



ANNUAL REPORT

Town of Bolton
for the year ending
June 30, 2024

ABOUT THE COVER

The pastel painting on the cover is by local artist Susan Bosworth.

The painting depicts the Bolton Land Trust's Freddo Family Preserve, located north of Deming Road. The land was donated to the land trust in 2022 by Thom Freddo, Heather Modzelewski and Christy Martinez in honor of four generations of the Freddo Family. The public trail on the property crosses the Blackledge River, meanders through a pine grove and skirts the edge of the Blackledge Marsh, home to many species of birds and other wildlife. The painting is based on a photo by Bolton Land Trust director Pete Bradley.

FORWARD

We seven members of the Finance Committee provide oversight and advice for the Town of Bolton's financial matters. Although our focus is the annual budget, we do concern ourselves with maintaining bond ratings, earning good interest rates on funds, and managing capital investments.

Once a year, we also have the honor of presenting the Town's Annual Report, this time for the fiscal year 2023-2024. We are grateful to the Town Administrator's Office for compiling and making possible this document.

This report is an excellent guide to Town activities, resources, yearly accomplishments, and meeting schedules. It concludes with an abridged version of the Annual Financial Audit.

As you read, please note the many volunteer citizens, appointed and elected, who serve on the various boards, committees, and commissions that help keep our Town running. You, too, may find an opportunity to serve and grow our town. And lastly, our thanks to the devoted Town staff who collaborate to address the Town's present concerns while planning for the future.

Sincerely,
The Finance Committee
Ross Lally, Chair

Members: Christopher Connelly, Tyler M. Egner, Amanda Gordon, Rhea Klein, Robert Morra, Ashley Phelan

**ANNUAL REPORT
TOWN OF BOLTON, CONNECTICUT**

**TOWN GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING
JUNE 30, 2024**

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TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

EMERGENCY CALLS

911	To report a fire, police or medical emergency
649-3910	Volunteer Firehouse - Routine Calls
643-6060	Resident State Trooper
537-7500	State Police Troop K - Colchester

ADMINISTRATIVE

649-8066* FOR ALL DEPARTMENTS LISTED BELOW
(222 Bolton Center Road)

* Assessor's Office	Ext. 6100
* Building Official	Ext. 6105
* Health District/Sanitarian	Ext. 6108
* Recreation Department	Ext. 6109
* Selectmen's Office	Ext. 6111
* Tax Collector	Ext. 6101
* Town Clerk	Ext. 6106
* Dir. Community Development	Ext. 6114
643-0021 (Fax)	

NOTCH ROAD MUNICIPAL CENTER

649-7780	* Finance Department	Fax - 649-3187
647-9196	* Senior/Social Services	Fax - 643-5496
533-1243	* Registrar of Voters	Fax - 649-3187

GENERAL INFORMATION

992-4166	Animal Control Officer
646-4945	Fire Marshal
649-4302	Open Burning Official
646-8152	Park/Buildings and Grounds Department
649-4302	Town Garage (Highway Department)
649-4302	Tree Warden

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

643-1569	Board of Education, (72 Brandy Street)
643-1569	Superintendent of Schools, (72 Brandy Street)
643-2411	Bolton Elementary School, (108 Notch Road)
643-2768	Bolton High School, (72 Brandy Street)

PUBLIC LIBRARY

646-7349	Bentley Memorial Library, (206 Bolton Center Road)
649-9059	FAX

HOURS OF SERVICE

OFFICE OF SELECTMEN*

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE*

LAND USE OFFICES*

(Engineer, Building, Sanitarian, and Zoning)

TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE*

RECREATION'S OFFICE*

BLRWPCA OFFICE*

Emergency after-hours number

860-266-7256

***OFFICE HOURS FOR ALL OF ABOVE**

8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday

8:30 A.M. to 6:30 P.M.

Tuesday

8:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

Friday

ASSESSOR:

8:30 A.M. to 6:30 P.M.

Tuesday

8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Wednesday

FINANCE OFFICE:

8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Monday thru Thursday

8:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Friday

SENIOR/SOCIAL SERVICES / BOLTON SENIOR CENTER:

9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Monday thru Thursday

9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Friday

LIBRARY:

10:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Monday thru Thursday

10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Saturday

PROBATE COURT:

66 Center Street, Manchester

860-647-3227

**TOWN OFFICIALS, BOARD AND MEETING DATES
FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024**

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

FIRST SELECTMAN:	R Rodney Fournier	2023-2027
DEPUTY 1ST SELECTMAN:	R Robert R. Morra	2023-2027
SELECTMEN:	R Pamela Z. Sawyer	2023-2027
	D Amanda Gordon	2023-2027
	D Gwen Marrion	2023-2027
	R Mather Clarke	2023-2027
	R Timothy Sadler	2023-2027

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: James Rupert Appointed 4/10/21

Meeting Dates: 1st Tuesday of each month - Town Hall at 6:30 P.M.

TOWN CLERK: Elizabeth C Waters

TREASURER: Jill Collins Appointed 8/11/2020

CHIEF FINANCIAL
OFFICER: Jill Collins Appointed 3/14/2016

TAX COLLECTOR: Lori Bushnell

SCHOOL
SUPERINTENDENT: Kristin B. Heckt Appointed 9/28/12

DIRECTOR of COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT: Patrice Carson Appointed 2/14/14

BUILDING OFFICIAL
ZONING ENFORCEMENT: Rich McKinnon Appointed 4/10/23

ASSESSOR: Kara Fishman Appointed 11/01/22

TOWN MEETING
MODERATOR: Mark Altermatt 2021-2025

PARKS/BLDG
SUPERVISOR: John Butrymovich Appointed 1/21/97

HIGHWAY SUPERVISOR:	AJ Golden	Appointed 7/29/2024
JUDGE OF PROBATE:	Michael Darby	2021-2025
LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Elizabeth Thornton	Appointed 11/7/88
RECREATION DIRECTOR:	Stephanie Crane	Appointed 03/04/22
SEN/SOC. SERV. DIRECTOR:	Carrie Concatelli	Appointed 9/16/16
RESIDENT TROOPERS:	Brian Contenta Jake Messier	

BOARD OF FINANCE

	R Ross Lally	2023-2027
	R Christopher Connelly	2023-2027
	R Ashley Phelan	2023-2027
	R Tyler Egner	2023-2025
	R Robert Morra.	2023-2025
	D Rhea Klein	2023-2025
	D Amanda Gordon	2023-2025
Chairman:	Ross Lally	2023-2027
Meeting Dates:	3 rd Thursday of each month Town Hall at 7:15 P.M.	

BOARD OF EDUCATION

	R Andrew R. Broneill	2023-2027
	R Benjamin Davis	2023-2027
	R Ashley Phelan	2023-2027
	R Christopher Duffy	2023-2027
	R Ashely Paggioli	2024-2025
	D Christopher P. Davey	2021-2025
	D Rhea Klein	2021-2025
Chairman:	Andrew R. Broneill	
Meeting Dates:	Regular - 2 nd Thursday of each month Bolton High School Library at 6:30 P.M.	

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

R Thomas S. Fiorentino	2021-2025
D Mary Terhune	2023-2027
R Matthew T Wraight	2023-2027

Chairman: Thomas S. Fiorentino

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

R Thomas A. Manning	2023-2027
R James V. Cropley	2023-2027
R Thomas J. Robbins	2021-2025
D Arlene F. Fiano	2023-2027
R Jeremy Flick	2021-2025
R Steven Clark	2023-2025
D Marilee Manning	2023-2027

Alternate	R Diane DeNunzio	2023-2025
	R Thomas Crockett	2021-2025
	D Kawan Gordon	2023-2025

Chairman: Thomas Manning

Meeting Dates: 3rd Wednesday of each month
Town Hall at 7:30 P.M.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

R Morris Silverstein	2023-2025
R Jonathan M. Treat	2021-2025
D Anne V. C. Decker	2023-2027
R William R. Pike	2023-2027
R Joshua Machnik	2023-2027

Alternate	D John B. Toomey Jr.	2023-2027
	R Tom Lyon	2023-2025
	D Mary Terhune	2021-2025

Chairman: Mark T. Altermatt

Meeting Dates: 3rd Thursday of each month as needed
Town Hall at 7:00 P.M.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Term 1/6/25 – 1/2/2029

D John Hambrook

D Marilee Manning

D Gwen Marrion

D Sandra W. Pierog

D Leslie Shea

D Mary Terhune

R Andrew Broneill

R Rodney Fournier

R Rachel Harrison

R Robert R Morra

R Matthew Wraight

R Pamela Z. Sawyer

U Catherine F. Tyrol

U Vacancy (5)

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

R Ross Lally

1/ 8/25 – 1/ 3/29

D Sandra Pierog

11/20/23 – 11/18/25

DEPUTY REGISTRARS

R Bernice Dixon

1/8/25

D Mary Terhune

ASSISTANT REGISTRARS

R Dorothy R. Neil

2/14/25

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

G Rodney E. Parlee

2024-2027

D Peter Van Dine

2022-2025

D Brenda V. Cataldo

2024-2027

D Matthew Rivers

2023-2026

D Alan Bicknell

2023-2026

Alternate

Kimberly Fofana

2025-2025

Chairman:

Rodney E. Parlee

Meeting Dates:

1st Monday of each month

Town Hall or Via Zoom at 7:00 P.M

BOARD OF ETHICS

Robert Neil	2019-2027
Jane Proulx	2023-2025
Matthew Wright	2023-2029
Ellen Barnes	2023-2029
Basia Caya	2023-2027
(Vacancy)	2025-2026

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

U Robert Langton	2024-2029
D John J. Morianos, Jr.	2023-2028
R Elizabeth M. Malone	2021-2026
D Christopher A. Moquin	2022-2027
D Daniel Moquin	2021-2026

Chairman: John J. Morianos, Jr.
Meeting Date: 4th Monday of each month
Firehouse at 7:00 P.M.

