

Town of Kent

Annual Report

2021-2022



Table of Contents

(All topics are hyperlinked - click a topic to jump to the report)

Animal Control.....	3
Assessor's Office.....	4
Board of Finance.....	5
Board of Selectman.....	6
Building Department.....	8
Chore Service.....	9
Greenwoods Counseling.....	10
Housatonic River Commission.....	11
Housatonic Valley Reg High School.....	13
Inland Wetlands Commission.....	15
Kent Center School.....	16
Kent Memorial Library.....	19
Kent Volunteer Fire Department.....	22
Lake Waramaug Authority.....	24
Litchfield Hills Probate District #24.....	25
Management Discussion and Analysis.....	26
NHCOG.....	35
Park and Rec Commission.....	37
Planning and Zoning Commission.....	39
Region 1 Superintendent	40
Resident Trooper.....	41
Social Services.....	42
Tax Collector.....	44
Torrington Area Health District.....	45
Town Clerk.....	47
Women's Support Services.....	48
Zoning Board of Appeals.....	50

Kent Animal Control Report 2021/22

A total of 13 dogs were impounded from July 2021 through June 2022. Nine dogs were redeemed by owners and four were adopted out.

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

One infraction ticket was dispatched.

Income source and income collected:

Pound fees - \$235.00

Donation - \$50.00

Respectfully submitted by

Lee Sohl

Kent Animal Control





October 1, 2020 Grand List Report FY 2021-2022

TYPE OF ACCOUNTS	FISCAL YR	NUMBER OF ACCOUNTS	GROSS ASSESSMEN T	BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS ADJUST.	TOTAL EXEMPTIONS	TOTAL NET VALUE
REAL ESTATE REGULAR	FY 21-22	1939	550,172,000	0	1,461,135	548,710,865
REAL ESTATE ELDERLY H.O	FY 21-22	31	5,246,300	0	68,000	5,178,300
REAL ESTATE EXEMPT	FY 21-22	215	128,161,600	0	128,161,600	0
REAL ESTATE TOTALS	FY 21-22	2185	683,579,900	0	129,690,735	553,889,165
PERSONAL PROPERTY	FY 21-22	365	20,531,119	0	1,138,580	19,392,539
MOTOR VEHICLE	FY 21-22	3053	29,510,510	0	826,480	28,684,030
FINAL TOTALS		5603	733,621,529	0	131,655,795	601,965,734

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Dubray, Assessor

The Board of Finance prepares and monitors the Town's budget and then issues this Annual Report. In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 the Board held 12 regular meetings, 2 Special Meetings, and the annual Town Budget Hearing via hybrid attendance (in person and Zoom) as the COVID-19 Pandemic subsided. Members of the Board may attend other Board and Commission meetings, sit on various special committees, and participate, as an ad-hoc advisor, to the Region 1 School District.

The Board saw the retirement of longtime contributing member Ed Epstein. His seat was backfilled with the election of Jason Wright.

The Board formally welcomed Bonnie Donzella as the new Board of Finance Clerk replacing long time Clerk Lesly Ferris.

The Kent Volunteer Fire Department Foundation Committee shared that they are working on a long term plan with a consultant to cover the lack of funding and volunteers to staff the fire department and the ambulance service.

The town Auditor, Sandra E. Wellwood, LLC resigned 2/23/2022. Two proposals were received for the fiscal year 2021-2022 audit. The successful firm hired was Sinnamon & Associates with a three year contract.

The Board also voted to appropriate \$2,352,525 for the Streetscape project. Funding was approved by the taxpayers and is a combination of grants and \$470 505 in twenty year bond funding.

The Grand List increased \$14,548,544 or 2.42%. The Board used \$527,500 from the town's undesignated funds bringing the total town budget in at \$13,676,199.

The Board set the mill rate for 2022-2023 at 18.57 mills maintaining a 0% increase as we exited the pandemic.

Board Members:

**Jim Blackketter
Fran Goodsell**

**Rufus deRham
Jason Wright**

**Tegan Baker Gawel
Nancy O'Dea-Wyrick (Chair)**

Board of Selectmen

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

The 21-22 fiscal year has been a busy one! We have continued to shift, pivot, and adapt to the continued effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Zoom meetings, unheard of prior to 2020, have made board and commission meetings more accessible than ever.

