offered fun for the children attending, with all sorts of games and prizes in the gym.

The Summer Slam Basketball Clinic was popular and was held at the Brooklyn Middle School gym. This program is available to Summer Day Campers as well as all other interested area youths. Our fitness programs, such as Susan's Complete Fitness, Sunrise Fitness, Cross Train Fit and more offered many options for staying fit and active. Our Running Club has continued to be popular and is offered as a Winter Warriors program during the colder months. Baton Twirling was well attended. Adult Open Gym was well attended, and ran from November through February at the Middle School Gym.

Our trips are offered in both the Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter Brochures. This year many people took advantage of the opportunity to join the department on the trips offered. Trips included the annual trips to the Boston Red Sox, Yankee Stadium, New York City and Celtics game. A trip to Salem's haunted happenings was enjoyed by our trip participants also. All the department's trips, programs and events are in our semi-annual brochures, mailed to all Brooklyn households in August and January. Information can also be accessed on the town website. We also have Facebook now at Town of Brooklyn Parks & Recreation. The TEEN Center can also be found online at our town website and on Facebook. Flyer updates are handed out in the Brooklyn Schools to all students. Many registration forms are now available online, for the resident's convenience.

The Parks & Recreation Department maintains our town parks

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and many non-recreational areas in town also including monuments, school property and snow removal on Route 6 sidewalks. The Michael Dragon Complex at Prince Hill Park continues to be a popular facility used by leagues and individuals throughout the year. This park offers a playscape, picnic tables, walking track, trails, and playing fields. Many take advantage of the park's lighted basketball courts. The softball field is utilized by the local little league teams and is now used as a "home" field for the Brooklyn school's softball team. The concession stand and restrooms are open during scheduled events. The Brooklyn School Cross Country Team once again enjoyed a season of competing and practicing on the department's well-maintained trails. The playing fields are aerated and seeded each season, to keep them at optimal condition. South Street Park offers a playscape, picnic tables and basketball courts, and is located at the corner of South Street and South Main Street. The Parks & Recreation Departments Parks Maintenance employee, along with a seasonal part time employee, maintains these parks, many walking trails, and the other areas mentioned earlier. The Riverside Park is used for Little League play and by anyone interested in using the volleyball court or passive walking trails. Davis Park's 18-hole Disc Golf Course was used almost year-round and has become a popular sport for our area.

The Recreation Department's & Commission's goal is to continue to maintain and improve the current facilities and programs to meet the needs of our residents. We work to provide the quality of life that our residents deserve while keeping in mind the economic conditions impacting our community. We continue to work in cooperation with our town leaders, our school officials and various town departments, boards and commissions, to achieve the commission and department's goals. Our town is fortunate to have many residents who share the same vision for our

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community and continue to assist and support our efforts. We look forward to the challenges and opportunities ahead as we continue to serve our residents.

Matthew “Bucky” Lohbusch,
Parks & Recreation Director

Economic Development Commission

The Commission lost two members, Andy Pinto and Ron Ventura. One new member, Jeff Gagnon was appointed as a new member.

The Brooklyn EDC again co-sponsored the Brooklyn Fall Festival in the town center and a Car Cruise event at Walmart along with the Brooklyn Business Association (BBA). The BBA hosted “The Secret Life of Pets” on Friday, July 28th and movie night in the park featuring “Moana” on September 9th.

Business Recognition: Plaque presentations were made to PetValu, Bodyworks Massage, and Spherion.

Brooklyn Economic Development Coordinator: Discussion has continued on the creation of an Economic Development Coordinator for the Town of Brooklyn. Even though the idea was supported by the Board of Selectmen, cuts in the state budget forced postponement for filling a position undefinedly. The New England Council of Governments (NECOG), presented to the EDC, Town Branding, which gave the commission hope that the town could establish goals that may help us move forward in 2018. The hope is to create a better way to draw people to visit the town.

Robert Simons
Chairperson

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Conservation Commission

The Brooklyn Conservation Commission proudly presents our annual report for the year 2017.

Activities\Projects\Grants

Diane Wimmer and Jeannine Noel were elected as Co-Chairs. Charlotte Merrill resigned from the Commission in August. Treasurer duties remain shared by the Chairs. The Commission continues to function within a reduced budget.

The Commission maintains a Facebook page. It is updated regularly with events, photos, conservation topics and local information.

The state of Connecticut passed Bill #6329 banning storage, disposal, and use of fracking waste in Connecticut.

https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=HB06329&which_year=2017

At Family Fun Day, Diane Wimmer distributed seeds in cowpots. The remaining cowpots and other materials were donated to Parks and Recreation for their summer programs. The town held an Earth Day event in which Commission members participated by picking up trash and planting flowers and bushes at Riverside Park. The Commission planted blueberry bushes, pussy willows, mountain laurel, echinacea and brown-eyed susans which were purchased from the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District Spring Plant Sale.

