

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:	8,272

TABLE OF CONTENTS

History of Brooklyn	3
Town Officials	7
General Government	
Selectman’s Report	10
Veterans	11
Building Official	11
Town Clerk	11
Treasurer	13
Revenue Collector.....	13
Assessor	15
Board of Assessment Appeals	16
Registrar of Voters.....	17
Recreation Commission	19
Conservation Commission	23
Services	
Library Associations	26
Animal Services	29
Brooklyn Resource Recovery	30
Board of Fire Commissioners	31
Volunteer Fire Companies	32
Ambulance Service	35
Northeast District Department of Health	36
Financial	
Auditors Report.....	41
Budget for year end 6/30/2018	45
Town Offices Telephone Numbers	48
School & Historical Sites	49
Church Services	50
Education – Brooklyn Schools	51

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 communities 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 are 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 3,550 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
Austin Tanner, Lucien Brodeur

Selectman's Office

Richard Ives – First Selectman
Melissa Bradley – Administrative Assistant

Finance Department

Stephanie Levin – 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

Katherine Bisson – Town Clerk
Kelsey McConnell – 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

Jennifer Hutchins, Director - 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, Charlene Hill, Richard Ives, Henry Jeffs, Jessica
A. Maclean, Leona Mainville, James Paquin,
Lisa Roberts-Sangillo, Sherri Vogt

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 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 \$888,040 at year end June 30, 2020.

The Town's revenue is comprised of 56% property taxes, 40% grants and contributions, 3% charged services, and less than 1% investments. The Town's expenditure is comprised of 82% education, 5% general government, 6% public works, and 7% remainder of government expenses.

Major capital asset events during the current fiscal year are school energy improvements, new waste oil furnace, new vehicles, Community Center roof repair, new mower, new snowblower, and various parking lot and road improvements. Long term debt outstanding is \$6,629,150.

Housing stats for single family dwellings decreased from 24 fiscal year end June 30, 2019 to 18 fiscal year end June 30, 2020. 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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Veterans

Brooklyn was unable to hold the annual Memorial Day Parade due to the spread of the Corona Virus. We hope to continue the tradition next year while keeping our residents healthy and safe!

AMVETS Post 47 participated in our Town's annual Veterans Day Memorial as well as the Color Guard. The remembrance ceremony was held on Veterans Day, November 11, 2020 at the monuments for the II World War, Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

The Town appreciates the support of the 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, 2019 to June 30, 2020, three hundred twenty-nine (329) building permits were issued valued at \$7,618,000. 6 permits were renewed and 18 were new homes. Total receipts to the Town were \$75,340 in permit fees. There were also 19 apartment inspections done with receipts equaling \$285. 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. Our office recorded approximately 1,342 land records in the 2019-2020 fiscal year and maintained over 628 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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

www.uslandrecords.com. Survey and subdivision maps are also filed in the office and are now available electronically for printing. Forty-three maps were recorded in 2019-2020 and over 2,750 maps are on file. A total of \$275,088 in fees were collected with 33% 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 Department of Public Health. In 2019-2020, 44 births, 73 marriages and 89 deaths were recorded, and authenticated 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.

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.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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.

Katherine Bisson, CCTC

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, the Town must abide by generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) set forth by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). The Finance department policies help the town do this.

Stephanie Levin
Treasurer

Revenue Collector

The Revenue Collector's Office bills, collects, processes, and safeguards the Town's tax receipts, Water Pollution Control fees, and Fire District taxes. 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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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 usage fees are billed at the request of the WPCA upon passage of their annual budget.

Current collections this year on the October 1, 2018 Grand list totaled \$16,686,152.00 Collections resulted as follows:

Type of Tax Bill	Amount Collected	Percent Collected
Real Estate	\$12,889,592	99.00%
Personal Property	\$1,268,594	99.00%
Motor Vehicle	\$1,709,269	97.00%
Motor Vehicle Supplemental	\$242,658	92.00%
Sewer Usage	\$337,976	96.00%
CML Sewer	\$178,895	88.00%
East Brooklyn Fire District	\$59,168	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)

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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, 2018 Taxable Grand List

Real Estate	\$ 450,718,018
Personal Property	\$ 44,060,670
Motor Vehicles	<u>\$ 61,151,215</u>
Total	\$ 555,929,903

The total grand list represented an overall increase of .60% from the October 1, 2017 Grand List.