The Board of Selectmen met over 40 times this year. We grappled with a wide variety of issues from food trucks to health care, electric mowers, and roosters. Here are some of the many issues they addressed:

Civic Engagement: We continued the BoS subcommittee model to engage residents and assist the BoS in addressing the many ongoing topics important to our community including the future of the Swift House, village pedestrian safety, ARPA spending, recycling and sustainability, broadband and affordable housing.

Municipal Affordable Housing Plan: Grant funding was secured to hire a consultant to assist the Town in plan development. The Affordable Housing Plan Steering Committee was formed from a wide stakeholder group, began holding meetings, and held public information sessions to educate the community about the importance of creating a plan.

Streetscape Project Phase I: After 14 years of discussion and planning, an RFP went out and in the late spring, the Town signed a contract with Mather Corporation to begin demolition and construction over the summer.

Again this year we have seen a number of staff transitions.

Karen Chase, longtime Registrar Of Voters, retired, and we thank her for her many years of committed public service. We also welcomed several new faces to town hall: new Park & Recreation Director Jared Kuczenski and After School Program Director Tom Ford; new Social Services Director Samantha Hasenflue and Social Services Assistant Rosemary Jones.

In May, the budget was approved at a town meeting, and in June we recognized Juneteenth as a municipal holiday.

This past year, the Board passed a number of resolutions, including:

- A resolution in support of the LGBTQ+ community to annually recognize June as LGBTQ+ Pride Month, and to fly the Pride flag

during the month of June each year to inspire equity, create alliances, celebrate diversity;

- A Pollinator Pathway resolution recognizing the important role pollinators play in maintaining healthy and diverse ecosystems and how they are responsible for much of the food we eat; and to support and encourage the Town and all residents to refrain from herbicide and pesticide spraying; to adopt “No Mow May” and “Leave The Leaves” concepts by delaying lawnmowing until June 1st or later, and clean up in the spring to allow protection and nourishment for overwintering pollinators;
- A resolution in support of continuing critical services including Intensive Care, Labor and Delivery at Sharon Hospital.

Our community has continued to thrive in challenging times, and we will continue to strike the balance of living in a rural community by rallying around kindness and support of our neighbors.

Stay well.

Yours in service,

Jean C. Speck, First Selectman

Glenn Sanchez, Selectman

Rufus P. deRham, Selectman



BUILDING DEPARTMENT



Fiscal Year 2021 - 2022

Joseph Manley, Building Official

Following is a five year Construction Activity Comparison Report

Fiscal Year	Permits Issued	Const. Value	# New Dwellings	Fee Value
2017/2018	490	\$20,383,462.10	6	\$131,829
2018/2019	490	\$13,281,156	2	\$87,951
2019/2020	424	\$37,773,498	2	\$234,664
2020/2021	584	\$31,701,683	9	\$196,141
2021/2022	558	\$29,192,078	7	\$184,405

Construction for Fiscal Year 2021/2020

The amount of new home construction has continued over this past fiscal year and product availability continues to impact the speed of completion of the houses. The one major project that has been forefront over the past 2 years should be completed in the second quarter of FY '22 – '23.

What's upcoming for 2022/2023

At this point in time, product availability is still impacting residential and commercial construction but the belief is that residential construction will continue at its current pace for at least the 2022/2023 fiscal year. It is anticipated that another large commercial project will begin in the 3rd quarter of the upcoming fiscal year.



Chore Service, Inc.

Chore Service, founded in 1992, provides in-home, non-medical assistance to seniors and people with disabilities within the community so that they may remain safely and independently at home. Chore employs local, caring people to provide essential services such as house cleaning, laundry, companionship, transportation, yard work, etc. to residents in North Canaan, Cornwall, Falls Village, Kent, Norfolk, Salisbury/Lakeville, and Sharon. Services are partially funded by a grant from the Western Connecticut Area Agency on Aging which subsidizes clients aged 60 and over regardless of income. Client contributions supplement the grant along with donations from towns, churches, charitable foundations, and donors so that the program can remain affordable for everyone. When necessary, referrals are made to the VNA, physicians, social workers, etc. to assure safety.

From July 2021 through June 2022, Chore provided services to 21 Kent residents. These residents received over 650 hours of help with chores such as cleaning, errands, and yard work so that they could continue to remain safely in their homes. One Chore Worker who lives in Kent earned over \$6,680 last year.

Chore applied for ARPA funding and is grateful for those towns that allocated funds to help reduce Chore's negative financial impact resulting from the pandemic. We are also thankful for those towns which are still considering our funding requests, including the Town of Kent.

