

**BROOKLYN, CT**

<b>LOCATION:</b>	Geographical Center of Windham County
<b>AREA:</b>	29 Square Miles
<b>MILES OF ROAD:</b>	60
<b>INCORPORATED:</b>	1786
<b>GOVERNMENT:</b>	Town Meeting Board of Selectmen Board of Finance
<b>POPULATION:</b>	8,280

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

History of Brooklyn .....	3
Town Officials .....	7
<b>General Government</b>	
Selectman’s Report .....	10
Veterans .....	11
Building Official .....	11
Town Clerk .....	12
Treasurer .....	13
Revenue Collector.....	14
Assessor .....	15
Board of Assessment Appeals .....	17
Registrar of Voters.....	18
Recreation Commission .....	21
Economic Development Commission.....	25
Conservation Commission .....	27
<b>Services</b>	
Library Associations .....	31
Animal Services .....	34
Brooklyn Resource Recovery .....	35
Board of Fire Commissioners .....	36
Volunteer Fire Companies .....	36
Ambulance Service .....	40
Northeast District Department of Health .....	41
<b>Financial</b>	
Auditors Report.....	45
Budget for year end 6/30/2018 .....	49
<b>Town Offices Telephone Numbers .....</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>School &amp; Historical Sites .....</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Church Services .....</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Education – Brooklyn Schools .....</b>	<b>55</b>

# 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 manpower. 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 investigated 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  
Joseph Voccio, Wayne Jolley

## **Selectman's Office**

Richard Ives – First Selectman  
Melissa Bradley – Administrative Assistant

## **Finance Department**

Kelly Vachon – Finance Director  
Shelly Cates – Finance Assistant

## **Building Office**

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

## **Land Use/Planning & Zoning Office**

Jana Butts Roberson – Land Use Administrator  
Margaret Washburn – 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**

Mae Lyons – Chairperson

## **Board of Assessment Appeals**

Buddy Conroy – 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**

Robert Kiley, Jr. – Chairperson

## **Planning & Zoning Commission**

Michelle Sigfridson – Chairperson

# TOWN OFFICIALS

---

## **Zoning Board of Appeals**

Dan Ross – Chairperson

## **Board of Fire Commissioners**

Richard Ives – 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, Charlene Hill, Richard  
Ives, Henry Jeffs, Robert Kelleher, Jessica A. Maclean, Leona  
Mainville, William Morrone, James Paquin,  
Lisa Roberts-Sangillo

## **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](http://www.brooklynct.org)

# GENERAL GOVERNMENT

---

## First Selectman's Report

The Town receives intergovernmental revenues from the State of Connecticut. Connecticut's economy moves in the same general cycle as the national economy, which from time to time will affect the amount of governmental revenues the Town will receive.

The Town's general fund unreserved balance is \$798,447 at year end June 30, 2019.

The Town's revenue is comprised of 59% property taxes, 37% grants and contributions, 3% charged services, and 1% investments. The Town's expenditure is comprised of 79% education, 6% general government, 7% public works, and 8% remainder of government expenses.

Major capital asset events during the current fiscal year are: school playscape, school energy and heating improvements, new BOE tech software, new generator, new highway department leaf vac, and various parking lot and road improvements.

Long term debt outstanding is \$6,330,224. A decrease due to the pay down of the Bond Anticipation Note.

Housing stats for single family dwellings increased from 12 fiscal year end June 30, 2018 to 24 fiscal year end June 30, 2019. 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

# **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

---

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

## **Veterans**

Brooklyn held the annual Memorial Day parade on Monday, May 27, 2019. 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, Molly Landis and Alyssa Newson 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, 2019 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, 2018 to June 30, 2019, three hundred sixty (369) building permits were issued valued at

# GENERAL GOVERNMENT

---

\$10,340,000. 3 permits were renewed and 24 were new homes. Total receipts to the Town were \$101,510 in permit fees. There were also 24 apartment inspections done with receipts equaling \$360. 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.

## **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 1370 land records in 2018 and maintains over 620 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](http://www.uslandrecords.com). Survey and subdivision maps are also filed in the office and are now available electronically for printing. Forty-eight maps were recorded and reproduced in 2018. Over 2600 maps are on file. A total of \$265,099 in fees were collected with 35% 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 2018, 73 births, 62 marriages and 81 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.

# GENERAL GOVERNMENT

---

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](http://www.ctwildlifelicense.com).

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**

As the Town Treasurer, the Treasurer promotes transparency, efficiency, and accountability to the Brooklyn residents and taxpayers.

