

**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>	8,451

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# HISTORY OF BROOKLYN

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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 meetings, 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 needed 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 revolution. Putnam was in overall command at the battle of

## HISTORY OF BROOKLYN

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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

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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 surroundings 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 businesses 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**

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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**

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## **Board of Selectmen**

Austin Tanner – First Selectman  
Joseph Voccio, Lucien Brodeur

## **Selectman’s Office**

Austin Tanner – First Selectman  
Lisa Mileski – Administrative Assistant

## **Finance Department**

Shelley Cates – Finance Director  
Susan Wolchesky – Finance Assistant

## **Building Office**

John Berard – Building Official  
Lisa Lindia – Building/Land Use 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  
Cassie Boisclair – Assistant Revenue Collector

## **Assessor’s Office**

Stephanie Kosoff – Assessor  
Maryann Szela – Assistant Assessor

## **Recreation Office**

Amy Brosnan – Director



# **TOWN OFFICIALS**

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## **Board of Finance**

Sandra Brodeur – Chairperson

## **Board of Education**

Mae Lyons – Chairperson

## **Board of Assessment Appeals**

Joanne Eiler – Chairperson

## **Judge of Probate**

Leah Schad

## **Town Counsel**

Suisman Shapiro

## **Animal Control Officer**

Jennifer Hutchins, Director - NECCOG

## **Fire Marshal**

Doug Kramer

## **Tree Warden**

Jeff Page

## **Road Foreman**

Thomas Rukstela

## **Agent for Elderly**

Tamsen Harris

## **Water Pollution Control Authority**

Derek Lindia – Chairperson

## **Planning & Zoning Commission**

Michelle Sigfridson – Chairperson

# **TOWN OFFICIALS**

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## **Zoning Board of Appeals**

Bruce Parsons – Chairperson

## **Board of Fire Commissioners**

Michael Podzaline – Chairperson

## **Parks & Recreation Commission**

Michael Gaudreau – Chairperson

## **Inland Wetland Commission**

Richard Oliverson – Chairperson

## **Registrar of Voters**

Nancy E. Ives

Jo Ann Gerardi-Voccio

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

# GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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## 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 \$2,196,564 at year end June 30, 2022.

The Town's revenue is comprised of 59% property taxes, 35% grants and contributions, 4% charged services, and less than 2% 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 Roads and Road Repair, Spartan Fire Truck, Town Garage Roof Project and New Mower and Tractor.

Long term debt outstanding is \$13,019,002.

Housing stats for single family dwellings decreased from - sixteen fiscal year end June 30, 2021 to thirteen fiscal year end June 30, 2022. 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 and answer questions. We can all make Brooklyn a Town we are proud to call home.

Austin Tanner, First Selectman

# GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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## **Veterans**

Brooklyn is pleased to announce Sherri Vogt is appointed as our Municipal Veteran Representative. She will be available to assist Veterans with any issues that may arise.

Our annual Memorial Day Parade was held on Monday, May 30, 2022. AMVETS Post 47 assisted, and wreaths were laid by scouts at the Monuments.

AMVETS Post 47 participated in our Town's annual Veterans Day Memorial Ceremony as well as the Color Guard. The remembrance ceremony was held on Veterans Day, November 11, 2022 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 annual year of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, five hundred twenty-seven (527) building permits were issued valued at \$13,516,058.82. The total value to the Town was \$139,868.93. The office hours of the Building Official, John A. Berard, are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Mondays and 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Thursday evenings. Our Town is a choice place for professionals to relocate to while maintaining employment in Providence, Boston, Worcester, and surrounding cities.

## **Below are the Permit Values broken down that were issued in 2022:**

Residential – Additions: \$632,300.00  
Residential - New Homes: \$4,409,900.00  
Residential - Renovations: \$788,775.00  
Residential - Garages: \$380,211.00

## **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

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Wood & Pellet Stoves: \$11,100.00  
Miscellaneous: \$3,647,777.37  
Commercial Construction: \$30,000.00  
Commercial Additions: \$38,500.00  
Commercial Renovations: \$650,060.00  
Solar Panels Commercial: \$25,155.00  
Solar Panels Residential: \$1,696,449.45  
Roofs & Siding: \$1,205,781.00

### **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 1,551 land records in 2022 and maintained over 706 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 on our website at [www.brooklynct.org](http://www.brooklynct.org) to search online. Survey and subdivision maps are also filed in the office and are now available electronically for printing. Twenty-six maps were recorded in 2022 and over 2,800 maps are on file. A total of \$317,511.64 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 2022, 51 births, 58 marriages, and 117 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. There is also a link on our website to request and pay for vital records online.

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

# GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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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](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.

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

# GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). The Finance department policies help the town do this.

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

Current collections this year on the October 1, 2020 Grand list totaled \$17,750,309 Collections resulted as follows:

Type of Tax Bill	Amount Collected	Percent Collected
Real Estate	\$13,712,205.00	99.00%
Personal Property	\$ 1,516,949.00	99.00%
Motor Vehicle	\$ 1,669,217.00	97.00%
Motor Vehicle Supplemental	\$ 285,952.00	91.00%

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Sewer Usage	\$343,833.00	96.00%
CML Sewer	\$154,126.00	85.00%
East Brooklyn Fire District	\$ 68,027.00	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 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

## Assessor

October 1, 2020 Taxable Grand List

Real Estate	\$ 524,158,120
Personal Property	\$ 57,369,000
Motor Vehicles	<u>\$ 66,979,700</u>
Total	\$ 648,506,820

The total grand list represented an overall increase of 13.3% from the October 1, 2019 Grand List.



# GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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The 2020 Grand List was a **revaluation year** for Brooklyn. The increase also reflects the rise in property values due to the Coronavirus pandemic which began in March 2020.

