# **Town of Thompson, Connecticut**

# SELECTMEN'S UPDATE

# Fall - Winter 2022





Amy St. Onge First Selectman Susanne Witkowski
Selectman

Ken Beausoleil Selectman



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# From Amy St. Onge, First Selectmen

The phrase, "No man is an island" is from a 17th century sermon by John Donne and is a timeless message about how people need other people. No one is self sufficient, everyone needs someone else in some capacity at various times. As First Selectman, I can do very little without the aid of the extraordinary staff members that surround me. The employees of the Town of Thompson take pride in their work and work together as a team. I am very fortunate to have these skilled and dependable individuals by my side day in and day out. This edition of the Selectmen's Update is dedicated to the employees who keep things running day after day, week after week, month after month and year after year. I applaud you all!!

#### 30+ years of service

Kim Flynn Renee Waldron

#### 25+ years of service

Donna Hall Lars Johnson

#### 20+ years of service

Alison Boutaugh Robert LeBeau Paula LeBlanc Marie Mongeau

#### 15+ years of service

Roberta Baublitz
Steve Benoit
Donald Masse
Rene Morin
James Seney Jr.
Joseph Tkacik
Darlene Tretheway

#### 10+ years of service

Tracy Allen

## 10+ years (continued)

Joshua Butts Marla Butts Karyn Hearn Lynn Landry Kevin Racine

#### 5+ years of service

Scott Antonson
Andrew Carlson
Cynthia Dunne
Peter Ernst
Costantino Galasso
Brian Howell
Linda Kaplan
Frank McGarry
Linda Paradise (recently retired)
Daniel Petre
Aileen Witkowski

### 1-5 years of service

Jennifer Andrews
Terry Bellman
Keith Berube
Heather Gauthier-Bourgeois

#### 1-5 years (continued)

Daniel Cournoyer Jr.

Dotti Durst
Teresa Gendron
Kelley Genest
Tyra Penn-Gesek
Michelle Giammarinaro
Gloria Harvey
Paul Hopkins
Maggie Houlihan
Amanda Lincoln
Brian Lievense
Dan Malo
Alan Rivers
Janis Smith

# 2022 New Hires Welcome to the Thompson Team!

Nicole Nichols Donna Rumrill William Steglitz Gail Livingstone

Thank you for your service to the Town of Thompson.

#### WHERE DO I GO? WHOM DO I CALL OR EMAIL?

#### **Town Clerk's Office**

Renee Waldron, Town Clerk
Gail Livingstone, Assistant Town Clerk

- How do I locate my septic system? Building Official 860-923-9002 or email dhall@thompsonct.org or call Northeast Department of Health 860-774-7350
- Where do I report a Department Of Public Works problem? (i.e. missing road sign, pothole, tree down) Public Works office 860-923-2680 or email kgenest@thompsonct.org
- When do I need a burn permit? Burn Official 860-931-6925
- Where do I begin if I want to operate a business in Thompson? Zoning office 860-923-9475 or email zeo@thompsonct.org
- How do I register my dog? Town Clerk's office 860-923-9900 or email townclerk@thompsonct.org
- How do I find my property boundary lines?
   Town Clerk's office 860-923-9900 or email townclerk@thompsonct.org
- Whom do I notify when I take a vehicle off the road? Assessor's office at 860-923-2259 or email assessor@thompsonct.org
- How do I obtain a Transfer & Recycling Station permit? Tax office 860-923-2119 or email taxcollector@thompsonct.org
- Where do I get my divorce decree? Superior Court, Putnam CT 860-928-2322 or www.jud.ct.gov
- Where can I apply for Senior Citizen housing? Pine View Court/Gladys Green-Thompson Housing Authority 860-923-9997 Carriage Square 1-603-878-2400
- How do I connect with social services? TEEG 860-923-3458
- Where can I send a fax? Thompson Public Library 934 Riverside Drive

Office Hours:

Monday-Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Friday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

860-923-9900 www.thompsonct.org

- Where do I find a copy of my property deed or mortgage? Town Clerk's office 860-923-9900 or email townclerk@thompsonct.org
- How do I report a lost dog? Animal Control 860-336-7606 or email aco@thompsonct.org
- How can I find out about evacuation or power outages (Special Needs)? Emergency Management 860-923-9320 or email sbenoit@thompsonct.org
- Where can I find a Notary? Thompson Public Library or Town Clerk's office
- How do I register to vote? Registrar's office or Town Clerk's office or on-line www.voterregistration.ct.gov
- How do I register my children for the Before & After School Program? Recreation office 860-923-9440 or www.thompsonrec.org
- How can I request a Bluebird Nesting Box?
   Conservation office 860-923-1852 or email conservation@thompsonct.org
- How do I apply for a Pistol Permit? Selectmen's office 860-923-9561 ext. 5110 or email selectmensoffice@thompsonct.org
- How do I volunteer? Selectmen's office 860-923-9561 ext. 5110 www.thompsonct.org
- Who handles Hunting & Fishing licenses? Town Clerk's office 860-923-9900 or www.ct.gov/DEEP
- Do I need a permit to install a swimming pool or a woodburning stove? Building office 860-923-9002 or email dhall@thompsonct.org
- Who do I see about tax assessment exemptions? (military, farms, forests, elderly and disabled)
   Assessor's office 860-923-2259 or email assessor@thompsonct.org

Explore Thompson's website at www.thompsonct.org to find the answers to most questions.

There is also a Contact Us button to send us comments and questions.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram too!

#### **OFFICE OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

Tyra Penn-Gesek, Director 860-923-9475

Thanks to the flow of Federal dollars, both to the State and directly to towns, Thompson has received, or is poised to receive, over \$4,000,000 in funding to undertake important and long overdue infrastructure and economic development projects. Here are highlights of those awards and their current status:



1. Congressional Appropriations award through the Small Business Administration -\$240.000 awarded. This Federal grant will fund the renovation construction of the vacant. Town-owned building at 65 Main Street. The house was gifted in perpetuity to the Town at the beginning of the 20th Century by Harriet A. Tourtellotte, with the intent that it serve as a rental residence for the Superintendent of Schools. Once that function became obsolete it was repurposed a number of times; but, it has been vacant since 2012. The grant was awarded based on the premise that the building would be renovated for use as a small business support center. Funds have been received by the Town and an RFP has been posted to solicit architectural and structural engineering services, as a first step in that renovation. A separate grant application has been submitted to the USDA to fund programming development for the future facility.