The Disc Golf Course at Davis Forest continues to be enjoyed by residents. Parks and Recreation sponsored a tournament which was well attended. Brooklyn has several trails for

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residents to explore: Quinebaug River Trail, Maury Bowen Complex, Williams/Ferguson Sanctuary, Milo Appley Conservation Showcase, Davis Forest, Creamery Brook Trail, Carol Randall Memorial Nature Trail, and Donald Francis Recreation Park Trail. Trail maps can be found on the Conservation Commission's page on the Town's website under "Links" and "Brooklyn Trails". The Commission installed "No Motorized Vehicles" signs on several trails in Brooklyn.

Brooklyn Conservation Commission members continue to attend the Windham County Conservation Consortium meetings. The Consortium was created to link the conservation commissions in Windham County in order to share information and experiences. The Consortium meets twice a year and continues to educate members on conservation issues.

Development Reviews

As a non-regulatory land use commission, the Brooklyn Conservation Commission conducts development site plan reviews and forwards recommendations to the other regulatory land use commissions, Inland Wetlands and Planning and Zoning. These recommendations are based on review of our natural resource inventory mapping and the potential for impacts from site plan proposals. For subdivisions of three or more parcels, Subdivision Regulations stipulate Open Space donations (quit claim or conservation easement) either to the Town of Brooklyn or other not-for-profit land preservation trust or a fee in-lieu of the property donation.

During the year of 2017, the Brooklyn Conservation Commission reviewed two subdivision plans and

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recommended a deed restriction with an open space set aside for both.

Training

During 2017, Brooklyn Conservation Commission members attended local conservation and land use educational training events and free webinars at <http://clear.uconn.edu/>. Jeannine Noel attended a Fracking Waste Workshop in Hampton in February. These trainings and workshops are essential in developing the skills necessary to protect open space and the environment for future Brooklyn residents. The Commission continues to be a member of CACIWC (CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions). <http://www.caciwc.org/>

Jeannine Noel
Brooklyn Conservation Commission

SERVICES

Brooklyn Library Association

The first independent Brooklyn Library Association was founded in 1775. The present Association was organized in 1893. In 1913, a group of citizens purchased the building presently housing the library and donated it to the Association. The library continues to be governed by an independent association and its executive committee. The day-to-day operation is the responsibility of Librarian Catherine Tucker.

The library is open to the public on Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00pm to 7:00pm, Tuesdays and Saturdays 11:00am to 5:00pm and Thursdays and Fridays 2:00pm to 5:00pm. Any Brooklyn resident may obtain a first library card and renew that card free of charge. The contact email for the library is brooklyntownlibrary4@yahoo.com

The library offers popular reading from the bestseller list, an extensive mystery collection, a growing juvenile collection, and access to online services. Three computers for Internet access and a printer are also available for public use. Patrons may also check out a Kill A Watt Kit to monitor home energy.

The library also offers a wide variety of online services on its website, www.brooklyntownlibrary.org. From this website, you can access Tumblebooks which has animated, talking picture books and real-alongs for children. Using Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome as your browser, you may access Consumer Reports Online with your Brooklyn Town Library card. The library also has a subscription to Universal Classes which offers over 500 free online classes to Brooklyn residents on a wide variety of topics from Adobe Photoshop to Autism Spectrum Disorders for Teachers to Fundraising

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101. Patrons may enroll in up to 5 classes at one time. A library visit is necessary for the Brooklyn resident to initiate an account for these classes then class work may be done on a home computer with internet access. The web browser Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome is necessary to access both Consumer Reports and Universal Classes. We have Overdrive to allow patrons with Kindles, HD Kindles, Nooks, Tablets, iPads, iPhones, iPods and Android devices to access to 1,500 ebooks. For Brooklyn residents only, the library has purchased the new online Zinio magazine collection and ArtistWorks which is online music lessons for many instruments with video instruction by performers recognized in their specialties. Lessons range from beginner to intermediate and some instruments have lessons in more than one genre. InstantFlix and Comics Plus are also available.

By using the barcode on their Brooklyn Library card, patrons may access BookFlix, an online storybook video resource for toddlers through Grade 3. The Brooklyn Library also subscribes to OneClickdigital eAudiobooks. Brooklyn Town Library card holders may access via the library website to downloadable audiobooks for their computers, MP3 players and Ipods. The Brooklyn Library is a member of the Connecticut Library Network, which enables patrons to search the holdings of other libraries throughout the state and also borrow materials from many public libraries in Connecticut. Patrons may submit requests for interlibrary loans online through the FindIT CT system, or visit or call the library with the author and title information. When the requested items are received at the library, patrons are notified that their library materials are ready to be picked up. The Connecticut Library Network also provides patrons with access to the state's online database at research IT CT One Search found on the library homepage

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www.brooklyntownlibrary.org.