INLAND WETLAND COMMISSION

D Ross Lally	2023-2026
U David G. Lynn	2023-2026
U James P. Loersch	2024-2027
R Michael McDonnell	2024-2027
R Diane DeNunzio	2023-2026

Alternate Vacancy (1)

Chairman: Ross Lally
Meeting Dates: 4th Tuesday of each month
Via Zoom at 7:00 P.M.

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

D Claire Fazzina	2017-2025
U Rebecca L. Holliman	2017-2025
R Ulana Hyrn	2017-2025
U Kelly A. Goldsnider	2017-2025
R Dorothy R. Neil	2017-2025
R Brook E. Nowak	2017-2025
D Camden Soucy	2025-2027

Chairman: Rebecca L. Holliman

Meeting Dates: 2nd Tuesday of each month
Bentley Memorial Library 4:00 P.M.

BOLTON HERITAGE FARM COMMISSION

	R Cara Wraight	2024-2027
	D Rhea Klein	2022-2025
	U Ann R. Maulucci	2022-2025
	D Arlene F. Fiano	2023-2026
	D Paula Lynn	2025-2026
Alternate	D Leslie Shea	2024-2027
	Vacancy (1)	

Chairman: Arlene F. Fiano

Meeting Dates: 1st Monday of each month
Town Hall or Via Zoom at 7:00 P.M

SENIOR CITIZENS COMMISSION

	D Cheryl Z Udin	2022-2026
	R Paul S. Friez	2021-2025
	D Leslie Shea	2022-2026
	R Anna Spencer	2025-2029
	R Helen Winkler	2024-2028
Alternate	R Corenda Haugh	2022-2026
	Carrie Concatelli (Municipal Agent)	

Chairman: Paula S. Friez

Meeting Dates: Quarterly meetings at 1:00 PM.
Bolton Senior Center

BLRWPCA BOARD

	Robert Morra
	Richard Hayes, Jr.
	Jessica Webb
	Cheryl Udin
Alternates	Jim Rupert - Bolton
	Vacancy - Bolton

Chairman: Robert Morra

Meeting Dates: 4th Wednesday quarterly meetings
Town Hall at 7:00 P.M.

VETERANS COMMISSION

Kathy Walsh	2022-2024
Paul Toomey	2022-2026
Linda Rudolph	2022-2026
Gregory Carini	2022-2024
Ernest Richardson	2022-2024
Jim Clark	2022-2024
Barry Stearns	2022-2024

APPOINTED OFFICERS

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Jerold Casida

FIRE MARSHAL

William Call

DEPUTY FIRE MARSHALS

James Quish
(Vacancy)

FIRE CHIEF

Bruce Dixon

DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

Matthew Ferreira

OPEN BURNING OFFICIALS

William Call

INLAND WETLANDS AGENT

Alyssa Barroso

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

July 2023 – June 2024

Rodney Fournier
Amanda Gordon
Timothy Sadler
Gwen Marrior
Robert Morra
Pamela Sawyer
Mather Clarke

James Rupert, Town Administrator

Throughout the fiscal year, the Board of Selectmen continued its guidance of various projects and studies. In addition to these projects, the Selectmen addressed numerous issues throughout the year. Their ongoing priorities include providing quality and professional services to our citizens; pursuing opportunities for new grants and shared services; preserving Bolton's rural character; and safeguarding the town's ability to meet future needs.

In November 2023, we held a municipal election, and the new Board of Selectmen was established with seven members. The term for the newly elected Selectmen was changed to four years.

During the fiscal year, the Board held several special meetings, retreats, and workshops in addition to regular meetings. The board normally meets on the first Tuesday of each month at the Town Hall, both in person and virtually. Agendas and minutes are available on the Town's website or in the Town Clerk's office. Many monthly meetings can also be viewed on the Community Voice Channel. Each Selectman serves on at least one of the following subcommittees: Human Resources, Finance & Administration, Facilities & Public Safety, Personnel, or the Town Hall Committee.

Each year, the Board of Selectmen takes this opportunity to recognize the dedicated volunteers and members of the various boards, commissions, and fire department.

The Board of Selectmen appreciates and recognizes the service, dedication, and support provided by all. We encourage all residents to check the list of commission vacancies online and fill out an interest form if they would like to serve, as all residents are invited and encouraged to take an active role in the community.

For the 2023–2024 fiscal year, the Board of Selectmen’s work included the following highlighted major topics:

- Updated and enhanced our cybersecurity and continued technology improvements within Town government.
- Completed the construction of the path from the town center to BHS through a community connectivity grant.
- Launched a regional website, in partnership with the towns of Coventry, Mansfield, and Tolland, where businesses can share their locations and events.
- Awarded a STEAP Grant to upgrade Herrick Park Field.
- Expanded shared services across departments with neighboring towns, including Willington, Ashford, Andover, and Vernon.
- Conducted CPR and Narcan training for staff, supporting public health and emergency preparedness.

For the 2024–2025 year, the Board of Selectmen’s priorities will include:

- Continuing technology enhancements within Town government and providing staff training.
- Strengthening partnerships with neighboring towns.
- Exploring opportunities to promote open and effective communications at all levels of Town Government and within the community.
- Overseeing the demolition of the Notch Road Municipal Center.

TOWN MEETING ACTION

The annual town meeting was held on May 16, 2024. The issues brought to the attention of the residents of Bolton are enumerated on the following agenda. The issues were discussed, and after a vote, all passed unanimously.

Voted Yes: To accept the reports for each Board, Commission, Agency, and Office as printed in the “Annual Report for the Town of Bolton” year ending June 30, 2023.

Voted Yes: To authorize the Board of Selectmen and the Treasurer of the Town of Bolton, when the annual budget is adopted, to borrow on specific accounts, or otherwise, such sums of money from time to time, and at such time or times as may be necessary to meet the expenses and obligations of said Town of Bolton for the fiscal year 2024-2025 in an amount not exceeding the appropriations authorized herein.

Voted Yes: To consider and act upon the five (5) year capital improvement plan as presented by the Board of Selectmen in the annual budget document.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

As the Highway Supervisor for the Town of Bolton, I am pleased to present the annual report for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. This report outlines key achievements and ongoing projects within the Highway Department, showcasing our continued commitment to maintaining and improving the town's infrastructure.

Paving Projects Completed

This year, we successfully completed several critical paving projects aimed at enhancing the safety and quality of the town's roadways:

- **Brandy Street**
- **Williams Road**
- **French Road** (Deming to Camp Meeting)

These projects have significantly improved the condition of our road network, contributing to smoother, safer travel for residents and visitors alike.

Annual Maintenance Activities

Throughout the year, our team performed routine maintenance and emergency repairs to ensure that the town's roads and infrastructure remained functional, safe, and well-maintained despite challenging weather conditions:

- We kept roadways clear of trees and debris, ensuring safe travel during storms and inclement weather.
- Damaged guardrails were repaired to meet safety standards.
- Due to record-breaking rainfall, roadside mowing continued year-round to control overgrowth and maintain visibility along key roadways.
- Sinkholes, including one on Alexis Drive, were promptly repaired to prevent further damage to our infrastructure.
- Snow season's aftermath saw the replacement of curbing, restoring roadways and ensuring proper drainage.
- Catch basins were vacuumed after jetting the drainage system, improving water flow and reducing the risk of flooding.
- Routine crack sealing was conducted to prevent pavement deterioration.

- Drainage swales were “hogged out” to improve water management and prevent future erosion.
- Drainage issues near the lake were addressed with a comprehensive jetting operation.

Despite the challenges posed by record rainfall throughout the year, our team worked diligently to keep the town’s infrastructure in optimal condition.

New Construction Projects

A significant highlight of the year was the advancement of the **Connectivity Trail** project, which will provide a safer and more connected path for our residents:

- **Phase 1 & 2** of the Connectivity Trail were completed, extending from Town Hall to Notch Road.
- **Phase 3** is slated to begin next year, which will extend the trail from Town Hall all the way to the High School.

This project not only improves mobility within the town but also fosters a sense of community by creating pedestrian-friendly connections across key locations in Bolton. The Connectivity Trail aims to reduce reliance on vehicles and encourage walking and cycling, ultimately strengthening the bond among our citizens and making Bolton a more connected, vibrant place to live.

Conclusion

The past year has been one of both accomplishment and challenge. From the successful completion of paving projects to the ongoing maintenance and the advancement of the Connectivity Trail, we have made significant strides in improving the town’s infrastructure. The efforts of the Highway Department were especially important in combating the effects of extreme weather, which required swift action and careful planning.

Looking ahead, we will continue to prioritize safety, accessibility, and sustainability, with a focus on completing ongoing projects and addressing any emerging needs. As always, the Highway Department remains dedicated to ensuring that Bolton’s roads and infrastructure support the growing needs of our community.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The Finance Department is located in the Town of Bolton Annex Building. This office is responsible for the central administration of all Town finances. This includes the preparation of the annual budget, supervising the annual audit, managing grants, debt, accounts payable, and payroll as well as oversight of the Town's pension and health insurance. This Department is also responsible for all centralized accounting functions for the entire Town including the Board of Education. The department consists of a full-time Finance Director and two Administrative Clerks.

During the 2024 fiscal year the finance department moved into the temporary office building (Annex) that is located on Notch Road.

The Finance Department also has continued to financially manage Bolton Lakes Regional Water Pollution Control Authority (BLRWPCA) which assumed financial responsibility in FY 07-08. The BLRWPCA is responsible for the management of the sewers around Bolton Lakes in the towns of Bolton and Vernon and is managed by the Town of Bolton.