Tax Relief Programs/Exemptions Filing Date

- Ambulance/Handicapped Vehicle Exemption – October 1st
- 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* February 1st to October 1st
- Farm Building Exemption – November 1st
- Farm Machinery & Equipment – November 1st
- Manufacturing Machinery & Equipment – November 1st

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

- New Commercial Trucks – November 1st
 - Totally Disabled Exemption – January 31st
- *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

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.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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.

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

Registrars of Voters

Voter Registration

There are presently 1,354 registered Democrats, 1,382 registered Republicans, and 2,441 Unaffiliated registered voters for a total of 5,290 at the time of this submission.

Annual Canvass and Voting History

The annual canvass of voters is presently being conducted in compliance with Connecticut General Statutes. This is a mandated task to update the Town's voter registry to help ensure a current and accurate voter list. The Secretary of State provides the Town with a bi-annual ERIC (Electronic Registration Information Center) report that identifies those voters who have not voted in over 4 years, changed their address locally, or moved out of state without notifying the Registrars. The Town also uses the National Change of Address System that is available from the U.S. Postal Service. This software enables Registrars to also track voters who may have moved out of town or the state to allow removal from our voter records.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Mandated Voter Enrollment Sessions

There were no State mandated (Sec. 9-17) enrollment sessions at Woodstock Academy and Killingly High School during March and April 2020 due to the Covid-19 Virus. Town Registrars did conduct mandated day-long enrollment sessions prior to both the 2020 Presidential Preference primary in August as well as prior to the November 2020 Presidential election. The process of “EDR” or Election Day Registration also occurred during the November election.

Required Training

There were no ROVAC (Registrars of Voters Association of Connecticut) conferences due to COVID – 19 restrictions. Conferences will be resumed when restrictions are lifted. State Law (Sec 9-192b) requires Registrars to obtain at least 10 hours of instruction for elections training processes per year. Registrars also maintain active memberships in both the State ROVAC Association and the Windham County ROVAC Association.

Election Results:

August 11,2020 Presidential Preference Primary

Voters chose candidates to represent the Democratic and Republican parties in anticipation of the Presidential election on November 3, 2020. 449 Democrats voted out of 1,290 registered Democrats. 69 voted for Bernie Sanders and 359 for Joe Biden to represent their party. 278 Republicans turned out to vote out of 1,240 registered Republicans. 229 voted for Donald Trump, 9 voted for Roque “Rocky” De la Fuente, and 38 voted “Uncommitted”. There was also a primary between Republicans Thomas Gilmer and Justin Anderson for the 2nd Congressional seat. Thomas Gilmer won, receiving 123 votes

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

over Justin Anderson's 120 to represent their party against Democrat incumbent Joe Courtney.

November 3, 2020 Presidential Election

Voters chose Republicans Donald Trump/Mike Pence over Democrats Joe Biden/Kamala Harris in this election. Trump/Pence received 2,262 votes and Biden/Harris received 1,876. In the contest for the 2nd Congressional seat, Democrat Joe Courtney won 2,091 over Republican Justin Anderson's tally of 1,870. In the race for State Senate, Republican Jessica Alba received 2,297 votes to beat Democratic incumbent Mae Flexer's 1,763 votes. Democrat Pat Boyd easily won his State Representative race with 2,538 as he did not have anyone running against him. The Republican Registrar of Voter's candidate Cassandra Leach received 2,244 votes and Democrat Carolyn Teed-Ives received 1,724. There were 5,280 registered voters overall with an 80.70 % turnout for this election. 3,074 voters voted in person and there were 1,187 absentee ballots.

Recreation Commission

Parks & Recreation Commission Members:

Michael Gaudreau, Chairperson	Cliff Soucy
Harry Adams	Chris Toney
Stephen Danna	David Wilterdink
Kim Conroy, liaison	
Melissa Perkins Banis, liaison	Secretary: Christine Boyle

During the 2019-20 fiscal year, the department started off in a traditional way with all programs meeting in person and all facilities open to the public. The Before School Program (for grades K-6th) and After School Program (for grades K-6th) were once again available to our residents. Both programs are near or at capacity during the fall of 2019. We also offered our Full Day Recreation Program, which is available from

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

8am-4pm on staff development days at the Brooklyn Schools. This was also open to students in grades K-6th. In the early spring of 2020, we pivoted to virtual programming and promoting outdoor activities that could still be enjoyed safely. Due to the school closure and COVID concerns, our Before/After/Full Day Rec was unable to meet in the person. Our staff kept everyone up to date as to the status of the programs and did a great job-sharing ideas for activities and recipes that could be enjoyed at home during this time.