Discounted and free passes to the following local museums are available at the library:

Mystic Seaport	Wadsworth Atheneum Art Pass
Mystic Aquarium	Roger Williams Park Zoo
CTs Old State House	DEEP No Child Left Inside Day Pass
CT Science Center	

The library is very active in promoting reading for children of all ages. Each year the library provides a Reading Room at the Brooklyn Summer Recreation Camp. Library staff provides reading activities, book and games for all children who attend. The Brooklyn Library also offers a summer reading game for children who do not attend summer recreation. The library sponsors a book discussion group that meets regularly at the library. Book titles and date of upcoming discussions are posted on the library website. Everyone is welcome to attend these discussions.

The Friends of the Brooklyn Library continue to contribute in many ways to the library's program. Meeting times and locations are posted on the library website. The Friends hold a Fall Plant and Bake Sale each year on the Saturday after Labor Day. They also offer a selection of historic Brooklyn buildings by Cat's Meow. Pieces in the services include Friendship Valley, the Isreal Putnam Statue, the Town Pump, the Unitarian Church, Old Trinity, the Brooklyn Library, Mortlake Firehouse, and the Copper Beech Tree. Also Available Cat's Meow Christmas ornaments of the library and Mortlake Firehouse. These may be purchased at the library. The Friends also had a once-a-month table at the Farmer's Market in Brooklyn where they sold baked goods and library tote bags. Proceeds from Friends' projects support library programs that include, but are not limited to,

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funds for Library Passes and the Book Discussion Group.

Animal Services

Animal services are provided to the Town of Brooklyn through the Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments Regional Animal Services Program. The Animal Services Program (begun in August 2004) currently serves the Towns of Brooklyn, Canterbury, Chaplin, Hampton, Killingly, Pomfret, Putnam, Sterling, Voluntown and Woodstock. The towns of Hampton and Voluntown were added in 2012 and Chaplin in 2014. The program has launched a Facebook page to aid in placing animals and helping in their care. Our program is available 24/7/365. We always have an ACO on duty. Please call 860-774-1253 for lost dogs, adoption questions, complaints and other issues regarding domestic animals (for wild animal issues, please call 860-424-3333, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Wildlife Unit).

Brooklyn 2017	
Impound Dogs	30
Adopted Dogs	11
Impounded Cats	19
Adopted Cats	14
Redeemed Animals	17
Investigations	64

Since the Animal Services Program began, more than 4,000 animals have been either adopted or returned to their owner. No animal has been put down due to lack of space or because

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the breed is deemed to be undesirable. The numbers associated with “euthanasia” are the result of an animal having a behavioral issue making not suitable for adoption or a disease issue where our consulting veterinarian determines that this action is warranted.

Please Remember!

Connecticut Law requires you to annually license your dog's during the month of June.

Contact the Town Clerk for details.

Brooklyn Resource Recovery Commission

The BRRC completed its twenty first year of operation of the transfer station and curbside recycling, electronic waste and disposal of waste paint. We also keep the brush and leaf collection up to State DEEP standards. We monitor water quality and have continued to pass all tests by DEEP.

The model airplane club is still going strong and extends an invitation to anyone who wishes to join or just come and watch.

We have put television monitors in to support surveillance of all areas and discourage trespassing when the dump is closes.

Hours of operation are Friday's 10am – 4pm and Saturdays 8am - 4pm with extended hours in the Spring and Summer.

Board of Fire Commissioners

The Brooklyn Board of Fire Commissioners is responsible for establishing polices of the Town's Government related to public safety and emergency medical services as required by ordinance and state statutes. It is also responsible for

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overseeing the activities of the independent volunteer fire departments as they relate to the public and the Town's Government. Current members, First Selectman Richard Ives, Lucien Brodeur, Felix Ramos, Patrick Gauthier, Jeffrey Otto, and James Soler.

The Board reviews each department's budget request and updates a capital expenditures plan for equipment replacement, both of which are presented to the Boards of Fire Commissioners and Finance for approval and incorporation as necessary into the Selectmen's and capital budgets for taxpayer approval. The board has recently decided to extend expected useful life of most types of fire apparatus from twenty to twenty-five years, reflecting the quality of Brooklyn's apparatus, maintenance provided, and duty cycles anticipated.

Volunteer Fire Companies

Brooklyn's volunteer fire companies operate out of three fire stations to provide emergency services to the Town. The East Brooklyn Company operates out of a station owned by the Brooklyn Fire District that is located on South Main Street. The Mortlake Company operates out of its main station on Canterbury Road in Brooklyn Center and also out of a station in the West Wauregan Village. Each Company is a non-profit corporation responsible for its own operations. The Town supplies funds to cover operating expenses, worker's compensation and liability insurance as well as capital funds for major apparatus and equipment purchases for each company. The Town also supplies capital funds for the periodic replacement of smaller capital equipment such as hoses, radios, pagers and personal protective equipment, including self-contained breathing apparatus.

