

TOWN OFFICE HOURS:

FIRST SELECTMAN: Monday - Friday: 9:00 – 12:00 & 1:00 – 4:00
phone: 860-364-5789; (H) 860-364-7475

NW PROBATE: Monday – Thursday: 9:00 – 4:00
phone: 860-824-7012

ASSESSOR: Monday 9:00 to Noon, Wednesday & Thursday: 9:00 – 12:00 & 1:00 - 4:00
phone: 860-364-0205

TAX COLLECTOR: Monday, Wednesday & Thursday: 9:00 – 3:30
phone 860-364-5402

TOWN CLERK: Monday – Thursday: 8:30 – 12:00 & 1:00 – 4:00
Friday: 8:30 – NOON
phone: 860-364-5224

BUILDING INSPECTOR & FIRE MARSHAL: Monday – Friday: 7:00 – NOON; Saturday 8:00 – 9:00AM
phone: 860-364-0909

LAND USE ADMINISTRATOR Monday – Friday: 7:00 – NOON
phone: 860-364-0909

HEALTH DEPARTMENT Monday – Friday: 7:00 - NOON
phone: 860-364-9397

SOCIAL SERVICE AGENT: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 9:00 – 12:00 & 1:00 – 4:00
phone: 860-364-1003

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS Tuesday: 10:00 – NOON
phone: 860-364-5514

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Board of Selectmen: Second Tuesday @ 3PM and fourth Tuesday @ 5:30PM monthly except November and December no 5:30PM meeting

Board of Finance: Quarterly @ 7PM, March 16, June 15, September 21 & December 14

Planning and Zoning Commission: Second Wednesday, monthly @ 5:30PM

Inland Wetlands Commission: Second Monday, monthly @ 6:30PM except October when it will be October 12

Sharon Housing Authority: Third Tuesday, monthly @ 5PM

Sewer & Water Commission: Second Thursday, monthly @ 7PM except for November when it will be Nov. 18

Historic District Commission: Fourth Monday, monthly @ 6:00PM except no meeting for December

Board of Education: Second Monday, monthly

Sharon Parks & Recreation Committee: First Thursday @ 6:15PM monthly

Conservation Commission: Third Wednesday @ 6:30PM monthly

Zoning Board of Appeals: Quarterly, Feb. 16, May 17, August 16 & Nov. 15 @ 6:30PM

Sharon Energy & Environment Commission: Fourth Thursday monthly @ 5:30PM except no meeting August

Board of Assessment Appeals: Feb. 19 @ 4PM, March 5 @ 5PM, March 6 @ 9AM, March 12 @ 5PM, March 13 @ 9AM, and Sept. 18 @ 9AM (this one is for motor vehicles only)

Sharon Green Committee: Second Monday monthly @ 4PM except no meeting in October

Transfer Station Committee: Jan. 20, March 17, June 16, August 18, Oct. 20, with no meeting in December unless necessary @ 5PM at the Transfer Station

SSRRA: check on Town of Salisbury Website

For precise time and place check with Town Clerk where agendas/notices must be posted at least 24 hours in advance

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Report of the Auditor, 2019– 2020

FRONT COVER

Photo by Jill Pace

Due to COVID restrictions, the Sharon Center School 8th Grade Graduation took on a totally new appearance. On the lawn of the School facing North Main Street, there were signs with each students' name. There was a drive-by car parade in which the student with their families surrounded the oval so that CONGRATULATIONS could be offered.

2020 Graduates were:

Mary LaFond
Jorie Welshans
Joshua Shaw-Cahill
Finn Cousins
Dylan McDonald

Samantha Crodelle
Shelby Whitesel
Gage Wilkinson
Fiona Roy
Jenna Lee Farina

FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT THE TOWN OF SHARON

The Town of Sharon, in Litchfield County, was incorporated in October, 1739 and held its first Town Meeting on December 11, 1739. Sharon continues in the original Town Meeting / Selectmen / Board of Finance form of government. Total area: 59.6 square miles; land area; 58.7 square miles and has a population estimate of 2,718 according to the Department of Health as of July 1, 2019. The Town maintains 83.54 miles of roadways, of which 55.84 miles are Improved (asphalt) Roads and the remaining 27.70 miles are Unimproved (gravel) Roads. Bowne Road, Butter Road, Herb Road, Cole Road, Modley Road and West Woods Road #1 have been designated as (Scenic Roads” under Town Ordinance, and portions of State Highways 7 and 4, and all of Rt. 41, have been designated as “State Scenic Roads”. Elevation ranges from 1551 feet on Ellsworth Hill to 503 feet at Amenia Union (Hitchcock Corners).

SHARON TAX AND POPULATION DATA

Year	Mil Rate	Grand List	Population Estimate
2000-2001	16.40 revaluation	342,018,170	2,968
2001-2002	16.70	351,457,158	2,968
2002-2003	16.90	362,171,770	2,969
2003-2004	17.00	389,529,522	2,914
2004-2005	13.75 revaluation	518,775,238	2,968
2005-2006	14.20	525,462,385	3,012
2006-2007	14.90	532,251,589	3,012
2007-2008	14.90	541,255,445	3,036
2008-2009	14.90	558,016,740	3,052
2009-2010	10.35 revaluation	837,360,422	3,058
2010-2011	10.90	839,977,000	3,022
2011-2012	11.35	843,796,767	3,014
2012-2013	11.35	847,349,680	3,029
2013-2014	11.70	851,634,816	2,774
2014-2015	13.25 revaluation	720,510,556	2,766
2015-2016	13.70	725,187,484	2,747
2016-2017	14.40	733,261,051	2,725
2017-2018	14.70	742,904,118	2,725
2018-2019	14.70	750,070,851	2,706
2019-2020	14.40 revaluation	729,146,484	2,714
2020-2021	14.40	734,801,807	2,718
2021-2022	14.50	746,929,778	2,689

ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Brent M. Colley, *First Selectman*, 2021
Dale C. Jones, 2021 Casey T. Flanagan, 2021

BOARD OF FINANCE

Karen S. Dignacco, *Chairman*, 2023
Thomas H. Bartram, *V. Chairman*, 2023
Harding F. Bancroft, Jr., *Secretary* 2025
Jessica K. Fowler, 2021 Mary B. Robertson, 2025 Robert E. Duncan, 2021

Alternate Members

Cody W. O'Kelly, 2021 Robert W. Ensign, 2023

TOWN CLERK AND REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS

Linda R. Amerighi, 01/02/2022

REGISTRARS

Barbara S. Coords, *Republican*, 01/08/2025
Marel E. Rogers, *Democratic*, 01/08/2025

TOWN TREASURER

Tina M. Pitcher, 2021

TAX COLLECTOR

Donna A. Christensen, 2021

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

Thomas F. Casey, Sr., *Chairman*, 2023
Elizabeth C. Forstmann, 2023 Brent N. Prindle, 2021

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Doug A. Cahill, *Chairman*, 11/02/2021
Kathleen Visconti, *V. Chairman*, 11/02/2021
Deborah Rathbun, *Secretary*, 11/07/2023
Amanda Thompson, 11/07/2023 Anne M. Vance, 11/02/2021
Monica Connor, 11/07/2023 Plamen Petkov, 11/02/2021

REPRESENTATIVE TO REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BOARD

Sara Ellen Cousins, 11/30/2021

JUDGE OF PROBATE

Diane Blick, 01/09/2019 – 01/04/2023

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Tina M. Pitcher Casey T. Flanagan Edward M. Kirby
Barclay W. Prindle Michael D. Lynch Brian F. Kenny
Harding F. Bancroft, Jr. Howard M. Randall Lorraine J. Lewis
Louise F. Brown Michael R. Tesoro Judge Manning, Sr.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Barclay W. Prindle, *Chairman*, 2023
Elizabeth M. Hall, *V. Chairman*, 2021
Stanley MacMillan Jr., *Secretary*, 2025
Susan Lynn, 2025 Laurance B. Rand III, 2023

Alternate Members

Cybele Loening, 2023 Edward W. Wilbur, 2023 Larry Moskowitz, 2021

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

William Trowbridge, *Chairman*, 2023
Harding F. Bancroft, Jr., *V. Chairman*, 2023
Allen I. Young, 2023 Michael T. Dignacco, 2021 Alphonse J. Tortorella, 2021

Alternate Members

Jill Suzanne Drew, 2023 Zelina Blagden, 2021 Scott J. Pastre, 2023

ELECTIVE STATE OFFICERS

UNITED STATE SENATORS

Christopher S. Murphy 01/03/2019 to 01/03/2025
Richard Blumenthal 01/03/2017 to 01/03/2023

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS

5th Congressional District

Jahana Hayes 01/03/2021to 01/03/2023

REPRESENTATIVES IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Senate – 30th Senatorial District

Craig Miner 01/06/2021 to 01/04/2023

House of Representatives – 64th House District

Maria Horn 01/06/2021 to 01/04/2023

APPOINTED / HIRED TOWN OFFICERS

TOWN COUNSEL

Cramer & Anderson, LLP – D. Randall DiBella

TOWN AUDITOR

Sinnamon & Associates, LLC

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO FIRST SELECTMAN

Tina M. Pitcher

ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK

Marlene M. Woodman

ASSESSOR

Jennifer Dubray
Patricia S. Braislin, Assistant

**ASSISTANT REGISTRAR OF
VITAL STATISTICS**

Marlene M. Woodman

DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

Michael Crespan, MPH, RS
David R. Kurish, M.D., Advisor
Elizabeth H. Casey, Sanitary Inspector
Christopher Chaber, Food Establishment Inspector

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Lee Sohl

TREE WARDEN

Jeffrey Perotti

**CIVIL PREPAREDNESS
COORDINATOR**

Thomas H. Bartram

**FIRE MARSHAL &
BUILDING OFFICIAL**

Stanley MacMillan, Jr.
Michael Carbone, Asst. BO
Charles Carleton, Deputy FM
Timothy Limbos, Deputy FM

LAND USE ADMINISTRATOR

Elizabeth H. Casey

REPRESENTATIVE TO REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BOARD

Anne M. Vance, *Alternate*, 2021

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

John J. Barody, *Chairman*, 2023
Elizabeth M. Hall, *V. Chairman*, 2025
J. Barclay Collins, 2024 Lionel Goldfrank III, 2022 Stephen J. Szalewicz, Jr., 2022

Alternate Members

Theo Coulombe, 2023 Vacancy, 2022 Edwin Yowell, 2021

SEWER & WATER COMMISSION

Stephen J. Szalewicz, Jr., *Chairman*, 2025
Elizabeth M. Rybczyk, *V. Chairman*, 2021
Douglas O. Hobby, 2024 Harding F. Bancroft, Jr., 2023 Joseph V. Hajek, 2022

Alternate Members

Dobriila M. Waugh, 2022 Jacob E. Fricker, 2023

SHARON HOUSING AUTHORITY

Brent M. Colley, *Temporary Chairman*, 2024
Patricia Whelan, *Treasurer*, 2023
William J. Manasse, *Asst. Treasurer & V. Chairman*, 2021
Jeannette Moss, *Secretary & Tenant Representative*, 2025
Vacancy

TOWN HALL COMMITTEE

Donna A. Christensen Thomas H. Bartram Linda R. Amerighi Zelina Blagden

SHARON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Donna A. Christensen, *Chairman*
Mandy Thompson, *V. Chairman*
Sara Lott Alphonse J. Tortorella Alexis Peterson
Michele Purdy Frank Handelman

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Paul Bacsik, *Chairman*, 2024
Claudia E. Cayne, *V. Chairman & Secretary*, 2022
James D. Krissel, 2023 Vacancy, 2025
Carl Chalet, 2023 Howard M. Randall, 2021
Cicily W. Hajek, 2023

INLAND WETLANDS & WATER COURSES COMMISSION

James D. Krissel, *Chairman*, 2023
Scott L. Schreiber, *V. Chairman*, 2022
Michael H. Dudek, *Secretary*, 2022
Harvey W. Hayden, V.M.D., 2025 William Trowbridge, 11/21/2023
Laurance B. Rand, III, 11/23/2023 Sharon M. Tingley, 2025

Alternate Members

Vacancy, 2023
Robin L. Zitter, 2021

Edward M. Kirby, *Chairman Emeritus*

SALISBURY-SHARON RESOURCE RECOVERY AUTHORITY

Brent M. Colley, 01/14/2023

Vacant 01/14/2024

Malcolm M. Brown, 01/14/2022

Thomas H. Bartram, Voting Alternate, 01/14/2022

SHARON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

Carolyn O. Mattoon, *Chairman*, 10/09/2021

Katy Kinsolving, *Secretary*, 10/09/2021

Douglas W. Rick, 10/09/2022

Janice Dudek, 10/09/2022

Oscar R. Martinez, 10/09/2021

Roger Liddell, 10/09/2022

Michael Nadeau, 10/09/2022

ALTERNATES – BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

Three Vacancies

Terms to November 19, 2021

CIVIL PREPAREDNESS COORDINATOR

Thomas H. Bartram

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Brent M. Colley Thomas H. Bartram James Reid

Elizabeth H. Casey Thomas F. Casey, Sr.