The Summer Day Camp Program & TEEN Camp had another successful camp experience for many of our local youth during the 2019 season. Campers enjoyed daily camp activities and weekly field trips at both camps. Summer Day Camp is open to students' grades K-5th and TEEN Camp is open to 6th – 8th graders.

The Summer Slam Basketball Clinic was once again offered in July 2019 and is available to Summer Day Campers as well as all other interested area youths. Our fitness programs, such as Staying Fit with Nate and Christina's programs such as Running Club, Sunrise Fitness, and Boot Camp offered many options for staying fit and active. Baton Twirling as well as many of our spring and summer programming and all our bus trips were cancelled due to COVID in the spring of 2020.

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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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. We brought back our Holiday Lighting Contest in the winter of 2019 and hope to continue this yearly tradition. Our Spooky Nights event held in the fall of 2019 was held at the Brooklyn Fairgrounds during one weekend in October and was a success again this year. Attendants enjoyed a hay wagon ride through 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 that were offered in the Fall/Winter Brochure were successful. As in the past, many area residents took advantage of the opportunity to join the department on these bus trips. Trips included the annual trips to the Salem’s Haunted Happenings, New York City, and the Boston Christmas Festival. In the spring of 2020, trips were cancelled for the spring and summer due to COVID restrictions.

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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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 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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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

Conservation Commission

The Brooklyn Conservation Commission proudly presents our annual report for the year 2020.

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 2020, the Commission had four members – Diane Wimmer, Jeannine Noel, Dana Heilemann and Carolyn Teed-Ives. 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 continues to maintain 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\Trails

In March 2020, Jessica LeClair, Program Manager for Community Engagement and Outreach with the Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University, met with the Commission to answer questions about

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Sustainable CT and their website. Jessica LeClair discussed the Equity Toolkit. The goal of the Equity Toolkit is to lay out a process of inclusion so that all people who live in Town can see themselves in the decision-making level. The Equity Toolkit makes the Commission aware of all who live in the community and work with them on any action that they need. Jessica LeClair also provided a walkthrough of the Sustainable CT website. The Commission was not able to complete any actions or certifications in 2020 due to the Covid 19 Pandemic.

The walking trails throughout Brooklyn and the Disc Golf Course at Davis Forest were closed for a period of time due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. The trails and disc golf course continue to be maintained by the Commission and the town. New directional signs and numbers were put up at the disc golf course. Trail maps can be found on the Conservation Commission's page on the Town's website under "Links" and "Brooklyn Trails."

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

In January 2020, the Brooklyn Conservation Commission reviewed two applications for gravel removal at the southerly side of Rukstela Road and the southeast side of Maynard Road. The Commission submitted recommendations. In July 2020, the Commission reviewed a subdivision on Day Street and recommended an open space set aside. In August 2020, two subdivisions were reviewed. The Commission recommended permanent conservation easement covenants. In December 2020, the Commission reviewed a subdivision on Beecher Road. The Commission recommended an open space easement.

Training

During 2020, Brooklyn Conservation Commission members did not attend any training events due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. The Commission looks forward to attending future local conservation and land use educational training events, in addition to free webinars at <http://clear.uconn.edu/> and <https://sustainablect.org/trainings-events/>. These training events, workshops and webinars 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 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 Library Director, 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

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 101. Patrons may enroll in up to 5 classes at one time. A

SERVICES

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	Florence Griswold Museum
CTs Old State House	

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. 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.