The Treasurer is part of the Finance Department. This department's duties are budget, banking, revenue collection, purchasing, payroll, and financial reporting. Also, enforcing accounting oversight, Town must abide by generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) set forth by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). Finance department policies help the town do this.

Stephanie Levin  
Treasurer

# GENERAL GOVERNMENT

---

## 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 1<sup>st</sup>, October 1<sup>st</sup>, January 1<sup>st</sup>, and April 1<sup>st</sup>. East Brooklyn Fire District taxes are due once a year on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Motor vehicle taxes are due July 1<sup>st</sup>. Sewer usage taxes are due twice a year July 1<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>. Bills are mailed each year in July. Motor Vehicle Supplemental taxes are due January 1<sup>st</sup>. 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, 2017 Grand list totaled \$16,128,300.00 Collections resulted as follows:

Type of Tax Bill	Amount Collected	Percent Collected
Real Estate	\$12,472,579	99.00%
Personal Property	\$1,221,973	99.00%
Motor Vehicle	\$1,549,910	97.00%
Motor Vehicle Supplemental	\$305,889	96.00%
Sewer Usage	\$337,567	97.00%
CML Sewer	\$182,845	99.00%
East Brooklyn Fire District	\$57,537	99.00%

# GENERAL GOVERNMENT

---

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 28.92 mills, then the taxpayer’s bill is \$289.20.

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

## Assessor

### October 1, 2017 Taxable Grand List

Real Estate	\$ 450,842,928
Personal Property	\$ 43,800,190
Motor Vehicles	<u>\$ 57,624,685</u>
Total	\$ 552,267,803

The total grand list represented an overall increase of .60 % from the October 1, 2016 Grand List.



# GENERAL GOVERNMENT

---

## Tax Relief Programs/Exemptions Filing Date

- Ambulance/Handicapped Vehicle Exemption – October 1st
- Elderly and/or Totally Disabled Homeowners Program\* February 1<sup>st</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup>
- Elderly and/or Totally Disabled Renters Program\* April 1<sup>st</sup> to October 1st
- Veterans Exemption (DD214) Before October 1<sup>st</sup>
- Additional Veterans\* February 1<sup>st</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup>
- Farm Building Exemption – November 1<sup>st</sup>
- Farm Machinery & Equipment – November 1<sup>st</sup>
- Manufacturing Machinery & Equipment – November 1<sup>st</sup>
- New Commercial Trucks – November 1<sup>st</sup>
- Totally Disabled Exemption – January 31st

\*Income based

Property field cards are available online at [www.vgsi.com](http://www.vgsi.com)

Assessor maps are available online at [www.neccog.org](http://www.neccog.org)

Both sites can be accessed from the assessor's webpage at [www.brooklynct.org](http://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](http://www.brooklynct.org)

Kathleen M. Thornton, CCMA II  
Assessor

# GENERAL GOVERNMENT

---

## 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 Statute, 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 20 for the March hearing.

The petition can be accessed on the Assessor's page of the Town's web site, [www.brooklynct.org](http://www.brooklynct.org), or by contacting the Assessor's office.

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

Buddy Conroy, Chairperson  
Joanne Eiler, Board Member  
Justin Phaiah, Board Member

# GENERAL GOVERNMENT

---

## Registrars of Voters

### **Annual Canvass and Voting History:**

- The annual canvass of voters is presently being conducted in compliance with Connecticut General Statutes. The canvass of electors is being 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 as well as ROAST. 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 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 a great deal 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. The Registrars use these reports in addition to the ones provided for our canvass at the beginning of the year.

### **Mandated Voter Enrollment Sessions:**

- The Registrars did not hold the state mandated (Sec. 9-17) enrollment sessions at Woodstock Academy and Killingly High School during March and April

# GENERAL GOVERNMENT

---

because of the closing of schools due to the Covid-19 Virus. Possibly in the fall the Registrars can hold the sessions in the schools before the November election.

- The registrars held the mandated extra day-long enrollment sessions throughout the year to permit eligible residents to register as voters prior to the Primary in August 2019 and the November 2019 elections.
- In addition, during the day of the November election, the Registrars conducted an ‘Election Day Registration - EDR’ process at the Registrar’s Office which also attracted another an additional list of new voters to register and vote in the November 2019 Election.

## **Required Training:**

- The registrars attended the ROVAC Fall Conference– September 12-13, 2019. The ROVAC Spring Conference was canceled due to the Covid-19 Virus. These conferences are an on-going effort to comply with Secretary 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.

## **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

---

- Jo Ann Gerardi-Voccio, present Republican Registrar successfully completed the Eight ROVAC Certification Sessions required for all Registrars in a two-year period. She also passed the Certification Exam on August 6, 2019 and is now a certified Registrar.
- 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.
- Elections were held on November 5, 2019 and then a recount was held on November 13, 2019. The final run off election was held on November 26, 2019.