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

The Registrars of Voters' office, located at 104 Notch Road, in the Temporary Building, is open on Wednesdays, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Although the office operates on a part-time basis, Bolton residents may leave a voice message for the Registrars at 860-533-1243. They may visit the Town Clerk's Office during normal business hours to register to vote or they can register online by visiting the CT Secretary of the State's website. Information regarding elections and voting procedures in the town of Bolton can be obtained by visiting the Town's website at www.boltonct.gov and selecting Registrars of Voters from the list of town departments.

The current Registrars of Voters are Bernice K. Dixon (Republican) and Sandra W. Pierog (Democrat).

The primary responsibilities of the Registrars of Voters include voter registration, accurate maintenance of the voter list, and the administration of elections. Registrars are the administrators in charge of every type of election in our state. To that end, the Registrars are committed to conducting honest and impartial elections in a fair, efficient, and accurate manner. Registrars are elected, bi-partisan, and non-political. Our loyalty is to the voters of Bolton.

The Municipal Election was held on November 7, 2023. The Democratic and Republican Presidential Preference Primaries were held on April 2, 2024. Two

Budget Referendums were held on May 21 and June 4, 2024, before passing the 2024-2025 Budget.

The Annual Canvass of Voters, required under the Connecticut General Statutes, was conducted from February 2024 through June 2024. The purpose of the Canvass is to verify the residence of Bolton electors.

The State Legislature divided Bolton into two Assembly Districts, the 8th and the 55th, effective August 2022. This created two voting districts in Bolton which requires us to hold Federal and State Elections in both district locations. District 1 voters vote at the Bolton Center School Gym. District 2 voters vote at St. Maurice Parish Center.

We are here to help. The lives of our residents are constantly changing. They move. They get married. They, unfortunately, pass away. With these changes, their registration status can change. We are available throughout the year to accommodate them so that they can exercise their right to vote.

TOWN CLERK

The duties and responsibilities of the Town Clerk's Office, some of which are governed by State Statute and others by Town Charter and the Board of Selectmen, are as follows:

- Recording documents related to real estate transactions
- Collection of conveyance taxes.
- Filing and maintaining maps, trade names, liquor permits, military discharges, and Notary Public Certificates.
- Posting notices of meetings and for filing minutes and notices received from various Boards and Commissions, as required by the Freedom of Information Laws.
- Administer the oath of office for elected and appointed officials
- Preparation of absentee ballot election material for all elections, primaries, referenda.
- Registration of voters and accepts applications for voters wishing to change their party affiliation.
- Issuance of marriage licenses, burial, cremation and transit permits
- Issuance of certified copies of birth, death, and marriage certificates
- Annual registration of dogs.
- Records and prepares minutes of Town Meetings.
- Filing of WC3 Forms and Lawsuits pertaining to the Town.

Records and items processed in the Town Clerk’s office during the fiscal year July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, are as follows:

○ Recorded documents in the Bolton land records	538
○ Foreclosure Registrations	File 9
○ Maps received and filed	9
○ Land Record copies purchased through COTT online portal (\$)	\$2345
Land Record copies purchased in office (\$)	911
○ Dog licenses sold	517
○ Kennel licenses sold	4
○ Liquor permits filed	5
○ Trade names filed	10
○ Notaries public registered	14
○ Notarizations Performed	185
○ Veterans’ discharges recorded	11

Awarded an Historic Document Preservation Grant in the amount of \$5,500 that was used to purchase fixed shelving units for the back wall to increase, storage space.

VITAL STATISTICS recorded July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024

Births recorded	39
Marriages recorded	71
Deaths recorded	46

TAX COLLECTOR

**REPORT OF THE PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024**

LIST YEAR	BEGINNING BALANCE	LAWFUL CORRECTIONS	SUSPENSE
2008 \$	197.26		\$ (197.26)
2009 \$	63.40		\$ (63.40)
2010			
2011			
2012 \$	59.16		
2013 \$	1,313.06		
2014 \$	3,241.30		\$ (512.79)

	2015	\$	4,167.17		\$	(688.64)	
	2016	\$	2,912.55		\$	(495.48)	
	2017	\$	6,266.71		\$	(1,163.41)	
	2018	\$	8,281.92		\$	(1,216.02)	
	2019	\$	19,632.20	\$	93.26	\$	(2,378.35)
	2020	\$	81,859.19	\$	2,123.71	\$	(11,533.52)
	2021	\$	146,868.31	\$	7,252.10	\$	(7,604.14)
	2022	\$	19,985,559.45	\$	(39,953.97)	\$	(5,727.67)
TOTALS		\$	20,260,421.68	\$	(30,484.90)	\$	(31,580.68)

TAXES PAID	INTEREST PAID	LIEN/FEES PAID	COLLECTABLE BALANCE
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ 59.16
			\$ 1,313.06
			\$ 2,728.51
			\$ 3,478.53
\$ 116.22	\$ 121.43		\$ 2,300.85
\$ 201.55	\$ 204.99		\$ 4,901.75
\$ 489.23	\$ 672.48		\$ 6,576.67
\$ 8,565.84	\$ 1,948.95	\$ 24.00	\$ 8,781.27
\$ 51,666.02	\$ 13,513.79	\$ 144.00	\$ 20,783.36
\$ 98,525.10	\$ 25,312.29	\$ 264.00	\$ 47,991.17
\$ 19,799,540.95	\$ 47,925.02	\$ 192.00	\$ 140,336.86
\$ 19,959,104.91	\$ 89,698.95	\$ 624.00	\$ 239,251.19
		REFUND BALANCE	<u>\$ 1,181.34</u>
		NET COLLECTABLE BALANCE	\$ 240,432.53
\$ 2,671.97	\$ 2,140.35	SUSPENSE COLLECTED	
\$ 102,421.07		DEFERRED TAX REVENUE	

TOTAL COLLECTED

\$	20,064,197.95	\$	91, 839.30	\$	624.00	\$	20,156,661.25	
							COPY FEES \$	5.50
							\$	20,156,666.75

The collection rate for the Grand List of October 1, 2022, was 99.03%
The balance of unpaid taxes at the end of the fiscal year 2023-2024 was \$240,432.53,
A total of 8132 original tax bills were mailed between 7-1-23 and 6-30-24.

A tax sale was held on June 4, 2024, Attorney Adam J Cohen of Pullman & Comley LLC conducted the tax sale under the direction of the Tax Collector.
One out of the two properties sold. The owner is able to redeem the property up until December 3, 2024.

19 Property tax liens were filed with the Town Clerk.
23 Property tax lien releases were filed with the Town Clerk.
Delinquent bills were sent out monthly. Adjustments were issued by the Assessor.
Delinquent Motor Vehicle Taxes were reported to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The 2024 Annual Report for the Bolton Public Schools reflects a commitment to flexibility, collaboration, communication, social and emotional health, and excellence in education. We believe that all students are empowered to embrace learning and a healthy mindset, continually build knowledge, develop skills, and become engaged global citizens. As a learning community, we are deeply committed to a culture of continuous improvement and innovation.

The mission of the Bolton Public Schools is to inspire all students to grow as learners, individuals, and citizens. The BPS Strategic Plan for 2020-2026 and District Goals guide our work and allow us to focus on the attainment of long-term goals, while we continue to maintain the high quality of teaching and learning we enjoy in our district. The BPS Portrait of a Graduate articulates the qualities and attributes that we believe students need to be successful in college, career, life, and as global citizens. Our Strategic Plan priorities are to:

- Challenge and prepare every student for success in school and life.
- Foster a responsive, caring, and inclusive culture and collaborative relationships.
- Encourage a learning environment that emphasizes excellence and recruits, develops, supports, and retains high-quality staff.
- Champion the needs of our school system and be responsible stewards of the public’s investment.

BPS is proud of our focused commitment to the continuous improvement of teaching and learning, supporting the needs of the whole child, and our strong partnerships with students, families, and our community.

BOLTON HIGH SCHOOL

Ninety two percent of the graduating class of 2024 went on to two or four year colleges after graduating. The remaining graduates went on to pursue a technical education, entered the workforce, or joined the military.

Bolton High School prides itself on a personalized educational experience, where each student is encouraged to pursue rigorous coursework and align their high school education with post-secondary interests. BHS continues to participate in Early College Experience programs through local colleges/universities. Bolton teachers actively look to expand our dual enrollment partnerships by voluntarily applying and meeting requirements to offer our students the opportunity to gain exposure to higher education and to earn college credits while in high school.

All students in grades 9 through 11 participate in the annual PSAT assessment. Grade 11 students also participate in the school-day SAT and NGSS assessments as well. The Bolton High School faculty continues to expand the digital portfolio system for students to share their exemplary work as they prepare to meet graduation requirements. In addition, all seniors complete capstone projects their senior year.

Using the District Strategic Plan and the BHS School Improvement Plan as guides, the Bolton High School faculty has continued their ongoing professional development focused on instructional improvement with a specific emphasis on establishing success criteria and communicating relevance. In March of 2024, the NEASC Commission on Public Schools voted to accept Bolton High School's 5-year progress report and continue the school's accreditation.

Bolton High School experienced a successful year in athletics during the 2023–2024 school year. The Boys Outdoor Track Team finished as the runner-up at the CIAC Class "S" State Championship Meet. At this meet, the team claimed the title of Class "S" Champions in both the 800-meter and 4 x 800 relay races. The boys' team also set multiple school records, and four athletes earned All-State honors at the championship event. Bolton High School offers a variety of athletic opportunities, including cross country, soccer, girls' volleyball, basketball, cheerleading, girls' gymnastics, baseball, softball, golf, tennis, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field, a collaborative team for boys' swimming and diving, and cooperative teams in football, girls' swimming and diving, and ice hockey. Students involved in music, arts, and drama also enjoyed success during the 2023-2024 school year as well. The drama club had a very successful run of the musical *Annie* which involved over 40 members of the school community.