Todd C. Anderson

NORTHWEST CT TRANSIT DISTRICT BOARD

Vacant, January 2022

SUMMARY OF SHARON TOWN MEETINGS 2019 - 2020

Governing of the Town of Sharon is based on the Town Meeting as the legislative body with financial concerns in the prevue of the Board of Finance and the day to day governing under the Board of Selectmen, primarily the First Selectman. In lieu of a county system, Connecticut Towns govern the “township” as well as any villages within their borders. Important to note is the fact that major decisions are accomplished by those in attendance at Town Meetings, there is no quorum required, nor are absentee ballots available!

August 23, 2019: Eight residents gathered and voted to: approve revisions to Ordinances regarding the Annual Town Budget Meeting, the Building Fees and Driveways. At this meeting a revision to the Highway Construction Requirements was withdrawn at the time due to conflicts with the Planning and Zoning Commission’s Subdivision Regulations.

December 13, 2019: Approximately 14 residents gathered and voted to: authorize the First Selectman to secure a 5-year loan through Salisbury Bank & Trust Company in the amount of \$125,000 at an interest rate of 2.25% totaling \$132,300 for the purchase of a new F550 Truck; and to authorize the Town of Sharon to accept and have the First Selectman executive the necessary documents and promissory notes to secure a Grant/Loan from Eversource in the amount of \$100,000 at 0% interest to be paid back over four years to enable the Sharon Housing Authority to replace the HVAC equipment with new apparatus so to upgrade the HVAC systems at Sharon Ridge Affordable Housing.

January 31, 2020: Approximately 37 residents gathered and voted to: approve an expenditure of \$14,953 from the Parks & Recreation Committee’s portion of the Capital Non-recurring Account for tennis court repairs; and for the electors of the Town of Sharon to fill the vacancy for Sharon’s Representative to the Region 1 Board of Education to fill the unexpired portion of the term (11/30/2021) – Sara Cousins was duly nominated and elected.

May 5, 2020: Following Governor Lamont’s Executive Order, the budget adoption process was different for the 2020/2021 fiscal year. The Board of Finance held a Zoom meeting at which time questions and comments that were received on the proposed budgets were addressed. They then approved the proposed budget to the Board of Selectmen for their approval. The Board of Finance recommended to the Board of Selectmen that the Mil Rate for fiscal year 2020/2021 be maintained at 14.40.

May 12, 2020: The Board of Selectmen voted to approve the budget as presented and to approve the recommended Mil Rate from the Board of Finance.

First Selectman

2019 was a transition year for the Board of Selectmen with Jessica Fowler retiring from our board and elected to the Board of Finance and Casey Flanagan elected to our board following his tenure on the Board of Finance. With “budget season 2020” occurring so quickly following the November 2019 elections, this changeover provided the best scenario possible for the Town and the Town projects in progress; The transition was seamless.

2019-20 highlights:

- The Green Committee’s Upper Main Street Drainage, Granite Curbing and Green Regrading Project was completed in the Fall of 2019. Thank you to the Green Committee, RAR Building and Construction, and our engineers (Rich Calkins and Pat Hackett) for completing this project on time and under budget. Special thank you to *Perotti Tree Surgeons*, Mark Sweeney of V.R.I. Environmental Services and W.B. Case.
- The new Salisbury-Sharon Transfer Station will open in October, 2020. A big thank you to all the committees involved- SSRRA, SSTSBC, TRAC, and Burlington Construction for their hard work and dedication navigating this twenty-year joint municipal transfer station adventure.
- Capital improvement planning for the Town Hall Parking Lot, Town Garage buildings, and Town Sidewalks remained in focus and we are hopeful that at least one of these projects will break ground in 2020.
- Efforts to keep residents informed and promote Town events and meetings continued with the new Town website going live in December of 2019; We also emailed a monthly newsletter, “The Sharon #411”, to help keep residents up-to-date on what was being discussed and voted on at our meetings.

We thank all of the Town’s Elected Officials, their Staff, our Sharon Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Volunteers. Your hard work and dedication make this Town, one of the best Towns in Connecticut.

On behalf of my fellow Board Members, Casey Flanagan and Dale Jones, I close this report by asking you to attend our meetings. We need your help to accomplish what is best for this community: We need to know your opinions; We need to know your preferences; We need to know your concerns. Open communication and transparent discussion has been a theme for this board since 2013 as we feel that this is the best way to help everyone understand and comprehend the reasoning behind the duties and projects this board decides to take action upon.

Brent M. Colley
First Selectman

Town Clerk

785 documents were recorded for fiscal year 2019-2020.

105 Property transfers for fiscal year contributed \$102,828.58 in Local Conveyance Tax and \$357,464.48 in State Conveyance Tax.

During calendar year 2019:

198 Births were recorded	914 certified copies of Birth Certificates issued
147 Death Certificates were processed	743 certified copies of Death Certificates issued
27 Marriage Licenses were processed	63 certified copies of Marriage Certificates issued
10 Resident Births and 46 Resident Deaths	257 Dogs were licensed 6/2019 – 5/2020

The Town Clerk collected \$576,437.22 for 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Highlights for the Office:

VITAL RECORDS:

Electronic filing Death Certificates have been in the test phase. Most recent update was that each county will be rolled out in phases during 2021. Looking forward to the new system and electronic, almost paperless advancement in recording of Deaths.

LAND RECORDS:

The office is continually indexing records onto the IQS system. This system has been the land line for Realtors, Attorney's, Title Searchers, including many during this Pandemic. I requested additional appropriations from the Board of Finance to further index land records into the system which was approved. This will be completed by June 2021.

Current records can be viewed online by visiting searchiqs.com. Fees are paid directly to the vendor and you can use your credit card. The Town still receives the \$1.00 per page statutory fee.

COVID-19

The office in 2020 had to adjust to multiple changes and I would like to thank all the residents and those who frequent my office my gratitude for the understanding and patience during the office being closed to the public. Even having my office closed, I never worked from home and came in to do what needed to be done.

It has not been easy but I see the light at the end of the tunnel. Thank you all who have been patient. God bless, Stay Safe – Stay Strong.

Respectfully,

Linda R. Amerighi

Principal – Sharon Center School

Where to begin?

School closed for students on March 13, 2020; due to the COVID 19 pandemic and remained closed for the remainder of the school year.

The annual town report usually focusses on events that have happened in the school and the trips the students have participated in. Instead, we would like to share the amazing things that have happened!

Faculty and staff members implemented remote emergency teaching or online distance learning. We hope not to need distance learning in the fall, but are currently researching and listening to feedback in order to improve the distance learning experience for all stakeholders in the event we are forced to continue with distance learning in 2020-2021.

Students, parents, guardians, teachers, and staff worked very hard to provide meaningful distance learning experiences for students. Platforms such as Google Classroom, Google Draw, Google Hangout, Google Meet, Screencastify, Scootpad, See-Saw, and Zoom to name a few were used.

What did this look like?

- Spanish being taught through Rockalinga
- Virtual music lessons
- Daily live Read-Alouds
- Zoom show and tell
- Google Meet for social groups, counseling and lunch bunch meetings
- See-Saw for messaging, posting assignments, and reviewing work
- Google Classroom for whole class learning, small group learning and 1-1 learning

Using these virtual platforms our staff continued core and special subject instruction for the students. Along with the core and special subject instruction there was a focus on social emotional needs of students, their families, and staff members.

What did this look like?

- Teachers, teaching assistants, office staff keeping detailed records and reaching out when student work products or communication was lacking or minimal,
- Faculty/staff engaging in discussions around ways to de-stress, organize, relax, and learn new life skills
- Wellness check ins, emails, texts, and calls to check in on students' learning
- Region # 1 Unity campaign-hearts proudly displayed across the community
- Faculty/staff being there for any and all needs of students and their families
- Continual learning for all in relation to use of digital platforms
- Faculty, staff, community members, and vendors providing rich resource lists!

All of our Board of Education and faculty/staff meetings transitioned to Zoom and Google Meets. There was a learning curve but the opportunity to collaborate and conduct business was greatly appreciated!

Our cafeteria staff, office staff, and All-Star Transportation were able to provide nutritious meals to the children in our district. We were so very appreciative that we could support them!!

Transitions:

We welcomed music teacher Peter Del Monaco, middle school English Language Arts teacher Olivia Sheldon and Library Media Specialist Jill Pace to the faculty in the fall of 2019.

We wished Pupil Services teacher Gail Allyn the very best on her retirement and thanked her for twenty-seven years of service to Region One and Sharon Center School.

Sharon Center School partnered with many local organizations and businesses in order to offer real world opportunities for students to learn both in and out of their classrooms. We appreciated the generous support of the Sharon BOE, Sharon PTO, Salisbury Bank, Sharon Audubon, Sharon Historical Society, Hotchkiss School, Hotchkiss Library, parents, community members, faculty and staff. We have participated in many exciting enrichment opportunities throughout the year.

Ten students graduated from eighth grade and celebrated with a unique drive in commencement ceremony followed by rousing show of support from the community with a wave parade on Main Street!

Congratulations to our 8th grade award winners:

American Legion Awards	Finn Cousins & Jorie Welshans
Lions Club Award	Gage Wilkinson
Lions Club Honorary Award	Jorie Welshans
Jack "Compo" Comporesi Athletic Awards	Finn Cousins & Samantha Crodelle
Sharon Woman's Club Awards	Joshua Shaw-Cahill & Shelby Whitesel
Sharon School Cup Award	Finn Cousins
Lucia M. Gulino Award	Fiona Roy
Sharon Center School Outstanding Musician Award	Finn Cousins
Sharon Center School Foreign Language Award	Finn Cousins
Sharon Center School Language Arts Award	Mary LaFond
Sharon Center School Social Studies Award	Finn Cousins
Ted Christinat Science Award	Finn Cousins
Barbara Yohe Math Award	Finn Cousins and Samantha Crodelle
Sharon Center School Awards	Dylan McDonald & Shelby Whitesel
President's Award for Educational Excellence	Finn Cousins & Mary LaFond
President's Award for Educational Achievement	Finn Cousins, Samantha Crodelle, JennaLee Farina, Mary LaFond, Fiona Roy, Joshua Shaw-Cahill, Jorie Welshans, Gage Wilkinson
The American Citizenship Awards	Finn Cousins & Jorie Welshans

We would like to express special thanks to the Sharon Playhouse for providing each child a gift certificate to a performance of their choice in the future.