### **Election Results:**

- Primaries: There was a Municipal Republican Primary held this year on September 10, 2019. The ballot consisted of Austin Tanner/Lou Brodeur vs AJ Kerouac/Wayne Jolley. The republicans who won the primary were Austin Tanner/Lou Brodeur who went on to run against Democrat Incumbents Rick Ives/Joe Voccio on November 5, 2019
- Municipal Election: The election was held on November 5, 2019 and the tally of votes were close which forced a recount between Ives, Tanner, Brodeur and Voccio. Ives was the clear winner of the First Selectman seat and Brodeur for the Selectman. Next the recount was to determine the additional Selectman's seat between Tanner and Voccio. On

# GENERAL GOVERNMENT

---

November 13, 2019 the recount was completed with a tie between Tanner and Voccio. That count forced a Runoff election to be held on November 26, 2019. Austin Tanner was the winner of the Runoff election. The cost for just the salaries for all three days was \$8752.85. Food and miscellaneous items were extra.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Jo Ann Gerardi-Voccio  
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

During the 2018-19 fiscal year, the department hosted annual events and seasonal programming. The Before School Program (for grades K-6<sup>th</sup>) and After School Program (for grades K-6<sup>th</sup>) were once again available to our residents. Both programs are near or at capacity throughout the year. We also offered our Full Day Recreation Program, which is available from 8am-4pm on staff development days at the Brooklyn Schools. This was also open to students in grades K-6<sup>th</sup>. The Brooklyn TEEN Center was open until November of 2018 and had served students in grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>. The members did participate in the annual Halloween event, Spooky Nights, helping to entertain our littlest guests in the Not so Spooky House.

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

---

The Summer Day Camp Program & TEEN Camp had over 150 campers for the 2018 season. Campers enjoyed daily camp activities and weekly field trips at both camps. Summer Day Camp is open to students grades K-5<sup>th</sup> and TEEN Camp is open to 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

The Summer Slam Basketball Clinic was once again offered in July and is available to Summer Day Campers as well as all other interested area youths. Our fitness programs, such as Staying Fit with Nate – our newest fitness instructor and favorites with Christina's such as Running Club, Sunrise Fitness and Boot Camp offered many options for staying fit and active. Baton Twirling was well attended, and our participants were able to participate in our Memorial Day event. Adult Open Gym ran from November through February at the Middle School Gym. We also offered Craft Classes with Karen for both youth and adults. Ski Club for our Brooklyn Middle School students was again offered and was very popular.

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 has seen an increase of request for assistance over the past few years and the department is always fortunate to have many residents and businesses step forward to fill those needs. Many children entered our Coloring Contest with entries displayed at the Brooklyn Post Office. We thank the Post Office and staff for their yearly assistance with this program. Our Spooky Nights event held at the Brooklyn Fairgrounds during one weekend in October was a success again this year. Attendants enjoyed a hay wagon ride through

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

---

haunted scenes, including actors portraying scary characters, a “haunted house” located in the Better Living Building, a less scary haunted house for the younger attendees, and a bonfire 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 trips are offered in both the Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter Brochures. As in the past, many area residents 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 a trip the Boston Christmas Festival for the first time. All the department’s trips, programs and events are listed in our semi-annual brochures, mailed to all Brooklyn households in August and January. Information can also be accessed on the town website. You can also stay up-to-date with our department’s programs and events by following us on Facebook at Town of Brooklyn Parks & Recreation. Flyer updates are handed out in the Brooklyn Schools to all students. Many registration forms are also available online.

The Parks & Recreation Department maintains our town parks and many non-recreational areas in town also including monuments, school fields and snow removal on Route 6 sidewalks, town building entryways and parking lots. The Michael Dragon Complex at Prince Hill Park continues to be a popular facility used by leagues and individuals throughout the year. This park saw the addition of a new playscape this year, in a new and more visible location. It also includes 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 also used as a “home” field for the Brooklyn school’s softball



## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

---

team. The Brooklyn School Cross Country Team 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. This is also the location of our Concerts at Riverside series each September. Davis Park's 18-hole Disc Golf Course is available 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 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

# GENERAL GOVERNMENT

---

## **Economic Development Commission**

There were discussions regarding the lack of accomplishment of the EDC in the last 5 years with members expressing frustration as to the role and future of the commission. Meetings were scheduled every other month this year until the commission felt it could better define its mission and purpose in the town.