2. CT DEEP Recreational Trails Grant - \$16,000 awarded. Funds awarded under this program will facilitate the site design and master plan for the interpretive park at the site of the Great East Thompson Train Wreck, along the Air Line State Park Trail. As of September 15, the contract has been received from the state and signed; so work will be able to start on the site plan immediately. The grant from DEEP will supplement roughly \$155,000 of the Town's ARPA funds to recreate the historic stone railroad turntable at the site, construct an on-trail picnic pavilion, and add traffic calming

and safety elements on the local road adjacent to the parking area and trailhead at the site.

**3. CT DECD Brownfield Cleanup Grant** - **\$2,000,000 awarded**. Due to the complexity of this project, the final grant agreement is still being drafted by the State agency. Once all details are finalized and the contracts are signed, work will begin immediately on the remediation and cleanup of the historic River Mill at 929 Riverside Drive. The grant is a public-private partnership between the State, the Town and the developer committed to the revitalization of this keystone property in Thompson.

4. CT DOT LOTCIP Grant - \$1,898,814.91 awarded. Funds have been received from the State, after initially being committed in December of 2020, for the renovation of over a mile of sidewalks along Riverside Drive in North Grosvenordale. Work is well underway and should be substantially completed by late September. Crosswalks will be added once the State completes a mill and pave of that section of Route 12, with landscaping to follow in the fall and a bus shelter for the NECCOG shuttle to be added at Town Hall once it is received from the fabricator. The sidewalk project will also dovetail with major flow and safety improvements at the Blain Road intersection. which were designed using previous DECD BAR Grant funds.

# ASSESSOR'S OFFICE Paul Hopkins. Assessor

860-923-2259

#### Farm, Forest and Open Space Public Act 490

Farm - If you are operating a farm for business purposes you may be eligible for a reduced assessment on the land, equipment and buildings used for the farming operation.

Forest - If you have 25 acres or more of forest land you may be eligible for a reduced assessment if you have that land designated as forest by a State of Connecticut certified forester.

Open Space - If you have 3 acres of undeveloped and unbuilt land, you may be eligible for a reduced assessment. If your property is built on, or developed, a portion may still qualify if you have more than 3 acres. See the Assessor for specific details.

These three programs require an application and supporting documentation completed and returned to the Assessors Office between September 1st and October 31st.







#### **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Join us! Details on Employment Opportunities can be found on our website: www.thompsonct.org

## **Current Openings:**

Public Works Mechanic
Public Works Highway Maintainer
Public Works Transfer Station/Highway Maintainer
Poll Workers - for Election and Referenda days (part-time)
Inland Wetlands Commission Recording Secretary (part-time)
Thompson Public Library Evening Custodian (part-time)



#### **BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

Terry Bellman, Building Official 860-923-9002



The Building Codes are getting more and more complicated as each new edition is adopted by the State of CT. Building permits are required if you intend to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish, or change the occupancy of a building or structure, or to move a lot line that will affect any existing building or structure, or to install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert, or replace any electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system, the installation of which is regulated by the Code. Prior to any such work being done, an application must first be made to the Building Official to obtain the proper permits.



If you own a single or two-family dwelling, you are regulated by the 2015 International Residential Building Code portion of the 2016 CT State Building Code. For anything other than a single or two-family structure or use, you are regulated by the 2015 International Building Code along with mechanical, plumbing, and energy codes of the existing building code. The State of

Connecticut will be adopting the 2021 International Building Code (IBC) in October of this year along with the following 2021 International Codes: Residential (IRC), Plumbing (IPC), Energy Conservation (IECC), and Existing Building (IEBC) along with the National Electric Code (NEC). They are also adopting the new Fire Safety codes.

The Building office is here to help you obtain what you need!! Feel free to contact us if you have any questions about what permits you may or may not need, as there is a list of exempt work in the Residential Code for a number of activities. Just give us a call to see if a permit is required. We are here to assist you and make sure the work you plan to do is done properly, to protect you and your home. The codes have been established for the protection of public health and safety, along with energy conservation. Please use the Building Department as a resource. Let us help you!

#### **VETERANS SERVICES**

Bob LeBeau, Veterans Officer 860-923-9562

We invite veterans and their spouses to stop by the office for information on benefits available to them from the Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines Fund. We also provide transportation to the V.A. Hospital or Office for checkups.



Our office is generally open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 -11 am. You can reach me at 860-923-9562.

#### **Veteran's Tax Exemption**

If you are a veteran and have not yet recorded your DD-214 (Military Discharge Papers) with the Town Clerk's office, I recommend that you do so. You may be eligible for a veteran's discount on your taxes. If you are uncertain whether you qualify, please call the Assessor's office at 860-923-2259.

# THOMPSON RECREATION

#### THOMPSON RECREATION

## **Brian Lievense, Recreation Director 860-923-9440**

"Our mission is to enhance, promote and support quality recreation facilities and opportunities for all residents of the community." If you would like to learn more, or if you would like to get involved with any activities within the Thompson Recreation Department, please email <a href="mailto:recreation@thompsonct.org">recreation@thompsonct.org</a>, call us at 860-923-9440, or visit www.thompsonrec.org. Please note - most Recreation Programs require pre-registration.

#### **Ongoing events**

Purely Recreation Before & After School
Program at Thompson Public Schools - Over
30 Thompson families have taken advantage
of the Purely Recreation Before and After
School Program this school year. The Before
School Program is open to K-4th graders
from 7 am - 8:15 am at Mary R. Fisher
Elementary. The After School Program is
open to K-6th graders from the end of the
school day until 5:30 pm. Program
Coordinator, Darlene Tretheway (Mrs. T), has a
curriculum that mixes learning with a lot of
fun activities. Students participate in outdoor
play, science fun, arts & crafts, special events,
and occasional field trips.

Litter League - With support from the Last Green Valley and several local businesses, teams of volunteers will be competing to see who can collect the most bags of litter in Thompson from September through November of 2022! Teams will be competing for various prizes.