Wendy E. Harrington, President Brooklyn Town Library Association

SERVICES

Animal Services

The Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (NECCOG) provides a range of services to its sixteen member towns, including:

- Property Revaluation Program
- Regional Engineering Program
- Town Technical Assistance Program
- Intergovernmental Relations Program
- Human Services Coordination Program
- Regional Elections Monitor Program
- Regional Human Services/Veteran's Advisor
- Crumbling Foundations
- GIS Services Program
- Paramedic Intercept Program
- Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Study - Phase III
- Region IV Emergency Planning
- Natural Hazard Mitigation Program
- Animal Services Program
- Trap, Neuter, Release and Maintain Program
- Regional Land Use Referrals
- Land Use Technical/Policy Assistance
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- Eastern Connecticut Enterprise Corridor Administration
- Transit District Administration
- Rural Major and Minor Collector Program and Urban Program for road project development and construction
- Route 169 Byway Administration
- Veteran's Interstate Services Transportation
- COVID-19 Response

SERVICES

Notably, during the COVID-19 Pandemic NECCOG assisted the state by developing and maintaining more than thirty Municipal Best Practices Guides to assist towns during the pandemic. These guides can be found at:

<https://portal.ct.gov/OPM/IGPP-MAIN/Responsible-Growth/Advisory-Commission-on-Intergovernmental-Relations/Advisory-Commision-on-Intergovernmental-Relations>.

Brooklyn's participation in the Regional Animal Services Program resulted (2020) in 67 total investigation and more than 50 animals being impounded - all of which were either reunited with their owner or adopted. In total for 2020, the NECCOG program conducted 1,173 investigations, impounded 471 animals, and redeemed or adopted 390 animals. Any animal that could be adopted - was - no animal was euthanized due to lack of space. To date, the program has placed nearly 8,000 animals.

The Northeastern Connecticut Transit District (NECTD), which is operated by NECCOG, continued operations throughout the pandemic. Ridership dropped by about 80 percent on both services and we are optimistic that it will rebound in 2021.

The NECCOG Regional Paramedic Intercept Service is performing very well - with a total of 2,180 transports in 2020 - 328 of which came from Brooklyn.

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

SERVICES

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:

Daylight Savings Time Hours (March – November)
Wednesday & Friday 10am – 5pm & Saturday 8am – 5pm

Winter Hours (November – March)
Wednesday & Friday 10am-4pm & Saturday 8am-4pm

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 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

SERVICES

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 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 with limited lifetimes 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

SERVICES

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.

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

SERVICES

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 heretofore 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

SERVICES

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 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 (1,088 responses during 2020) 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.

SERVICES

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 EMT's.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created additional responsibilities on Mortlake's ambulance service. In addition to requiring additional transports, complete disinfection of the ambulance following each use and the need for full personal protective gear are now mandatory. The number of personnel exposed to patients has to be minimized consistent with providing necessary assistance and frequent testing of personnel is required. Brooklyn owes a pat on the back to these dedicated volunteers.

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.

SERVICES

Northeast District Department of Health

NDDH is **your** local public health department. We work within a larger public health system that includes the CT Department of Public Health (DPH), the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to ensure the conditions in which people can be healthy. Local public health departments are recognized as the authorities that are most in tune with the everyday conditions that impact the health of communities and the people who live in them. You can rely on NDDH to Prevent Illness, Promote Wellness, Protect Health in a thoughtful and strategic manner that addresses the political, economic, environmental, cultural, and other realities in the Quiet Corner of CT. We do this in collaboration with towns, agencies, and institutions. We made great strides over the past year.

In November, the Board of Directors approved a Strategic Plan, **Mission Statement:** *The Northeast District Department of Health will, through community partnerships, promote, protect, and improve health in northeast Connecticut by monitoring health concerns, preventing illness, and encouraging healthy lifestyles;* **Vision:** *Healthy people engaged in creating a thriving community;* and **Values:** *Community, Trust, Accountability, Peace of Mind, Ethics, and Expertise.* In December, our attention turned to an emerging disease in China. Our Strategic Plan and past experiences informed our response to what would become known as COVID-19.

We held flu vaccination clinics for adults and children in the fall. Our Holiday Dazzle Light Parade float promoted hygiene and flu prevention. In the spring, we were promoting the use of cloth face coverings. In February, we began COVID-19

SERVICES

case investigations - helping people find appropriate care and self-isolate to prevent the spread of disease. In March, we convened schools and employers to protect students and the workforce. NDDH convened health care, social service agencies, and town officials to share best practices and ensure the provision of food, shelter, and services. NDDH distributed personal protective equipment (PPE) to health care providers and worked with Day Kimball Healthcare and Generations Family Health Center, to enhance local COVID-19 testing. Local media partners—WINY, the Bulletin, Courant, Day, Putnam Town Crier, and Villager newspapers were integral to these efforts.