## 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 31<sup>st</sup>

\*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)

Stephanie Kosoff, CCMA I  
Assessor

# GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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## **Board of Assessment Appeals**

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

The Board meets twice a year in the months of September and March.

We would like to remind taxpayers of the State Statute, Section Sec. 12-110, Sessions of board of assessment appeals shall meet at least once in the month of September, annually, provided any meeting in the month of September shall be for the sole purpose of hearing appeals related to the assessment of motor vehicles and shall meet in the month of March to hear appeals related to the assessment of property

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.

Joanne Eiler, Chair  
Justin Phaiah, Board Member  
Susan Wasstrom, Board Member

# GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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## Registrars of Voters

### Voter Registration

There are presently 1,296 registered Democrats, 1,444 registered Republicans, 2,589 Unaffiliated, and 105 Other registered voters for a total of 5,434 registered voters at the time of this submission.

### Registrars of Voters

Registrars of Voters are responsible for administering municipal, state, and federal elections in the Town of Brooklyn. They maintain the centralized voter registration list and are responsible for providing assistance to all residents, regardless of political affiliation. As per state law, the town has two Registrars - one from each of the two major political parties – a Democrat and a Republican. These individuals, once sworn in, work together to ensure that every eligible voter in Brooklyn has the opportunity to participate in the democratic process.

### Required Training

The Registrars of Voters Association of Connecticut (ROVAC) resumed its conferences in both the spring and fall of 2022. In accordance with State Law (Sec. 9-192b), Registrars are mandated to obtain a minimum of ten hours of instruction per year on elections training processes. To fulfill the certification requirements, each Registrar must complete and pass a certification program within two years of their first day in office, whether elected or appointed. Once certified, Registrars are obligated to complete at least eight hours of training annually, as prescribed by the Secretary of the State, to retain their certification. Registrars are also required to maintain active memberships in both the State ROVAC Association and the Windham County ROVAC Association.

# **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

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## **Annual Canvass and Voting History**

The annual canvass of voters is conducted between January and April in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes which mandates updating of the Town's voter registry to maintain its currency and accuracy. In addition to the annual canvass, Connecticut utilizes the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) to further improve the accuracy of its voter rolls. The Secretary of State provides bi-annual reports to towns, identifying those voters who have not cast their ballots in over four years, changed their local address, or moved out of state without informing Registrars. The Town also uses the National Change of Address System that is available from the U.S. Postal Service which allows Registrars to track and remove voters who may have relocated outside of the town or state.

## **Mandated Voter Enrollment Sessions**

On October 20, 2022, a state-mandated enrollment session (as outlined in Sec. 9-17 of the state regulations) was held at Woodstock Academy. The Town Registrars also performed a mandatory, day-long enrollment session in preparation for the November 2022 state election. During the November 8, 2022 election, the process of "Election Day Registration (EDR)" was implemented.

## **Election Results:**

### **August 9, 2022 Democratic Primary**

In the race for Secretary of State, voters chose Stephanie Thomas (99 votes) over Maritza Bond (25 votes). In the race for Treasurer, voters chose Erick Russell (89 votes) over Dita Bhargava (20 votes) and Karen Dubois-Walton (17 votes).

### **August 9, 2022 Republican Primary**

In the race for United States Senator, voters chose Leora R. Levy (143 votes) over Themis Klarides (57 votes) and Peter Lumaj (24 votes). In the race for Secretary of State, voters

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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chose Dominic Rapini (118 votes) over Terrie E. Wood (97 votes).

### **November 8, 2022 State Election**

With 5,391 registered voters in Brooklyn, 3,236 voted overall (60.03%). 2,922 voted in person, 285 absentees, 7 rejected absentees, 1 overseas, and 21 EDR voters. In the race for Governor, voters chose Republicans Bob Stefanowski and Laura Devlin (1,733 votes) over Democrats Ned Lamont and Susan Bysiewicz (1,374 votes). In the race for United States Senator, voters chose Republican Leora R. Levy (1,713 votes) over Democrat Richard Blumenthal (1,419 votes). In the race for Representative in Congress 02, voters chose Democrat Joe Courtney (1,587 votes) over Republican Mike France (1,508 votes). In the race for State Senate 29, voters chose Republican Susanne Witkowski (1,785 votes) over Democrat Mae Flexer (1,340 votes). In the race for State Representative 50 (District 1) voters chose Republican Aaron Soucy (1,255 votes) over Democrat Pat Boyd (1,107 votes). In the race for State Representative 47 (District 2) voters chose Republican Doug Dubitsky (468 votes) over Democrat Dave Nowakowski (276 votes). In the race for Secretary of State, voters chose Republican Dominic Rapini (1,668 votes) over Democrat Stephanie Thomas (1,361 votes). In the race for Treasurer, voters chose Republican Harry Arora (1,746 votes) over Democrat Erick Russell (1,263 votes). In the race for Comptroller, voters chose Republican Mary Fay (1,727 votes) over Democrat Sean Scanlon (1,364 votes). In the race for Attorney General, voters chose Republican Jessica Kordas (1,641 votes) over Democrat William Tong (1,440 votes). In the race for Judge of Probate 26, voters chose Republican Gabrielle Labonte (1,739 votes) over Leah Schad (1,365 votes). Registrar of Voters race resulted as follows: Republican Jo Ann Gerardi-Voccio (1,740 votes) and Democrat Nancy Ives (1,344 votes). On the question: Shall the Constitution of the State be

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amended to permit the General Assembly to provide for early voting? The results were: No (1,427 votes) and Yes (1,419 votes).