There was a Special Meeting on April 2, 2019 attended by the commission members, town officials and interested citizens to discuss Branding. Below is a list of some of the subjects:

- How can the town become a destination for people to do business and to visit?
- How can the town make better use of Social Media to communicate within the town and with people from the outside?
- How can the town make better use of its attractions?
  - Fair Grounds
  - Revolutionary history
  - Commercial Corridor
  - Parks
  - Other??
- How can the town evolve and attract new people and industry (what type of businesses would fit)?
- How do people remember the old town and decide what they want to evolve to?
- How can the town website be improved to communicate within the town and what do people need to be able to access to make it more helpful?
- How can the next revision of the Plan of Conservation and Development be better communicated to various boards, organizations and businesses in the town?

Responses to these questions were mostly negative or unenthusiastic. A follow up meeting was only lightly attended and the concept of Branding the town was tabled.

# GENERAL GOVERNMENT

---

After much discussion in subsequent meetings, the commissioners believe that the town needs Professional leadership, financed by the town, which would do the following:

- Be a contact agency for development in the town so that business or development efforts would have a go to person to help with procedures and regulations.
- Possibly provide access to resources that would help development; these resources may already be researched and developed through the state or other consulting bodies. This professional could make these tools available on request instead of making anyone with a project do all the heavy lifting alone.
- This would be someone who could be privy to opportunities or happenings in Brooklyn regarding economic development and keep the commission informed and help with planning on a timely basis. They could make this information available to people from the outside seeking this information.
- An active paid staff member of the town could set proper development goals that are reachable and realistic for successful economic development to occur. The commission could then act as a sounding board, provide voluntary support when needed and act as a buffer between this person and town leadership.

A professional with experience and knowledge would be vital in helping these volunteers reach goals that would benefit Brooklyn. The Economic Development Commission members needs to see a willingness to discuss the commitment of the Town of Brooklyn to support development. Until a commitment to discuss this new mission of the commission is agreed to by town leadership, the commission members agreed that no future meetings will be scheduled in 2020.

# GENERAL GOVERNMENT

---

Robert Simons  
Chairperson

## Conservation Commission

The Brooklyn Conservation Commission proudly presents our annual report for the year 2019.

The Conservation Commission is a seven-member volunteer board appointed by the Board of Selectman whose purpose is to protect and conserve the plants, animals and natural resources in the Town. In 2019, the Commission had four members – Diane Wimmer, Jeannine Noel, Dana Heilemann and Carolyn Teed-Ives. Carolyn Teed-Ives was appointed to the Commission in March 2019. Diane Wimmer continued in her position as Chair and handled treasurer duties as well. The Commission continued to function within a reduced budget. April Lamothe was the Recording Secretary.

The Commission maintains a Facebook page. It is updated regularly with events, photos, conservation topics and local information. The Commission also updates its page on the town's website. <https://www.brooklynct.org/conservation-commission>

### **Activities\Projects\Grants**

The Sustainable CT project was approved by the Board of Selectmen in January 2019. Jeannine Noel registered the town in the program. An Advisory Sustainability Team comprised of the Conservation Commission was formed by the Board of Selectmen. Special meetings were held in 2019 to work on Sustainable CT. In May 2019, Colleen Dollard, Sustainable CT Municipal Support Liaison, met with the Commission. Colleen Dollard was working with the eastern Connecticut towns that are registered with Sustainable CT.

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

---

She did some background research of Brooklyn to see if any actions have been completed and found the Town has been involved in low impact solutions, rain barrels, pollinator workshop, pay by the bag for garbage, among others, which can be counted. Diane Wimmer also met with the Ag Commission and Alexis Meehan from Sustainable CT concerning future events.

At Family Fun Day, Diane Wimmer set up a planting table. Approximately 150 children planted sunflower seeds in pots. Extra supplies were given to Parks and Recreation for their Summer Camp. The town held an Earth Day event in which Commission members participated by picking up trash, cleaning trails and planting wildflower seeds purchased from the Vermont Wildflower Farm. The Commission purchased two honeybee seed mixes, one deer resistant seed pack, hummingbird/butterfly seed mix, and a deluxe mix. The Commission planted the seeds on June 15, 2019, at Riverside Park. Diane Wimmer set up a tri-fold display at the Brooklyn Fair in conjunction with the Brooklyn Agriculture Commission. The display was entitled “Protect Your Water!” to educate the community on protecting our ground water. Commission members attended a Walktober event hosted by the Ag Commission on November 2, 2019. The state archeologist led a walk from Langvin’s property to Davis Park discussing the fishing history from old piers to Native American fishing spots. The Commission installed a rain barrel at the town hall in July 2019. The rain barrel was part of a project led by the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District. Jeannine Noel painted the rain barrel and won a \$25.00 gift certificate to be used to purchase plants for the town.