We are so very appreciative of all that the community has done for Sharon Center School over the year! Sharon Center School provides a holistic learning experience for children to learn and grow! I would like to thank the students, parents, their extended families, faculty, staff, BOE, PTO and residents of Sharon for their ongoing help and support. Be well!

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Karen Manning

Superintendent of Schools

Each year, we have the opportunity at Region One to reflect upon the events and achievements for the Annual Town Report. The schools of Canaan, Cornwall, Kent, North Canaan, Salisbury, Sharon and Housatonic Valley Regional High School are the seven districts that comprise Region One's 275 square miles.

I now have the privilege of serving as the Interim Superintendent of Schools, to follow Dr. Pam Vogel, who worked in Region One for the past five years. While the transition to a new position always presents a learning curve, making the transition to this position in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic has been an altogether new experience for me and for everyone in the Region. We have been forced to change our way of life and consequently, our educational process to ensure the health, safety and emotional well-being of our students and staff while ensuring that students are receiving the best education possible in this new environment. Fortunately, we have strong teams of Board of Education members, administrators, teachers and support staff, who have worked together to create an effective plan for operating our schools.

This report included information from the 2019-2020 school year. During that time, I was the Assistant Superintendent and was responsible for curriculum development, planning professional learning for teachers and support staff, data collection and analysis, and the management of the federal grant process. Specific accomplishments in these areas throughout the year included:

- Completion of English Language Arts and Math curriculum for grades 4-8;
- Introduction of social emotional learning curriculum for grades Pre-k-12;
- Introduction of the Alpine/Educlimber computer platform to warehouse student achievement data;
- Adoption of a new screening tool that allows for analysis of student reading, writing and math skills in grade K-12 and that also includes a social emotional screener;
- Continuation of the instructional coaching program for certified teachers; and
- Commencement of a curriculum review for English Language Arts, Social Studies and Math for grades 9-12.

This work is all aligned with the Region One Strategic Plan that includes the following goals.

Having an electronic device and access to internet services were important factors necessary to support student success with distance learning during the pandemic. Fortunately, most of our schools are 1:1 and most students have their own computers, so the availability of devices was not an issue. However, the switch to online learning was particularly challenging in Region One due to inconsistent internet access for both teachers and students. We worked with local service providers to ensure that families received financial support when needed. Additionally, we surveyed families to identify areas where access to broadband service is weak so that we could consider the creation of hotspots to improve service. Improving broadband access is an ongoing process and one that will likely continue for several years.

Another challenge that we were able to overcome, was the continuation of food service during the time that our schools were closed. The USDA subsidized the provision of meals to all children between the ages of 3-18 for those schools who participated in the federal lunch program. The White Hart Inn and the Cornwall Social Services group provided food service for the Lee H. Kellogg and Cornwall Consolidated Schools as they do not participate in the federal program. Lunches were delivered to each home by the All Star bus company, which was staffed by Region One support staff to help with dropping off the meals. We are extremely thankful for the assistance provided by all parties involved to ensure the alleviation of any food insecurity in the area.

To keep our schools safe places for learning, both pre and post COVID-19, budget and infrastructure needs have been attended to, through the oversight of each Board of Education, Building and Grounds Committees in each school, and Sam Herrick, Regional Shared Services Business Manager.

Sam Herrick oversees the districts' projects. These are the projects that have taken place at the Sharon Center School over the past year:

Sharon Center School

- Removed asbestos flooring and replaced with new VCT tile (lower and upper levels)
- Removed and replaced the underground storage tank

These projects were completed pre-pandemic as well as during the time when schools were closed.

It was a complex and challenging year, but with the help of our stakeholders, we managed to work together to continue student learning. We thank our Board of Education, parents, community members, staff and everyone who supports our students and the programs that enhance their educational experience in Region One Schools. COVID-19 will remain with us during the 2020-2021 school year, but we now have some experience and understanding of how to work together to ensure that our students continue to learn and grow. At times like this, it truly takes a village and we are fortunate that ours is so strong.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa B. Carter

Principal - HVRHS

The 2019-2020 school year was an historic and unprecedented experience for everyone involved. Housatonic Valley Regional High School began the year with two goals that were continuations of our work the previous year:

- To have teachers consistently use research-based instructional strategies
- To implement the Regional Teacher Evaluation Plan with fidelity

Our experience over the past few years and educational research have substantiated the need for and value of social-emotional learning to equip every member of our community with the wherewithal to address the personal challenges we all face in life.

Therefore, our Leadership Team revised our third goal:

- To cultivate an environment of positive social and emotional health, safety, and well-being for all students in order to develop lifelong learners.

Consequently, we spent time during our professional learning workshops to explore the ways that schools are addressing not only the social-emotional needs of students but how we can leverage social-emotional strategies to improve instruction and learning. Our ninth-grade team, now coordinated to focus on the needs of our transitioning students, explored how the Habits of Mind that are in place at our elementary and middle schools might be revised for use in the high school, and our renewed focus on effectively transitioning students to the high school resulted in a nurturing environment for those students that will surely result in a more successful experience later in high school.

We also continued to evolve our grading practices toward a standards-based approach. This year, parents were able to see both numerical and alphabetical grades, with plans to migrate to a letter-only system for 20-21. All assignments will be scored with the ten available score points (A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, and NYP; for AP and ECE courses the grade scale will be A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, F) using existing rubrics that are aligned to subject-area standards. This paves the way for precise and actionable feedback about student performance and achievement in a standards-based system. Over the next few years, we will anchor this feedback to the qualities in our Portrait of a Graduate that describe the kind of students we want to develop through our comprehensive program.

We continued to clarify these qualities in our professional work at the beginning and middle of the school year by elaborating our definitions of them and aligning the qualities with experiences in the school that we already offer to develop student proficiency in each area. For instance, part of being a “Communicator” is being able to speak to an audience, and we offer numerous opportunities for students to present material to others and receive feedback about their presentations. Ultimately, we will report this feedback in our standards-based reporting system so that all stakeholders can know their progress toward attaining the values that mean the most to us as a school community.

Unfortunately, much of our work was suspended by the need to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic. While the emergency placed unprecedented demands on schools to design distance learning experiences, our 1-1 Chromebook program, robust network infrastructure, and remarkable staff rose to the challenge almost overnight. Teachers quickly adapted to new technology tools, and many of our teachers who have been using Google Classroom for years were able to practically flip a switch to change the instructional paradigm. Most classes embraced an asynchronous teaching model, assigning learning experiences that students completed with the support of online resources and teacher help sessions over Google Meet.

We carefully tracked students during the quarantine, and while we adopted a Pass/Fail grading system to account for the great disparities in the amount of home support students received, many students struggled to keep pace, especially as the quarantine extended to the end of the year. Our entire adult staff did yeoman's work to track and connect with students, including home visits and food delivery, but some students continued to struggle without the daily interaction they experienced in school. We are currently developing extensive supports for the 20-21 school year to bring those students into the school building as often as possible.

Graduation for the Class of 2020 was a singular experience that took place off-campus for the first time in our history. The school teamed up with Lime Rock Park to hold an in-person, socially distanced commencement exercise that allowed our student speakers to address their peers who attended in their vehicles. Representative Maria Horn addressed the crowd of over 150 cars, the occupants of which all passed through temperature screening to be allowed into the park. A car parade brought everyone back to the school to receive their diplomas on the front steps to incorporate a modicum of tradition into an event that no attendee will soon forget.

Planning for the upcoming school year began before the past year had ended, and all of the regional schools participated in the development of a comprehensive plan to open schools safely in the fall. The keystone of the plan is a three-part model for low-moderate- and high-infection returns to the classroom, with all systems oriented toward a full return at some point next year. The difficulty of cohorting high school students and the logistics of providing a safe return have led us to embrace a hybrid model for the fall, in which approximately half of the school would be in the building for two days a week, followed by a distance learning and deep cleaning day, and then the other half of the student population returning for two more days. We are hopeful that infection rates and vaccine development will trend positively in the fall, allowing us to return to a full community as soon as possible. Regardless, Housatonic has demonstrated the capacity to respond to the ever-changing demands of our communities, thanks to our close collaboration with them and the support from families and taxpayers around the region.

Ian Strever, Principal

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Commission has weathered the COVID-19 situation as well as can be expected; holding meetings in the parking lot and grassy area behind Town Hall. Social distancing has been strictly observed.

SCC has a continuing presence at the WCCAA (Western Ct. Clean Air Action) meetings that focus on how Cricket Valley Power in Dover affects our air quality.

Our air monitor has continued to work well. However, other municipalities' units need maintenance and ours might be right behind. The manufacturer so far has honored those costs. The data gathered from them has reflected the large drop off in vehicular traffic due to the pandemic. This has made the establishment of a baseline for future reference difficult. Hartford allocated financing to WCCAA for a UCONN Storrs professor to have grad students help organize and monitor data. Professor Christina Wagstrom has been very helpful.

We are looking for a new member to replace Wayne Purdy who left last fall. We hope that one of Sharon's many new residents with environmental awareness might volunteer to serve. Please feel free to send any possible candidate our way.

Letters were sent out to all landowners adjacent to town discontinued roads under the aegis of SCC that are for recreation. This was insisted upon by the town attorney. It alerted owners that trail clearing would occur on the trails near them. It was part of a joint project with Sharon Land Trust to publish a map of hiking trails in Sharon. Unfortunately a potential SLT donor had SLT back out of the project. SCC is continuing alone on this. We feel anything that brings more people to the area will help local businesses.

Phillip Lovett of Canaan was finally able to finish brush hogging Fairchild Rd.

SCC is considering topics that might be part of an open forum open to the public much like the "Invasive Plants" seminar that was held a couple years ago. Ideas such as recycling and composting are how we are thinking.

Paul Bacsik, Chairman

Zoning Board of Appeals

The Zoning Board of Appeals considers applications of property owners who wish to make changes to their properties which are not allowed by the Zoning Regulations. During the past year the ZBA received only one application. A property owner wanted to construct a roofed patio on the front of her house 14 feet from the road right-of-way where the Zoning Regulations required 50 feet. The Variance was granted because the house was built prior to Zoning and the construction would create no hazard.

Respectfully submitted,

William Trowbridge, Chairman

Planning and Zoning Commission

The Planning and Zoning Commission has two basic functions. First, it administers the Town Zoning Regulations, in accordance with Title 8 and Chapter 124 of the Connecticut General Statutes, which was adopted in Sharon in 1972. Second, it oversees the proper and desirable use of the land in accordance with the Town Zoning Regulations and the Town Plan of Conservation and Development. Matters that often come before the Commission include; size, use, and placement of lots, buildings and other structures; residential or commercial use of property; location, size and depth of roads and driveways, and much more. Jamie Casey, the Zoning Enforcement Officer, is hired by the Commission and among her many responsibilities she enforces the Planning and Zoning Regulations. Copies of the Planning and Zoning Regulations are available on-line or at the Town Hall. The Sharon Planning and Zoning Commission meets each month to proceed with agenda items and planning sessions.

Over the course of the past year, examples of matters that came before the Commission were:

- Amendment to Allow Farm Stands in the GR2 District to Conform with RR District;
- Clarification of Procedures for Commercial and “Pop-Up” Retail Businesses;
- Expansion of Commercial Greenhouses and Agricultural Businesses in RR District;
- Review of Applications for Home Occupations and Accessory Apartments;
- Informational Discussions Concerning Broadband Internet Needs in Sharon;
- Permission to Repair/Refurbish Existing Stonewall in the Town Right of Way
- Application Concerning Charitable Use under Article III, 3.G of the Regulations
-

It is no surprise that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in numerous challenges for the Commission over the past several months. We continuously balanced the need for taking all proper safety precautions with having open meetings with public access. Yet, as I look through the minutes, it is hard to believe how much work was completed during these extraordinary times. There is no doubt that the Commission could never have accomplished the business that came before it without Jamie Casey, our Zoning Enforcement Officer and Land Use Administrator and Tina Pitcher, our Recording Secretary. Thanks to their efforts, perseverance and innovation we were able to meet the unprecedented challenges and continue to have regular meetings that followed all proper safety precautions and were open to the public. Jamie Casey accomplished an extraordinary amount of work and I shudder to think of what would have happened without her knowledge, skill and dedication. Tina Pitcher never failed to keep the Commission working at maximum efficiency even during the most problematic circumstances. Jamie and Tina are irreplaceable, and we simply could not have accomplished the essential work of the Commission without their countless hours and commitment. This Commission and this Town owe Jamie and Tina our deepest respect and appreciation.