Nancy E. Ives  
Jo Ann Gerardi-Voccio  
Registrars of Voters  
March 7, 2023

## **Recreation Commission**

Parks & Recreation Commission Members:

Michael Gaudreau, Chairperson	Jim Warren
Harry Adams	David Wilterdink
Stephen Danna	Cliff Soucy
Debra Warren	Secretary: Christine Boyle

The fiscal year 2021-22 saw the return of multiple events and programs which were cancelled the previous year. We brought back bus trips to Boston, Kittery, New York, and two trips to Yankees and Red Sox games. The turnout for all trips was successful and gave community members the opportunity to travel for the first time in almost two years. Ski Club was also able to return, allowing individuals to travel together to Wachusett and ski. Our Before School Program and After School Programs serving youth in grades K-6th maintained in-person participation, allowing students a sense of normalcy. Both programs were near or at capacity. We also offered our Full Day Recreation Program to program participants on school staff development days, and a weeklong program during April vacation.

During the summer, our Summer Day Camp and TEEN Camps were offered for six weeks but had to end two days early due to a COVID-related situation. During camp, 500 cans of food and monetary donations were collected by campers and given to the Friends of Assisi food pantry. The Ice Box allowed our

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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campers to create and vote on their own flavor, helping to raise money for the Jim Boyle Scholarship fund. We thank the Ice Box for providing a fun activity for our campers and their generosity. Our annual Summer Slam Basketball Camp was postponed for the season and an Open Gym night was created to allow youth to participate in basketball activity.

In the fall, our adult community members continued to stay active with our Fall Running Club. We brought music to the *Maury Bowen Complex at Riverside Park* with three outdoor concerts in September. In October, our annual Scarecrow Contest displayed the incredible creativity of our community on the front lawn of the Clifford B. Green Building. Although Spooky Nights in 2020 had to be cancelled, the event was back in full swing October 15th and 16th 2021 with a new name, Brooklyn “FEAR” grounds. Following inside mask protocol, we were able to have haunted houses, a DJ, vendors, and a bonfire with the help of the East Brooklyn Fire Department. Mortlake Fire Department was also there to ensure the safety of our event. With the help of many volunteers, the event was a great success which we are excited to continue in the future.

The 2021 holiday season programs continued to include our annual events such as Letters to Santa, Holiday Coloring Contest, Holiday Lighting Contest, and Toys for Giving Toy Drive. The Holiday Coloring Contest is presented in partnership with the Brooklyn Post Office. Coloring Contest entries are displayed at the Brooklyn Post Office. We thank the Post Office and staff for their yearly assistance with this program. Our Holiday Lighting Contest saw the addition of a new Business Category. Our Toy Drive was a success thanks to the generosity of our local businesses and residents. It was a record-breaking year as we received almost fourteen thousand

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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dollars in donations, allowing us to help over a hundred Brooklyn children.

Spring was the time for community events. Our 2021 spring Easter event was re-designed as a Drive-up Bunny Event instead of the traditional breakfast and egg hunt. Using the school parking lot, our staff and volunteers handed out goodie bags to the many Brooklyn families who drove through. Our Spring Bunny was also there to greet all the children! In partnership with the Quinebaug Valley Senior Citizen Center, a Senior Picnic featuring a DJ and lunch was held at Riverside Park. Our Family Fun Day was hosted on Memorial Day, and included food, games, moon bounces, face paint, a magic show, and police demonstrations. Display tents for the Brooklyn Schools PTO, Democratic and Republican parties, Rotary Club, and many more were also available at the event. Thank you to our donors: Walmart, Automatic Roll, Frito Lay, and our countless volunteers who help make this day such a success.

The Michael Dragon Complex at Prince Hill Park continues to be a popular facility used by leagues and individuals throughout the year. This park includes two playscapes and a swing set. 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. This past year, wooden railings as well as handicap parking signs were replaced at the park, to continually maintain safety and accessibility for our community.



## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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South Street Park offers a playscape, picnic tables and a basketball court, and is located at the corner of South Street and South Main Street. 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 Parks & Recreation Department's one Parks Maintenance employee, along with one seasonal part-time employee, maintains these parks, many walking trails, and the other non-recreational areas such as the library grounds, monuments, and school fields, in addition to the snow removal on Route 6 sidewalks, town building entryways, and parking lots.

After 23 years, Brooklyn said goodbye to its long time Recreation Director Matthew "Bucky" Lohbusch in June 2022. Bucky was the first full-time Recreation Director the town hired, replacing part-time Recreation Director Mary Hill. Bucky was an intricate part in growing the Recreation Department's programs and facilities. During his time in Brooklyn, Bucky oversaw the development of the Michael Dragon Complex at Prince Hill Park with soccer fields, softball fields, basketball courts with lighting and the new playscape. He managed the creation of the Maury Bowen Complex at Riverside Park with its two baseball fields, sand volleyball court, bandstand for concerts, and the conservation area of the park. Bucky also made improvements at South Street Park over the years and began the process that will be providing funding for the new South Street Park coming next year.

Bucky increased the department program offerings from 14 to over 50 during his time in Brooklyn. He started and operated the Teen Center which was housed on Tiffany Street. He began

## **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

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the very successful Summer Camp program for kids to stay active throughout the summer as well as the basketball camp program. He was also responsible for creating the department's Before and After School Programs so children have a safe place to be while their parents are working. Bucky was also responsible for the creation of Spooky Nights, now FEARgrounds Halloween event which has become a favorite annual tradition as well as growing the Toys for Giving Toy Drive which benefits over 100 Brooklyn children at the holidays.

The Recreation Commission would like to thank Bucky for all he has done for our community and wish him well in his new position with Killingly Rec! We wish Bucky well in his new position with Killingly Recreation Department.