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Both fire companies conduct fund raising events during the year to supplement the funds provided by the Town. The proceeds from these events lower the cost of public fire protection to residents of Brooklyn and enable the fire companies to purchase supplies and equipment beyond the bare minimums. The fire companies appreciate your support of these worthwhile fund raising endeavors.

The fire companies are also active in soliciting and obtaining grant funds from the state and federal government and from private sources. The East Brooklyn Fire Department was successful in obtaining a FEMA grant that paid for a mobile breathing air compressor and storage unit. The Mortlake Fire Company has been the recipient of several grants that have provided an Attack Tanker Fire Truck, a Rescue Truck, a HazMat Decontamination Trailer, a Regional Trench and Collapse Rescue Team and an Environmental Contamination Response Trailer and Equipment as well as numerous smaller equipment items. Unfortunately, state and federal grants for these purposes are increasingly categorical and are not as available as they have been in past years.

The level of training and performance certification required to Brooklyn's volunteer firefighters are identical to those required of full time paid firefighters. Our volunteers participate and instruct in local and regional training programs. Members are active participants and hold leadership positions in several associations and organizations that are influential in determining regional and state wide policies in the public safety area. The fire companies are proud of the achievements of their members and feel that attaining these high standards demonstrates to the taxpayers the seriousness of their efforts.

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In addition to responding to alarms of fire and serving as first responders to hazardous materials incidents, each fire company provides first response service to medical emergencies occurring within their respective areas. Early intervention by trained medical responders coupled with rapid transportation to a primary care hospital has shown an improvement in the outcome of critical medical emergencies. Each of the fire companies responds with semi-automatic defibrillators and other state-of-the-art lifesaving equipment. This technology for monitoring and restoring correct cardiac rhythm had improved the chances of survival in certain coronary disorders. The Town participates in the Regional Paramedic Intercept program. This effort allows a paramedic, trained to higher levels than local EMTs, to respond to the scene of an emergency or to intercept the ambulance en route to the hospital. The paramedic can administer drugs and perform other procedures under the direction of the Emergency Room physician.

The response of the federal and state governments to the threat of terrorist activities has brought new training and organizational responsibilities to our fire companies and town government. Mortlake organized and hosted a major regional drill at the Brooklyn Fairgrounds involving many Eastern Connecticut emergency response agencies. These training activities are aimed at sharpening skills in multiple disciplines and in improving coordination and communications between agencies that might not work together regularly. The potential to respond to multiple hazard events requires that our fire companies develop a broader range of skills and capabilities than have theretofore been required.

In small towns such as Brooklyn the volunteer fire departments are the only large trained and disciplined force available to respond to immediate emergency needs of residents. The Town of Brooklyn is fortunate to have an

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adequate supply of volunteer firefighters and mutual aid responders from adjacent communities to handle emergencies that occur at any time, day or night. These firefighters give their time unselfishly to help others and provide the only effective alternative to the very high cost of having to employ emergency responders. However, as the time demands of modern family life increase, it becomes more difficult for each company to retain and recruit new members. One consequence of this situation is that the Mortlake Fire Company now employs one paid ambulance crew, twelve hours a day, seven days a week and will in the future expand the paid manning to eighteen hours a day. The cost of the paid crew is largely covered by receipts from state-regulated ambulance billing.

The skills learned as well as experience and satisfaction received in serving the Town as a volunteer fire fighter or ambulance technician are beneficial, personally rewarding and make it affordable for the Town to provide competent emergency services. Each fire company is eager to explain the responsibilities and rewards of membership and will bend over backwards to make it easy for you to participate. If you think you might be able to serve in one of Brooklyn's fire companies, please contact any firefighter or the Selectman's office.

Ambulance Service

The Mortlake Fire Company provides ambulance service for the Town of Brooklyn. They operate a volunteer ambulance service and maintain a staff of over 30 Connecticut certified Emergency Medical Responders. In addition to responding to emergencies, ambulance volunteers train on a monthly basis and also participate in State of Connecticut mandated training to maintain their certification. Other training activities such as

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a defibrillator, mass casualty, helicopter familiarity and other specialized training are available for members. Increasing call volume (1115 responses during 2017) has placed pressure on the volunteer responders that is beyond their capacity. Following regional trends, starting on January 1, 2007, volunteer response was supplemented with a paid daytime crew.

The ambulance service is operated on a user payment system. All residents who utilize the service bill their respective insurance companies to provide payment for the service. Experience to date has shown that third party payers contribute most of the funds required to operate the service.

The ambulance service is part of a mutual aid network that allows access to neighboring ambulances, or, if needed, other resources such as medical helicopters. A regional paramedic program has been established at Day Kimball Hospital and is partially supported, in proportion to their use of the service, by the towns that operate out of the hospital. This service is dispatched through Quinebaug Valley Emergency Communications located in East Killingly and is available for any life-threatening emergency. The paramedic responds from the hospital and usually intercepts with the ambulance en route to the hospital. Operating under the medical control of the Hospital's Emergency Physician the paramedic is able to administer drugs and provide a wider range of interventions than are EMT's.