Finally, during these dangerous and often grim times, I am grateful for having the opportunity to work with all the Commission members. They are your friends and neighbors who, despite all the complications, never dodged their obligations. These folks volunteer their time and talent, even under the most problematic of circumstances, for the sole purpose of preserving our quality

of life and ensuring that Sharon continues to grow and develop with our changing times. It is an honor to work with such a rich and wonderful group of individuals.

Respectfully submitted,

Barclay W. Prindle, Chairman

Inland Wetlands & Watercourse Commission

During fiscal year 2019-2020 your Sharon Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission (SIWWC) has reviewed 39 permit applications. The main responsibility of the SIWWC is to review the environmental impact of activities in regulated areas, offer alternatives and issue permits where appropriate. The SIWWC is also concerned with the preservation of any archaeological location, historic site or structure of antiquity in cooperation with the Sharon Planning and Zoning Commission.

Each of the applications received resulted in one or more field site visits before review at the following meeting. Approved activities included construction or repair of dams, stream crossing including bridges, farm ponds, timbering, construction of and additions to homes, building and replacement of driveways, decks, septic systems and recommendations concerning the use of aquatic control chemicals in ponds. Permits are not issued until all information has been received and applications are processed.

In April the SIWWC suspended meetings due to Covid-19 concerns but applications continued to be received. Meetings resumed in June with all Covid-19 precautions in place but with reduced attendance due to health concerns of some Commission members. Site visits continued with reports filed by Commissioners who could not attend meetings. The virus may continue to affect the ability of the SIWWC to operate normally. I want to thank Sharon Land Use Administrator Jamie Casey and assistant Niki Blass for all their hard work this year and especially Jamie Casey for all her hard work when Covid-19 emergency measures began and Niki was unable to be in the Land Use office.

As the new chairman for the SIWWC I want to thank Ed Kirby for his many years of service to the Wetlands Commission, as town historian, and to the Town of Sharon in general. His many hours of service add up to several thousand site visits, hours of phone calls and reading of materials, and heading the commission with knowledge, humor and grace that cannot be replaced. The Commission is thankful to have him as Chairman Emeritus as his advice is irreplaceable. Thanks again Ed!

Respectfully submitted

James D Krissel, Chairman

Building Official/Fire Marshal

BUILDING OFFICIAL

Our office is located on the second floor of the Town Hall at 63 Main Street. The Building Inspector is available in the office Monday through Saturday from 8 AM to 9 AM. The office is open from 7 AM until 12 noon, Monday through Friday.

During the COVID 19 pandemic – our offices remained open by appointment and all inspections were scheduled and conducted.

Single- family construction resulted in 6 new homes and 1 demolition.

	Permits Issued	Value	Permit Fee
2019-2020	646	21,829,431	164,559
.2018-2019	636	19,416,431	153,041
2017-2018	638	14,487,196	114,572
2016-2017	620	19,408.755	148,517
2015-2016	749	21,184,084	168,232

FIRE MARSHAL

In addition to the investigation of all fires, the Fire Marshal is responsible for the annual inspection of all Public Facilities as well as multi-family dwellings. Included are: Sharon Hospital, Sharon Health Care, Sharon Center School and Sharon Daycare. The Fire Marshal conducts all Fire Prevention education for Sharon Center School and daycare students during Fire Prevention Week in October.

OPEN BURN OFFICIAL

There were 521 Open Burning Permits issued this year. Open Burning is allowed in Connecticut with a valid permit. Two indexes are checked to see if a day is acceptable to burn – the Air Quality Index (AQI) through the DEEP and the Open Burning Index. If the AQI is higher than 75 anywhere in the State, there would be no burning that day. Permits are available in this office and are valid for 30 days.

Respectfully,

Stanley MacMillan

Building Inspector, Fire Marshal, Open Burn Official

Road Foreman

2019-20 highlights:

- Benton Hill Road was patch paved and chip sealed.
- Knibloe Hill Road received its final coat of pavement and was chip sealed.
- Surdan Mountain Road was paved and chip sealed.
- We also chip sealed Skiff Mountain Rd., Keeler Rd., Lambert Rd. (apron), and Clark Hill Rd. Chip sealing extends the life of these roads and protects the Town's investment in them.
- Carey Hill Road roadside drainage was improved. Special thank you to Palmer Construction for their assistance in replacing the drainage pipe at the corner of Carey Hill Road and Keeler.
- The effort to remove dead and dangerous trees continued in 2019/20 with assistance from Town Tree Warden, Jeff Perotti; Lewis Tree; and Town Sub-Contractors.
- Roadside mowing and brush push back projects continue. Thank you to sub-contractor Scott Garay for his on-going service on this project.
- We continued testing new road material(s), and crowning and grading gravel roads in new ways to improve their condition and attempt to prevent chronic pot holes and wash-out issues.
- Drainage projects and pipe replacements remain a big focus of our workload, and we thank all that have been helping us complete this important work. Multiple drainage pipes on West Woods Road #2 and Herb Road were replaced in the winter of 2020.

As we move forward to 2020/2021, repaving the remaining roads on our list and addressing gravel road issues top our list of priorities. We also are focused on maintaining and repairing/improving our existing buildings, increasing cold storage capacity, and maintaining our equipment replacement schedule.

Respectively submitted,

Jamie Reid
Road Foreman

Social Service Agent & Municipal Military Representative

March, 2020 a global pandemic necessitated Connecticut to declare a civil preparedness and public health emergency. The National Guard was activated. Non-essential businesses and schools closed. Food insecurities peaked as shelves were emptied and toilet paper was rationed. Face masks became everyday apparel, along with hand washing, social distancing and limited gatherings. Amongst all of this calamity and fear, arose, volunteers, from all walks of life, eager to help physically, emotionally or monetarily. Volunteers made comfort calls to isolated residents, delivered food boxes, mail, prescriptions, and made face masks for frontline workers

and residents. Generous donations were made to assist those facing financial calamity. I am grateful for the generosity, kindness, compassion and volunteerism towards this office during one of the worst pandemics in our history.

My position as the Municipality Military Representative began in June 2019. This office has filed 9 compensation claims, in behalf of veterans and widows, 5 approved and 4 pending. The adjudication process can take 2 months to 2 years. The pandemic and Blue Water Legislation has prevented compensation ratings and medical board exams, significantly delaying processing and discouraging claimants. Veterans can benefit from VA medical care and equipment as 4 received hearing aids, amplified telephones, life alert devices and mobility equipment. The Soldier, Sailor, Marine, Fund approved 5 grants totaling \$6,280.00, to 2 Veterans and 3 widows, for essential services.

As temperatures drop in October, fuel assistance applications peak. CT Energy Assistance Program (CEAP), funded by the government, assisted 40 households with heating grants totaling \$24,041.95. Additionally, Operation Fuel, funded by “Add-A Dollar” on your electric bill, approved 12 households, totaling \$6,211.05. Another source of assistance comes from The Litchfield Hills COG fuel Bank, privately funded, helping 5 households, and totaling \$1,960.12.

The holiday season unites the town in many ways through “drives” (food, toy, coat, hat, and mitten) anonymous monetary donations, homemade cookies, and children gift sponsorship. A heart felt “Thank you” to our local Churches, Banks, Secret Elves, Sharon Health Care Center, Sharon Center School, Sharon Woman’s Club, Sharon Woman’s Support Services, Sharon Tavern, Housatonic Youth Services, Legos Corp, and Troop B Canaan, for making wishes come true and a joyous season for all. Taghannuck Grange bakes cookies by the dozens, bringing peace and joy to surprised recipients. Lastly, thanks to “Randy for the seasonal turkeys and fixings picked up, annually from the CT Food Bank.

The Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation gives annual grants to Ella’s Closet, the Sharon Community Foundation, and Litchfield Hills COG regional fuel bank. The Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation’s Jane Lloyd Fund granted one resident, \$3,566.21, their Blue Horizon medical fund assisted two residents totaling \$1,962.23, and their Neighbor to Neighbor fund increased its assistance to \$1000 to twenty households totaling, \$13,370.64 during the COVID economic crisis. Fourteen individuals received help from the Foundation for Community Health’s Prescription Drug Program, totaling \$7,170.24. (Allotment of \$250 was increased to \$350 allowing for home delivery services and increased medications, during the pandemic). United Way COVID 19 Response Fund, granted 15 households with Mobile Wallet Cards (\$200 ea.) for essential needs, total grant \$3,000.00

The Sharon Community Foundation, a private 501-c--3 nonprofit, created in 2012 with assets from the former, Sharon Fuel Bank and is sustained by donations from Sharon residents and organizations. Board members approved grants totaling \$5,916.66 for 16 household’s essential services, 7 grocery gift cards and 17 local farm vouchers paid directly to vendors. The Sharon Fund, was created by the sale of the town owned farm in the 1940’s. This year four (4) households received emergency grants totaling \$1,699.00. General Assistance is a line item in the Social Services budget. Grants for 22 households were approved totaling \$6,505.93.

Ella's Food Closet is located in the social service office, dedicated to residents in a food crisis. The closet receives food or monetary donations from anonymous Sharon residents, food drives from local Churches, Banks, local businesses, and organizations. Additionally, residents could go to our local food banks, St. Thomas's Church in Amenia Union and The Corner Pantry in Lakeville. During the pandemic, The Corner Pantry packed a total of 175 bags of food feeding 335 people from April to June, bags were picked up on Fridays, brought to Sharon and then delivered by volunteers to high risk residents. Fishes and Loaves Food Bank,(Canaan) provided fruits, vegetables, meat, dry goods, eggs and bread, weekly, from March to May . Food was picked up weekly, sorted, packaged, and brought to Sharon Volunteers to deliver. The Salvation Army delivered 70 pre-packed boxes dry, fresh and frozen food 2X week in June and one week in July. Housatonic Youth Services Bureau (YSA) donated fifty dollar (\$50.00) grocery gift cards per child during Sharon Center School, Spring Break, covering breakfast and lunch normally provided at school. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) coordinated with School & bus services to deliver meals to children twice weekly during summer vacation, Crop Walk Donation of \$325.00 granted (4) households \$50 each, and \$125.00 to (3) households in July.

Sincerest thanks to Ella Clark for dedicating 30+ years of service to this office and playing a significant role in developing and creating programs available today that provide additional resources to those in need.

Warmest Regards
Miriam Jones

Sewer & Water Commission

The Sewer & Water Commission is a volunteer Commission comprised of five members with up to two alternates having the responsibility of operation and maintaining the water supply and sewer systems. Both activities are non-profit and entirely self-supporting. Cheryl Ziegler manages the business office; phone 860-364-8009, located at the Calkinstown Road water filtration plant. The Commission has a contract with VRI Environmental Services of Millbrook, New York, which provides certified operators for both the water and wastewater facilities. They can be reached at 860-364-0457.

During the June meeting of the Commission, Steve Szalewicz was re-elected Chairman, Beth Rybczyk was elected Vice Chairman and Harding Bancroft was re-elected Financial Officer. Other Commission members are Doug Hobby, Joseph Hajek, alternates Dobrila Waugh and Jake Fricker.