The goal of the Recreation Commission and the Parks and Recreation Department 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 impact on our community. We continue to work in cooperation with town leaders, school officials and various town departments, boards, and commissions, to achieve our goals. Brooklyn is fortunate to have many residents who share the same vision for our community and continue to assist and support our efforts. Thank you for your continued support.

Please visit the town's website to view current information about the Parks and Recreation Department facilities, events, and programs. You can also stay up to date by following the Town of Brooklyn Parks & Recreation on Facebook.

Amy Brosnan  
Parks & Recreation Director

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## **Conservation Commission**

The Brooklyn Conservation Commission proudly presents our annual report for the year 2022.

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 2022, the Commission had six members - Diane Wimmer, Jeannine Noel, Dana Heilemann, Carolyn Teed-Ives, Richard Calarco, and Victoria Fradette. In May, Richard Calarco was elected Chair and Diane Wimmer was elected Co-Chair. Treasurer duties were handled by both Richard Calarco and Diane Wimmer. Sara Deshaies was the Commission's Recording Secretary. The Commission continued to function within a reduced budget.

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**

Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, the Commission held its meetings per the CDC guidelines. Meetings were held in-person with the option to participate by video. Members of the Commission exercised social distancing and wore masks as appropriate.

The trails and disc golf course continue to be maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department and the Public Works Department with input from the Commission. Trail maps can be found on the Conservation Commission's page on the Town's website under "Links" and "Brooklyn Trails".

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In January, the Commission reviewed the town's Plan of Conservation and Development (2011-2020) and submitted recommendations and updates.

The Commission supported the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District's annual plant sale by purchasing bushes and flowers for the nature trail at Riverside Park. On April 30, 2022, the Commission held a planting event as a special meeting in honor of Earth Day.

Diane Wimmer set up a table at the town's Family Fun Day event. Approximately 50 kids planted sunflower seeds in pots to take home. Extra supplies were donated to the Parks and Recreation Department for use during Summer Camp. Richard Calarco and Diane Wimmer met with the First Selectman, Austin Tanner, to discuss trail maintenance and applying for grants. The Commission will continue to work with the First Selectman, Town Planner, and Parks and Recreation Department to apply for grants and maintain the town trails. Conservation will apply for advertising/public relations grants.

The Commission met with Shannon Russo, a Brooklyn Middle School teacher, who attended the Goodwin Naturalist Course, concerning improving the Carol Randall trail located behind the school. The trail will be used to teach students about science. This project is ongoing.

<https://www.friendsofgoodwinforest.org/>

## **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

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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.

In May 2022, the Brooklyn Conservation Commission reviewed the plan for Little Dipper Farm. In December, the Brooklyn Conservation Commission reviewed ZPC 22-007 Little Dipper Farm: Proposed Modifications to the Zoning Text Amendment to allow Glamp Grounds and Glamping in the RA (Residential-Agricultural) Zone- “The Commission’s recommendation is that area of a glamping campgrounds are not permitted to damage resources identified in the co-occurring resource inventory as stated in the Planning of Conservation and Development. Other natural resources must be vetted prior to a regulation change. For example, historic, fishery, wildlife corridors, archeological, endangered species.”

## **Training**

Diane Wimmer attended an online seminar on National Trail Days. It is a topic that comes up periodically. It is held annually on the first Saturday in June. This year was the 30th Annual Celebration. National Trail Days was created to raise awareness to national, regional, and local trails. The American Hiking Society sponsors it. It can be celebrated in several ways. Mostly hiking and education but stewardship as well. They have a website for assistance and resources available to help promote an event. The Commission will plan on holding a trail days event. <https://americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/>

Carolyn Teed-Ives, Richard Calarco, Dana Heilemann, and Diane Wimmer attended the online Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group Symposium on Thursday, November 3, 2022 from 9 am - 4 pm. The theme was Strategies for Managing

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Invasive Plants: Assess, Remove, Replace and Restore. Topics discussed included deer fencing, indoor/outdoor invasive plants, native plants, and other subjects.

<https://cipwg.uconn.edu/2022-symposium/>

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

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## **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 board. The day-to-day operation is the responsibility of Library Director, Elizabeth Swagger. The library is open to the public on Monday, Friday, and Saturday 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM and Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 12:00 PM to 5:30 PM. Any Brooklyn resident may obtain a first library card and renew that card free of charge. The contact email for the library is:  
[info@brooklyntownlibrary.org](mailto:info@brooklyntownlibrary.org)

The library offers popular reading from the bestseller list, an extensive mystery collection, a growing juvenile collection, an enlarged children's area, and access to online services. Free WiFi, one patron computer, and chrome books are available. Wireless printing is now available with a laser printer, as well as a meeting table and study room.

The library also offers a wide variety of online services for Brooklyn Library card holders on its website, <http://www.brooklyntownlibrary.org>. Using Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome, you may access Consumer Reports Online, Overdrive (ebooks and eaudiobooks), Book Flix, True Flix, Freedom Flix, and Science Flix. The Brooklyn Library is a member of the Connecticut Library database findIT CT, research IT CT, and requestIT CT. Find IT CT and researchIT CT enable patrons to explore the holdings of other libraries throughout the state. With the assistance of a staff member, patrons may request library materials from the state catalog.

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Discounted and free passes to the following local museums are available at the library: Florence Griswold Museum, CT State Parks Centers and Historic Buildings Day Pass covering entrance fees to Dinosaur Park, Gillette Castle State Park, and Fort Trumbull State Park

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 who attend summer recreation. The library offers a summer reading program and activities for children who do not attend the summer recreation camp. The library has joined with the Canterbury and Scotland libraries for a monthly book discussion that meets regularly at one of these libraries. Book titles, location, and date of upcoming discussions are posted on the library website.