Diane Wimmer and Jeannine Noel attended the April 30, 2019, Quinebaug Solar Energy Center public meeting

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

---

concerning the proposed solar farm in Brooklyn. Some of the land is farmland and 54 acres will be cleared for the solar panels. The project has a 20-year use, but a 30-year plan, which includes decommission and returning the land back. Meadows and screening plants will be planted. If approved, the project would start early 2020 and be completed in 2020-2021.

The walking trails throughout Brooklyn and the Disc Golf Course at Davis Forest continue to be enjoyed by residents. Trail maps can be found on the Conservation Commission's page on the Town's website under "Links" and "Brooklyn Trails".

Jeannine Noel attended 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.

### **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.

# GENERAL GOVERNMENT

---

During the year of 2019, the Brooklyn Conservation Commission reviewed a conservation easement swap along Route 169. The Commission submitted recommendations. The Commission preliminarily reviewed two applications for gravel pits that were submitted to IWWC for two pits off Rukstela Road and one pit off Maynard Road (Potvin Pit). The applications were held pending further information and review.

## **Training**

During 2019, Brooklyn Conservation Commission members attended local conservation and land use educational training events and free webinars at <http://clear.uconn.edu/>. These trainings and workshops are essential in developing the skills necessary to protect open space and the environment for future Brooklyn residents. Diane Wimmer and Jeannine Noel attended the Pollinator Plants Workshop held March 5, 2019 at the UConn Windham County Extension. The Commission continues to be a member of CACIWC and to receive copies of The Habitat newsletter quarterly. (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 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Tuesdays and Saturdays 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Thursdays and Fridays 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM. 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](mailto: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, chrome books 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, <http://www.brooklyntownlibrary.org> From this website, you can access Tumblebooks which has animated, talking picture books and read-alongs for children. Using Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome as your browser, you may access Consumer Reports Online with our 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



## SERVICES

---

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 1,500 ebooks and eaudiobooks. For Brooklyn residents only, the library has purchased the new online Zinio magazine collection and Artist Works 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 and eBooks for their computers, MP3 players and iPods. The Brooklyn Library is a member of the Connecticut Library database FindIT CT, 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 State Library also provides patrons with access to the state's online databases at research IT CT One Search found on the library homepage <http://www.brooklyntownlibrary.org>

## SERVICES

---

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

Mystic Seaport	CT Science Center
Mystic Aquarium	Roger Williams Park
Zoo	
DEEP No Child Left Inside Day Pass	Wadsworth
Atheneum Art Pass	
CT's Old State House	Florence Griswold
Museum	

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, books 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 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 include Friendship Valley, the Israel Putnam Statue, the Town Pump, the Unitarian Church, Old Trinity, the Brooklyn Library, Mortlake Firehouse, and the Copper Beech Tree. Also available are Cat's Meow Christmas Ornaments of the library and Mortlake Firehouse. These may be purchased at the library. Proceeds from Friends' projects support library programs that include, but are not limited to, funds for Library Passes and the Book Discussion Group.

# SERVICES

---

Wendy E. Harrington, President  
Brooklyn Town Library Association

## 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).

<b>Brooklyn 2018</b>	
Impound Dogs	34
Adopted Dogs	11
Impounded Cats	12
Adopted Cats	6
Redeemed Animals	21
Investigations	99

# SERVICES

---

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 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 second 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.

# **SERVICES**

---

## **Board of Fire Commissioners**

The Brooklyn Board of Fire Commissioners is responsible for establishing policies 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 overseeing the activities of the independent volunteer fire departments as they relate to the public and the Town's Government. Current members are 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 approved 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, duty cycles anticipated and effecting a nominal 25% reduction in replacement capital cost.

## **Volunteer Fire Companies**

Brooklyn's volunteer fire companies operate out of two 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 station on Canterbury Road in Brooklyn Center. Each Company is a non-profit corporation responsible for its own operations. The Town supplies funds to cover operating expenses, worker's

# SERVICES

---

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.

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 taxpayer-supported emergency services 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

# SERVICES

---

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.

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 has 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

## SERVICES

---

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 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.



# SERVICES

---

## 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 refresher training to maintain their certification. Other training activities such as a defibrillator, mass casualty, helicopter familiarity and other specialized training are available for members. Increasing call volume (1124 responses during 2019) 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

# SERVICES

---

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.