Serving as an ambulance volunteer is very rewarding way to develop valuable skills while contributing to the community. Interested residents are encouraged to discuss participating in this worthwhile activity with members of the Mortlake Fire Company.

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Northeast District Department of Health

The Northeast District Department of Health was recognized by the CT Department of Public Health (CT DPH) for being among only 25% of health departments across the State to have delivered all of the essential public health services in Fiscal Year 2016—the first year this was assessed—and among the 44% of departments to have done so in 2017. This recognition is a tribute to all those who work for the District. I cannot thank them enough for all they do—and do so well.

NDDH works in many ways to keep people safe and healthy. Our Putting on Airs program of home visits and medication counseling reduces asthma attacks, asthma-related hospital visits, and missed time at school and work. Our Fall Prevention efforts included training professionals in a form of Tai Ji Quan (TJQ) that effectively reduces falls, and was the catalyst for the *TJQ: Moving for Better Balance* class that opened to rave reviews at the Hale YMCA. Our spoof-song *Gypsy Moth Debris*, written in response to reports of falls on slime from the springtime invasion of caterpillars, went viral sparking great fall-prevention awareness!

In the spring, NDDH worked with CT DPH and WINY Radio to host the very successful *On the Air Water Fair* (resulting in almost 300 local residents receiving free well-water tests for arsenic and uranium) before heading over to Quinebaug Valley Community College to join an outpouring of community partners participating in the *Every Day is Earth Day Environmental Fair*.

NDDH continues to be a leader in efforts to prepare for and respond to public health threats. Our staff help educate emergency response, disaster response, Medical Reserve Corps

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volunteers and others so they will be able to respond if an emergency arises. We participated in the 2016 *CT Mass Fatality Drill* as we might be called upon to open a Family Assistance Center should there ever be a local event with a high number of deaths.

We shared information on the importance of preparedness with food service establishments reminding them that events such as water main breaks or power interruptions are likely to occur and disrupt their ability to operate. We emphasized the philosophy that NDDH is a community partner contributing to their business success. We encouraged healthy menu options with reduced salt, sugar, and fat and provided guidelines for using locally-sourced foods. These are not only healthy choices; they are choices that help support local business. We believe efforts to promote individual well-being are also important for our community's overall well-being. Establishments with delicious, safe and healthy foods are in a better position to attract visitors who contribute to our regional economic well-being!

We are dedicated to working collaboratively to keep northeast CT happy, healthy and safe!

Sueann Sparkes, MPH MS RD

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Subsurface Sewage Disposal	
As-Built	25
B100	64
Plan Review – Comm	0
Plan Review- New	15
Plan Review-Repair	13
Plan review-Revised	10
Plan Review-Subdivision	3
Permit to Construct-Comm	0
Permit to Construct-New	11
Permit to Construct - Repair	12
Sieve Analysis	8
Soil Test-Additional	5
Soil Test – New	17
Soil Test - Repair	8
Tank or Sewer Line	1
Water Treatment Permit	1
Property Doc Search	145
Portable Water	
Well Permit	15
Well Cap	19
Other Water Services	22
Food Service Sanitation	
Restaurant Inspections	69
Restaurant Re-inspection	2
Restaurant Plan Review	2
Temporary Food Event	87
Health Inspections	
Campgrounds	1
Daycare	2
Group Homes	5
Hair Salons	3
Hotel/Motel	1
Medical	0
Nail Salon	0
Pool Inspections	1
Complaints	
Animal or Animal Waste	3
Bed Bugs	1
Food Service	8

Garbage	4
Heat/Water	4
Housing	2
Lead Complaint	0
Insects, Vermin	5
Mold	0
Odor	3
Other	2
Outdoor Wood Furnace/Smoke	0
Septic	3
Health Services	
High Blood Lead Level	2
Lead Poisoning Services	0
Rabies Prevention Services	2
Number of Animals Tested Positive for Rabies	0
Environmental Services	606
Reportable 2016 Communicable Diseases	
Babesiosis	6
Campylobacteriosis	0
Chlamydia	13
Gonorrhea	2
Group B Streptococcus	0
Hepatitis B	0
Hepatitis C	6
Influenza	18
Legionellosis	3
Listeriosis	0
Lyme Disease	6
Rotavirus	0
Salmonellosis	3
Streptococcus pneumoneae	0
Total	57
NDDH Oral Health Screening & Educational Program	
Total Seen	NA
Number with Caries	NA
Number with other dental care needs	NA

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NDDH District Wide Services

- Community Health Education covering a broad range of topics that prevent illness, promote wellness and protect health
- Qualified Food Operator & Food Awareness Safety Training
- Emergency Planning, Preparedness & Response
- Flu Immunizations

Grants (Federal, State & Private Funds):