The Friends of the Brooklyn Library continue to contribute to the library's program. 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 such as museum passes.

Wendy E. Harrington, President  
Brooklyn Town Library Association

## **Animal Services**

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



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- 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 and Recovery

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.

NECCOG's Executive Director assisted the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations in the study and publication of two reports "Remote Meetings"

[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/ACIR/Misc\\_Reports/2022/ACIR\\_Remote\\_Meeti](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/ACIR/Misc_Reports/2022/ACIR_Remote_Meeti)

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[ngs\\_Report\\_2022.pdf](#)) and “Home Rule and Local Control” ([https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/ACIR/Misc\\_Reports/2022/ACIR\\_Home\\_Rule\\_and\\_Local\\_Control\\_in\\_CT.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/ACIR/Misc_Reports/2022/ACIR_Home_Rule_and_Local_Control_in_CT.pdf)). The Director additionally authored a special report (note: not a NECCOG project: Connecticut Property Taxes: Opportunity for Change” (<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5bdf8da94eddec7efc3b5071/t/61b1a3cb9ca84b26dabedf4d/1639031757238/Property+Taxes+-+Opportunity+for+Change.pdf>)

Brooklyn’s participation in the Regional Animal Services Program resulted (2021) in 75 total investigations and more than 50 animals being impounded - all of which were either reunited with their owner or adopted. In total for 2021, the NECCOG program conducted 1,195 investigations, impounded 450 animals, and redeemed or adopted 367 animals. Any animal that could be adopted - was - no animal was euthanized due to lack of space. To date, the program has placed more than 8,000 animals.

The Northeastern Connecticut Transit District (NECTD), which is operated by NECCOG, continued operations throughout the pandemic. Ridership continued to be low - operating at just over 50 percent of our pre-pandemic level for our deviated-fixed route service and down about 80 percent for the elderly and disabled services.

The NECCOG Regional Paramedic Intercept Service is performing very well - with a total of 2,471 transports in 2021 - 306 (out of 482 calls for service) of which came from Brooklyn.

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## **Brooklyn Resource Recovery Commission**

The BRRC completed its twenty seventh 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.

New updates have been added – a new scale to replace the old rotted and electrical issues of the past. New this year is the recycling of cardboard at the Transfer Station with a dumpster specifically for cardboard.

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 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 Austin Tanner, Michael Podzalne (Chair), David Costa (EBFD Rep.), David Lee (BOF Rep.), Leo Berube (Mortlake Rep.), and James Soler.

The Board reviews each department's budget request. It 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

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approval. The Board has recently created a tax abatement program for the town's volunteer firefighters, pending approval from the Board of Selectman. Lastly, the Fire Commissioners are constantly working alongside the Towns Fire Departments to investigate solutions that maintain adequate public safety protection for the growing town.

## **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 successful in obtaining an Eversource grant to assist in the

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purchase of Thermal Imaging Camera's. A grant was also received from Walmart for the assistance in purchasing 1 set of Personal Protective Equipment. 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 for 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 Paramedic Intercept program. This

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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 the paid manning to eighteen hours a day. The

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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 15 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 (1,166 responses during 2021) 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.

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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.

## **Northeast District Department of Health**

The Northeast District Department of Health (NDDH)—your local health department—remained busy over the past year developing and delivering services and programs to transition



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from the grips of the COVID-19 pandemic to the freedom to get out, get active, and stay safe in northeast CT. NDDH and community partners continued to promote and provide vaccination services for the most vulnerable groups in our community. These partnerships and the outpouring of support from the community were integral to our efforts, as was the response from our Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers. They provided endless hours of work, thousands of vaccinations, and heaps of compassion and caring. We are fortunate to work in a state with a strong public health system—and local communities dedicated to working cooperatively to care for friends and neighbors. Learn more about becoming an MRC volunteer on our NDDH.org website, which was newly designed this year to streamline information and provide more online services.

While COVID remained a top priority, life went on in many other areas requiring public health expertise and response from our NDDH Environmental Health, Community Health, and Administrative teams. NDDH worked closely with State and local officials to respond to a 25K gallon fuel oil spill in our district; our teams conducted lead poisoning prevention investigations and case management as well as investigations to prevent rabies, Mpox, and food-borne illness. We worked with the Killingly Youth Substance Use Prevention Coalition and completed training on suicide prevention that we can, in turn, teach to other community partners so they can help prevent suicides. NDDH returned to the ever-popular Veterans Stand Down event at Quinebaug Valley Community College, providing free COVID-19 vaccines and coordinating over 90 free health screenings for veterans and their family members. We safely returned to indoor and outdoor settings to educate our communities about tobacco cessation, tick and mosquito-borne disease, fall prevention, and more.

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NDDH's HealthQuest coalition encouraged everyone to improve mental, physical, and social well-being by exploring over 500 miles of trails throughout the Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor and is working with UCONN Extension to add these trails on the new CT Trailfinder website at [cttrailfinder.com](http://cttrailfinder.com). HealthQuest also reconvened the Follow the Fifty Models of Heart Health for a 10-year ReZOOMion and engaged their participation in our ConNECTicuTRAILS initiative.

This short summary represents thousands of public health activities delivered to over 85,000 residents in our 12 towns. We kept our NDDH Board of Directors and town leaders apprised of our public health services, challenges, and successes at regular board meetings and our biennial town leader orientation.

We will continue to deliver these successful public health programs and more to make the great communities we serve even healthier and happier. We'll keep striving, so you keep thriving.