Yoga & T'ai Chi – The Recreation Department continues to offer 6-week in-person Yoga and T'ai Chi classes. Yoga classes are held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 – 7:30 pm. T'ai Chi is held on Tuesday evenings from 5:30 – 6:30 pm. Both classes are held at the Thompson Public Library in the Louis P. Faucher Community Center.

**Senior Programs** - There are a number of Senior programs being offered:

 Senior Craft classes are held on the second Tuesday of every month at the Library/Community Center at 10 am.

- Line Dancing for Seniors is held every Wednesday at 11 am at the Library/Community Center.
- A free Senior lecture & discussion series takes place once per month at the Library/Community Center. For more information, check our website or give us a call at 860-923-9440.
- We are searching for Senior volunteers to participate in our "Adopt a Gran" Program.
   The goal of the program is to connect senior mentors with local youth, once per month, for reading, arts & crafts, and/or themed play.

#### **Upcoming Events**

Thompson's 18th Annual Community Day – Community Day celebrates Thompson's treasures: Its People, History, and Businesses. The event features live music, inflatables, kids' activities, food trucks, and dozens of vendors. The event will be held on Saturday, October 1st from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm in Riverside Park. Admission is free!

Halloween Laser Light Show - This year's Halloween Laser Light Show will be held the evening of Thursday, October 27th at the Tourtellotte Memorial High School Auditorium. Enjoy a mix of current pop and classic Halloweeen music as you watch the laser show! A children's costume parade will precede the event. All children 10 and under will receive a goodie bag to take home. FREE ADMISSION - Please bring a food item to donate to TEEG food bank. Event time TBA

#### **THOMPSON RECREATION Upcoming Events (continued)**

**Thompson Recreation Basketball** – Thompson Recreation Basketball is open to children ages 6-14. The skills clinic for six and seven-year-olds is held on Thursday nights at Mary R. Fisher Elementary School. Practices for our co-ed Juniors (age 8-9), Senior girls and boys (10-11), and NBA and WNBA (12-14) leagues, will begin the week after Thanksgiving. The day and time of the practice for each team is tba. Games are held on Saturday mornings at the Tourtellotte Memorial High School Gym beginning on December 10th. Registration ranges from \$45-\$65 and can be done on line at www.thompsonrec.org or by calling the office at 860-923-9440.

# OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL - BURNING OFFICIAL Costantino Galasso, Deputy Fire Marshal/Burning Official 860-931-6925

Burning permits are required for most residential outdoor burning. Permits are available by calling the Deputy Fire Marshal/Burn Official or from the Building office. The applications are also available on the Town's website www.thompsonct.org Applications must be submitted at least one week prior to the day you wish to burn to allow

Permits are \$10 and are issued for 30 days. In the event that you are unable to burn within the 30 days, the office will reissue a one-time extension at no additional cost.



By the State regulations, which are available on the State's DEEP website, only natural vegetation, no larger than 3" butt diameter, can be burned. You cannot burn garbage or leaves or grass clippings; construction debris is also prohibited. With the recent drought and lack of rain, no burning permits are currently being issued until we have a substantial amount of rain. We are doing this for the safety of the townspeople and property.

## What is a Winter Parking Ban?



At times, during the worst snowstorms and clean-up, it's necessary for us to put a parking ban in place. When this occurs, vehicles cannot be parked on any town roadway. This allows the Public Works Department to have access to all areas to plow properly. You may park on your own driveway or property. Failure to respond to

a parking ban can result in a vehicle being towed and a fine assessed. We'll post notices of parking bans on our website, on our Facebook page and with WINY 1350 AM.

## Who is responsible for shoveling snow/ice from my sidewalk?

A quick summary: It's the responsibility of the owner or the resident of a building or land bordering a sidewalk to remove any and all snow, sleet, ice or debris on the sidewalk to a width of 36" within 24 hours after the storm has ended. Snow, ice, sleet and debris cannot be shoveled into the road. For more detailed information, see Thompson Ordinance No. 10-044 and CT General Statutes 7-148 Note: Violations are subject to fines.



#### **ZONING OFFICE**

#### **Cynthia Dunne, Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO)**

Zoning Office Hours are: Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 9 am to 3pm Phone: 860-923-9475 Email: zeo@thompsonct.org

#### WHAT IS ZONING?

Zoning refers to municipal or local laws or regulations that govern how real property can and cannot be used in certain geographic areas. The laws can be modified or suspended if the construction of a property will serve to help the community advance economically.

The ZEO is staff to the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) and Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA).

PZC monthly meetings: 4th Monday of the month.

ZBA monthly meetings: 2nd Monday of the month.

All meeting agendas are posted on the Friday afternoon before the meeting date on the Town website, www.thompsonct.org on the respective department's page.

As ZEO, I am available to work with you to answer Zoning questions and give direction on the appropriate action to comply with Zoning, Subdivision and Aquifer Protection Regulations. I research Citizen Comments on Zoning Issues and enforce the Town Ordinance 10-026 Abandoned Motor Vehicle Ordinance.

#### WHAT'S HAPPENING?

The Zoning office continues to Review the 2020 Amended Zoning Regulations. Amendments will be submitted for a Public Hearing. Once scheduled, the Public Hearing date for any amendments will be posted on the Town of Thompson website.

The current Zoning regulations are available on the Town of Thompson website on Planning and Zoning Commission page.

Subdivision Regulations - The PZC continues to review the revision of the Subdivision Regulations.

#### **ZONING QUESTIONS:**

What is the process for a Home Occupation Business Permit?

Thompson encourages Home Occupation Businesses. Home

Occupations provides economic opportunities in all districts by permitting the operation of small businesses, which are capable of co-existing with residential uses, without undue adverse effects on the quality of life, environment, aesthetics and property values of the district.

#### How do I Apply?

A Home Occupation Business Application must be filed with and approved by the ZEO. Activities which the ZEO determines to be questionable under the standards of a Home Occupation Business may be presented to the PZC, upon recommendation of the ZEO, for approval. Zoning Regulations Article 5A, Section 1 Development Standards for Home Occupations and Neighborhood Limited Enterprises list the process an applicant needs to follow in conducting the Home Occupation Business.

To make an appointment to discuss conducting a business from your home please call the office.

#### CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Dan Malo, Conservation Agent 860-923-1852

#### What We Do:

- Advocate for the wise use of our natural resources and the conservation of priority open space lands
- Advise the Inland Wetlands Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding the natural resources involved in proposals for development which are before the commissions
- Advise the Board of Selectmen and the land use boards regarding acquisition of priority open space lands and conservation easements
- Oversee stewardship of the Town's conservation easement lands
- Update natural resources mapping as new data become available

#### **Our Project: Bluebird Boxes**

The Eastern Bluebird (Sialia sialis) was once a frequent sight in Connecticut until their numbers declined due to loss of habitat and suitable nesting areas. The installation of nesting



boxes is helping them make a comeback. Each spring, the Conservation Commission offers free nesting boxes to Thompson residents on a first-come, first-served basis.

This past season was a record year for our efforts, with more than 50 boxes requested by residents. Thanks to the volunteer work of Bernie Davis, Dave Clark, Dave Eddy, and the coordination of Norma O'Leary, we were able to meet the demand. For more information, or to join our Bluebird Nesting Box distribution list, please contact us at conservation@thompsonct.org.

Do you have a Bluebird nesting box already

installed and in use? Send us a picture!

**REGISTRARS OF VOTERS** 

A. Aileen Witkowski Frank McGarry 860-923-9636

#### November 8, 2022 is Election Day

#### **Thompson's Polling Places:**

- District 1: Thompson Library / Louis P. Faucher
   Community Center, 934 Riverside Drive \*\*
- District 2: Town Hall, Merrill Seney Community Room, 815 Riverside Drive
- District 3: Quinebaug Fire Station, 720
   Quinebaug Road
- District 4: East Thompson Fire Station, 530 East Thompson Road
- \*\*Note: District 1 (Thompson Hill) voting is now located at the Thompson Library/Louis P. Faucher Community Center in North Grosvenordale.

Polls will be open from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm. Electors in line by 8:00 pm are permitted to vote.

# What to Do on Election Day if You Are Not on the Voter Checklist?

Individuals may register and vote in person on Election Day if they meet the eligibility requirements for voting in Connecticut and are not already registered in Thompson.

By law, applicants are eligible to register and vote if they are U.S. citizens, age 18 or older and bona fide residents of Thompson.

Election Day Registration is located in the Registrars' Office at the Town Hall.

#### **Deadlines for Voter Registrations**

In-person applications, hand delivered by applicant: the close of the business day, seven days prior to an election

Mailed in or online applications: post-marked (dated) seven days before the election

# NOTES AND TIDBITS FROM THE THOMPSON TAX OFFICE

Rene J. Morin, CCMC, Tax Collector 860-923-2119

#### **Results of Tax Sale:**

On May 26, 2022 a very successful Tax Sale was conducted at the Thompson Town Hall by the Law Firm of Pullman & Comley, LLC. of Bridgeport, CT.



In January, 2022 the Thompson Tax Office identified 31 potential properties for this Tax Sale. During the ensuing five-month period preceding the actual Sale, 20 property owners, on their own and in various methods, paid back all of their delinquent tax, interest and lien fees due to the Town of Thompson therefore avoiding the auction. On the day of the Tax Sale, three properties were postponed to a later date. One of those three properties has since been collected with \$21,190.35 having been recently received by the Town of Thompson. The remaining two properties will be subject to the next Tax Sale if payment has not been received at that time.

The remaining 8 properties were all successfully auctioned off on the morning of May 26 to the highest bidder. Over 50 interested individuals attended the auction and the bidding was spirited.

The results of the Tax Sale, and the collection efforts in the preceding 5 month period related to the May 26 auction, culminated in \$359,029.12 being received by the Tax Office and deposited into the Town of Thompson General Fund.

A Tax Sale is a very difficult and emotional process to go through, and that is why it is always the absolute last effort made in order to collect delinquent taxes. These decisions are not made easily, or without much deliberation and heartache. However, in certain cases, it is the only way for the Town to receive its fair share from all Taxpayers. Taxpayers are always encouraged to communicate with the Tax Office

staff when encountering difficulties in meeting their tax obligation on a current basis. Payment arrangements are a common and acceptable practice in our office and tend to serve the taxpayer well when unexpected issues arise.

#### **Kudos to Thompson Taxpayers:**

Congratulations, to all Thompson taxpayers who helped us to achieve one of the most successful tax collection years in Thompson history. With your diligence, timeliness and sacrifices, the Tax Office exceeded its Tax Revenue Budget during the most recently completed year ending June 30, 2022. The Board of Finance had established a budget for Real Estate, Personal Property (Business) tax, and Motor Vehicle tax revenue of \$18.368.374.00. The actual tax revenue collected for the year ending June 30, 2022 was \$18.731.932.18. This resulted in a collection effort of 101.98% of budget. Thank you to all taxpayers large and small, homeowners, business owners, renters, along with motor vehicle owners, from all 10 villages of our beloved Thompson community. YOU DID IT!

#### We are here to serve you, the Taxpayer:

Lynn, Scott and I are always happy to assist you in any way possible. Whether you need assistance or guidance, or just have a question or a comment about your town Tax, Sewer Use Fee, or our Transfer Station Sticker Program, we will always gladly give you the time you need to satisfy your issue. All three Tax Office employees are State Certified Collectors, having gone through extensive classes and training, as well as continuing education classes and programs to keep up with the ever changing environment and State government mandates that affect this office. We are pleased to serve you.

#### THOMPSON INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION

Marla Butts, Wetlands Agent 860-923-1852











#### Why Wetlands and Water Courses Are Regulated and How You Can Help

Water is essential to life. We need clean water to drink. We need enough water for growing food, cleaning needs, industrial purposes, and recreational activities like fishing, boating, swimming, and birdwatching. The water we use starts as rain or snow from the sky. Once on the ground, the water is either absorbed or runs off. The water absorbed into the ground becomes available to our wells and helps to sustain water flow in our streams. What is not absorbed, runs off. This runoff may go directly to a watercourse or may flow to a wetland where it is detained and some of the pollutants are filtered out before travelling into a stream, lake or pond.

We are not in control of the amount of water that we get from the sky. We do, however, have some influence by saving and protecting the wetlands and watercourses from destruction or alteration when such destruction or alteration would damage their ability to protect us against floods and provide cleaner water, not to mention provide habitat for wildlife.

The Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Act (Sections 22a-36 through 22a-45 of the Connecticut General Statutes) is not meant to be prohibitory. Rather, it requires weighing the benefits of developing land in light of the potential damage caused by the destruction or alteration of a wetland and/or watercourse. While small individual destructions or alterations may seem insignificant, over time such destructions or alterations can add up to significant effects and can create problems. It's the role of the Inland Wetlands Commission to regulate alterations to wetlands and

watercourses by reviewing applications from persons wanting to do such alterations.

So, when you are planning a project that involves or is near wetlands and/or watercourses, think about alternatives which exist that would meet your basic need but minimize or eliminate damage to the wetland and/or watercourse.

The Inland Wetlands Commission consists of residents appointed by the Board of Selectmen to sit on the Commission and provide their best judgement on the approval or denial of permit applications that propose to alter or affect wetlands and watercourses in Thompson. This is a valuable citizen function. The Commission meets once a month and occasionally conducts Saturday site walks related to applications. It is supported by a Wetlands Agent who collects information for the Commission for their consideration and provides advice to the Commission and the public. The Commission currently has vacancies. If you are interested in supporting your community, consider submitting an application to the Board of Selectmen. Click here or go to

https://www.thompsonct.org/personnel/pag es/forms-documents.

For more information about the Commission, the wetlands and watercourses it regulates, forms and other resource information, <u>click here</u> or go to <u>https://www.thompsonct.org/inlandwetlands-commission.</u>

#### FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

James Seney, Jr., Fire Marshal 860-931-6299

As the fall season brings cooler temperatures outside, inside things are warming up. During the fall and winter months, fire hazards in your home or business stem largely from heating the space. There is a drastic increase of house fires in the U.S. during this time frame.

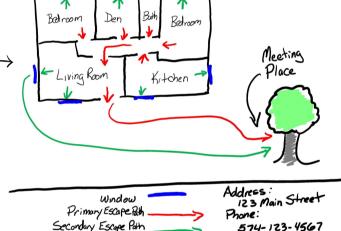
Listed are 4 fire safety tips for the fall season:

- 1- Replace the batteries in your smoke alarms, and make sure fire extinguishers are in working condition.
- 2- Check your heating system, to include replacing furnace filters, keeping areas around the furnace clean and unobstructed, keeping the furnace burner clean and clear of debris, and keeping combustibles away from the vent pipe.

3- Keep your fireplace clear of debris and have it inspected every year. Also, follow these safety precautions: use a fireplace screen, guard or glass door, never leave fire unattended, never overload the fireplace, burn seasoned hardwoods, and store extra wood and other combustibles at least 5 feet away from your fireplace.

#### 4-Evacuation Plan

Do you have a Home Fire Safety Evacuation Plan? We encourage you to create an evacuation plan with your family. Be sure to practice it too! This way your family knows what to do and where to go and can react more quickly and safely in the event of a fire.



Practicing these important safety tips, could prevent a serious fire. Think safety at all times.



#### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

There are many ways in which you can volunteer in town. There are Boards, Commissions and Committees in town which are primarily volunteer positions. The current openings are listed below.

In addition, you can also volunteer for many Thompson Recreation events and with Thompson Trails, Thompson Together, Thompson Historical Society and others. Please see their articles in this publication for contact information or contact the Selectemen's Office at 860-923-9561 ext. 5110

#### **Current Volunteer Positions on Commissions**

**Inland Wetlands Commission** 

**Recreation Commission** 

**Trails Committee** 



# Year in Review 2021/2022

7,064 Card holders .. 220 New cards issued 22,113 Library visitors 48,330 Items loaned .. 4,514 Digital items borrowed 5,859 Reference questions answered 1,797 Computer users .. 1,754 Computer hours 933 Meetings held at the Library/Community Center 50 Programs for adults attended by 582 people Children & Families

192 Programs attended by 2,533 people 1.051 Take & make kits shared

#### @ the Library

Monthly art shows, book discussion groups, Book Bundles, curbside pickup, copier, printer, fax/scan machine, notary services & The Lab - 3D printer& pens, Cricut, button machine, media conversion

#### New this year

Launched 100 Books Before High School and Family Read Aloud Added Chromebooks, Kindle e-readers, puzzles, book sets & disc golf sets

Collection Size .. 60,137 items Books .. 53,491 Videos .. 3,600 Audios .. 2,889 Other .. 157

www.thompsonpubliclibrary.org 860.923.9779

Library Hours: Mondays -Thursdays .. 10-8 Fridays .. 10-5 Saturdays 10-2 (closed Saturdays July-Labor Day)

#### THOMPSON ANIMAL CONTROL (TAC)

### Janis Smith, Animal Control Officer 860-336-7606

We hope everyone and their pets have had a safe and fun filled summer!

Due to the extreme heat we endured earlier in August, TAC cancelled the Summer Fundraiser. People and dogs alike can suffer heatstroke or other medical ailments from spending too much time in extreme heat. Apologies to the vendors and everyone who worked so hard to make it a success. We're planning to hold a fundraiser in 2023; date tba.

TAC has received many calls recently regarding coyotes and racoons being seen out and about during the daytime. This is not unusual. Racoons often are seen in the daytime and are not strictly nocturnal. At this time of year, the parents are ousting the young out of the den and they are learning to fend for themselves, finding places to sleep, and learning how to hunt and locate food. Please understand that every racoon or coyote you see in the day is not rabid. Before calling Animal Control, try to look for signs of rabies. Circling, stumbling while walking, unusual vocal cries, and acting aggressive are signs worth reporting.

If you see an animal acting in any of these unusual ways please call DEEP (Department of Energy Environmental Protection) 860-424-3333 for information.

Also, check DEEP website for more information on CT Wildlife and find tips and tricks for living with them and ways to deter them from your property before they become too much of a nuisance. Click here or go online to www.portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Wildlife/Nuisance-Wildlife/Common-Wildlife-Problems.