## **Northeast District Department of Health**

NDDH is proud to have worked with great public health partners from across the region and the nation this year. We partnered the National Network of Libraries of Medicine to increase awareness of the availability of reliable health information and education resources and with local librarians, shelters food pantries and police to provide free Hepatitis A vaccines to vulnerable populations. We ran free flu vaccination clinics for adults and children with vaccine provided by the State Department of Public Health (DPH) and responded to threats of measles outbreaks by encouraging routine childhood vaccinations. NDDH and the Uncas Health District implemented *Freedom from Smoking*—the American Lung Association's smoking cessation program. NDDH secured free radon test kits from DPH and distributed them to residents over the winter in an effort to reduce exposure to radon—the leading cause of lung cancer among people who don't smoke.

This spring, the CT Office of Rural Health provided funds for our Vial of Life program. Vial of Life kits make medical information readily available should there be a health emergency. Local first responders report that these kits save precious minutes when they respond to life-threatening events. We distributed the kits through partnerships with town

## SERVICES

---

halls, local fire and emergency response personnel, senior centers and other community partners. Our HealthQuest coalition partners collaborated on fall prevention efforts—including a hugely successful veterans stand down event at Quinebaug Valley Community College. We collaborated with the Last Green Valley to promote walking and with RiMaConn to promote running.

Over the past year, we promoted handwashing and safe food practices, tobacco avoidance, timely immunizations, physical activity (while avoiding ticks, mosquitoes and stray animals of course), adequate sleep and so much more, because we are in the business of prevention. We work to prevent chronic conditions such as asthma, obesity, heart disease, diabetes and infectious disease, such as the flu. We are spreading a message of hope to all those struggling with addiction because we know that recovery is possible. We do it all to make this a healthy community—healthy in terms of physical, mental, social and economic well-being. We do it to keep kids in school and the frail out of hospitals. We do it to prevent the impact illness makes on individuals—and on those who care for them. We do this so we can see you out and about enjoying the beauty of northeast Connecticut and the company of good neighbors.

We are dedicated to working collaboratively to keep northeast CT happy, healthy and safe and are so grateful to everyone who support the goals of public health. Thank you for all you do!

*Susan Starkey, MPH MS RD*

Susan Starkey, MPH, MS, RD  
Director of Health

# SERVICES

<b>Subsurface Sewage Disposal</b>	
As-Built	32
B100	41
Plan Review – Comm	0
Plan Review- New	22
Plan Review-Repair	17
Plan review-Revised	5
Plan Review-Subdivision	1
Permit to Construct-Comm	0
Permit to Construct-New	29
Permit to Construct - Repair	17
Sieve Analysis	0
Soil Test-Additional	5
Soil Test – New	5
Soil Test - Repair	17
Tank or Sewer Line	13
Water Treatment Permit	12
Property Doc Search	116
<b>Portable Water</b>	
Well Permit	14
Other Water Services	7
<b>Food Service Sanitation</b>	
Restaurant Inspections	51
Restaurant Re-inspection	0
Restaurant Plan Review	2
Temporary Food Event	84
<b>Health Inspections</b>	
Campgrounds	1
Daycare	2
Group Homes	2
Hair Salons	6
Hotel/Motel	1
Medical	0
Nail Salon	0
Pool Inspections	1
<b>Complaints</b>	
Animal or Animal Waste	0
Bed Bugs	2
Food Service	6
Garbage	7

Heat/Water	2
Housing	8
Lead Complaint	1
Insects, Vermin	0
Mold	0
Odor	0
Other	1
Outdoor Wood Furnace/Smoke	1
Septic	7
<b>Health Services</b>	
Lead Poisoning Services	3
Rabies Prevention Services	2
Number of Animals Tested Positive for Rabies	0
<b>Environmental Services</b>	542
<b>Reportable 2017 Communicable Diseases</b>	
Babesiosis	0
Giardiasis	0
Chlamydia	20
Gonorrhoea	0
Group B Streptococcus	2
Hepatitis B	0
Hepatitis C	1
Influenza	26
Legionellosis	1
Listeriosis	0
Lyme Disease	13
Rotavirus	0
Salmonellosis	4
Streptococcus pneumoniae	0
<b>Total</b>	69
<b>NDDH Oral Health Screening &amp; Educational Program</b>	
Total Seen	NA
Number with Caries	NA
Number with other dental care needs	NA

# SERVICES

---

## NDDH District Wide Services

- Qualified Food Operator & Food Awareness Safety Training
- Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response
- Community Health Education covering a broad range of topics that prevent illness, promote wellness and protect health
- 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
- **CT Department of Public Health Per-Capita Allocation** for support of municipal and district departments of health
- **CT Department of Public Health Grant** for environmental and policy strategies to decrease obesity and chronic disease
- **Freedom from Smoking**-tobacco cessation, multi session classes and nicotine replacement
- **Opioid Prevention**-to prevent opioid misuse and opioid related deaths
- **Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security** to build a voluntary Medical Reserve Corps to respond to events of Public Health Concern
- **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)** for Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response
- **Radon Awareness and Test Kits**-for free home testing for radon, a leading cause of lung cancer
- **Vial of Life** to provide health information for first responders

# FINANCIAL

---

## **Independent Auditor's Report**

### **Report on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Brooklyn, CT, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2019, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town of Brooklyn, CT's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

### **Management's Responsibility for Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation 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.