*Susan Starkey, MPH MS RD*

Susan Starkey, MPH, MS, RD  
Director of Health

## NDDH District-Wide Services

- Emergency Planning, Preparedness, and Response
- Community Health Education covering a broad range of topics that prevent illness, promote wellness, and protect health
- Radon Awareness and Test Kits – for free home testing for radon, a lead cause of lung cancer
- Flu Immunizations

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## Grants (Federal, State, & Private Funds):

- **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)**
- **Chronic Disease Prevention** using environmental and policy strategies to increase opportunities for physical activity
- **CT DPH Freedom from Smoking** - tobacco cessation, multi-session classes, and nicotine replacement
- **CT DPH/CDC for Public Health Emergency Preparedness**
- **CT DPH** to build a Medical Reserve Corps of volunteers to respond to events of public health concern

## COVID-Related Grants

- **CT DPH/CDC – Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity 1 & 2** for detection, response, surveillance, and prevention of COVID-19
- **CT DPH Vaccine Equity Partnership Funding** to locate, educate, and vaccinate vulnerable populations against COVID-19
- **United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut** mobilize partners and collaborators to advance health equity related COVID-19 health disparities among populations at higher risk and undeserved

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## **Independent Auditor's Report Report on the Financial Statements**

### **Opinions**

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, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town of Brooklyn's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

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, as of June 30, 2022, 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.

### **Basis for Opinions**

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. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Town of Brooklyn and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

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## **Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; and for 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. In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Town of Brooklyn's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

## **Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and Government Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgement made by a reasonable user based on

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the financial statements. In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and Government Auditing Standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Town of Brooklyn's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgement, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Town of Brooklyn's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

## **Required Supplementary Information**

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, budgetary comparison information, and the pension and OPEB schedules on pages 4-10, 56-59 and 60-67 be

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presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, 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 certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the 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.

## **Supplementary Information**

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Town of Brooklyn's basic financial statements. The accompanying combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements, and other supplemental schedules are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the

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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 other supplemental schedules are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole

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

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated April 30, 2023, on our consideration of the Town of Brooklyn's internal control over financial reporting and on our test of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely 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 effectiveness of the Town of Brooklyn's 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's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

King, King & Associates, P.C., CPA's  
Winsted, CT  
April 30, 2023



# FINANCIAL

## Revenues

<b>Property Taxes</b>	<b>Final Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variances</b>
Current Year	16,832,137	16,742,501	(89,636)
Prior Years	165,000	229,645	64,645
Interest & Lien Fees	70,000	76,602	6,602
Supplemental MV Tax	225,000	284,166	59,166
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,292,137</b>	<b>17,332,914</b>	<b>40,777</b>

<b>Intergovernmental</b>	<b>Final Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variances</b>
Education Assistance	6,926,095	7,079,140	153,045
Mashantucket Grant	191,703	191,703	-
PILOT – State Owned Property	79,919	138,629	58,710
PILOT – Disability	-	1,006	1,006
PILOT – Veterans Exemption	-	6,035	6,035
Motor Vehicle Fines	2,750	1,210	(1,540)
Telephone Tax	12,000	10,707	(1,293)
Other Grants	-	137,938	137,938
Municipal Revenue Sharing	10,379	10,379	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,222,846</b>	<b>7,576,747</b>	<b>353,901</b>

<b>Local Revenues</b>	<b>Final Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variances</b>
Health Dept Rent	35,900	35,766	(134)
Community Center Rental Fee	500	100	(400)
Earth Day Grant	500	500	-
Recreation Fees	305,560	303,5115	(2,049)

## FINANCIAL

Pistol Permits	8,000	3,150	(4,850)
Town Clerk Fees	80,000	81,427	1,427
Conveyance Tax	140,000	147,847	7,847
Miscellaneous Income	1,000	34,160	33,160
Copier Fees	10,000	8,872	(1,128)
Apartment Inspections	800	225	(575)
Brooklyn Fair Tpr Reimbursement	5,000	5,000	-
Zoning Permits	9,000	10,765	1,765
Building Permits	155,000	141,360	(13,640)
Z Recs	61,834	58,802	(3,032)
Fire Marshal Fees	1,500	740	(760)
Zoning Board of Appeals	500	2,004	1,504
Bingo Permits	200	250	50
Planning & Zoning Fees	10,000	11,876	1,876
Municipalities Nips Environment Fees	-	10,839	10,839
Putnam Technology Park Refund	53,000	53,500	500
Wetlands Fees	4,000	1,864	(2,136)
Transfer Station Fees	116,250	130,390	14,140
Insurance Dividend	10,000	15,455	5,455
Dog License/Fees	1,500	-	(1,500)
<b>Total</b>	1,010,044	1,058,403	48,359

<b>Investment Income</b>	9,000	7,554	(1,446)
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# FINANCIAL

<b>Use of Fund Balance</b>	-	-	-
<b>Total Revenues</b>	25,534,027	25,975,618	441,591

## Expenditures

<b>General Government</b>	Final Budget	Actual	Variance
Board Finance	31,689	24,729	6,960
Board of Selectmen	33,049	31,509	1,540
Administration	327,616	325,012	2,604
Revenue Collector	126,167	122,171	3,996
Assessor	169,210	156,587	12,623
Board of Assessment	550	238	312
Town Clerk	127,660	125,269	2,391
Elections	35,382	21,946	13,436
Legal	29,898	24,977	4,921
Probate	9,345	9,345	-
Town Hall	34,672	32,560	2,112
Central Supplies	80,498	77,157	3,341
Ethics	1,500	125	1,375
<b>Total</b>	1,007,236	951,625	55,611

<b>Public Safety</b>	Final Budget	Actual	Variance
Canine Control	26,057	26,057	-
Patrol Services	195,281	184,395	10,886
Fire Marshal	60,121	58,617	1,504
Fire Facilities	430,377	429,377	1,000
Emergency Services	48,878	48,877	1
Homeland Security	6,025	4,165	1,860
<b>Total</b>	766,739	751,488	15,251