Our work expanded beyond COVID-19. We conducted inspections and provided timely updates on the Governor’s Executive Orders and the Department of Economic and Community Development’s Rules to municipalities, agencies, and businesses to help them operate safely. We held a community forum to prevent opioid-related deaths; distributed Vial of Life kits to make medical information readily available to first responders; and gave out free radon test kits to reduce exposure to radon—the leading cause of lung cancer among people who don’t smoke. Our HealthQuest coalition partners collaborated on efforts to create opportunities for physical activity while social distancing. It’s been busy, but we are committed to our work. We will continue to lead the way—and work in the background—to protect you!!

Susan Starkey, MPH MS RD

Susan Starkey, MPH, MS, RD
Director of Health

SERVICES

Subsurface Sewage Disposal	
As-Built	27
B100	66
Plan Review – Comm	1
Plan Review- New	12
Plan Review-Repair	16
Plan review-Revised	9
Plan Review-Subdivision	6
Permit to Construct-Comm	1
Permit to Construct-New	18
Permit to Construct - Repair	13
Sieve Analysis	0
Soil Test-Additional	9
Soil Test – New	13
Soil Test - Repair	15
Tank or Sewer Line	10
Water Treatment Permit	2
Property Doc Search	0
Portable Water	
Well Permit	22
Other Water Services	0
Food Service Sanitation	
Restaurant Inspections	32
Restaurant Re-inspection	0
Restaurant Plan Review	0
Temporary Food Event	10
Health Inspections	
Campgrounds	1
Daycare	0
Group Homes	0
Hair Salons	0
Hotel/Motel	1
Medical	0
Nail Salon	1
Pool Inspections	1
Complaints	
Animal or Animal Waste	1
Bed Bugs	2
Food Service	1
Garbage	6

Heat/Water	0
Housing	1
Insects, Vermin	3
Lead Complaint	0
Mold	1
Odor	2
Outdoor Wood Furnace/Smoke	0
Septic	3
COVID-19 Related	10
Health Services	
Lead Poisoning Prevention	0
Rabies Prevention	1
Number of Animals Tested Positive for Rabies	0
Environmental Services	316
Reportable 2019 Communicable Diseases	
Babesiosis	1
Giardiasis	0
Chlamydia	18
Gonorrhea	4
Group B Streptococcus	3
Hepatitis B	0
Hepatitis C	3
Influenza	37
Legionellosis	
Listeriosis	0
Lyme Disease	3
Rotavirus	0
Salmonellosis	2
Streptococcus pneumoniae	0
Total	72
NDDH Oral Health Screening & Educational Program	
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 (CT DPH) Per-Capita Allocation** for support of municipal and district departments of health
- **CT DPH and U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) Obesity Prevention** through environmental and policy strategies
- **CT DPH Freedom from Smoking**-tobacco cessation, multi session classes and nicotine replacement
- **CT DPH 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
- **CT COVID-19 Crisis Relief** to enhance response including education, personal protective supplies, and equipment
- **CT DPH/CDC** for Emergency Preparedness and Response
- **Radon Awareness and Test Kits**-for free home testing for radon, a leading cause of lung cancer
- **CT Office of Rural Health for Vial of Life Program** to make essential health information available to 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, 2020, 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, 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 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, 2020 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.

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

FINANCIAL

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 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

FINANCIAL

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 February 23, 2021, 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
February 23, 2021

FINANCIAL

Expenditures

General Government	Final Budget	Actual	Variances
Board Finance	45,850	439,059	6,791
Board of Selectmen	50,336	47,029	3,307
Administration	266,061	259,647	6,414
Revenue Collector	112,528	111,756	772
Assessor	153,976	146,433	7,543
Board of Assessment	500	359	141
Recording	131,499	123,542	7,957
Elections	33,809	29,158	4,651
Legal	22,867	20,570	2,297
Probate	9,205	9,204	1
Town Hall	50,325	35,129	15,196
Central Supplies	89,649	87,198	2,451
Ethics	3,000	750	2,250
Total	969,605	909,834	59,771