Many people might find this surprising, but there is NO LEASH LAW in CT. The law is a Roaming Law, CGS#22-364(a), that carries a \$92 fine. This law



states that a dog owner must have full control over their dog either with a lead, voice command or signal. As long as a dog comes when called, and stays on its own property, it is within the law. If a dog is loose in the streets, on another person's property and not under the control of an owner, it is a violation of the statute. Allowing your dog to roam is a dangerous practice; not only could you lose your pet, you may incur fines, impound charges and possibly vet bills. Please keep your dog under your control at all times.

We urge you not to pick up stray dogs and put them in your vehicle. Many people have been bitten doing this. Animal Control has also had to extract the stray, agitated dogs from vehicles. Instead, call Animal Control and we will come pick up the dog and take appropriate measures to get it home safely.

As a side note, did you know dogs are considered "property" in the state of CT? This means it's illegal to pick up someone else's dog and bring it anywhere. So please call Animal Control.

Lastly.....Thank you to all the residents that came forward and licensed their dogs this year. We are still working on getting everyone on board, but we are looking good. The more licenses, the more funding flows into our Dog Fund, which helps offset the cost of running the pound. It also allows us to adopt out pups for a lower adoption fee than rescues, breeders, etc. Please license your fur kids, and don't forrget to microchip.



#### TRANSFER STATION

**Permit fees** will remain unchanged for the third year in a row. Renewal forms will be arriving by mail shortly. Transfer Station Permits are available for purchase at the Tax Collector's Office.

Single Family Household \$120 Senior Resident \$60 Second Sticker \$15

#### **Did you know?**

- 1. When you recycle properly it saves tax dollars. Placing recyclables into the wrong containers can cause loads to be refused at the recycling facility. What this means to the tax payer is that the Town will be charged for the load instead of receiving payment. If you are uncertain which recyclable goes where, ask an attendant. We are here to help you recycle the right way!
  - 2. All loads must be covered and secured in transit to the facility to prevent litter and accidents. Unsecured loads shall be refused entry to the Transfer Station. RESIDENTS CAN FACE A \$100 FINE FOR NOT COVERING LOADS.
- **3. The Swap Shack** is a great way to pass along items that may be of value to someone else such as household goods, toys, books, etc.

**USEABLE ITEMS IN GOOD CONDITION ONLY!** 

**4. Some items are free to drop off and some have a fee** (partial list below.) For a complete list, go to the Tax Office page on our website or stop by the Tax office to pick up a brochure.

Items accepted at no charge

Computers Electronics Mattresses Paint Items with Freon are \$13 for each

item and includes:
Refrigerators
Freezers
Air Conditioners
Dehumidifiers



Thank you for doing your part to Recycle!

#### **DPW - STORMWATER MANAGEMENT**

Kelley Genest, Aide to the Recreation Director

Thompson's Stormwater Management Plan provides the framework and sets goals to maintain the best water quality possible. <u>Click here</u> to find and view a variety of topics with helpful tips such as Lawn Care and Septic System Care. You may also find this information on our Town's website: www.thompsonct.org under the Public Works - Storm Water Management section.

#### MILL SITES REDEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

#### **Janet Blanchette, Chairperson**

#### **LOTCIP Grant Riverside Drive (Route 12) Sidewalk Project**

We are very excited to see the ongoing construction of 7,400 feet of new concrete sidewalk and granite curb being installed on the east side of Riverside Drive! This project will significantly improve pedestrian access along Thompson's main travel corridor, starting at Rawson Avenue and continuing south to the intersection with



Thompson Hill Road (Route 200). The sidewalk will connect residents with the public schools, Town Hall, Post Office, and restaurants in the historic heart of Thompson.

The project is being funded with a \$1.9 million CONNDOT LOTCIP grant that MSRAC, working with the Director of Planning and Development, Tyra Penn-Gesek, applied for and obtained. This huge investment in our community was made possible through the efforts of dedicated MSRAC volunteer members working with Town staff.

Freeman Companies, LLC designed the project and is providing construction inspection. Construction is being performed by NC Incorporated AMN from Ludlow, MA. Upon completion of the sidewalk project CTDOT will follow up with milling and repaving the road. The result will be a great facelift to the main thoroughfare through town.

#### **Blain Road- Riverside Drive Intersection Improvements**

Hopefully this fall the wide open sea of asphalt at the intersection of Riverside Drive and Blain Road will be reconfigured to a narrower and safer T-shaped shaped intersection, as approved by CTDOT. With the asphalt reduced, the shoulder areas will include low impact development (LID) stormwater bioretention areas which will be attractively landscaped with native plantings.



#### **River Mill Renovation Update**

Behind the scenes, this important mixed use redevelopment project is moving forward. Developer John Gumpert's company, River Mill Redevelopment, LLC (RMR), is close to starting the \$2 million dollar environmental remediation of the property, made possible through a private-public partnership grant with the Town, from the

Department of Economic & Community Development. The Town is also waiting on the results of a formal appeal of the draft FEMA floodplain mapping for the French River in the vicinity of the mill.



#### THOMPSON TRAILS COMMITTEE

Karen Durlach, Chair

#### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

- The Centerville Bank Thompson Turkey Trot and Wobble and Children's Fun Run at West Thompson Dam is Sunday, November 13. Run, walk, or form a team to compete. Ask your employer to be a sponsor, or volunteer to help out that day. This event is the primary source of funds used to maintain the trails in Thompson. It keeps the mower mowing and puts gas in the chainsaw. The annual Turkey Trot also raises money to support TEEG and Thompson Recreation playgrounds and parks. Many thanks to all our sponsors.
- There will be two hikes led to the Tri-State Marker on Sunday, September 25, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. See The Last Green Valley Walktober schedule for details.

Thompson Trails Committee is recruiting for a Litter League team. If you can put in a few days this fall helping to clean up Thompson, contact us through the Thompson Trails Facebook page. Refer to the Recreation Department section of this Update for more details.

#### T-Shirts support Thompson's trails:

- "TAKE-A-HIKE" legend emblazoned on the back, long-sleeved t-shirts stand out in bright "hunter" orange; Thompson Trails logo is on the front
- luminous lime green long-sleeved shirts sport trains on both sides and commemorate the "Great East Thompson Train Wreck" of 1891 and salute Thompson as "More than Just a Train Wreck"

For sale at the Thompson Recreation office. \$25.00, cash or check only. S, M, L, XL, XXL Call for an appointment or stop in during normal business hours.