- **CT Collaboration for Fall Prevention at Yale School of Medicine** to reduce falls and fall-related injuries among older adults by addressing the multi-factorial risk factors through outreach, education, personal empowerment and efforts to expand comprehensive health services
- **CT Department of Public Health (DPH) Lead Poisoning Prevention & Control Program** for lead poisoning surveillance, environmental investigation and case management
- **CT DPH Per-Capita Allocation** for support of local and district departments of health
- **CT DPH Preventive Health and Human Services Block Grant** for environmental and policy strategies to decrease chronic disease
- **CT DPH Putting on AIRS** an In-Home Asthma Trigger Assessment Program to decrease asthma-related hospitalizations and emergency department visits
- **Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Region 4** for the Northeast CT Medical Reserve Corps to build voluntary medical and ancillary care capacity
- **U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services and Centers for Disease Prevention & Control (CDC) Bioterrorism Grant** for Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response

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Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Brooklyn, Connecticut (the "Town") as of and for the year ended June 30, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the town's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the USA and standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation

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and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town as of June 30, 2017, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the USA.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require the Management's Discussion and Analysis and the budgetary comparison information be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic or historical context. We applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the USA, which consisted of inquires of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquires, the basic

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financial statements and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statements. The combining fund financial statements and supplementary schedules are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not required part of the financial statements.

The combining fund financial statements and supplementary schedules are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the USA. In our opinion, the combining and individual fund financial statements and schedules are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated June 20, 2018 on our consideration of the Town's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to

FINANCIAL

describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integrate part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering the Town's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

O'CONNELL, PACE, & COMPANY, P.C.
Certified Public Accountants

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Expenditures

General Government	Final Budget	Actual	Variances
Board Finance	23,900	20,683	3,217
Board of Selectmen	32,230	27,491	4,739
Engineering	20,222	20,222	0
Administration	274,399	265,909	8,490
Revenue Collector	96,062	95,808	254
Assessor	132,018	128,922	3,096
Board of Assessment	550	150	400
Recording	120,023	116,833	3,190
Elections	32,419	26,328	6,091
Legal	17,500	4,770	12,730
Probate	9,710	9,709	1
Town Hall	59,597	58,743	854
Central Supplies	68,089	68,089	0
Ethics	3,000	1,525	1,475
Total	889,719	845,182	44,537

Public Safety	Final Budget	Actual	Variances
Canine Control	26,000	26,000	0
Patrol Services	199,748	179,209	20,539
Fire Marshal	62,240	62,240	0
Fire Facilities	445,891	445,892	(1)
Emergency Services	36,989	36,989	0
Homeland Security	4,700	3,642	1,058
Total	775,568	753,972	21,996

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Public Works	Final Budget	Actual	Variances
Roads & Drainage	451,707	410,582	41,125
Maintenance & Equipment	83,500	76,611	6,889
Snow Removal	84,400	72,850	11,550
Garage Maintenance	26,869	25,756	1,113
Resource Recovery	225,617	221,761	3,856
Building Official	71,942	71,269	673
Total	944,035	878,829	65,206

Human Services	Final Budget	Actual	Variances
Health	73,406	73,406	0
Cemeteries	5,000	5,000	0
Total	78,406	78,406	0

Civic & Cultural	Final Budget	Actual	Variances
Library	135,030	135,030	0
Transit District	13,619	13,619	0
Special Programs	6,250	3,747	2,503
Recreation	310,795	294,252	16,543
Park Maintenance	106,142	93,572	12,570
Community Center	23,387	23,387	0
Clifford B. Green Bldg	24,571	24,671	0
Total	619,894	588,278	31,616

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Development & Planning	Final Budget	Actual	Variances
Planning & Zoning	15,924	8,159	7,765
Zoning Board of Appeal	1,000	189	811
Agriculture Commission	2,300	1,630	670
Conservation Commission	2,725	1,195	1,530
Inland/Wetland Commission	6,220	2,101	4,119
Land Use Admin/Planner	109,829	109,829	0
Economic Development Commission	4,000	2,065	1,935
Open Space	8,254	8,254	0
Total	150,252	133,422	16,830

Sundry	Final Budget	Actual	Variances
Contingency	371,027	0	371,027
Fringe Benefits	554,473	545,183	9,290
Municipal Insurance	131,223	129,428	1,795
Long Term Debt Service	39,220	39,220	0
Short Term Debt Service	793,082	786,420	6,662
Total	1,889,025	1,500,251	388,774

Total Government	5,346,899	4,778,340	568,559
Total Board of Education	17,487,787	17,487,787	0
Total Expenditures	22,834,686	22,266,127	568,559
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures – Budgetary Basis	(69,766)	179,328	249,094