The majority of BHS students participate in at least one co-curricular activity. Clubs include: Robotics, Drama Club, French Club, Yearbook, Peer

Support, Jazz Band, National Honor Society, Math Center, Writing Center, Spanish Club, Donut Club, Book Club, Chess Club, Art Club, Latin Club, Literary Magazine, Student Council, and Guild Club. Many of our student activities incorporate a service component. For example, the National Honor Society coordinates multiple community blood drives throughout the year and the Student Council sponsors food drives. The high school also implements a mentoring program called “Bigs and Littles”, which is an initiative that pairs an upperclassman with freshman at the beginning of the school year in order to support their transition to BHS. Activities are planned throughout the year to continue this relationship. Additionally, BHS continued the grade 9 teaming model, TEAM27. Grade 9 students spend much of their day in one wing of the building with a common group of teachers. This team model has added an extra layer of support as students’ transition to high school.

BOLTON CENTER SCHOOL

Throughout the 2023-2024 school year, Bolton Center School students and staff engaged in numerous service-oriented activities. The Student Council organized several events to raise funds for charities, including PJ Day for the Kids and Make-A-Wish. Additionally, students and staff collected food donations for the local food pantry.

The annual Read-A-Thon encouraged students to read books from various genres and track their progress. In October, the PTA hosted the fifth annual school-wide Walk-a-Thon, which raised funds for student enrichment activities and programs. Students also participated in several exciting events throughout the year, such as Career Day, PBIS school-wide assemblies, and author visits sponsored by the PTA. Students in grades 5 through 8 competed in the annual Spelling Bee and Geography Bee. In November, 8th grade students took the PSAT assessment.

Middle school students were actively engaged in their advisory groups, where they discussed topics related to social, emotional, physical, and academic development. These topics included stress management, coping skills, gratitude, attitude, self-respect, and resume writing. To complement these discussions, students participated in Second Step lessons, “Start with Hello” week activities, and prepared for and presented their student-led conferences.

The PBIS Team (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) worked closely with staff and students throughout the year to foster and maintain a positive school climate at Bolton Center School. Faculty continued to focus on instructional improvement, aligning their goals with the BPS Strategic Plan. The PBIS committee also recognized staff and students for their positive contributions to the school community. BCS students were regularly acknowledged for demonstrating the Bulldog B.A.R.K. expectations by receiving “Buster Brags” notes announced in the morning.

A standout event of the year was the annual Winter Family Fun Night in January, which brought hundreds of families to the school to enjoy fun and educational activities with their children.

Teaching and Learning

The district continues to align curriculum, instruction, and assessments to various content area standards as part of our ongoing mastery work that supports the Bolton Public Schools Portrait of a Graduate. This is accomplished through a continuous process of curriculum review and redesign, an examination of instructional practices that best support student learning, and the careful analysis of work samples and assessments to inform classroom instruction. Professional development opportunities focused on strengthening mathematics instruction, student-engaged assessment practices, the workshop model in English language arts classes, mastery learning, and culturally responsive practices. Administrators were trained on the implementation of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) model PreK-12.

Our students also participate in a variety of state-level summative assessments. Grades 3 through 8 participated in the Smarter Balanced Assessments, which align to Connecticut Core State Standards in English language arts/literacy and mathematics. Interim Assessments Blocks for ELA and mathematics were implemented in grades 3-8. These assessments help generate skill-based data for teachers to identify specifically where students are having difficulty. Students in grades 8 and 9 took the PSAT. Students in grade 11 participated in the CT School Day SAT. Finally, students in grades 5, 8, and 11 took the Next Generation Science Standards Summative Assessment. The results of these assessments, along with school-based assessments, help guide instructional decisions as we strive to meet the needs of all learners.

LIBRARY (BENTLEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY)

Library Board of Trustees

Rebecca Holliman-Chair, Kelly Goldsnider-Secretary, Dorothy Neil-Treasurer, Brook Nowak, Claire Fazzina, Loni Hryn.

All library board members are appointed by the Board of Selectmen. As stated in the Town Charter:

The Library Board shall consist of no less than five (5) members each of whom shall serve a term of four (4) years with two or five members appointed biennially to succeed the members whose term of office expires in such year. The Board shall be responsible for the management of the Bentley Memorial Library and any other Town Library facilities excluding Board of Education facilities, funds and equipment related thereto; shall establish rules and regulations for the conduct of the library's business and for the provision of services to the inhabitants of the

Town; and may enter into intertown and regional library compacts in the manner and to the extent prescribed by the General Statutes.

Staff

Elizabeth Thornton, MLS, Director

Susan Prentice, Library Assistant 1 (Library Technical Assistant)

Mark Nystrom, Library Assistant II (Technology/Programming)

Amber Mosley, Library Assistant I (Cataloging/Circulation)

Sam Bahre, Library Assistant 1 (Circulation)

Pages- Kelcie Perkins and Zoe Sondik

Substitutes- Tina Prior, Linda Armstrong, Gretchen Wiedie.

Hours-Monday – Thursday 10-8, Saturday 10-3, closed Friday, Sunday, Saturdays in August, legal holidays and Memorial Day, Labor Day and Thanksgiving weekends.

Goals for 2024-2025- Add a generator, EV charging station, and air purification system.

Staff-Staff was trained on fire extinguishers, AED, Stop the Bleed and CPR.

Volunteers- Bev and Ron Alleman, Ray Hardy, Jim Dwire, John Toomey, Emily Bradley, Sharon Chapman, Kim Malley, Pam Simmons, Kathy Walsh, Nancy Aderman, and Dorothy Hall- Thank you to all of our volunteers for their continued dedication.

Friends of the Bentley Memorial Library: Emily Bradley, Coordinator/Treasurer The Friends of the Library provide fund raising and community awareness opportunities. Fund raisers such as book bags and used book and AV sales help provide programs, refreshments for programs, coffee bar and other special purchases. Thank you to all who donate their time, talents and donations to the library.

Displays- The library has two display cases for patrons to feature their collections.

Memberships- Bibliomation, Inc., ACLB, ALA, CLC, CLA and FOCL.

Library Visits – 14,522

Study Room Use - 95

Monetary Donations- \$ 3746.00 was donated to the library gift fund. The library also received many donations of used and new books and AV from generous patrons. A special thank you to the Bolton Regional Lions Club for their financial contributions and Sam and Joan Teller for their annual contributions.

Grants- A \$1,850.00 grant was received from the Bolton Greater Together Community Fund to purchase additional purifiers and filters.

Budget- The library budget for the fiscal year was \$307,561.00.

Revenue- Town revenue collected includes fines, fax and copies totaling \$1338.66.

Facility- Copier was moved to a more convenient location for patrons and staff.

Registered Borrowers-The library has 1542 active borrowers.

Circulation- The library circulated physical items and electronic items for a total circulation of 35,180.

Connecticard- Out of town patrons borrowed 3848 items from the Bolton library.

Collection- The collection size is 49,911.

Reference- The library responded to 45 reference and 100 technology (6 months) questions.

Loan transactions- 5471 requests were loaned and borrowed to and from other libraries.

Programs- Approximately 1900 patrons attended the programs, a sample of which is listed below: Preschool storytime, BCS Reading Hall of Fame, Read-to-the Dogs, Bolton Social Services Giving Tree, Easter Highland Health District Blood Pressure check, BCS 2nd grade and Montessori school visit, Father's Day dads and donuts, seed library, scavenger hunts, adult book discussions, plant, bulb and seed swap, teen dating , blanket collection for area shelters, Take Your Child to the Library Day, poetry reading with Bessy Ryna, Lions club eye glass collection, Halloween costume storytime, mobil mammography, Covid vaccinations, Library Boogie: a musical puppet show, cardboard crafts, Invasive aquatic plants, ticks, Kid Governor meet the candidate display, National Coloring Book Day, Social Services Personnel hygiene collection, National Library Card sign up month, Bolton Soccer equipment swap, National Voter Registration Day, Learn the Ukulele, Harmonica and Hand drumming, ph soil testing, orchid care, Lego day, Lights Out Connecticut, Implications of AI on art and creativity, whitetail deers, K-12 Bolton Schools art show, Raise the Coup Backyard Chickens, Valentine fun night, Read Across America, Lutz Tails from the trails, Bushnell Comes to the Library, Memorial Day Parade, author Judith Podell, the Elusive Fisher, Sweets for Seniors Marty Gitlin, Passport to Libraries, Grant celebration event, Blue Iris Farm, Smokey the Bear summer reading. Thank you to all who supported the library programs over the year through their attendance.

RESIDENT TROOPER

During the fiscal year of 2023 to 2024, the Town of Bolton continued to participate in the Resident State Trooper Program. Trooper First Class Brian Contenta continued to provide State Police coverage for the day shift while Trooper Jacob Messier continued to provide State Police coverage for the evening shift.

With two Resident State Troopers assigned to Bolton, the town has consistent day, evening, and weekend shift coverage. Additionally, Troop K in Colchester provides additional patrol coverage to the town twenty-four hours a day. Our office is located next to the Town Hall at 220 Bolton Center Road, and we continue to encourage our residents to stop in or call with complaints, concerns, or notifications of suspicious activity within your community. We continue to provide residents with property checks while on vacation or away from home for extended periods with advanced notice to our office or through Troop K Dispatch.

During this past fiscal year, there were 1,560 calls for service. Of those calls for service, there were 80 accidents, 11 DUIs, 0 larcenies, 0 burglaries, 65 total reportable matters, and 1,148 non-reportable matters.

We would like to continue our encouragement to members of this community to report suspicious activity and vehicles to the Resident State Trooper's Office or Troop K noting the nature of the activity with descriptions of persons or vehicles with registration plates as soon as possible. With enhanced awareness within your community to illegal or suspicious activity it will enhance public safety and enable your Resident Troopers and State Police to detect and apprehend violators. With that being said, we encourage members of this community to lock vehicles, don't leave keys or key fobs in your vehicles, and lock the doors to your residence and any outbuildings when away from your home. This will deter criminals and make it harder for criminal activity to occur. Your efforts in this area are greatly appreciated.