### **Auditor's Responsibility**

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 United States of America and the 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 from 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 auditor's

## FINANCIAL

---

judgement, 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 and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. Cut 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 evaluation the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

### **Opinions**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Brooklyn, CT, as of June 30, 2019 and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### **Emphasis of Matter**

As discussed in Note 15 of the financial statements, the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic that occurred after year-end may affect the financial position of the Town of Brooklyn. Our opinion is not modified with respect to that matter.

# FINANCIAL

---

## **Other Matters**

### *Required Supplementary Information*

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis on pages 3-9, budgetary comparison information on pages 55-58, and Pension and OPEB schedules on pages 59-66 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 have applied methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic 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.

### **Other Information**

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

The combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements and supplemental schedules are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare



## FINANCIAL

---

the basic financial statements. Such 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 records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements and supplemental scheduled are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

### **Our Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards**

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated March 11, 2020, on our consideration of the Town of Brooklyn, CT's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of compliance with certain provision of laws, regulation, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to 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 integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering the Town of Brooklyn, CT's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

King, King & Associates, P.C., CPA's  
Winsted, CT  
March 11, 2020

## FINANCIAL

---

### Expenditures

<b>General Government</b>	Final Budget	Actual	Variances
Board Finance	43,600	42,131	1,469
Board of Selectmen	30,812	24,099	6,713
Administration	288,629	270,656	17,973
Revenue Collector	102,057	107,332	(5,275)
Assessor	139,984	139,504	480
Board of Assessment	450	-	450
Recording	124,070	123,825	245
Elections	32,360	27,506	4,854
Legal	19,000	25,729	(6,729)
Probate	9,455	9,454	1
Town Hall	40,667	39,100	1,577
Central Supplies	84,646	85,032	(386)
Ethics	3,000	1,000	2,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>918,740</b>	<b>895,368</b>	<b>23,372</b>

<b>Public Safety</b>	Final Budget	Actual	Variances
Canine Control	24,246	24,159	87
Patrol Services	204,050	200,621	3,429
Fire Marshal	65,653	64,507	1,146
Fire Facilities	423,029	422,559	470
Emergency Services	34,870	36,456	(1,586)
Homeland Security	3,550	1,758	1,792
<b>Total</b>	<b>755,398</b>	<b>750,060</b>	<b>5,338</b>

## FINANCIAL

---

<b>Public Works</b>	Final Budget	Actual	Variances
Roads & Drainage	540,617	538,374	2,243
Maintenance & Equipment	90,500	85,359	5,141
Snow Removal	93,550	85,114	8,436
Garage Maintenance	18,533	20,688	(2,155)
Engineering	20,105	20,102	-
Storm Water Management	22,000	-	22,000
Resource Recovery	353,490	337,795	15,695
Building Official	76,872	76,650	222
<b>Total</b>	1,215,664	1,164,082	51,582

<b>Human Services</b>	Final Budget	Actual	Variances
Health	80,988	80,920	68
Cemeteries	5,000	5,000	-
<b>Total</b>	85,988	85,920	68

<b>Civic &amp; Cultural</b>	Final Budget	Actual	Variances
Library	136,795	136,795	-
Transit District	14,359	14,359	-
Special Programs	5,750	5,176	574
Recreation	329,607	328,913	694
Park Maintenance	123,156	114,918	8,238
Community Center	22,242	19,488	2,754
Clifford B. Green Bldg	53,160	53,627	(467)
<b>Total</b>	685,069	673,276	11,793

## FINANCIAL

---

<b>Development &amp; Planning</b>	Final Budget	Actual	Variances
Planning & Zoning	26,454	26,589	(135)
Zoning Board of Appeal	1,000	288	712
Agriculture Commission	2,200	1,630	570
Conservation Commission	2,300	719	1,581
Inland/Wetland Commission	5,850	964	4,886
Land Use Admin/Planner	112,884	112,203	681
Economic Development Commission	6,150	1,066	5,084
Open Space	8,205	8,205	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>165,043</b>	<b>151,664</b>	<b>13,379</b>