The Commission reviews, each month, written reports from VRI, which are kept on file at the Water Filtration Plant. These reports reflect the functioning of the various aspects of the systems and provided the data for required reporting to the State. As in the past we routinely meet or exceed the stringent State and Federal quality requirements. We continue to operate on a financially sound basis in spite of having no rate increases since 2002 for the water and 2003 for

the waste water systems. Because of COVID-19 the Commission has waived past due charges for the July 2020 billing. Currently (October 2020) our records show over \$118,085 past due, although many of these accounts are in payment agreements and some have property liens applied to insure payment should the property be sold. It is in the best interest of all users of the Sharon water and Sewer services to keep accounts current in order to provide for reliable cash flow for running the plants. Up to date payment of all service charges lessens as much as possible the requirement to initiate increases for all customers to provide working capital.

WATER SYSTEM: The system is, as a result of many major projects over the past 15 years, essentially in very good working order.

The major aeration project for the Reservoir to eliminate the causes of toxic algae bloom is now completed at a cost of over \$100,000. The new aeration system and continued monitoring will insure a safe supply of water even in drought conditions.

The Commission has also completed a survey of the dams for both reservoirs and an analysis of the streams feeding them. Again this is done to insure an adequate and safe drinking water supply for all users.

With the water treatment facility being over 20 years old, the Commission continues to upgrade pumps and facilities to prevent service disruption. This year the pumps that brings the raw water from the reservoirs have been upgraded.

SEWER SYSTEM: Over the past 10 years there have been 20 added sewer service customers which prompted the Commission to undertake an engineering study of the sewer plant by Wright Pierce Engineers to determine the current capacity for the plant. That was completed in August and assures us that there is sufficient capacity within the current plant for the foreseeable future needs of the town.

The Commission also acted to upgrade the pump station which serves the Sharon Valley customers by replacing the 20 year old pumps, to insure reliable service for the users.

The continuing maintenance and upgrades to both the water and sewer systems provide opportunities and challenges for the Commission. Those concerned with their water or sewer services may want to consider joining the Commission and assisting in the management of these critical services. The Commission meets each month on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00PM currently via ZOOM.

Historic District Commission

The Sharon Historic District Commission (SHDC) is a unit of Sharon's Town Government organized and operating under principles set forth in Chapter 93a, Section 7-147 of the Statutes of the State of Connecticut as well as those of the Sharon Historic District Rules and Procedures.

The SHDC represents the interests of our community in maintaining the historical and architectural integrity of the town's historic districts. Working with property owners and

municipal agencies, the SHDC helps to preserve buildings and structures within the designated areas by reviewing any proposed changes that will be visible from a public way.

The Commission helps promote the preservation and responsible treatment of Sharon's significant historical and architectural resources: providing a connection to our heritage, adding to the visual richness of the town, creating economic benefits such as more stable property values, well-maintained infrastructure, stronger community identity and increased tourism.

The establishment and designation of our historic districts are an effective legal means of giving local Sharon residents control over the character and appearance of our community while still allowing growth and change.

A Property Owners Guide for the District, created by the Commission, provides information and answers to frequently asked questions for the use of District residents and local real estate agents. It is posted for the general public on the Town of Sharon website.

Annual Report

During the Fiscal Year July 2019 through June 2020, the Commission held 9 regular monthly meetings. March and April meetings were cancelled due to Covid restrictions. May and June meetings resumed and were held under current allowable guidelines. The Commission received and processed 21 applications for Certificates of Appropriateness, 4 more than the previous year. The Commission's *Administrative Review & Procedures* were updated and approved.

Scot Samuelson resigned in early 2020. As a result, one open Alternate member vacancy remains to be filled.

Sharon Historic District Commission

**Current members: John Baroody, Chairman; Elizabeth Hall, Vice Chairman,
J. Barclay Collins, Lionel Goldfrank, Steve Szalewicz.**

Alternates: Edwin A. Yowell and Théodore Coulombe.

Commission Clerk: Jamie Casey

Sharon Parks & Recreation Committee

The Music on the Green concert series was moved to the Lion's Club Pavilion for the summer of 2019 due to work being done on the Green. The majority of the attendees preferred the Pavilion over the Town Green for a variety of reasons. There is a new bathroom building, a playscape, and it is located safely away from traffic.

Upgrades were made to the Town Beach facility beginning with excavating and leveling the grassy area to prevent the pooling of water after rainstorms. During winter, many of the trees sustained damage from an ice and wind storm. The trees identified by the tree warden to come down will be taken care of before the beach opens. A tree replacement plan will be developed.

As the COVID crisis increased the decision to cancel the Little Rascals summer camp was made. The beach was open most of the summer following state COVID guidelines.

The basement issue at the Community Center was addressed by a mold abatement project completed in June. Attention will now turn to creating a plan to upgrade the interior of the building.

Visit the new Sharon Parks and Recreation website at sharonct.org!

For information on committee vacancies please call the office of the Recreation Director at 860-364-1400.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Christensen, Chairman

Sharon Green Committee

The project to renovate the Green was essentially completed in the fall of 2019. In the spring of 2020, R.A.R. Excavating, LLC returned to add topsoil and re-seed some areas along Main Street and the south end of the Green which needed additional attention. Just after that work was completed, our area went into a prolonged drought. Watering was not possible due to conservation concerns. It has been a challenging summer for the Green and particularly for Steve Wasley, who cares for it so beautifully.

Early fall rain brought some relief. Our plan is to fertilize the problem areas to get good growth established permanently.

It should be noted that the final bill from R.A.R. has been paid and the total cost for the whole project came to \$390,201.19, for a savings of \$105,798.81. It is rare for a project of this size to come in under budget. A savings of over 21% is rarer still.

Committee members: Betsy Hall, Linda Amerighi, Tom Casey, Eric Golden, Stephen Wasley and Marlene Woodman

Registrar of Voters

In this “Time of COVID” the Registrars have not traveled to any conferences, but we have learned a lot about how to work with voters who cannot come to Town Hall in person, and how to conduct elections that ensure, to the best of our ability, a safe polling place for Sharon voters.

The biggest change in voting this year was the ability for all Sharon residents to vote with an Absentee Ballot in the primary held in August and the general election in November. In

November the polling place was moved to the gymnasium of the Sharon Center School to allow for adequate distancing between voters and between poll workers.

Our duties continue to, beyond the elections, maintain an up-to-date list of registered voters. This list is maintained by registering new voters and conducting an annual canvass. The canvass records moves out of town, deaths and actual voter activity. If a voter fails to vote in four consecutive elections, his or her status automatically goes to "inactive" and he or she must be re-instated by one of the Registrars to be allowed to vote. At this writing, Sharon has 1,710 registered voters: 726 Democratic, 424 Republican and 560 Unaffiliated.

Registering to vote is easy and there are several ways in which to accomplish your registration: in person, by mail or online. The ROV office is open (but at this writing not open to the public) every Tuesday from 10 AM until noon, our office is located on the first floor of Town Hall. Registration forms are also available at the rear entrance to Town Hall. These registration cards can be mailed back to Town Hall or placed in the black drop box at the rear entrance to Town Hall. Online registration is available through the DMV or online at <https://voterregistration.ct.gov/OLVR/welcome.do>. If you call our office (860-364-5514) we will be happy to mail a registration form to you.

A registration form must include proof of the applicant's identification, generally a Connecticut driver's license or the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number. We urge registrants to include a phone number so that we may contact you if we have a question. A letter confirming registration will be mailed, thus we need to have a correct mailing address.

A registered voter from any party or an unaffiliated voter may vote in any election. A voter must be registered in a political party to be able to vote in the primary elections of that party. For local referenda U. S. citizens owning property valued at more than \$1,000.00 may vote, even if they are not a registered Sharon voter.

Connecticut now allows Election Day Registration. A Connecticut resident may register to vote and then vote with a special EDR ballot on the day of the election. This year is a Presidential election, and we expect a record turnout, whether in person or by absentee ballot. We urge all Sharon residents to vote every year, and we look forward to seeing you as you register to vote or at the polls.

Registrars: Marel Rogers (D) and Barbara Coords (R)

Deputy Registrars: Jan Dudek (D), Miriam Jones (R) and Trisha Davisson (R)

Director of Health

Description: The Office of Public Health provides a range of services that improve the health of Sharon residents. The office enforces the uniform public health code of the State of Connecticut to ensure safe food, drinking water, bathing beaches and sewage disposal. The office investigates potential violations of the Public Health Code to prevent impacts to the public health and safety of residents.

YEAR 2019-2020:

At the beginning of the calendar year, the Sharon Health Department began responding to the global and statewide COVID-19 pandemic. The Department actively worked on preventing and controlling cases and at the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2020, there had been just fourteen (14) laboratory confirmed cases among residents of the Town of Sharon. Fifty percent (50%) of these cases resided in a congregate setting in the Town of Sharon.

Septic Systems:	5	New Systems installed
	16	New Testing / Reserve Area
	20	Replacement or Repairs to systems
	1	Central Sewage connection
	1	Abandon System – hooked into Town System
Subdivisions/Re-subdivision:	1	
Well Applications	11	Wells

Respectfully,

Michael A. Crespan, MPH, RS, Director

Dr. David Kurish, Medical Advisor

Jamie Casey, Sanitarian

Sharon Energy & Environment Commission

The mission of the Sharon Energy and Environment commission is to study and address some of the current and anticipated challenges related to energy supply and demand in our town, to attend to environmental issues affecting the community and the ecology of the natural environment, and to educate the public concerning these matters.

One member of the Commission retired this year, Sarah Coon, who serve on the Commission as secretary since its inception. She is missed.

Disposal and reduction of waste has been a major issue in Connecticut this year as the MIRA facility in Hartford needs extensive and expensive repair. SEEC has supported various efforts to reduce waste, including a letter in support of increasing the rebate on returned cans and bottles, allowing for compost at the transfer, and supporting Zero waste reforms in the state of Connecticut.

As the Sharon board of selectpersons approved funding for a new roof for the town garage, SEEC has been investigating the possibility of installing solar panels on the new roof. We have discussed various forms of financing and are currently working on the feasibility of accessing the CT Green Bank Solar Municipal Assistance Program, which may help the town install solar panels at other sites if the garage roof does not suffice.

Again this year, SEEC sponsored a roadside clean-up as part of an Earth Day recognition in April. Only a handful of people in addition to SEEC members showed up for the event. This was partly due to COVID concerns, but over the years' turnout has been consistently small.

As Home Energy Solutions is offering FREE home energy audits until the end of this year, SEEC is looking at ways to publicize this information. There are also new rebates for efficiency improvements with no-cost efficiency work for those who are income eligible. This is a great opportunity for homeowners.

SEEC has provided devices to measure heat loss, radon, and appliance wattage at the Sharon library. Now that the library is again open, we are in the process of providing uniform instructions for the use of these devices as well as publicizing their availability.

The Commission continues to seek ways to work with other town entities which have overlapping concerns about energy use and environmental issues.

Sharon Energy and Environment Commission

Current members: Lyn Mattoon, Chair; Katy Kinsolving, Secretary; Jan Dudek; Roger Liddell; Oscar Martinez; Douglas Rick

Sharon Housing Authority

2019/20 was a productive year in which we discussed and planned for the improvements that will be completed at both Sharon Ridge and Sharon Ridge Extension apartment complexes in 2020/21. These improvements included but were not limited to heating, plumbing, water storage, and water delivery. For their assistance and efforts to help us accomplish and fund these improvements we owe a great deal of gratitude to Eversource, EnergizeCT, Cornwall Plumbing and Heating, Connecticut Real Estate Management, and Water Systems Specialties. We also would like to recognize and thank our past Chair and Vice Chair, David Hosier and Meg Szalewicz, and recording Secretary Tina Pitcher for their leadership and diligence in making sure these improvements remained a focus and priority in this budget year.