The Thompson Trails Committee and other committed volunteers work to maintain the trails throughout the year. More volunteers are always needed and welcome. If you would like to help outdoors or become involved in Trails Committee work, contact us through the Thompson Trails Facebook page or through the Trails Committee page on the Town website.

#### Are you holding a Raffle, Bazaar, or Bingo?

Did you know that if your organization is holding a raffle, a bazaar or bingo, a permit from the Town is required? Application materials are available on our webiste www.thompsonct.org or <u>click here</u>. They are also available in the Selectmen's Office. Requests must be submitted to the Selectmen's Office at least fifteen (15) days prior to the start of the Raffle, the Bazaar or Bingo. So, please get in touch with us when you're planning your next activity. Questions? Call 860-923-9561 ext. 5110



#### **THOMPSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



Melinda A. Smith, M.Ed., Superintendent of Schools

The Thompson Board of Education (BOE) members are pleased to welcome back students, families, administrators, faculty, and staff to the start of the new school year! We wish to bring your attention to curricula and capital improvements that have been completed or are currently underway.

#### **New Thompson Public School Website:**

The district is pleased to announce the launching of a new website <a href="https://www.thompsonk12.org">https://www.thompsonk12.org</a> that has been designed for easy navigation for the public to access school department information. Curriculum leaders and teachers have spent the last year revising curricula for grades one through eight in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. The curriculum documents are posted under the department tab on the website and by clicking on the curriculum office from the drop-down menu. Additional documents are currently in revision and will be added over the year as they are completed. The BOE's goal is to have all curriculum documents accessible online.

#### **Community Funded School Building Upgrades:**

- Thanks to generous support from the community and the excellent work conducted by the members of the Building Committee, the roofing project was completed on time and within budget.
- Tourtellotte Memorial High School (TMHS) student-athletes will return to school and will suit up and be proud to host visiting teams with two refurbished locker rooms.
- The fifth and sixth-grade classrooms at Thompson Middle School have all received a fresh coat of paint, creating wonderful learning spaces.

#### **Grant Funded Projects:**

- The HVAC systems are currently being assessed to ensure a healthy learning environment in our schools. Once again, the members of the Building Committee are devoting their time to overseeing the project to apply for anticipated grant funds to improve school air quality.
- A commercial kitchen is being installed this year at TMHS in preparation for adding a culinary arts career pathway to the school's program of study. The new program is set to begin next year.

On behalf of the students attending Thompson Public Schools, we thank community members for their continued efforts to enhance the academic, athletic, art, and enrichment programs for students. As you can see, the district is making significant progress toward implementing the goals of the "Portrait of a Graduate" set by the citizens of the Town of Thompson.

# THOMPSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY Joseph lamartino, President



Friends, after being out of print for nearly 20 years, Volume I of Echoes of Old Thompson is being reissued this year. This is a pictorial history of our Town, and it has helped us answer many of your questions since it was published.

We have received many requests to reprint this book. New information came to us, and we have updated some of the material from the original volume. These details needed to be carefully researched. History isn't perfectly clean, and memories can be hazy. Each and every suggestion for improvement was analyzed, led by our archivist, Mark Snay, and then thoroughly reviewed by Caroline Sloat, an experienced historian with strong publication credentials. The reissued Volume I will correct errors, have clearer captions and a few updated photographs too.

If you are interested in buying a copy, please contact Ginny Flood at gfloodster@gmail.com. Only 500 copies will be printed. 200 of these softcover Volume I books will be sold with Echoes of Old Thompson Volume 2 for a special price of \$60 / set. The cost of Volume I alone in soft cover is \$45.00. There may be a leather hardcover version of Volume I with box cover available. This will depend on the number of people interested in this option. If you order the soft cover and indicate interest in a leather version, Ginny will contact you to advise you of your options should we hit the leather threshold ordering level. Delivery is expected by Christmas 2022.

Finally, we are moving along well on the third volume of Echoes of Old Thompson. We are especially looking for more early color photographs from the town. If you have interesting material to contribute, there is still time to submit it for consideration. Please send to me at josephiamartino@gmail.com.

My thanks for the steady stream of material and artifacts flowing into the Historical Society. Our many volunteers have a hard time keeping up with the activity, but it is all fun. Roberta Baublitz is regularly posting material to our Facebook page, and we greatly enjoy reading your comments. Thank you for your support. You are all making history fresh every day in Thompson!



#### THOMPSON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

Roland Demers, Director of Operations and Chief Operator 860-928-2300

We are continuing work on completing plant updates and upgrades this year as well as starting new ones moving forward. The Thompson WPCA is meeting its State permit requirements as required.

We here at the plant are always looking into new ways to improve our effluent water. We are working to make our plant more energy efficient, as well as more eco-friendly to the receiving waters.

# THOMPSON TOGETHER, INC. Beth Goldsmith, President

We are a loosely organized group of several hundred civic-minded town residents, frequently working in partnership with the Recreation Department, to offer fun events or to work on projects that benefit all of Thompson. Want to volunteer your time or have an idea for a new event or project? Contact me at elizabeth6020@sbcglobal.net

#### Still to come in 2022

- Community Day Saturday, October 1, new time from 11 to 4! We partner with the Recreation Department for this very popular free Town fair in Riverside Park, Come see your neighbors and enjoy musical entertainment, classic cars, fire trucks, food trucks, fun activities and vendors of all sorts. For \$2, your kids can get unlimited inflatable rides for the whole day. Call the Recreation Dept. with any questions at 860-923-9440.
- Litter League New awareness of just how much litter is out there has inspired the Rec. Dept. to inaugurate a new program called Litter League, a team-based litter collection competition that will run from September through November. Call the Rec. Dept. at 860-923-9440 for details on joining a team and continuing to build on our April Clean-up momentum.