<b>Public Works</b>	Final Budget	Actual	Variance
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# FINANCIAL

Roads & Drainage	645,250	629,511	15,739
Maintenance & Equipment	110,863	101,580	9,283
Snow Removal	96,895	75,269	21,626
Garage Maintenance	33,568	25,813	7,755
Engineering	20,267	20,266	1
Storm Water Management	16,295	16,295	-
Resource Recovery	370,788	357,753	13,035
Building Official	104,313	96,676	7,637
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,398,239</b>	<b>1,323,163</b>	<b>75,076</b>

<b>Human Services</b>	Final Budget	Actual	Variances
Health	111,101	106,101	5,000
Cemeteries	13,910	5,000	8,910
<b>Total</b>	<b>125,011</b>	<b>111,101</b>	<b>13,910</b>

<b>Civic &amp; Cultural</b>	Final Budget	Actual	Variances
Library	146,057	146,057	-
Transit District	14,476	14,476	-
Special Programs	8,200	5,677	2,523
Recreation	381,192	374,866	6,326
Park Maintenance	149,993	143,066	6,927
Community Center	13,104	9,936	3,168
Clifford B. Green Bldg	45,982	44,591	1,391
<b>Total</b>	<b>759,004</b>	<b>738,669</b>	<b>20,335</b>

<b>Development &amp; Planning</b>	Final Budget	Actual	Variances
Planning & Zoning	16,368	8,452	7,916
Zoning Board of Appeal	950	267	683

## FINANCIAL

Agriculture Commission	1,600	500	1,100
Conservation Commission	2,443	1,189	1,254
Inland/Wetland Commission	5,865	4,878	987
Land Use Admin/Planner	144,622	141,934	2,688
Economic Development Commission	7,500	-	7,500
Open Space	8,280	8,280	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>187,628</b>	<b>165,500</b>	<b>22,128</b>

<b>Debt &amp; Sundry</b>	<b>Final Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variances</b>
Fringe Benefits	676,159	663,882	12,277
Municipal Insurance	145,330	144,293	1,037
Long Term Debt Service	285,129	167,904	117,225
Short Term Debt Service	359,884	359,884	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,466,502</b>	<b>1,335,963</b>	<b>130,539</b>

<b>Capital Outlay</b>	194,294	194,294	-
<b>Total Board of Education</b>	19,629,374	19,584,719	44,655
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	24,534,027	25,156,522	377,505
<b>Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures – Budgetary Basis</b>	-	819,096	819,096

# **TOWN OFFICES TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

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First Selectman's Office	860-779-3411	# 2
Director of Highway Department	860-779-3411	# 3
Town Clerk	860-779-3411	# 4
Tax Collector	860-779-3411	# 5
Assessor	860-779-3411	# 6
Recreation	860-779-3411	# 7
Finance Office	860-779-3411	# 8
Land Use Administrator	860-779-3411	# 9
Fire Marshal	860-779-3411	# 9
Building Official	860-779-3411	# 9
Animal Control Officer	860-774-1253	
Landfill Attendant	860-779-1105	
Housing Authority	860-963-6829	
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**

# SCHOOLS, HISTORICAL SITES, & CHURCHES

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## School Officials & Telephone Numbers

### Brooklyn Schools

Patricia Buell, Superintendent 860-774-9732  
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.

### Federated Church of Christ

Sundays.....10:00am  
<https://fccbrooklynet.org>

### Our Lady of LaSalette Church

Saturdays.....4:00pm  
Sundays.....8:00am & 11:00am  
(Roman Catholic)

# SCHOOLS, HISTORICAL SITES, & CHURCHES

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## Trinity-Episcopal Church

Sundays.....10:00am

[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



# EDUCATION

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## Brooklyn Public Schools Annual Report of the Superintendent 2021-2022

### **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 Board of Education and The Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees.

### 2021-2022 Board of Education

Chair: Mae Lyons  
Vice Chair: Melissa Perkins-Banas  
Secretary: Justin Phaiah  
Kayla Burgess  
Richard Ives  
Isaias Sostre

# EDUCATION

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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. This was a unique year as we were returning to school following the pandemic. There was a real focus on addressing the social and emotional needs of students, families, and staff members. There was significant anxiety returning to in-person learning. There were students who missed out on instruction, social skills development and did not learn how to effectively interact with each other during the pandemic. There was catch-up work in these areas that was needed.

## Enrollment

The Brooklyn Public Schools' enrollment has varied over the past 6 years. The following is the October 1st student count. There has been a fluctuation in enrollment due to COVID and families who made the decision to keep their children home. This was more prevalent in the youngest grades of preschool and kindergarten. There were many families who chose to homeschool their children after we reopened. There are many more supports for homeschooled children and families so this is becoming more practical for some families.

## EDUCATION

	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	Change over 6 yrs
Brooklyn Elementary	512	545	548	566	476	524	+12
Brooklyn Middle School	353	346	359	338	333	347	-6
Killingly High School	112	121	116	118	107	105	-7
Woodstock Academy	195	167	181	195	190	190.5	-4.5
Other High Schools	104	86	108	109	113	89	-15
Out of District IEP		19	19	22	23	15	-4
<b>Total Students</b>	<b>1,276</b>	<b>1,314</b>	<b>1,331</b>	<b>1,348</b>	<b>1,142</b>	<b>1,270.5</b>	<b>-5.5</b>

### Budget

The Board of Education budget for the 2021-2022 school year was approved at \$19,629,374. As we returned to a more typical learning environment, students were no longer being shifted from hybrid to in-person and remote learning. We returned to school with precautions to protect against the spread of COVID. This impacted the budget so that it returned to a more typical budget year.