<b>Sundry</b>	Final Budget	Actual	Variances
Contingency	290,625	-	290,625
Fringe Benefits	574,552	571,974	2,578
Municipal Insurance	136,479	128,492	7,987
Long Term Debt Service	38,000	37,478	522
Short Term Debt Service	504,064	501,077	2,987
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,543,720</b>	<b>1,239,021</b>	<b>304,699</b>

<b>Capital Outlay</b>	195,774	184,390	11,384
<b>Total Board of Education</b>	18,275,434	18,069,575	205,859
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	23,840,830	23,213,356	627,474
<b>Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures – Budgetary Basis</b>		449,544	449,544

## FINANCIAL

---

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

Patricia Buell, Superintendent 860-774-9153

Heather Tamsin, Middle Sch Principal 860-774-9153

Paula Graef, Elementary Sch 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](http://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](http://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  
2018-19

### **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

Mrs. Patricia Buell, Superintendent, 860-774-9732  
Mrs. Heather Tamsin, Middle School Principal, 860-774-9153  
Mrs. Paula Graef, 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 Killingly High School, Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees, CABE and EASTCONN Regional Education Center.

### 2018-2019 Board of Education

Chair: Nate Richards  
Vice Chair: Joan Trivella  
Secretary: Keith Atchinson  
Mae Lyons



# EDUCATION

---

Melissa Perkins-Banas

The Brooklyn Public Schools is fortunate to have 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 and objectives through the creation of building and district advancement plans. These goals relate to student achievement and creating positive learning environments for all students and staff. The goals are tied to the work of the building administrators, teachers and was reported to the Board of Education three times. The areas for growth were identified and monitored. Goals included one and multi-year plans to support the achievement of students.

### Enrollment

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

## EDUCATION

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Change in 5 yrs
Brooklyn Elementary	548	536	521	512	545	548	12
Brooklyn Middle School	374	373	372	353	346	359	-14
Killingly High School	122	119*	114	112	121	116	-3
Woodstock Academy	183	183*	168	195	167	181	-2
Other High Schools	87	76	116	104	86	108	32
Out of District IEP					19	19	0
<b>Total Students</b>	<b>1,314</b>	<b>1,287</b>	<b>1,291</b>	<b>1,276</b>	<b>1,314</b>	<b>1,331</b>	<b>44</b>

\*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 half-day 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 Louise 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.

# EDUCATION

---

## Budget

The Board Of Education budget for the 2018-19 school year was approved at \$18,257,435, a 1.57% increase for the 2018-19 school year.

### Budget Summary by Account

Object	Account	2017-18	2018-19
100	Salaries	\$7,552,172	\$7,498,605
200	Employee Benefits	\$2,286,313	\$2,246,522,502
300	Purchased Services	\$313,804	\$264,204
400	Purchased Property	\$166,337	\$158,337
500	Services	\$6,884,679	\$7,374,103
600	Supplies & Materials	\$634,533	\$628,031
700	Property	\$50,849	\$26,920
800	Dues & Fees	\$59,673	\$58,713
900	Other-Contingency	\$44,993	\$20,000
Total		\$17,593,353	\$18,275,435

The administration works carefully to ensure that students and staff have what they need to provide high quality

# EDUCATION

---

programming for students. In addition to receiving funds from the Town of Brooklyn, the Brooklyn Public Schools receive grant funding to support education, services and teachers. Grant funds are received from Title I, II, IV, IDEA, School Readiness and Adult Education. These funds exceed \$800,000 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 students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. Our Louise Berry Early Childhood Center houses our National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accredited preschool and kindergarten. The success and popularity of our preschool programming has resulted in very full classes during the 2018-19 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 student performance, but have selected areas of focus through the school improvement plans in 2017-18 and in the School and District Advancement plans for the 2018-19 school year.

Brooklyn Public Schools is increasing the use of technology and creating a one to one learning environment at Brooklyn Middle School. We are teaching 21st century life skills such as collaborative learning and problem solving.

## Teacher of the Year

The Brooklyn Public Schools community is thrilled to have Sean Maloney represent Brooklyn as Teacher of the Year! Sean is a fourth grade teacher at Brooklyn Elementary School.

# EDUCATION

---

He enjoys creating engaging and creative lessons that integrate science, technology and other content areas. His love of sports is evident in his classroom and in his lessons! Students love Mr. Maloney!

## 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 driveways and parking lots. They communicate with school administration to ensure school lots are cleared when staff and students begin arriving for school.

## 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

# EDUCATION

---

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