About Sharon Ridge:

Sharon Ridge is a 20 unit moderate income affordable rental apartment complex managed for the SHA by Connecticut Real Estate Management (CREM). There are 2 one-bedroom, 14 two-bedroom and 4 three-bedroom apartments. Two units are handicap accessible. Renovations were completed in 2008 with further renovations initiated in 2013. These 20 apartments are CHFA

monitored Affordable Housing. To qualify, you must be at or below 80% AMI for Litchfield County and rent is based on 30% of your Adjusted Gross Income.

Because of our need for additional affordable housing, Sharon Ridge Expansion was constructed in 2013. It provides an additional 8 one-bedroom and 4 two-bedroom apartments. Two of the apartments are handicap accessible and five are handicap adaptable. These 12 apartments are USDA Rural Development subsidized apartments. Applicants must be at or below 80% AMI for Litchfield County and rent is based on 30% of Adjusted Gross Income.

All applicants must submit an application to CREM, P.O. Box 248, Southington, CT. 06489. Applications can be obtained by calling the Sharon Ridge office at 860-364-1372.

The Sharon Housing Authority invites all Sharon residents to attend our monthly meeting on the third Tuesday of each month at 5pm. Please check the Sharon Town website for agendas and meeting minutes.

Brent M. Colley, Acting Chairman

Animal Control Officer

A total of 3 dogs were impounded from July 2019 through June 2020. All the dogs were redeemed by their owners.

59 complaints were investigated, including missing pets, roaming dogs, four animal bites, and miscellaneous domestic and wild animal questions.

One infraction ticket was dispatched.

Income source and income collected:

Pound fees - \$45

Donation - \$70.00

Respectfully submitted by
Lee Sohl

Litchfield Hills Probate District, #24

The Honorable Diane S. Blick, Judge

Litchfield Location

Kent Location

Canaan Location

Linda F. Riiska, *Chief Clerk*

Judge Blick

Beth L. McGuire, *Clerk*

Dawn W. Pratt, *Clerk*
Asst. Clerk

860-927-3729

Megan M. Williams,

Meegan Buckley, *Asst. Clerk*
860-567-8065

860-824-7012

It is with great pleasure that I report to the residents of the Litchfield Hills Probate District the activity of the Probate Court for fiscal year July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 and request this report be included in the Town's next published Annual Report.

<u>Type of Matter</u>	<u>2018 – 2019 FY</u> <u>Number of Matters</u>	<u>2019 – 2020 FY</u> <u>Number of Matters</u>
Fee Waivers	55	79
Decedent's Estates	1,219	1,221
Trusts	223	175
Conservators	201	186
Name Changes	30	31
Guardian of the Person & Estate	96	72
Guardian of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities	94	105
Adult Commitment		2
Children's Matters:		
Adoptions/Termination of Parental Rights and		
Emancipation of a Minor/Determine Paternity	12	15
Power of Attorney Accounting Matters	5	1
Total probate matters handled	1,935	1,887
Passports processed	131	90

Overall, the number of probate matters handled by the Court decreased slightly due to the fact that from March 16, 2020 to June 16, 2020, each of the Town Halls where our court offices are located were closed to the public due to the Covid 19 pandemic (and to this date remain closed to the public) and only those with an appointment were allowed at the Court. Even during the pandemic, the Court has remained open and all work has been timely processed and hearings scheduled. All hearings are held either by teleconferencing or Webex video conferencing. After June 16, 2020 when pandemic restrictions began to be lifted, the Court saw an increase in the workload and the increase continues to be sustained.

The category Fee Waivers represents the number of matters which were handled by the Court for which no probate filing fee is collected due to the fact that the Petitioner is indigent.

The Court's location in the Litchfield Town Hall is open Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. The Court's location in the North Canaan Town Hall is open Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. While the Kent Town Hall is closed to the public during the pandemic, I continue to be available to the residents of Kent by telephone or by appointment.

The Court Staff joins me in extending our sincerest appreciation to the town leaders, residents and professionals who utilize the services of the Probate Court for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane S. Blick

Judge of Probate

Sharon Day Care

The Sharon Day care has experienced a unique year in 2020 primarily owing to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic. The impact was felt by the enrollment, staff, families, and facility in that there were several months during which we were forced to close. The efforts to stay abreast of all financial needs and health requirements were steadfastly handled by Carrie Ann Olsen, Director, and Kathryn Gracey, Bookkeeper. The two of them worked tirelessly throughout the months making sure the center was kept in good order and fiscal needs were taken care of via sundry federal and state compensatory programs.

The board of directors held Zoom meetings and corresponded frequently through email and phone conversations. It was determined that the center would open when the board and director felt the safety of the families served, and staff providing the services, were ready and well equipped to maintain a safe and healthy atmosphere.

Highlights of 2020 include:

- Face masks, thermometers, sanitizers, and other health related supplies were purchased.

- Several grants were applied for and obtained.
- The staff was compensated for while unemployed, first by the day care budget, and then by state and federal assistance.
- Staff members were given tasks to complete while the center was closed.
- The board of directors conducted their monthly business meetings via ZOOM and email communication.
- Mini fund raising sales were held to bring in needed revenue with adherence to strict COVID-19 health restrictions.
- The 35th Sharon Classic Road Race, traditionally held the first Saturday in May, was postponed until September 26. As the date grew closer, the race director, Karen Dignacco, and the day care board voted to conduct a virtual road race and silent auction which would encompass the week of September 26 thru October 4.
- Enrollment has remained steady, families have been supportive and understanding that space restrictions and specific health procedures had to be complied with on a daily basis.
- At the time of the writing of this report, the day care is remaining vigilant as to grants that may assist the day care to maintain its fiscal needs.

As a non-profit organization in the town of Sharon since 1985, we remain thankful for the support we have received from the community. The future of our town's progress is greatly dependent on the nurturing of our children.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Nickson

Sharon Day Care Board President

Sharon Fire Department Ambulance Squad

The Sharon Fire Department, Inc. Ambulance members responded to 357 emergency calls to Sharon Residents this year. We respond 24 hours a day and remain **100% volunteer**. Our EMT and EMR members are State Certified and we continue training within our department and comply with all state requirements for continuing education.

Covid-19 impacted all area squads beginning in March. Even at the on-set of this crisis – Sharon Ambulance had appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for all calls. Our supplier continued to be able to fill our orders and the State also contributed several boxes of PPE to all of our squads. As of this writing, this pandemic continues and we remain committed to serving our town and staying protected.

Our current ambulance has served us well – and we began fund raising towards a new ambulance in late 2019. We were able to make our goal of \$275,000 in the summer of 2020! John Morgan, late of Sharon, also left the Ambulance a significant bequest of money towards any future ambulance. We expect the new ambulance to be delivered the middle of 2021.

Sharon continues to remain a HeartSafe Community. We offer CPR training and we purchase and maintain AED units throughout the town. Among other places, these units are located at the Sharon Center School, Sharon Town Hall, Hotchkiss Library, Sharon Country Club, Sharon Playhouse, Sharon Recreational fields, Sharon Beach and Sharon Audubon. The town generously provides a line item in the year budget so that we receive \$5,500 each year towards the batteries and maintenance of this equipment.

Our Monthly Pancake Breakfasts continued as take out ones starting in May of 2020. Please check next year’s town calendar to see when we will resume.

Respectfully,

Jamie Casey

Ambulance Captain

Sharon Fire Department Inc.

The Sharon Fire Department, Inc. is comprised of 44 adult volunteers and 10 junior volunteer members to serve the Town of Sharon. Twenty-nine of these members and two juniors are dual members serving on the Ambulance Squad as well. The Fire Department has responded to over 438 incidents during this fiscal period. In addition to Fire Emergencies, we responded to Motor Vehicle Accidents, Automatic Fire Alarms, Ambulance Assists and numerous calls involving trees with wires down and flooding emergencies. A significant number of these calls were Mutual Aide calls to neighboring towns including Cornwall, Kent, Lakeville, Amenia and Millerton.

We operate and maintain the Main Station Fire House at 36 West Main Street as well as the Ellsworth Sub-Station at 7 Dunbar Road. The cost of operating and maintaining the two fire stations as well as maintenance to all apparatus and specialized equipment makes up our operating budget.

Sharon Fire Department maintains and operates several pieces of Apparatus, each necessary depending on the call received. For calls such as fires, car accidents and Automatic alarms, Engine 5 (2017 E-One Custom), responds in the area around the Main station and Engine 6 (2000 Kenworth) responds to calls near the Ellsworth station. Calls for any type of fire have our pumper-tanker Engine 3, (1990 Ford) respond. Tower 1 (2007 American LaFrance) is a 100-foot Tower Ladder. This is used for all chimney or structure fires. Brush fires have different equipment requirements, Utility 1 (1987 GMC) and Utility 2 (1953 Dodge) are first to respond for these incidents. Calls involving Hazardous Materials or traffic incidents require response by Hazmat 1 (2006 Freightliner). Rescue 1 (1999 Ford) is utilized for calls with wires down, traffic

control or closures, cellar pump outs, motor vehicle accidents and ambulance assists., It is necessary to maintain and keep each piece in good working order, ready to respond to an emergency. Often times we are confronted with emergency repairs to keep apparatus in service.

Our Fire Department, as with all others, must meet all NFPA, National Fire Protection Association, and OSHA mandates and regulations to remain in service. Every facet of Firefighting is regulated from training and certifications, driving, fire protection gear, all equipment and apparatus maintenance and life span.

Compliance is costly! These mandates often create a financial shortfall requiring fundraising efforts.

To comply with current NFPA guidelines, this year our department replaced some of our existing breathing Air Pack Systems and replaced 58 of our expiring breathing bottles. Firefighters must wear a NFPA Compliant Air Pack whenever there is a possibility that air quality could be compromised. The cost of each Air Pack, which is comprised of the pack, a fitted mask and two breathing air bottles, was over \$9,500.00. Successful fundraising efforts and our replacement budget line item have allowed us to update 18 of our Air Pack Systems to the current NFPA standards. We have more Air Packs to upgrade in the future.

The Town of Sharon annual budget generously supports the Sharon Fire Department, Inc. This helps offset a significant amount of our day to day operating costs. Fundraising efforts are necessary to supplement and allow us to cover all of our expenses. The current Pandemic has made these efforts difficult while also increasing the amount of resources our department expends.

The Sharon Fire Department are grateful to the Town and its citizens for their continued support and generosity. Our volunteers are proud to serve the community of Sharon 24/7 - 365 days a year. We are always in need of new members to ensure this strong commitment. Visit our website at sharonfiredept.org for more information.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Hohlfeld, Treasurer
Eric Golden, Chief
Al Golden, President

CMHA's Northwest Center

1. Funding Sources

CMHA received funding from a variety of sources, including its own annual fund drive, employee giving campaign, private donations, town grants, fees and insurance payments, state of Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF) and Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), and the United Way of Northwest CT.

Programs and Activities:

Outpatient Mental Health

CMHA's outpatient mental health clinic services include individual, family and group psychotherapy, psychological and psychiatric evaluation, medication management, behavioral health home services, peer engagement and support, and case management. Treatments include Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) for children, and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) for adults. When people in need of treatment do not have insurance, CMHA helps them enroll in Medicaid, if eligible, and to access other benefits. CMHA also offers a sliding fee schedule.

In FY20, the outpatient mental health clinic served 403 people, and provided more than 341 clinical sessions every month and over 4,095 sessions over the course of the year.

Parenting Support Services

CMHA's Litchfield County programs receive funding from the CT Department of Children and Families (DCF) to operate countywide services for parents/caregivers of children 3-17, utilizing a menu of evidence-based therapies for families and children. All treatment uses a combination of home visitation, individual and group therapeutic sessions, and other modalities as needed. CMHA staff works with parents in their homes to provide parenting coaching for DCF-referred families with children with behavioral issues. This program features the use of evidence-based curriculums: Triple P for children ages 6-12, Triple P Teen for children ages 13-17, and Circle of Security (COS-P) for children ages birth-6.