# EDUCATION

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## Budget Summary by Account

<u>Object</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>2020-2021</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>
<b>100</b>	<b>Salaries</b>	<b>\$8,140,273</b>	<b>\$8,360,237</b>
<b>200</b>	<b>Employee Benefits</b>	<b>\$2,113,039</b>	<b>\$2,499,345</b>
<b>300</b>	<b>Purchased Services</b>	<b>\$409,108</b>	<b>\$370,149</b>
<b>400</b>	<b>Purchased Property</b>	<b>\$167,750</b>	<b>\$219,320</b>
<b>500</b>	<b>Services</b>	<b>\$7,853,457</b>	<b>\$7,768,271</b>
<b>600</b>	<b>Supplies &amp; Materials</b>	<b>\$452,780</b>	<b>\$333,851</b>
<b>700</b>	<b>Property</b>	<b>\$5,500</b>	<b>\$15,00</b>
<b>800</b>	<b>Dues &amp; Fees</b>	<b>\$29,548</b>	<b>\$28,201</b>
<b>900</b>	<b>Other- Contingency</b>	<b>\$2,533</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$19,173,991</b>	<b>\$19,629,374</b>

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

# EDUCATION

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## Curriculum and Programming:

Following a difficult end to the school year in 2021, we were happy to open up the school with a Continuity of Services Plan. The plan included recommendations for students, families, and employees about how to handle returning to school under a pandemic. We began the school year with universal mask wearing, which remained in place until about March of 2022. We supported modified physical distancing and spent a great deal of time contact tracing as we continued to deal with many cases of COVID. Students were able to participate in sporting activities and resumed a more typical school experience.

Our focus was on academic advancement and how to improve what education looked like rather than returning to the old model of instruction. COVID taught us that we could enhance education with the use of technology, but that we desperately needed to provide opportunities for everyone to interact and learn the social skills that schools are critical in teaching. We know that there were many people who experienced trauma as a result of the isolation of COVID. There were individuals who were unable to address their basic needs. As much as we tried to reach everyone with food and education, there were some challenges that the students and their families faced. We had employees who suffered from isolation and loss of loved ones during this time as well, and we knew that the schools played an important role in supporting the students, families, community, and economy to return to a new, and better “normal”. The schools continued to serve as the primary social service agency to address the broad range of needs.

Both schools engaged in a pilot program to assess the social and emotional needs of the students. We used the DESSA Assessment tool which is directly related to the CASEL Framework. The DESSA is a nationally standardized, strength-based behavior rating scale that assesses students’ social and

# EDUCATION

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emotional competence. This information was used to identify possible students who would benefit from emotional support through check-ins, direct counseling, or counseling groups. This tool was adopted by the State and widely used across Connecticut schools.

Academically, we needed to return to where we left off before COVID shut us down and then measure the learning loss experienced by our students. We returned to the assessment of our curriculum and focused on identifying how we could address the academic and social-emotional needs of the students while increasing the academic rigor in our schools. We ended the school year after piloting and choosing a new math curriculum for the 2022-23 school year for Brooklyn Middle School.

## Teacher of the Year

2021-2022 The Brooklyn Public Schools' Teacher of the Year was Brooklyn Elementary School Art Teacher, Laura Gatlin. Mrs. Gatlin is our beloved elementary school art teacher and has unleashed the creative art talents of our students by sharing her love of art while teaching and beautifying our school building. She was recognized by the Brooklyn-Danielson Elks at a wonderful dinner that recognized all the Teachers of the Year in our area!

## Community Involvement

Brooklyn Public Schools has shared services with the Brooklyn Parks and Recreation by offering before and after school programming at the Brooklyn Public Schools and hosting Summer Camp. Brooklyn schools and recreation departments have offered free camp for two years by using grant funding through the schools. This opportunity was well received by the community and students enjoyed weeks of fun activities during the summer!

## EDUCATION

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The Town of Brooklyn and Brooklyn Public Schools have many shared services that support both the schools and the Town of Brooklyn. We have been working collaboratively to ensure that our residents are provided high quality instruction and resources at the most cost-effective manner to our taxpayers.

The Brooklyn Public Schools is grateful to the many community partners they work with. We work with area businesses who have supported many fundraising efforts for the students at all levels. Over the past year, we have sought and received many donations to support the purchase of elements for the community fitness course being built by a grassroots effort of teachers and administrators at Brooklyn Middle School. We want to recognize the involvement by our community partners on this project: Walmart, The Brooklyn-Danielson Lions Club, Beagary Trust, Brooklyn Education Association, Lebanon CT Leo Club, Horace Mann, and the installation work which will be completed by Mr. Baribeau and Mr. Morrison, who will be donating time, materials and equipment to complete the initial phase of installation. We continue to receive donations from families who support the needs of families by assisting with the cost of meals and any debt that has accrued through the school meals program. Donations have been received from Stop & Shop, Krafty Kids 4H, who built a Little Free Library Stand, Staples, who donated school and office supplies, Beagary Charitable Trust for student enrichment offerings, The Brooklyn Ice Box, who supported the reading intervention program, anonymous family donated Allen Hill Tree Farm certificates, Brooklyn Library donated books, Sara Sutherland donated to the activity fund, and TiCoat donated time and materials for surface coating to support the transition to school during a pandemic. The Brooklyn School District is very fortunate to be located in a community that is supportive of students and staff members.

# EDUCATION

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## Brooklyn Parent Teacher Organization

The Brooklyn PTO is very active at 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 and is very generous with raising funds and investing in the schools, teachers, and students of Brooklyn. We are very grateful to the PTO for their generous involvement and support.

Respectfully submitted by: Patricia L. Buell, Superintendent