Public Safety	Final Budget	Actual	Variances
Canine Control	25,965	25,965	0
Patrol Services	203,172	185,905	17,267
Fire Marshal	59,441	58,191	1,250
Fire Facilities	458,554	453,837	4,717
Emergency Services	39,343	39,343	0
Homeland Security	6,050	1,508	4,542
Total	792,525	764,749	27,776

FINANCIAL

Public Works	Final Budget	Actual	Variances
Roads & Drainage	598,525	579,449	19,076
Maintenance & Equipment	93,950	77,664	16,286
Snow Removal	63,656	45,144	18,512
Garage Maintenance	35,877	34,018	1,859
Engineering	20,110	20,110	0
Storm Water Management	21,629	33,629	(12,000)
Resource Recovery	372,016	357,974	14,042
Building Official	83,891	82,332	1,559
Total	1,289,654	1,230,320	59,334

Human Services	Final Budget	Actual	Variances
Health	83,142	81,892	1,250
Cemeteries	5,000	5,000	0
Total	88,142	86,892	1,250

Civic & Cultural	Final Budget	Actual	Variances
Library	143,117	143,117	0
Transit District	14,364	14,364	0
Special Programs	6,250	1,301	4,949
Recreation	338,853	319,746	19,107
Park Maintenance	121,439	112,984	8,455
Community Center	25,148	19,296	5,852
Clifford B. Green Bldg	32,228	30,112	2,116
Total	681,399	640,920	40,479

FINANCIAL

Development & Planning	Final Budget	Actual	Variances
Planning & Zoning	52,337	41,932	10,405
Zoning Board of Appeal	1,000	150	850
Agriculture Commission	2,200	625	1,575
Conservation Commission	3,300	540	2,760
Inland/Wetland Commission	5,600	3,591	2,009
Land Use Admin/Planner	119,432	111,632	7,800
Economic Development Commission	6,150	375	5,775
Open Space	8,208	8,208	0
Total	198,227	167,053	31,174

Sundry	Final Budget	Actual	Variances
Contingency	12,889	12,886	3
Fringe Benefits	584,910	610,046	(25,136)
Municipal Insurance	130,877	130,877	0
Long Term Debt Service	48,999	20,824	28,175
Short Term Debt Service	699,333	698,566	767
Total	1,477,008	1,473,199	3,809

Capital Outlay	148,241	148,241	0
Total Board of Education	18,662,768	18,416,267	246,501
Total Expenditures	24,307,569	23,837,475	470,094
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures – Budgetary Basis		529,633	529,633

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
Willimantic Waste – Recycling	860-423-4527
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, Israel Putnam was Sexton after completion of Church.

Israel 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
2019-20

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 and The Woodstock Academy Board of Trustee.

2019-2020 Board of Education

Chair: Mae Lyons
Vice Chair: Melissa Perkins-Banas
Secretary: Keith Atchinson
Tana Jolley
Carolyn Hackbarth
Justin Phaiah

EDUCATION

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

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Change in 5 yrs
Brooklyn Elementary	536	521	512	545	548	566	+30
Brooklyn Middle School	373	372	353	346	359	338	-35
Killingly High School	119*	114	112	121	116	118	-1
Woodstock Academy	183*	168	195	167	181	195	+13
Other High Schools	76	116	104	86	108	109	33
Out of District IEP				19	19	22	+3
Total Students	1,287	1,291	1,276	1,314	1,331	1,348	61

*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 at no cost. 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 2019-20 school year was approved at \$18,662,768. There were a few initiatives including creating a one-to-one environment for the middle school. Students each have access to a Chromebook and teachers are working to increase Google classrooms. We are working to create additional one to one classrooms at the elementary level.

Summary by Account

Object	Account	2018-19	2019-20
100	Salaries	\$7,498,605	\$7,629,304
200	Employee Benefits	\$2,246,522	\$2,061,953
300	Purchased Services	\$264,204	\$292,584
400	Purchased Property	\$158,337	\$166,717
500	Services	\$7,374,103	\$7,884,719
600	Supplies & Materials	\$628,031	\$555,499
700	Property	\$26,920	\$1,000
800	Dues & Fees	\$58,713	\$50,992
900	Other-Contingency	\$20,000	\$20,000
Total		\$18,275,435	\$18,662,768

EDUCATION

The administration works carefully to ensure that students and staff have what they need to provide high quality 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 \$500,000 and are used to offset the cost of preschool education, special education services, adult education, and intervention instruction such as reading and mathematics.