We continue to stress the importance of utilizing a hands-free device for cell phone use, or pulling off the road to a parking lot or other safe location for cell phone use including texting, while operating a motor vehicle. Using a hand-held mobile electronic device greatly increases the chances of being involved in a motor vehicle collision and their use while driving continues to be the leading cause of fatal motor vehicle collisions in the nation. Your Resident State Troopers take this seriously and conduct many motor vehicle stops to prevent motor vehicle collisions from occurring in your community for this reason. Please wear your seat belt and ensure your passengers especially children are wearing their seat belts. Also, ensure child seats and booster seats are properly secured. These steps could prevent serious injury in the event of an accident or may even Save Your Life.

The Resident Troopers also continue to stress the importance of driving the speed limit and obeying all stop signs. We have been conducting numerous motor vehicle stops due to speeding and failure to obey stop signs, as they're the most common complaints we receive from the citizens of Bolton. The Town of Bolton has placed a digital speed indicator at the green in front of the library to help ensure drivers safely operate at the posted speed limit. Remember, just because you don't **SEE US**, doesn't mean we don't **SEE YOU!**

We would like to thank the members of this community for your continued support and assistance this past fiscal year, and it is a pleasure to have served your community as Bolton Resident State Troopers.

Emergency: 911

Resident Troopers Office: (860) 643-6060

CT State Police/Troop K: (860) 465-5400

FIRE COMMISSION

The past year was once again a busy one for the Bolton Volunteer Fire Department. Further details of the Department's activities will be in the Fire Chief's and the Fire Marshal's Annual Report.

The Officers of the Bolton Fire Commission were elected in June 2023, John Morianos is the Chairman and Elizabeth Malone is the Treasurer. Member on the Board include Christopher Moquin, Dan Moquin, and Robert Langton.

The Bolton Fire Commission supports the Bolton Volunteer Fire Department in all the obligations required, either by the Federal Government, the State of Connecticut or the Town of Bolton. In order to comply with all these requirements, funding is necessary to maintain the level of excellence that the Town of Bolton has come to rely on when emergency services are required.

The Bolton Fire Commission worked closely with the Bolton Volunteer Fire Department to assure the highest level of readiness to the residents of Bolton. This included, but was not limited to, proper emergency medical training (CPR, EMT, EMR etc), different firefighter certifications, and training on use of all fire apparatus and vehicles. Scheduled testing and maintenance on ladders, hoses and vehicles was completed as required, to ensure all equipment and vehicles are up to State and Federal laws and standards.

The Bolton Fire Commission worked diligently on the budget for the year 2023-2024. The Commission met with the Board of Selectmen and with their guidance, the Bolton Fire Commission was able to obtain a fiscally responsible budget.

We, on the Bolton Fire Commission, are volunteers ourselves and know that the dedicated Bolton Volunteer Fire Department members are a tribute to the Town of Bolton and all its citizens.

We welcome Bolton residents to come to a Fire Commission meeting, to voice suggestions or concerns. We meet once a month (except August) usually on the fourth Monday at 7 PM at the Fire House. The monthly minutes of the Commission meetings are posted on the Town of Bolton's website.

BOLTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Bolton Fire Department is a volunteer service agency that provides fire, rescue, hazardous materials and emergency medical services to the Town of Bolton, CT. The department is comprised of 38 men and women. These members volunteer their time and talents to ensure maximum care and safety for the citizens in our community. They are on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, every week of the year.

During the fiscal year 2023-2024, the leadership of the department was as follows: *Chief Bruce A. Dixon*

Deputy Chief Matthew Perreira

Assistant Chief Michael Eremita

Captain James DeMorro

Lieutenants Nick Cycenas, Jason Vincent, Laura Goulet, Bryan Goulet

Safety Officer Peter Morra

Call Volume

The department responded to a total of 569 calls that included the following types of calls: several building fires, vehicle fires, brush fires, many EMS / medical calls, motor vehicle accidents, search and rescue, hazardous condition / hazardous material calls and many service calls. We also responded as part of our mutual aid agreements, working with the surrounding communities at emergencies in their towns.

Budget

The department's operating budget for the fiscal year 2023-2024 was \$ 257,981.00

Equipment

The department maintains the following apparatus:

2017 US Tanker, Tanker 234 with 1,500 GPM pump and 3,000 gallon of water

2013 Pierce, Rescue 134 Heavy Duty Rescue Truck with equipment for vehicle extrication, medical supplies, cold water rescue, hazardous material equipment and extensive scene lighting

2008 Pierce, Truck 134 100-foot Aluminum Ladder Truck with 2,000 GPM pump and 500 gallons of water

2023 Pierce, ET134 Engine Tank with a 1,500 GPM pump and 1,000 gallons of water.

2021 Dodge 3500, Service 134 which is our first due truck for EMS medical calls, and supports IC, rescue, and other emergencies.

2018 Dodge Utility Truck, Service 234 as a support vehicle for Fire Police, auxiliary water pumping emergencies, Life Star landing support, towing the UTV trailer, and boat, etc.

2009 Chevrolet Suburban, Service 34 with extensive IC and medical equipment

2020 Rescue One, Marine 134 16 ft boat and motor, and trailer

2022 Ford F550, Forestry 134 4x4 Forestry truck

2004 Kubota UTV, 134 All-Terrain Vehicle

2022 Bravo 20 ft box trailer.

Training Report

The fire department training division conducts training most Monday nights. The training is done at the fire station and many other locations in and out of town. There are several members that hold state certification as fire or EMS instructors. This year the department held over 30 training sessions in house. The members of the department logged over 2,258 hours of in house training. We held training classes and drills in multiple areas of firefighting, vehicle extrication, emergency medical protocols and procedures (including EpiPens, Narcan, and aspirin for heart attacks), CPR, mass casualty, chimney fires, ladder operations and safety, solar panels, and driver training to name just a few subjects. We conducted several drills with neighboring towns including live burn drills at the Eastern CT Fire School facility, drafting and water supply with our mutual aid partners, and officer training. Several EMT/EMR refresher courses provided several members with the necessary thirty hours of refresher training. All members are encouraged to obtain State of Connecticut certification in Firefighting, and / or EMS, or Fire Police. The fire department pays for all training classes.

Anyone interested in becoming a member must be at least sixteen years of age and a resident of or work in Bolton. You can apply in person at 168 Bolton Center Road on any Monday night at 7 p.m. or by calling and leaving a message at 860-649-3910.

On behalf of the officers and members of the Bolton Volunteer Fire Department, I would like to thank the community for their continued support.

FIRE MARSHAL

The Office of the Fire Marshal enforces fire safety regulations and conducts inspections and investigations as needed. It ensures that buildings remain safe from hazards by conducting annual inspections, which are done on a recurring basis pursuant to Connecticut State Regulations. The Office also provides public

fire safety and prevention education to community members of all ages in an effort to greatly reduce potential future fire losses.

In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the Office of the Fire Marshal welcomed a new Fire Marshal, William Call, and Deputy Fire Marsha, Jim Quish. Required fire safety inspections were conducted throughout the community, as well as permit plan reviews and some fire investigations. As it does every year, the Office of the Fire Marshal joined the annual October Fire Prevention Week campaign, and in conjunction with the Fire Department, participated in fire prevention and safety education and activities at local schools, daycares and the Senior Center.

Our mission continues to focus on making Bolton a safer community and to promote fire safety and prevention through the inspection and education process.

BUILDING & GROUNDS DEPARTMENT

The Building & Grounds Department oversees the parks and the town buildings and grounds. The staff is responsible for the daily maintenance and repairs to the buildings, operating the town's Recycle Center, keeping the grounds safe and clean and mowing and trimming Bolton's portion of the East Coast greenway trail. The staff is responsible for all the custodial work in the buildings. When winter comes, they take care of snow removal at all the town sites. The Department is also tasked with the maintenance of the two cemeteries in town.

Besides the normal day-to-day maintenance of the town properties, the department was also able to complete some larger projects. Through a grant from The Hartford Foundation of Public Giving, the library had a new patio built for which the Department installed landscaping. A lot of work was done at Notch Road Municipal Center in preparation for the partial demolition of the building. The utilities for the building were relocated. A new fire alarm/security panel was installed at the Senior Center. A portable office was installed for the Finance Offices and the Registrar of Voters. A handicap ramp was installed along with landscaping. All the equipment the department uses was thoroughly inspected, repaired and maintained to extend useful life. The HVAC system for the Main Hall of Town Hall was replaced as well as the boiler for the Resident Trooper's office. A major purchase this year was a new mower that replaced a 15-year-old one.

The Buildings & Grounds Department would like to thank the Highway Department, the Land Use Department, and the Resident Troopers for their continuing help again this year.

EASTERN HIGHLANDS HEALTH DISTRICT

The Eastern Highlands Health District has served its communities faithfully since 1997. The Health District is committed to enhancing the quality of life in its communities through the prevention of illness, promotions of wellness, and protection of our human environment. The pursuit of this mission is realized by assuring that other community agencies provide certain public health services within the region, and by providing specific public health services directly. The services directly provided include a communicable disease control program, public health education, community assessment and public health planning, emergency preparedness and a comprehensive environmental health program. The main components of the environmental health program include on-site subsurface sewage disposal permitting, complaint investigation program, food establishment licensing and inspection, and environmental monitoring program.