TOWN OFFICES TELEPHONE NUMBERS

		Option
First Selectman's Office	860-779-3411	# 2
Financial Department	860-779-3411	# 8
Town Clerk	860-779-3411	# 4
Assessor	860-779-3411	# 6
Tax Collector	860-779-3411	# 5
Recreation	860-779-3411	# 7
Land Use Administrator	860-779-3411	# 9
Water Pollution Control Authority	860-779-3411	# 8
Fire Marshal	860-779-3411	# 9
Building Official	860-779-3411	# 9
Director of Highway Department	860-779-3411	# 3
Animal Control Officer	860-774-1253	
Landfill Attendant	860-779-1105	
Housing Authority	860-779-3339	
Resident Trooper	860-779-9008	

Other Frequently Requested Numbers

UConn Extension Center	860-774-9600
Quinebaug Valley Senior Center	860-774-1243
NE District Department of Health	860-774-7350
Brooklyn Fair Grounds	860-779-0012
Brooklyn Post Office	860-774-4449
Brooklyn Library	860-774-0649
Judge of Probate	860-928-4844
NE Children's Probate Court	860-928-4833
Casella Waste – Recycling	888-485-1469
NE CT Council of Government	860-774-1253
Mortlake Fire Department	860-774-2032
East Brooklyn Fire Department	860-774-1192
First Student Bus Garage	860-779-1256
Troop D – non-emergencies	860-779-4900

EMERGENCIES 911

SCHOOL & HISTORICAL SITES

School Officials & Telephone Numbers

Brooklyn Schools

Louise Berry, Superintendent	860-774-9153
Alan Yanku, Middle School Principal	860-774-9153
Frances Rotella, Elementary Principal	860-774-7577

Killingly High School	860-779-6620
Woodstock Academy	860-928-6575
H.H. Ellis Tech	860-774-8511

Historical Sites

Old Trinity Church – Located on Church Street, Built in 1771 by Col. Godfrey Malbone, a Tory, after a disagreement with Brooklyn Church.

Old Court House – Located in Brooklyn Center, Presently the Brooklyn Town Hall, built when Brooklyn became the County Seat in 1820.

Old Unitarian Church – Located in Brooklyn Center, Built as Congregational Church in 1771, Isreal Putnam was Sexton after completion of Church.

Isreal Putnam Monument – Located in Brooklyn Center, At his burial place.

CHURCH SERVICES

Federated Church of Christ

Sundays.....10:00am

www.federatedchurchbrooklynct.org

Our Lady of LaSalette Church

Sundays.....8:00am & 11:00am

(Roman Catholic)

Trinity-Episcopal Church

Sundays.....10:00am

Wednesdays.....Bible Study 7pm

www.trinitychurchbrooklyn.org

Old Trinity Church

July & August.....5:00pm & All Saints Day.....11:00am

Unitarian Universalist Society

April-December @ Brooklyn Green Rte 6&169.....10:30am

Jan-April @ Brooklyn Community Center.....10:30am

(Semi-monthly Sunday)

Facebook: Unitarian Universalist Society in Brooklyn

Community Bible Chapel

Sundays.....11:00am

Wednesdays.....7:00pm

Family Bible Hour and Sunday School

EDUCATION

BROOKLYN SCHOOLS

Superintendent's Annual Report
2016-17

Mission Statement

The Brooklyn School will foster a drive for learning within each student that will allow that student to reach his/her greatest potential. To achieve this mission, the school will continually improve its education programs and services to meet the needs of all students and to meet this community's expectations for a quality education for all.

School Officials

Dr. Mary Conway, Interim Superintendent, 860-774-9732
Alan Yanku, Middle School Principal, 860-774-9153
Shelley Michaud, Elementary School Principal 860-774-7577

The school system is governed by a six-member Board of Education through a committee structure and when appropriate involves members of the school staff and the community. Board members serve on a variety of committees such as Budget, Curriculum, Negotiations, High School and Policy. The Brooklyn Board of Education also has representatives on the Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees and EASTCONN Regional Education Center.

2016-2017 Board of Education

Chair: Aimee Genna	Eric Anderson
Vice Chair: Kelly Coddling	Mae Lyons
Secretary: Keith Atchinson	Joan Trivella

EDUCATION

The Brooklyn Public Schools is fortunate to have such dedicated community members who serve as Board of Education members. They are dedicated to what is best for the students of Brooklyn and give of their time and talents to promote the highest quality of education possible. They take pride in the students of Brooklyn and work tirelessly to ensure all students receive a high quality education.

School Improvement Plans and Activities

The Brooklyn Public Schools worked to articulate the goals of the objective through the creation of building and district goals. These goals tied into the work of the building administrators, teachers and was reported to the Board of Education. The areas for growth were identified and monitored. Staff worked with new administrators at Brooklyn Elementary School and developed one and multi-year plans to support the achievement of students.

Enrollment

The Brooklyn Public Schools enrollment has declined slightly over the past 5 years. The following is the October 1st student count.