Curriculum and Programming and COVID-19:

The 2019-2020 school year was impacted by the Coronavirus, also referred to as COVID-19. This was a pandemic that hit the world and impacted schools in Brooklyn beginning on March 13, 2020. On March 13, 2020 we sent students home with packets of work to be completed over a two-week period due to the serious nature of this virus and the hope that we would be able to protect our students and families from becoming ill. Within the next couple of days, the State of Connecticut shut down all schools in the state through an executive order signed by Governor Lamont. There were many executive orders that followed. Based on international, national, and local guidance, it was determined that we needed to use an abundance of caution and close schools to flatten the curve, or reduce the transmission of this serious, highly contagious, and deadly disease. There was a concern about the ability of our hospitals to handle the volume of sick patients if we did not slow down the transmission. After about a week, teachers and administrators began planning for distance learning for a longer period of time. The district distributed approximately 400 Chromebooks to any child who needed one to engage in learning. Our staff never missed a day of instruction and transitioned to distance learning overnight! Teachers used a wide range of educational

EDUCATION

platforms and began using Zoom to communicate and “see” the students in their classrooms. The face of education changed in March 2020 and will likely never return to what it was! This year we learned about Zoom Meetings, Zoom bombing, when people would interrupt meetings so we increased our security. It did not happen in Brooklyn, but we learned and changed on a daily basis. We used Google Meetings, Webex, and SeeSaw to communicate in addition to websites, emails, Facebook, Instagram and Flipgrid! Education had a new lingo, and the administration created a Distance Learning Handbook with guidance on how to consistently instruct students remotely! Schools were shut down with limited staff. The cafeteria staff began serving meals immediately including the delivery of meals to families who could not pick them up. The school closure was reassessed every 30 days until it was determined that the school year would end via distance learning.

Staff and students found creative ways to work together and remain connected. We all enjoyed a “reverse teacher parade” in April. Teachers lined the school driveway with positive messages to students and families! There were tears of joy when students and parents drove through with their own signs. This was an afternoon we all cherished, away from learning and just appreciating each other and so happy to see each other. The school was supported by our First Selectman, Mr. Ives and our Resident Trooper, Steve Corradi. We enjoyed the company of Mortlake and East Brooklyn Fire Departments. The ladder truck proudly waved the American flag high at our parade and our bus company flagged the entrance of our parade with two big yellow school buses. We all were missing seeing each other and school buses, signs of what we had taken for granted before the pandemic and school closure! We ended that parade by traveling back roads to East Brooklyn where we saw many school aged children,

EDUCATION

parents and other residents sitting on their lawns cheering and happy to see teachers, paraprofessionals, school nurses, cafeteria employees, and administrators celebrating families and students. The lives of our families changed overnight during this school shut down also. Parents suddenly needed to be able to assist their children with accessing technology, academic work, and specials classes. Zoom and “Virtual” became a part of our everyday language. There were virtual physical education classes, virtual field day, virtual music classes, virtual play rehearsals, and virtual field trips. Everything stopped including the annual 8th grade trip to DC, the awards ceremony, and graduation. There will be a couple of virtual ceremonies and a drive thru graduation! This is a year to be remembered and will likely impact education for many years.

While the Brooklyn community did experience some positive cases, the State successfully flattened the curve and began to reduce the restrictions and opened up some businesses. School buildings remained closed for the entire year and teachers and students continued with distance learning.

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.

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

EDUCATION

school improvement plans and the School and District Advancement Plan.

Teacher of the Year

The Brooklyn Public Schools community is thrilled to have Kelly King represent Brooklyn as Teacher of the Year! Kelly is a fifth-grade teacher at Brooklyn Middle School. She is very committed to the students attending after school events and offering extra help.

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.

There are many opportunities for community involvement. The school has sponsored food drives, collections, staff supported the Parks and Recreation Christmas toy drive by

EDUCATION

making a substantial cash donation that will be returned to students in our community. The music department has performed at the Annual Tree Lighting event at the Creamery Brook Nursing home, and the band has performed in parades and the school.

Brooklyn Parent Teacher Organization

The Brooklyn PTO is very active at the Brooklyn Elementary School and supports students, teachers, and families. They 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