#### Past events in 2022

- April Roadside and River Clean-up this year's clean-up, supported by The Last Green Valley, was our 20th year! Hundreds of volunteers got out onto the roads with their bright yellow bags and worked at their own pace throughout the month to collect over 4 tons of trash, tires, and metals from all our roads and waterways. Thanks again to Bogey's Ice Cream on East Thompson Rd, which donated 250 coupons for a free ice cream cone for each bag filled.
- Maker Fair even though our Riverside Park event was competing with events in other towns
  this year, we still had 91 booth registrants and good weather. With the emphasis on handmade items from artisans and artists, as well as musical entertainment and yummy offerings
  from the food trucks, our visitors gave us many compliments on one of the spring's earliest
  craft fairs. Plan on joining us next year as an artisan or visiting as a buyer.
- Town-wide Tag Sale We had many out-of-town/state visitors again this year, drawn to the concentration of yard sales throughout Thompson. This year, our popular town map showing tag sale spots attracted fifty families who signed up to show their locations, with an additional 16 families setting up on the Thompson Common site. This event raised \$372 to help us fund our events.
- Cemetery Restoration In partnership with the Town, work continues year-round repairing broken gravestones and rebuilding stone walls in 9 of Thompson's 24 cemeteries.
   Tree and brush overgrowth is being removed, but volunteer help is always needed to clear seasonal debris. Want to help refurbish some of Thompson's historic sites? Call Norma O'Leary at 860-923-2969 to learn more.
- Youth Services for another summer, a Thompson Together volunteer organized free and fun sports and crafts activities for kids of all ages at Riverside Park. No registration is necessary. Email me for more information at <a href="mailto:elizabeth6020@sbcglobal.net">elizabeth6020@sbcglobal.net</a>



#### **Anne Miller, Executive Director**

TEEG is your local social service agency, serving individuals and families in the towns of Thompson, Woodstock, Pomfret, and Putnam with a wide variety of services. While some services are income-based, many others are free. These services are in place to enrich the lives of people in our community through education, activities, and informational programming. In this issue, we want to focus on our youth services as well as the services we provide for seniors in our area.

#### **Youth Program Manager Jill Bourbeau writes:**

Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group, TEEG, is your Youth Service Bureau (YSB). We provide activities and support for all youth in the towns of Thompson, Woodstock, Pomfret, and Putnam. Our goal is to work with the community to develop positive experiences for the youth in our area. As a YSB we assess the needs of the community, identify gaps in service and coordinate the services to fill those gaps. Our programming includes a playgroup that meets twice a week at our building, after school programming, youth mentoring, and pop-up youth events in our area. We are also a great referral source for those services that we may not provide. Together with our community partners, we will encourage positive development for the all area children (infants through young adult years) and their families. We welcome your calls and are happy to work to help you find enrichment and solutions. Please call TEEG at 860-923-3458 or email jillb@teegonline.org for more information.

#### **Community Programs Manager Chelsea French writes:**

At TEEG we offer many resources to area Seniors whether it be Farmer's Market vouchers, assistance with heating, help in understanding the complexities of the Medicaid/Medicare system, or food security. We have trained staff and the resources to make the right connections to help alleviate some of the stresses that come with aging in place.

TEEG offers a variety of programs and services to Seniors residing in Thompson, Woodstock, and Pomfret, through the Pomfret Senior Center, located at 207 Mashamoquet Road, Pomfret. At the center we offer meals, activities, and exercise for Seniors three days a week. These programs are free and open to anyone aged 60+. Some activities include chair yoga, regular yoga, game days, jewelry making, healthy living meal making, trivia, a walking club, and more.

One of TEEG's newest programs is our Adult Care Program. This program is open to residents aged 55+, and can help assist with incontinence supplies, vitamins, and heat therapy patches. To sign up for this program, or to receive information on any of these programs, we encourage you to reach out to Cathy Smith at 860-923-3458 or e-mail cathys@teegonline.org

As you can see, we are here to help and to engage with the community. Our grassroots foundation allows us to adapt to the needs of the community through our programming. If you would like to learn more about our agency, or if you are interested in volunteer opportunities, please give us a call.



#### **Steve Benoit, Director**

We would like to remind residents of the <u>Emergency Management Special Needs List</u> and how important it is to update your information. This list is for Emergency Management only in order to contact you in an emergency for a wellness check and to help you meet your needs in an emergency. The Special Needs Application is at the bottom of the page.

> Please return to: Town of Thompson Emergency Management 815 Riverside Drive PO Box 899 North Grosvenordale, CT 06255

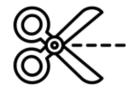
( )Oxygen

or needs

( ) Any other special equipment

( ) Hearing impaired

( ) Wheelchair



Clip and Save

## **General Town Hall Information**

Visit our website at <u>www.thompsonct.org</u>
If you click on any of the office names below, it will bring you to their webpage.

## **Town Hall Office Hours:**

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 9:00 am-4:00 pm Thursday 9:00 am-6:00 pm Friday 9:00 am-2:00 pm

Note: Some offices have only part-time staff (noted with \*); please call for their hours.

## **Town Hall Address:**

815 Riverside Drive, PO Box 899, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255

## **Contact Information:**

OFFICE	PHONE	E-MAIL
Animal Control	860-336-7606	aco@thompsonct.org
<u>Assessor</u>	860-923-2259	assessor@thompsonct.org
<u>Building</u>	860-923-9002	buildingofficial@thompsonct.org
Burn Official *	860-931-6925	deputyfiremarshal@thompsonct.org
Conservation *	860-923-1852	conservation@thompsonct.org
Emergency Management *	860-923-9320	sbenoit@thompsonct.org
Fire Marshal *	860-931-6299	firemarshal@thompsonct.org
<u>Human Resources</u>	860-923-9561 x 5113	mgiammarinaro@thompsonct.org
Inland Wetlands *	860-923-1852	wetlands@thompsonct.org
Planning & Development	860-923-9475	planner@thompsonct.org
Public Works	860-923-2680	dpwdirector@thompsonct.org
<u>Recreation</u>	860-923-9440	recreationdirector@thompsonct.org
Registrar of Voters *	860-923-9636	rov-dem@thompsonct.org and
		rov-rep@thompsonct.org
<u>Selectmen</u>	860-923-9561 x 5110	selectmensoffice@thompsonct.org
<u>Tax</u>	860-923-2119	taxcollector@thompsonct.org
Town Clerk	860-923-9900	townclerk@thompsonct.org
Veterans Services*	860-923-9562	veterans@thompsonct.org
Zoning *	860-923-9475	zeo@thompsonct.org

<sup>\*</sup> part-time staff/office hours