In FY20, 130 families received in-home parenting services.

Intensive Family Preservation

This intensive in-home program designed to support families in crisis when children are at imminent risk of out of home placement by DCF. The goal is to keep children safe and avoid either a permanent or long-term separation from their family and community. IFP builds upon the conviction that many children can be safely protected and treated within their own homes when parents are provided the services and support and are empowered to change their own lives.

In FY20, 136 families received intensive, home-based support, counseling and parenting assistance.

3. Collaborations

CMHA collaborates with a number of area agencies, receiving and giving referrals so that clients can obtain the appropriate level of coordinated holistic care.

The following agencies are collaborators:

- Acts 4 Ministries
- All About You Home Care Services
- Catholic Charities Family Service Center
- Center for Human Development (CHD)
- Charlotte Hungerford Hospital
- Chrysalis Center
- Community Health and Wellness Center of Greater Torrington
- Department of Children and Families Region 5
- Connecticut Junior Republic, Inc.
- EdAdvance (Regional Education Service Center)
- Family & Children's Aid
- Family Resource Center
- Family Strides
- FAVOR-CT, Inc.
- Friends In Service to Humanity of Northwest CT, Inc. (FISH) Emergency Shelter
- Focus Center for Autism
- Homeless shelter at Winsted Y
- Litchfield County OBGYN
- Litchfield County Pediatrics in Torrington
- Markowski, M.D. Joel A. (Torrington pediatrician)
- Midwestern CT Council on Alcoholism, Inc. (MCCA)
- McCall Center for Behavioral Health
- Mental Health Connecticut - Torrington
- New Opportunities, Inc.
- Northwest CT Chamber of Commerce
- Northwest CT YMCA
- Operation Overflow Winter Homeless Shelter – Torrington
- Prime Time House, Inc. / with The Connection
- ProHealth Physicians of Torrington, Inc.
- Susan B. Anthony Project, Inc.
- The Connection, Inc.
- Tides of Mind Counseling
- Torrington Chamber of Commerce
- Torrington – Winsted Pediatrics, Inc.
- Visiting Nurse Services of CT
- VNA Northwest, Inc.
- Wellmore Behavioral Health
- Western CT Mental Health Network,
- Winchester Emergency Shelter
- Y House - Torrington YMCA

CMHA's Torrington Clinic provided more than 6,444 hours of service to 786 individuals and families, with more than an average of 583 clinical sessions every month.

These services include individual, family, and group therapy, psychiatric evaluations, and medication management.

CMHA's Torrington Clinic was funded in 1952, and is a licensed outpatient mental health clinic and family service agency with Joint Commission accreditation. CMHA also provides services in New Britain and Waterbury and surrounding communities. Visit www.cmhacc.org to learn more.

Northwest Hills Council of Governments

The Northwest Hills Council of Governments (COG) consists of the Mayors and First Selectmen from 21 member towns in the Northwest Corner. It is one of the nine Councils of Governments that have been established in Connecticut.

The COG meets on a monthly basis to discuss issues of municipal concern, oversee COG planning projects, and explore new opportunities for regional cooperation. More information on these and other COG activities is available at: www.northwesthillscog.org.

A major focus area in 2020 was implementing the COG's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Region. Major strategies in the CEDS include expanding access to high speed fiber optic broadband, promoting tourism/arts/culture, supporting local farms, strengthening manufacturing, and encouraging entrepreneurs/innovation.

The COG also initiated an update to the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plans for all 21 towns in the region this year. FEMA requires that these plans be updated every 5 years for towns to remain eligible for various FEMA funding programs.

The NHCOCG also continued to promote the on-line Interactive Regional Trail Map that was developed by the COG in cooperation with the Housatonic Valley Association to promote access to the public access trails in the region. A statewide CT Trailfinder website is now under development which will further draw attention to the outstanding trail resources we have in the Northwest Hills.

A Corridor Management Study of East Main Street in Torrington is a major transportation planning project that was initiated this year. The purpose of this study is to develop recommendations to enhance the safety, traffic flow, and streetscape of this heavily travelled corridor. The COG also continues to coordinate the popular Rural Independent Transportation Service, which offers trips to the elderly and disabled for medical appointments.

The COG is allocated about \$2M each year from ConnDOT for priority local road improvement projects and projects are currently underway in Burlington, Kent, Litchfield, Torrington, and Winchester. The NHCOG also serves as the oversight agent for about \$350,000 in Homeland Security Grant funding that is received each year for DEMHS Region 5. One of the projects funded with this grant is creation and update of digital parcel mapping for all 43 towns in DEMHS Region 5 to enhance emergency response.

In 2020, the COG continued coordination of a number of popular programs such as a prescription assistance program in cooperation with the Foundation for Community Health, a Neighbor-to-Neighbor program in cooperation with the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, a fuel bank program, the Northwest Hills Public Works Equipment Cooperative, and the region's cooperative purchasing program.

The COG also assists a number of organizations in the region including the Regional Housing Council, Northwest Hills Road Supervisors Association, Recycling Advisory Committee, the Regional Coordination Center for COVID-19 response and recovery, and the Housatonic River Commission. In addition, the COG hosts a quarterly "5th Thursday" forum for area Planning, Zoning, and Conservation Commission members to meet and discuss items of mutual interest, hear guest speakers, and provide input on regional plans.

Serving as officers of the COG in FY 2019-2020 were Don Stein, Chairman; Bob Valentine, Vice Chairman; Charlie Perotti, Secretary; and Michael Criss, Treasurer. COG staff includes Darlene Krukar, Office Manager; Jocelyn Ayer, Community and Economic Development Director; Janell Mullen, Regional Planner; and Rick Lynn, Executive Director.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Lynn, AICP

Executive Director

Northwest CT Regional Housing Council

Providing housing options that are affordable for young adults, young families, seniors, and those who work in our towns is critically important to our towns. Creating these housing options is the sole focus of the Northwest Connecticut Regional Housing Council.

The Council is made up of representatives from each town's local housing organization who meet quarterly to report upon and gain valuable information for their town-specific planning and housing development. At meetings, we learn from each other as we share the progress and current hurdles we are encountering in our varied town housing initiatives. Questions raised and hands-on ideas and resources cause attendees to leave the meetings with possible next steps, support, and resources. The Council also advocates for the funding resources critically needed by our local housing organizations to build affordable housing in our towns.

The Housing Council has a website with resources for our local housing organizations and people looking for information about affordable housing in Northwest Connecticut. The site contains links to all the housing organizations in our region, frequently asked questions, photos of the affordable housing in our region and stories from employers and residents about the importance of affordable housing options in our towns. Check it out at: www.nwcthousing.org

We thank David Berto of Housing Enterprises Inc. for attending our meetings and providing technical assistance to our housing organizations. We thank our member towns for their financial support and NHCOCG for hosting our meetings and organizing speakers. Our towns' \$100 annual dues are a cost effective investment in our area's future. For more information on the Regional Housing Council or the local housing organizations which are members, visit www.nwcthousing.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Groody Musselman, Chair (Litchfield Housing Trust)

Chris Sanders, Vice-Chair (Goshen Housing Trust)

Housatonic River Commission

“to coordinate on a regional basis the local management and protection of the Housatonic River Valley in northwestern Connecticut”

The Housatonic River Commission (HRC) held 10 regularly scheduled monthly meetings the past year. Meetings took place at 7:30 on the second Tuesday of each month. Starting in April 2020 the HRC meetings were held via Zoom due to the Pandemic. The Commission is made up of representatives appointed by the Board of Selectmen in each of the following towns along the Housatonic River: Canaan, Cornwall, Kent, New Milford, North Canaan, Salisbury, and Sharon. The HRC is responsible for monitoring and advising these seven towns on issues that involve the Housatonic River and working to maintain an environmentally healthy and scenic river corridor. The annual dues requested from each town remain at \$350 per year.

The work of recognizing the Housatonic River through the National Park Service’s (NPS) Wild and Scenic designation continues. Next steps include review and approval from the U.S. Secretary of Interior. Meanwhile quarterly meetings of the Housatonic Wild and Scenic Coordinating Committee have continued with representatives from NPS, Housatonic Valley Association (HVA), CT Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP), and Northwest Hills Council of Governments. At these meetings each group provides updates on their work addressing issues in the Housatonic River Management Plan including summer River Steward Program (HVA), angler surveys (CT DEEP) and river access management in the region.

HRC continues to monitor the PCB cleanup and remediation proposals for the Housatonic River.

As always, land use issues within the Housatonic River Corridor remain a significant concern. We continue to support efforts to address invasive plant species along the waterway, with several members working to monitor and in some cases control troublesome, aggressive invasives in the inner river corridor. Monitoring the work of the Housatonic Railroad, including their track repair, herbicide use and derailment risk also continue. The River Commission provided comments and suggestions on several proposed projects along the River, and all towns are reminded to please be sure that the HRC is notified on any proposed project within the River Corridor.

We welcome all citizens to come to our meetings and get involved in discussions about the River. We are also grateful for the support we have received from the member towns, local zoning officials, and the Northwest Hills Council of Governments.

Housatonic Youth Service Bureau

The Housatonic Youth Service Bureau (HYSB) has proudly served the Northwest Corner for nearly 30 years. Founded to respond to the needs of the children, youth, and families living in the Region One School District, HYSB is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that serves the towns of North Canaan, Canaan, Salisbury/Lakeville, Sharon, Cornwall and Kent. Our licensed clinicians provide a variety of services that promote the overall health and wellbeing of children and youth, ages 3-21, and their families living in our community.

The fall of 2019 began the way most years do with students returning to school and activities and families settling into a routine. HYSB worked with 121 students in the region, 17 of whom resided in Sharon, and provided 121 counseling hours to Sharon youth and families. Our clinicians provided one-one no-cost services to students in their homes, at Sharon Center School, and at Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

Additionally, our staff provided support through our group programming efforts. These group sessions are designed to engage youth who may not otherwise benefit from our services by creating a safe environment where they can connect with their peers and HYSB counselors to discuss sensitive topics and share strategies for overcoming adversity and learning when and how to engage with other adults and authorities. Our groups are created based on the unique needs that are identified within each community.

The spring of 2020 turned into a period of great uncertainty relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. HYSB recognized the critical need to continue providing services and seamlessly transitioned to a virtual counseling system enabling our clinicians to maintain their connections to their clients. During the months following the state of Connecticut shutdown, HYSB staff worked tirelessly to continue evaluating our tele-health options and finding creative ways to meet with clients outside to ensure our services were maintained at full capacity while following strict health and safety guidelines. We are pleased to share that our tele-health options remain intact and we have taken additional steps to bring our group programs back into our Region One classrooms virtually through a collaborative effort with our schools.

Services like our mental health counseling, case management services, referral services, community outreach, youth empowerment programs, the HYSB Summer Internship Program, and other services are free for the youth and families in the town of Sharon. All of this is made possible through town support and through the giving of generous donors from all six towns, and beyond. We are incredibly grateful for your continued financial support and look forward to continue or work together for the town of Sharon.

Sincerely,

Kelly Parker
Executive Director

Women's Support Services

Next year will be Women's Support Services 40th Anniversary. From humble beginnings in a single room at the Sharon Hospital, to a well-known agency of ten staff members providing an array of support services to victims of domestic violence and their families, WSS has come a long way. One thing that has not changed however, has been the number of victims of domestic violence. Across the country, these statistics have not changed significantly. As we launched our strategic planning process last year, we recognized that if we want to reduce the number of victims in the future, we need to embrace a mission focused on creating change within our community:

We create social change to end interpersonal, relationship violence by challenging attitudes and beliefs about power, control, and gender norms and by advocating for victims and survivors.