Accomplishments for FY 2023-2024

- The Eastern Highlands Health District Board of Directors at their January 19, 2023, regular meeting adopted an operating budget of \$976,574 for FY 23/24.
- Conducted a community rapid assessment on the barriers to vaccination uptake within the community. The findings from this assessment are now driving a comprehensive campaign to promote seasonal vaccinations.
- The Health District continued to expand its scope of clinical services during fiscal year 2023/2024. Community health/clinical staff hosted 14 pop-up vaccination clinics during the fall viral respiratory season and distributed over 7,500 COVID-19 test kits to schools, daycares, and the general public.
- In partnership with a sister health district we have hosted a series of harm reduction events providing NARCAN training, kit distribution, and other harm reduction materials as part of our efforts to prevent opioid mis-use, and the associated fatalities in our local community.
- The Health District was awarded \$229,000 Workforce Development Grant that is funding additional training and professional development opportunities for our staff.
- Our Medical Reserve Corps was exceptionally active this past year, with over 120 volunteers mobilized to support multiple clinics, drills, and training sessions.
- EHHD continues to work cooperatively with DEEP on behalf of Tolland & Coventry providing information and support regarding an environmental investigation into sodium chloride contamination in ground water in private wells.
- Communicable disease control activities included review and follow up (as

needed) of 82 case reports; and, conducted 21 disease outbreak or individual case investigations.

- Main indicators for environmental health activity in the Town of Bolton include: 61 site inspections for septic systems; 26 septic permits issued; 7 well permits issued; 4 complaints investigated; 32 environmental samples taken for lab analysis; 46 food establishment inspections and other health inspections; 36 public health reviews; and, 36 test pits and perc tests.

Plans for FY 2024-2025

- Complete the process to update the Eastern Highlands Health District Strategic Plan.
- Continue to buildout our list of private insurance payers for the vaccine program.
- Implement a comprehensive seasonal vaccine promotional campaign.
- Expand our blood pressure prevention program.
- Continue to work to advance workforce development and staff retention initiatives.
- Leverage and build out the OpenGov platform, or other software options to facilitate field tablet based inspections, an address restaurant inspection tracking needs.
- Address the individual public health needs of member towns as they arise with available capacity.

SENIOR CITIZENS COMMISSION

The Senior Citizens Commission meets quarterly at the Bolton Senior Center. Commission members may also be contacted regarding any issue pertaining to the needs of Bolton seniors.

Senior Citizen Commission Members, 2023-2024

Paula Friez, chair

Corenda Haugh, vice-chair

Cheryl Udin

Helen Winkler

Leslie Shea

Patrice Niewinski, alternate

BOLTON SENIOR AND SOCIAL SERVICES

The Senior and Social Services Department can be reached at 860-647-9196. The Director of Senior and Social Services serves as the Municipal Agent for the Elderly for information and referral to community resources. The Director is also a Certified CHOICES Counselor for information about Medicare.

The Bolton Senior Center is open to anyone age 55 and over. The Senior Center offers a variety of ongoing programming. Popular games and activities include chair yoga, dominoes, mah jongg, poker, setback, bridge, bingo and quilting. There are regular trips to lunch and local spots of interest. Seasonal programs include special events, holiday parties, and AARP Tax Aide.

Transportation is provided for seniors or adults with disabilities. Free transportation is available for medical appointments, errands, or to the Senior Center. The program is funded in part by a grant from the Department of Transportation.

The Social Services Department is for residents of all ages. The Bolton Food Pantry serves individuals and families in need. The Social Services Department oversees holiday distribution programs and the Residence Assistance Fund for financial hardship.

Publications are available by mail or email, on the town website, or can be picked up at the Senior Center.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

It is the mission of the Bolton Recreation Department to enrich the life of the community as a whole by creating recreational opportunities for growth and enhancement to promote citizen involvement and striving to increase social, cultural, and physical well-being of all ages. Recreation opportunities are an important aspect of a well-balanced lifestyle in the Bolton community, and the Recreation Department offers programs that benefit both residents and nonresidents of Bolton.

2023-2024 was another great year for the Bolton Recreation Department as it continues to bring wonderful programs to the community! Summer camps were held in 2023 including Art-ventures Camp, Bulldog Basketball Camp, Skyhawks Tennis Camp, Challenger Soccer Camp, and Herrick Park Summer Camp. Herrick Park Summer Camp ran for 8 weeks and several of the weeks were completely full and had wait lists! Campers participated in crafts, sports and games, workshops, and even went on several fun field trips including Dinosaur State Park, the CT Science Center, New England Air Museum, and Brownstone Adventure Park.

Bolton Recreation Basketball was once again held in the winter of 2023-24 for kids ages 2-8th grade, where a whopping 174 participants had fun and learned the fundamentals of basketball and teamwork. The Recreation Department continued to work with Coventry, Ashford, Mansfield, Tolland, and Willington to bring bus trips to the surrounding communities! This year, a trip ran to New York City on Saturday December 2nd, 2023, for people to enjoy a festive day in the “Big Apple” with friends and family. Other successful programs held were the Child and Babysitter class, Home Alone Safety, basketball clinics, and afterschool programs, as well as our adult exercise programs such as adult drop-in volleyball and pickleball, and Yoga, Jujitsu, and Cardio Bootcamp.

Yearly, the Bolton Recreation Department offers different opportunities for the community to come together. The department offered our regular annual events such as the Summer Concert Series, Trunk or Treat, Winter Faire, Holiday Tree Lighting, Holiday Light Tour, Kids to Parks Day and the Town Wide Tag Sale! The Department partnered with the Bolton Center School PTA to offer Trunk or Treat in 2023, which included 20 trunks, a bounce house, face painting, treats, and more! This event was a huge hit with over 300 kids in attendance. The Winter Faire had 31 vendors, who sold many wonderful, handcrafted pieces, jewelry, cosmetics and more to members of the community.

The Bolton Recreation Department could not provide all of these programs and events without the help of volunteers, sponsors, and employees. The continued support for the department yearly is greatly appreciated. A huge thank you is due to each and every one who donated their time and energy to helping the department over the past year! The 2023-2024 Recreation Department Sponsors included Cutting Edge Barber, Munson’s Chocolates, CT Valley Orthodontics, England Hardware, Simoniz USA Inc., Kelman Landscape LLC, Mitchell Home Services, Bolton Notch RV, Country Carpenters Inc., Highland Park Market, W.H. Preuss & Sons Inc., Alltown Fresh, and Bolton Veterinary Hospital.

HERITAGE FARM COMMISSION

Bolton Heritage Farm is a 103-acre, municipally owned property located at 266 Bolton Center Road, in the center of Bolton, Connecticut. The farm was acquired by the Town of Bolton in August 2000 and consists of 12 acres including an historic house and barn which could be developed for municipal uses, and 90 acres of permanently preserved farm fields and woodlands.

In 2006, the Town of Bolton established a formal commission to develop short and long-range plans for the use of the Bolton Heritage Farm. Since that time, the commission has raised funds and expended them on a variety of projects intended to preserve and protect the town’s investment in the farm and its buildings and

identify feasible future uses for the farm as a historic, cultural, agricultural, and passive recreation destination for residents of all ages.

In the fall of 2008, the commission conducted a comprehensive study of the structural integrity and historical significance of the Barn and the farmhouse on the property. The study was performed by Nelson Edwards Architects of Branford, Public Archaeology Survey Team, and consulting engineers, and has become the guiding document for all future work. The study cited estimated historical dating of the house from the 1830s with possible features from a much earlier structure. The barn, built in 1908, is a well-preserved example of an English-style barn, which has been modified over the years to reflect the changes in farming needs and practices throughout the 20th century. The study included immediate and eventual needs for the town to consider in order to preserve the structures, many of which have been pursued by the commission.

Local area enthusiasts have found many unique ways to use the farm. The Tolland County Plein Air art group uses the farm as a painting location. Wedding couples and families use the scenery and barn backdrop for their formal portraits. The summer cross-country racing series uses the farm for 7 weeks in July and August and donates a portion of their proceeds to the farm fund. Bird watchers and star gazers find the dawn and dusk watching is unparalleled. Local school groups are toured by Bolton Land Trust volunteers to learn about science, nature, and history of the town and the farm. Families have made memorial donations of plantings or benches in memory of loved ones. And many dog walkers, horseback riders, mountain bikers, and walkers of all ages enjoy the trail at all times of the day for a peaceful walk or visit just to refresh.

From 2020 - 2022 the farm commission, in cooperation with the professionals cited above, completed a comprehensive Master Plan, including a phased development program for the farm and its environs which complements the town's development plans for the town center, town hall, and adjacent buildings. The plan focuses on the eventual increased public use of the barn and the surrounding landscaped areas with an eye toward financial sustainability. The Board of Selectmen unanimously approved the Master Plan at their August meeting, and the site plans were presented to the town at a 'Celebrate Your Farm' event held on Sunday, September 25, 2022.

Three interpretive sign boards depicting the farm's place in America's Revolutionary history were publicly unveiled at this event. The signs were funded through a grant from the National Park Service, and coordinated by Ben Jacobson, a very determined Bolton High School senior, as his Capstone project. The farm continues to benefit from many volunteer efforts, including Boy Scout service projects. The commission also participates in several fundraising events annually, is looking to begin a comprehensive search for available grant monies and private donations now that the Master Plan has been approved.

In October 2023 an historic celebration was held at the farm to highlight the French involvement in the American Revolution, which included Le Regiment Bourbonnais re-enactors and several regiments from our Continental army troops in CT. Troops drilled, cooked and explained their movements from Newport to Yorktown as it happened in 1781. The event was well attended and was good practice for a much larger event in 2026 to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution.

In 2022 several grant initiatives were realized to bring needed improvements to the farm. The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving through the Bolton Community Fund awarded the town \$6000 to refresh the existing well and install potable water on the farm. The work has been completed awaiting final certification of potability from the state. The town has begun work on the Connectivity walking path funded by state LOTCIP grants to bring a walkable trail from Notch Road, along Bolton Center Road, behind the library and Town Hall and through the farm to Brandy Street and Bolton High School. There are still design issues to be worked through, but the eventual path will allow for new grade connectivity across the Pistrutto property and handicapped accessibility to the farm, the barn and parking area upgrades.