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	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Change in 5 yrs
Brooklyn Elementary	548	536	521	512	545	-3
Brooklyn Middle School	374	373	372	353	346	-29
Killingly High School	122	119*	114	112	121	-1
Woodstock Academy	183	183*	168	195	167	-15
Other High Schools	87	76	116	104	86	-1
Out of District IEP					19	
Total Students	1,314	1,287	1,291	1,276	1,314	0

*estimated number

Brooklyn has maintained a good class size PK-8. Students attending preschool are able to attend 2, 3 and 5 day a week programs. Many families report moving to Brooklyn because of the school system, specifically the preschool opportunities. Brooklyn is able to offer preschool to every child. The preschool classes are located in the beautiful Luise Berry Early Childhood Center which is a modern preschool-kindergarten building attached to the Brooklyn Elementary school. Students are educated in an inclusive model of education and receive services required under 504 and IDEA.

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Budget

The Board Of Education budget for the 2016-17 school year was approved at \$17,418,021. On March 22, 2017 the Board of Education approved a 1.006% increase for the 2017-18 school year resulting in a budget of \$17,593,353.

Budget Summary by Account

Object	Account	2015-16	2016-17
100	Salaries	\$7,214,833	\$7,405,251
200	Employee Benefits	\$2,283,759	\$2,267,502
300	Purchased Services	\$316,347	\$403,600
400	Purchased Property	\$167,000	\$144,300
500	Services	\$6,707,091	\$6,489,565
600	Supplies & Materials	\$641,991	\$619,553
700	Property	\$47,000	\$38,250
800	Dues & Fees	\$40,000	\$50,000
900	Other-Contingency	\$0	\$0
Total		\$17,418,021	\$17,418,021

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The administration works tirelessly to ensure that students and staff have what they need to offer high quality programming for students. In addition to receiving funds from the Town of Brooklyn, the Brooklyn Public Schools receives grant funding to support education, services and teachers. Grant funds are received from Title I, II, IDEA, School Readiness and Adult Education. These funds exceed \$600,000 and are used to offset the cost of preschool education, special education services, and intervention instruction such as reading and mathematics.

Curriculum and Programming:

The Brooklyn Public Schools is an exceptional school district for children in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. Our Louise Berry Early Childhood Center received re-accreditation in Preschool and kindergarten from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The success and popularity of our preschool programming has resulted in very full classes during the 2017-18 school year.

Our students are performing at or above the State of Connecticut on most areas of state testing. The administrators and teachers continue to find ways to improve our performance in all areas but have selected areas of focus through the school improvement plans in 2016-17 and in the School and District Advancement plans for the 2017-18 school year.

Teacher of the Year

The Brooklyn Public Schools community is thrilled to have Enrica represent the Brooklyn as Teacher of the Year! Enrica has been described by her peers and supervisors as: Supportive, caring, dedicated and committed to the welfare of our students! Enrica has a pulse on what is happening with

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her students and in their families. She will go above and beyond to ensure that her students are cared for and prepared to be successful in school. She makes a difference in the lives of her students. Enrica began teaching in 2000 and has taught grades 4, 6 and is currently serving as a grade 5 teacher! She is an outstanding language arts teacher.

Enrica has also served on interview committees, has served as the Brooklyn Educators Association President, and gives of her time and energy by participating in extracurricular events such as cross country meets and recently spent an entire Saturday attending the Teachers College Readers and Writers Workshop to enhance her teaching skills.

Community Involvement

Brooklyn Public Schools collaborates with the Brooklyn Parks and Recreation to offer before and after school care at Brooklyn Elementary School. Students are also able to attend the summer recreation program housed at Brooklyn Elementary School. Brooklyn Public Schools supports the program by creating a location for the program and supporting some of the custodial needs for this program.

Brooklyn Parks and Recreation supports the schools through these offerings and maintaining the walkways in the snow and the ball fields during the sports seasons. There are many activities that are offered through Parks and Recreation that are held in the schools which students and families participate in.

The Department of Public works collaborates with the Brooklyn Public Schools to remove snow from the driveways and parking lots. They communicate with school

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administration to ensure school lots are cleared when staff and students begin arriving for school.

School Facilities

In June 2017 as soon as school was dismissed for the summer a roofing project began on the schools. Brooklyn Middle School had the entire roof replaced. This flat roof required work to remove the current stone, replace the insulation and then reapply the stone. At Brooklyn Elementary school, a significant portion of the roof was replaced with a beautiful blue metal roof. The Rose wing and the Louise Berry Early Childhood Center roof was not replaced.

Brooklyn Parent Teacher Organization

The Brooklyn PTO is very active at Brooklyn Elementary School and supports students, teachers and families. The welcome families back to school at their annual BBQ! This is a huge community event that includes boy scouts and fire department members preparing and serving hamburgers and hotdogs. Students and their families have a wonderful time greeting each other and playing outside before entering the building to visit their child's new teacher. The PTO also sponsors a holiday event and showcases student works and talents. The PTO meets monthly to determine how to best meet the needs of the schools. We are very grateful to the PTO for their generous involvement and support.

Respectfully submitted by: Patricia L. Buell, Superintendent