In the midst of these exciting developments, COVID-19 struck. While working remotely, we dismantled our major fundraising event, Trade Secrets, and drew upon our partnerships – with town social workers, the state police, area healthcare professionals and the schools, and many, many others, to ensure client support and safety. **Thank you to the Town of Sharon for being a partner during this difficult time.**

Despite the curveball thrown at us, there are many positive developments to report:

- Communication and coordination among healthcare providers, emergency services providers and WSS has improved dramatically. With the addition of a second *Community Educator* last year, WSS has been able to engage in consistent outreach, training, and information dissemination. This work was bolstered by the recruitment of a full-time *Family and Child Advocate* and the increase in hours of our *Family Violence Victim Advocate* at court, as well as the training of new cohorts of volunteers.
- Women's Support Services developed a significantly more robust community education program. Our additional outreach position enabled us to focus on outreach to: local medical providers and emergency service providers, area businesses (both the *Main Street Partners* program as well as the Tri-State Chamber of Commerce), elder care facilities and spiritual communities.
- The second *Community Educator*, in collaboration with the *Prevention Education Coordinator*, launched our **Boys + Men** programming in the fall of 2019. During the course of the year, programming was delivered at The Salisbury School, Marvelwood and The Hotchkiss School.
- We have seen significant developments in the relationship of WSS with the Region One schools:
 - The WSS *Prevention Education Coordinator* was asked to deliver human trafficking training to all 7th and 8th grade classes.
 - WSS staff members met regularly throughout the winter with the Principal, Assistant Principal, school counselors, and teachers at Housatonic Valley Regional High School to strategize and more deliberately engage WSS in curriculum development and planning.
 - All K-8 faculty (150 educators) were trained on gender awareness. Additionally, faculty in Salisbury and Cornwall received DV101 training and 32 educators received additional training during the Regional Professional Development Day in October 2019. All HVRHS teachers participated in a training on school climate and the foundational context for WSS's work with students during 2019.
 - After the schools were closed due to COVID-19, WSS staff members facilitated 7 teacher workshops around SEL (social and emotional learning) needs in April and May. These

workshops were available for all K-12 Region One educators, in collaboration with the school counselors and nurses.

- WSS improved our outreach to Latinx community members, working in collaboration with Grace Immigrant Outreach, recruiting bilingual volunteers, and translating our brochures, office signage and other communications materials.

From 01 July 2019 through 30 June 2020, Women’s Support Services:

- Provided support services to **635 clients**, 391 of whom were new clients.
- The composition of our new clients includes:
 - 377 adults and 14 children
 - 303 female, 88 male clients
- Responded to **901 hotline crisis requests**.
- Provided **emergency shelter to 32 people for a total of 634 nights** of shelter. This included 20 women, 2 men, and 10 children.
- Provided criminal and civil court advocacy and support to **466 victims of family violence**.
- Conducted **187 prevention workshops** to children and teens in local schools, daycares, and camps.

During this reporting period, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a state-wide shutdown in mid-March 2020. Despite the requirement to work remotely and shelter at home, our client numbers did not decrease significantly from last year. More understandably, we did see a decrease in prevention education programming. We had been on track to provide significantly more programming to our students this year over last year. However, we worked closely with the area schools to deliver remote training on social and emotional learning (SEL) and we provided virtual reading sessions for younger students. We were also able to use this time to significantly strengthen our online capabilities and our remote work in the schools this fall has gotten off to a strong start as a result.

Women’s Support Services activities in Sharon:

- ❖ **28 Clients assisted (25 female and 3 male), including 4 children**
- ❖ **26 Prevention Education programs delivered at: Sharon Center School and Sharon Day Care**
- ❖ **Delivered activity bags for children to the Town Park and Recreation Department**
- ❖ **K – 8 faculty training in inclusivity, the social-emotional development of buys, and Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)**
- ❖ **Training/Programming: Sharon Hospital and Sharon EMS**

Hotchkiss Library

In a normal year, you would be reading my report with highlights and statistics from the Hotchkiss Library's year – how many books we circulated, how many people attended programs in the Library, how we spent the grant from the Town and the generous gifts of our many donors, but this year, things certainly look different. We locked the front door on Friday, March 13, but we never stopped delivering services and programming to our patrons throughout the lockdown, and then reopened our doors in phases, first on May 26 with Curbside Pickup, and then for Computer Use by appointment, on June 23. (Browsing by appointment resumed on July 23, in the new fiscal year.)

Before March 13, we welcomed speakers like Roger Liddell, who packed the meeting room in Town Hall to share the wonders of the cosmos; Lauren Santangelo addressed an audience interested in the history of women's suffrage in New York City; we held a three- part decluttering workshop; we launched an exciting Friday evening documentary film series that focuses on art; kids enjoyed a storyteller, crafts and activities; and we welcomed the largest crowd yet to one of our most successful book signings ever; and we celebrated the Library at our annual gala at LionRock Farm.

After March 13, we quickly pivoted, adapting and promoting new technologies that allowed us to reach old patrons and attract many new ones, who are now able to register for a library card online. While physical materials were unavailable, we reallocated funds in our budget to double the number of items that patrons could download from our digital collection, Hoopla. Shortly before the lockdown, we launched as one of the first six libraries in the State to participate in the State Library's new digital library, SimplyE, which offers thousands of free downloadable eBooks and audiobooks to anyone with a library card. Our timing could not have been better. Downloads on Hoopla almost tripled from the pre-pandemic average of 100 per month to 271 in May 2020. Reluctant adopters of this technology have embraced its ease. Interest continues, even as patrons again have access to physical books and other materials.

Much of our in-person programming transitioned smoothly to the virtual Zoom format. We utilize Eventbrite to register participants who then receive a Zoom link to events, including the ongoing series of author talks in our Virtual Book Signing 2.0. Since May 2020 we have hosted and given patrons the opportunity to hear from and speak with award-winning authors, including break-baking pioneer Daniel Leader and Michael Isikoff on Russian interference in the 2016 election.

On June 16 an astounding 120 guests Zoomed in to an unforgettable evening with the poets from *Together in a Sudden Strangeness: America's Poets Respond to the Pandemic*. We heard eight poets, including former US Poet Laureate Billy Collins read from their new work. We shared donations collected with Sharon Hospital's Fund for Healthcare workers.

A wonderful new children's librarian joined our staff just days before the lockdown began, but she enthusiastically designed programming for children to view on-demand on Facebook and YouTube. Mrs. Sam put together fabulous Summer Reading Bags and many take-and-make crafts that families could pick up to enjoy at home.

Through all of this we communicated with our patrons through twice-weekly email blasts, that promote our electronic resources, new items in our physical collection, virtual programming for children and adults, and tips and links to help us all get through these difficult times. We also launched short, biweekly videos on our library YouTube Channel that feature a brief introduction to the newest books. The Library also offers patrons the chance to subscribe to Wowbrary, a customized newsletter that highlights our latest acquisitions in all formats for adults and children.

We also launched a Sharon nonprofit leadership group, which has resulted in exciting collaboration between various groups in town.

A generous grant from the Rhoades-Robinson Foundation supported unexpected expenses incurred to ensure safety and cleaning protocols in response to Covid-19. The Edward W. Diskavich Fund of The Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation partially funded the cost of a Fundraising Feasibility Study, as we continue to work toward making the Library accessible to all.

I would like to thank the staff and board of the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon for their flexibility, creativity, and unfailing **support** during this very challenging time. And together we thank the Town of Sharon for their grant of \$100,000. We so appreciate this increased commitment, which represents 28% of our operating budget.

We also thank the many generous donors from throughout Sharon who stepped up to support our Annual Appeal and our Book Signing Matching Grant, that was funded by our beloved staff member, Barbara Thibodo, which in the end more than replaced our lost income from the cancelled 2020 Sharon Summer Book Signing.

While the immediate future is uncertain for all of us, the Hotchkiss Library continues to be here for everyone in Sharon and we pledge to fulfil our mission, *to be a community center for learning, education, arts, culture, entertainment, and discourse*, to the best of our abilities. This year, perhaps more than ever, *Libraries Transform Lives*.

Gretchen Hachmeister
Executive Director

Chore Service

The Chore Service, founded in 1992, provides non-medical help at home such as cleaning, running errands, yard work, etc., for clients in Canaan, Cornwall, Falls Village, Kent, Norfolk, Salisbury/Lakeville and Sharon. Clients contribute only what they can (if they can) toward the service, and Chore pays workers \$14.00 per hour for their time. Fundraising, grants, and town contributions make up the difference between what clients can contribute and the cost of providing services.

From July, 2019 through June, 2020, Chore Service provided services to nineteen Sharon residents. These 19 clients received almost 800 hours of help with cleaning, errands, and yard work so that they could continue to comfortably remain in their homes. Five Chore Workers who live in Sharon earned over \$20,000 last year. Our federal grant monies that subsidizes services for those age 60 and over is always depleted before the year ends, so we are delighted that the Town of Sharon continues to contribute to these services.

Here is what a few clients had to say about Chore Service recently:

“I’m one among many to know how lucky we are to have such a caring group – many, many thanks!!”

“She is young with energy that I no longer have, as much as I used to have. Many thanks!”

“Reliable, very pleasant, intelligent!”

“She’s always pleasant, loves to clean and FUN to be with. Thank you! I really cannot express my gratitude.”

As we face shrinking Federal and State grants, we are most grateful for the support of our donors, including the Town of Sharon, for your generosity.

Thank you!

Pat Wright, Executive Director

Salisbury/Sharon Transfer Station

Salisbury/Sharon Transfer Station 2019-2020 Tonnages	
Garbage (MSW)	2,808.97
Single Stream Recycling	1,178.13
Mattress Recycling	21.5
Scrap Metal	238.35
Tires	9.55
Electronics	30.53
Batteries - Rechargeable/disposable	1.55
Light Bulbs	0.94
Leaves	50
Batteries - Lead Acid	0
Waste Oil	1320 gal
Paint	15.61
Textiles	23
Construction Demo & Wood	831.79
Total MSW Tonnage	4,378.13
Total Recycled Tons	1,559.61
Percentage Recycled	26.27%

Work on the new Transfer Station is almost complete! The new facility will be opening to our residents in October 2020. Thank you to the members of several committees many of whom have dedicated their time over many years to see this project to completion.

As we prepare for our new Transfer Station, it is a perfect time to review which materials can (and should) be recycled, and which items must be disposed. Let’s try to keep our recycling free from contaminants!

The largest contaminant of our Single Stream Recycling is the plastic bag. Bags placed into the recycling bin become entangled in the processing equipment causing downtime on the processing line. Fortunately, many grocery stores accept clean grocery & dry-cleaning bags. Or, consider using a reusable bag! If you are unable to “return your bag to retail”, please dispose of it in the garbage hopper.

Please join me in thanking the staff at the Transfer Station for their hard work, especially during a pandemic! Gary Duntz, George Silvernail, Jason Wilson, Thomas Sherwood and Matt

Murtagh help to keep the materials moving. Additional thanks to Tina Pitcher, Emily Egan, for processing and organizing all of the information from the resident's User Fee Forms, again during these strange times!

Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Recycle, Recover

Brian Bartram, Manager

Town of Sharon

Budget 2019 – 2020

For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020

General Summary

	<u>2018-2019</u>	<u>2019-2020</u>
Board of Selectmen Budget	\$4,609,567	\$4,654,428
Less non-tax revenues	<u>504,061</u>	<u>537,784</u>
	\$4,105,506	\$4,116,644
Board of Education Budget	\$6,703,592	\$6,555,977
Less non-tax revenues	<u>9,960</u>	<u>9,960</u>
	\$6,693,632	\$6,546,017

The Board of Finance approved the following:

TOTAL TO BE RAISED BY TOWN TAXES, 2019-2020

\$10,289,722

GRAND LIST, OCTOBER 18

729,146,484

MIL RATE

14.40

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Dignacco
Chairman, Board of Finance