There is still much work to do to bring the farm to its full potential. There is no sanitation available at the farm, and limited electricity, just enough to power a pole light and modest fire security system. The house is currently uninhabitable and not watertight, and the barn is not fit for public assembly, requiring sistering of joists and flooring supports. The parking area is limited and in poor condition. All of these aspects must be addressed before the buildings can be fully utilized. In the next year the commission hopes to take on filling the manure pit and creating a tent platform at that location, adding benches at strategic areas and some projects to preserve the house and barn for future development. The Master Plan will guide us as the commission continues to work on putting available grants, local expertise, volunteers and town funds to use to bring this iconic place back to life, preserving it for future generations.

BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Rodney Parlee (Chair), Peter Van Dine (Vice-Chair/Treasurer),
Brenda Cataldo, Alan Bicknell, Matt Rivers and Leslie Brand (Clerk)

The Connecticut General Statutes mandate that a Conservation Commission, among other duties, research the utilization and potential uses of the land within the municipality. This responsibility is vital for preserving the natural resources, conservation areas, and ecological features that contribute to the character and beauty of Bolton. To ensure the town's natural environment is maintained while balancing economic development, it is crucial to approach conservation with a combination of knowledge, observation, outreach, and persistent effort.

The preservation of high-quality, intact, and contiguous habitats is central to a healthy landscape. As Bolton continues to grow economically, it is essential that all proposed developments be carefully assessed. Utilizing available tools, including scientific data, planning expertise, and public engagement, can help regulatory commissions make informed decisions that protect these irreplaceable resources. This careful review ensures that Bolton's ecological integrity is safeguarded while accommodating thoughtful and justifiable growth.

In fiscal year 2023-2024, the Bolton Conservation Commission (BCC) made significant strides, thanks to its dedicated volunteers. Here are some key accomplishments:

- **Stream Temperature Monitoring:** Collaborated with CTDEEP to track watershed resources in five streams and two vernal pools.
- **Watershed Conservation:** Continued partnership with local conservation alliances and awaited approval for the Bolton Lakes Watershed Management Plan.
- **Riffle Bioassessment by Volunteers (RBV):** Organized the 20th Annual RBV event, assessing stream health through macroinvertebrate collection.
- **Photo Contest and Calendar:** Hosted the 23rd Annual Town-wide Photo Contest and published the 13th edition of the traditional calendar, raising funds for conservation efforts.
- **Peak Foliage Hike:** Led a hike at Box Mountain Forest old growth forest with notable guests, highlighting woodland stewardship proforestation without habitat manipulation.

- **Winter Faire:** Set up a tabletop exhibit, sold calendars, and hosted the Recycling Challenge.
- **Winter Trails Day:** Hiked through Freja Park, showcasing habitat restoration projects and discussed the rare occurrence of ice circles on Notch Pond.
- **Vernal Pools Day:** Explored a rare vernal pool with a professional wetland scientist, educating participants on vernal pool obligate species.
- **Earth Day Celebration:** Hosted a Recycling Workshop at the Library and Fairy House Building contest at Freja Park, followed by a mini bio-blitz.
- **Kids to Parks Day:** Presented on watershed conservation at Indian Notch Park beach.
- **Trails Day:** Explored Box Mountain's old growth forest with special guests, discussing dendrology and forest conservation.
- **Park Management:** Managed trails and provided educational materials in local parks.
- **Community Engagement:** Participated in monthly local and state-wide board meetings, town forums, and conservation conferences.
- **Citizen Science:** Conducted water chemistry testing and salamander surveys, addressing environmental concerns.
- **Public Safety:** Coordinated with local and state conservation officials on managing trail erosion and illegal motor vehicle access in parks.

These actions reflect the BCC's ongoing commitment to conservation, environmental education, and community involvement in protecting Bolton's natural resources.

VETERANS COMMISSION

The Boltons Veterans Commission first meeting was held in November of 2022. The Commission was developed and authorized by our First Selectman Pam Sawyer and the Board of Selectmen. The mission of the commission is simply to “honor and improve the lives of all who honorably served this state and nation’s military.” The Commission reviewed the Connecticut State Statutes regarding a Veteran’s Advisory Committees and had educational presentations by the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Manchester and the Army/Navy Club in Manchester.

We had many ideas brought to the Commission by our community and are working our way through the list. Information was placed for veterans in the Town’s Senior Center. The Commission provided a Speaker from our Commission to the Veterans Day Luncheon at the Senior Center in 2023. Linda was very well received discussing what it was like to be in the military service and also being a woman in the times that there were not many.

We also distributed hats to our Veterans and we have completed the naming of the small section of road (which was previously not named) behind our “Veteran’s Monument and Honor Roll” as “Veterans Way.” The signs have been placed by the Town Crew naming it Veterans Way and it was acknowledged in our Memorial Day Ceremony 2023.

The Commission has taken over planning the Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony. We had a successful day in May 2023 and we hope to continue this long standing tradition. In 2024, we added the flag collection for town residents, and we collected over 45 flags which were turned over to the Boy Scouts for the traditional, respectful ceremony. We also had additional car participation in this parade. If there are new ideas for the parade or ceremony, please contact one of our team that is listed on the Town of Bolton website.

We are moving forward on a Bench Dedication and plaque for M.Sgt. Michael Clark. A Bolton Resident, M.Sgt. Michael Clark died while on active duty with the 933rd FRSD, a forward surgical team in Georgia. He was deployed 4 times to Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan. The bench has been completed and the plaque installed the summer of 2024. This ceremony is planned for September 20th 2024 honoring our Bolton hero. Please see the plaque on the bench at the Town Green honoring Michael and his patriotism for our country.

The members from the Veterans Commission working with the Board of Selectmen to review the current Veteran Property Tax Exemption via a sub-committee. This will begin after the current budget sessions are completed. This process is still ongoing in 2024.

We reviewed purchasing medallions for each Veterans graves in our cemeteries. The Boy Scouts have previously reviewed all the cemeteries and have provided a

list of all the veterans currently in the cemeteries. This cost is over \$7,000 and there were concerns with the cost and the theft of metals from cemeteries. It was decided to pursue a memorial on the Town Green facing Veterans Way to commemorate Wars that are missing on our Town Green. This proposal is in the works.

We have requested the Bolton Boy Scouts to help with a process for the disposal of American Flags. This is a work in progress and there will be additional information coming as the system is developed. We are hoping they will take this on as a project since we have never had a process established.

Our goals moving forward are to finish the Ceremony in September honoring M.Sgt. Micheal Clark, complete the Monument on the Green and follow through with the Proposal for the Tax Exemption.

Any additional ideas from the Community are deeply appreciated on expanding our advocacy role in our town.

INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION

The State of Connecticut recognizes through its legislation that inland wetlands and watercourses are an indispensable, irreplaceable, and fragile natural resource with which the citizens of the state have been endowed. In the Town of Bolton, the authority and responsibility to protect that resource belongs to the Inland Wetlands Commission.

The Inland Wetlands Commission is a vibrant group of concerned residents who volunteer to protect and preserve Bolton's inland wetlands and watercourses. The Commission meets monthly to review applications and make decisions about activities proposed within 100 feet of a wetland or watercourse. Residents serving on the Inland Wetlands Commission during the 2023-2024 fiscal year were: Ross Lally (Chair), Jim Loersch (Vice Chair), Michael McDonnell, Diane DeNunzio, and David Lynn. Andy Gordon was a member for part of the fiscal year but had to step down due to health reasons. As the year ended, the Commission was missing one alternate member. All the members are commended for their time and effort on the Commission.

The Inland Wetlands Commission took the following actions during the fiscal year:

- Issued 11 permits. 1 was for commercial development: 1 for a new home construction, 3 for septic repairs, and 5 for site improvements. 1 permit was issued to the Town of Bolton for stormwater drainage improvements.
- Delegated 7 of these permits to the Agent for issuance to reduce processing time and lower costs to the applicants.

- Issued one jurisdictional ruling for a timber harvest on approximately 0.7 acres, allowing that work to proceed without permits.
- Promoted public health and saved taxpayer money by protecting wetlands and watercourses.

By agreement with the North Central Conservation District, Cameron Covill continued as Bolton's Inland Wetlands Agent. Under state law, inland wetlands commissions may delegate the approval of applications to an agent when the proposed activities are not located in the wetlands or watercourses and are deemed to have little chance of having an adverse impact on wetlands. This year the Commission streamlined the application process for 7 residents by delegating their applications to Mr. Covill.

Relying on virtual and in-person training, Commission members remained current on the applicable legislation, wetlands management, and related topics such as stormwater management and soil identification.

The Commission continues to seek volunteers to make a difference in service to Bolton's residents and businesses and the protection of its wetlands and watercourses.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

During this fiscal year, the Planning & Zoning Commission (PZC) held ten (10) Regular Meetings, one (1) Special Meeting, and one (1) meeting was canceled. The PZC continued to hold hybrid meetings allowing for in-person and virtual attendance which allowed for more participation by applicants, commissioners, and the public. Hybrid meetings have run smoothly and seamlessly for all involved, have increased participation, have saved some time and money, and provide a recording which anyone can access through the Town website.

Regular and Alternate members of the PZC from July through November 2023 were: Chairman Thomas Manning, Vice-Chairman/Secretary James Copley, Arlene Fiano, Jeremy Flick, Rodney Fournier, Thomas Robbins, Jeffrey Scala, Alternate Steve Clark, Alternate Tom Crockett, and Alternate Kawan Gordon.

In December 2023, the Commission said goodbye to member Rodney Fournier (elected as First Selectman) and Alternate Steve Clark was selected by the PZC to fill his vacant seat. Diane DeNunzio was then selected by the PZC to fill Mr. Clark's vacant seat. Kawan Gordon was selected by the PZC to fill the remaining vacant alternate seat. By town election, Marilee Manning replaced Jeffrey Scala on the Commission.

Staff members to the Commission are: Patrice Carson, AICP, Consulting Director of Community Development; Michael D'Amato, Zoning Enforcement Officer; Danielle Palazzini, Land Use Secretary; and Planning & Zoning Board Clerks Mary Johnston and Linda McDonald.

Activity was slower than usual this fiscal year, which afforded time for the Commission to work on the tedious task of codification of the Zoning Regulations and Subdivision Regulations. Once codified, the Regulations will be available on the town website and will be much easier to use. Commissioners, with the assistance of staff, continue to look for ways to remove barriers to the construction of affordable housing in accordance with the Plan of Conservation and Development and the Affordable Housing Plan.

A. Acted on Zoning and Subdivision Regulation amendments as follows:

1. Adopted new Zoning Regulation Amendments to Sections 6A.14, 6A.15, 8B.1., & 8B.2.b. to Amend Traditional Multiple Dwelling Complexes for (the Elderly) Seniors and Allow in NB Zone (Michael Bugnacki #PL-23-4)
2. Adopted new Zoning Regulation Amendments and Updates to the Bolton Zoning Regulations Presented in Application #PL-24-1 Made During the Codification Process, effective 03/01/2024
3. Continued on-going discussion of codification of the Subdivision Regulations

B. Miscellaneous Actions:

1. Reviewed and Commented Favorably on an 8-24 Referral from the Board of Selectmen to Erect Temporary Office Structure in Front of Notch Road Municipal Center (104 Notch Road) for Relocation of Town Office Space
2. Reviewed and Commented Favorably on an 8-24 Referral from the Board of Selectmen to Construct an Outdoor Patio at the Bentley Memorial Library Property (206 Bolton Center Road)
3. Waived Zoning Regulations Sections 16a.4.g.2 and 16B.5.b and Extended Time to April 18, 2024 as requested to File Plans for Special Permit for Veterinary Hospital/Veterinary Emergency Care at 233 Boston Turnpike & 12 Williams Road (Bolton Vet, Veterinarians of Eastern Connecticut LLC #PL-22-3) with the Town Clerk
4. Reduce Site Improvement Bond to \$10,000 for Garrett Homes, LLC (Dollar General) at 1100 Boston Turnpike

C. Approved the following Zoning & Subdivision Applications:

1. Site Plan for Deck at 35 Lakeside Circle (James Grady #PL-23-5)
2. Special Permit for 6-Unit Senior Housing Project at 7 Loomis Road (Michael Bugnacki #PL-23-6)

ASSESSOR

The Office of the Assessor is responsible for discovering, listing and valuing all taxable and non-taxable property located in town. Connecticut law requires us to list and value all real and personal (e.g., motor vehicles, business equipment, etc.) property. This is an annual cycle with an assessment date of October 1. It is the Assessor's responsibility to ensure that all values are properly and uniformly made and that the Grand List is a true and accurate report of all taxable and tax exempt real estate and personal property within the municipality, including motor vehicles and business furniture, fixtures and equipment.

Assessed values for property in Connecticut are based on 70% of the fair market value as found in the year of revaluation. Real property is revalued every five years as of October 1. For the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year, the most recent revaluation was completed in 2018. Work for the 2023 Revaluation was completed during the first half of the fiscal year, with collections based on the revaluation to begin in the next fiscal year, FY 2024-2025.

The gross assessment of total taxable real estate increased 38%. The gross assessment of all real estate (including real estate that is exempt from taxation) increased 35%. As required by state statutes and regulations, revaluation results were tested for regressivity and equity using statistical tests adopted by the International Associates of Assessing Officers. The test for regressivity (known as the Price Related Differential or PRD) indicated no appraisal bias: High valued and low valued properties were both assessed at the same percentage of their market value. The test for reliability, or the accuracy of the market valuations met the IAAO standards as measured by the Coefficient of Dispersion or COD. The overall COD of 7.54% is within the generally acceptable levels of 5.0 - 15.0%.

Motor vehicles are valued every year, in accordance with state statutes. CT General Statute 12-71d indicates that the fair market value of Motor Vehicles is based on the average retail price according to J D Powers (formerly, N.A.D.A.). When the average retail price is not available, the Assessor determines value. Business personal property is also valued annually, in accordance with a depreciation schedule or its market value as of October 1.

Taxes during the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year are collected based on the Grand List of October 1, 2022. The net taxable 2022 Grand List figures after adjustments by the Board of Assessment Appeals, shown below, increased 1.4% over 2021.

<u>Property Type</u>	<u>Net Taxable Assessment</u>
Real Estate	394,404,262
Motor Vehicle	57,973,920
Personal Property	<u>16,508,249</u>
	468,886,431

Contributing to the increase in real estate assessment was the completion of two new homes, the replacement of two crumbling foundations and the completion of the Dollar General store.

Other responsibilities of the Assessor's Office include:

- updating ownership of real estate parcels upon transfer of title;
- maintaining the tax maps for changes in boundaries, filing of surveys, dimensions;
- inspecting building permits for level of completion and use - all open building permits are valued as of 10/1 annually, based on the percentage complete;
- adjusting property assessments for the impact of a crumbling foundation per Public Act 21-120;
- adjusting motor vehicle assessments for vehicles that have either been sold, stolen, salvaged, or registered out of state within a limited time after the tax bill is due;
- oversees tax exemption and assessment reductions under tax relief programs for low-income elderly 65 years of age or older; low-income disabled persons of any age; low-income and/or disabled veterans; veterans and active duty members;
- administering programs designed to preserve farm and forest land through use classifications, farm machinery and farm buildings exemptions and the dairy abatement programs;
- answering questions from taxpayers and responding to information requests from the general public.

LAND USE DEPARTMENT

The Building & Land Use Department consists of the Building Officials, the Zoning Enforcement Official, the Director of Community Development, the Inland-Wetlands Agent, the sub-contracted Town Engineer, and the Sanitarian [an agent of the Eastern Highlands Health District]. This department provides building, planning, zoning and engineering services relating to various permits, and offers guidance to boards and commissions while supporting improvements to the infrastructure of the town. The department's staff assists the public with the permit application process, provides guidance with respect to building codes and land use regulations, and aids in researching land files.

Building Permits issued, and Fees collected for the 2022/2023 fiscal year:

New Homes 0	Gas 19
Building 174	Mechanical 64
Electric 114	Plumbing 24

Total fees collected \$126,919.36

The fees collected include the continuing education fees paid to the State of Connecticut.

Total estimated value of construction: \$9,624,462.06*

*reported value reflects the total construction value of all building permits which include: building, electrical, gas, mechanical, and plumbing.

Land Use Permits issued, and Fees collected for the 2023/2024 fiscal year:

Administrative Zoning: 52	Special Events: 1
Demolition: 1	Solicitor Permits: 4
Inland Wetlands: 8	Zoning Board of Appeals: 1
Planning & Zoning: 2	Driveways: 5

Total fees collected: \$8,435.00

The fees collected include and reflect the fees paid to the State of Connecticut.

BLRWPCA BOARD

The BLRWPCA is responsible for managing the sewer system around Lower and Middle Bolton Lakes. The board includes members from both Bolton and Vernon and meets regularly to discuss operations, budgets, and any issues related to the sewer system.

This year, the meetings included budget planning, infrastructure updates, and coordination with the Town of Vernon, which handles billing and the collection of sewer fees. The system is regularly maintained to ensure it runs safely and efficiently. Emergency contact information is available for after-hours problems.

A public hearing was held in February 2024 to review and approve the budget for the upcoming year. The board continues to prioritize environmental protection and service improvements.

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

The Board of Assessment Appeals is an appeal board which provides the town's taxpayers who believe the town assessor erred in the valuation of their properties, or erroneously denied the taxpayer an exemption, a process for appealing the actions of the assessor. This Board meets twice a year, usually in March and September. The applications for an appeal are available in the Assessor's office. The applications for the March meeting must be submitted on or before February 20 of each year.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The ZBA met on six (6) occasions in the 2023-2024 fiscal year. One variance application was granted (#ZBA-23-2).

The ZBA normally meets on the second Tuesday of the month both in-person, as well as virtually. The regular and alternate members of the ZBA are as follows: Chairman: Morris Silverstein, Vice-Chairman: William Pike, Anne Decker, Joshua Machnik, Jonathan Treat, Tom Lyon, Mary Terhune, John Toomey; Board Clerk: Leslie Brand.

To review agendas, meeting minutes or other information, please visit the ZBA webpage on the Town website. To search for and review applications submitted, please visit the OpenGov/ Viewpoint permitting system at <https://boltonct.portal.opengov.com/>.

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Independent Auditors' Report

Finance Committee
Board of Selectmen
Town of Bolton, Connecticut

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Bolton, Connecticut, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town of Bolton, Connecticut's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Bolton, Connecticut, as of June 30, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the State Single Audit Act (C.G.S. Sections 4-230 to 236). Our responsibilities under those standards and the State Single Audit Act are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Town of Bolton, Connecticut and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Town of Bolton, Connecticut's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

In performing an audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, *Government Auditing Standards* and the State Single Audit Act we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town of Bolton, Connecticut's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.

- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Town of Bolton, Connecticut's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, budgetary comparison information and the pension and OPEB schedules as listed in the table of contents be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary Information

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

accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the combining and individual fund financial statements and other supplemental schedules as listed in the table of contents are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 29, 2025, on our consideration of the Town of Bolton, Connecticut's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town of Bolton, Connecticut's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Town of Bolton, Connecticut's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Stephen T. Hopkins, CPA, PC

Stephen T. Hopkins, CPA, PC

Scarborough, Maine

April 29, 2025