Safety for both clients and workers remains a priority. COVID safety protocols and training remain in place with PPE supplied to workers and clients in need.

The need for services continues to grow and no one is ever turned away for the ability to pay. Like many businesses, Chore continues to be affected by the labor shortage and found it essential to increase worker compensation. Chore continues to seek ways to attract additional workers and volunteers.

Our federal grant monies are depleted before the year ends, so we are delighted that the Town of Kent continues to contribute to these services. Many thanks to those that have supported and continue to support Chore. We are most grateful for the generous support of all our donors, including the Town of Kent.

Chore Service remains committed to helping our most vulnerable community members. If you need assistance or know someone who might benefit from our services, please call (860) 435-9177 or visit our website at www.choreservice.org. Also, if you are looking for employment or volunteer opportunities and would like to make a difference in someone's life, please give Chore a call.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane MacLaren
Executive Director
jane@choreservice.org

Greenwoods Counseling & Referrals, Inc

As a result of the continued scaling of programs, in the 2021-2022 program year Greenwoods clinicians completed 965 mental health assessment-referral processes (15 for Kent residents) and served 1,017 total clients in need of mental healthcare (15 Kent residents); this represents a 19% increase in service over 2020-2021. 52 clients received \$30,950 in financial aid to pursue 619 counseling sessions and, overall, Greenwoods provided assessment and subsidy services valued at \$156,400. Kent residents received assessment and counseling services valued at \$1,950. Furthermore, Greenwoods' Community Outreach & Recovery Navigation team maintains a consistent presence in Kent - including a weekly Narcan distribution and harm reduction site at Kent Wine & Spirits - and employs a full-time mental health clinician at South Kent School.

Thank you for the loyal support of the Town of Kent. We look forward to partnering again in 2023 to support a Northwest Connecticut community that bears fewer mental health and substance use disorders, suffers fewer suicides, and enjoys improved and long-lasting physical, emotional, and interpersonal health.

Be well,

Marisa Johnson

Director of Development
Greenwoods Counseling & Referrals, Inc
25 South Street / PO Box 1549
Litchfield, CT 06759
Phone: (860) 393-2518
Mobile: (860) 716-6220
greenwoodsreferrals.org



Housatonic River Commission

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

Annual Report 2021-2022

The Housatonic River Commission (HRC) held eleven regularly scheduled monthly meetings over the past year. Meetings took place at 7:30 on the second Tuesday of each month. Due to the continued challenges with COVID, all but two meetings were held over Zoom. The Commission is made up of representatives appointed by the Board of Selectmen in each of the following towns along the Housatonic River: Canaan, Cornwall, Kent, New Milford, North Canaan, Salisbury, and Sharon. The HRC is responsible for monitoring and advising these seven towns on issues that involve the Housatonic River and working to maintain an environmentally healthy and scenic river corridor. The annual dues requested from each town are \$400 per year.

The process of recognizing the Housatonic River through the National Park Service’s (NPS) Wild and Scenic designation as a Partnership River with federal financial support continues with significant help from Housatonic Valley Association (HVA). Quarterly meetings of the Housatonic Wild and Scenic Coordinating Committee have continued with representatives from NPS, HVA, CT Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP), FirstLight Power, and Northwest Hills Council of Governments (NHCOCG). At these meetings, each group provides updates on their work addressing issues in the Housatonic River Management Plan including HVA’s successful River Information and Outreach (RIO) program, fishing management (CT DEEP), and river access. Tremendous time and energy have been spent on river access as dynamic changes in river usage resulted in noteworthy action by towns to maintain safety. HRC’s mission includes maintaining public access, and the proposed Ruggles Landing is being partnered with the state and town of North Canaan to allow for safe river usage.

Now two decades since the historic EPA/GE/Pittsfield consent decree HRC continues to monitor the PCB cleanup and remediation proposals for the rest of the Housatonic River.

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

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

Jesse Klingebiel, Secretary



Ian Strever
Principal

Steven Schibi
Assistant Principal



246 Warren Turnpike Road
Falls Village, Connecticut
06031
Telephone (860) 824-5123
Fax (860) 824-5419

The 2021-2022 was expected to mark a “return to normalcy” for schools across the country, yet the persistence of the Covid-19 pandemic continued to complicate school operations. Although students returned to school as usual in the fall, we required face masks and publicized opportunities for vaccination that were available in the region’s schools. Quarantine requirements caused extended absences for many students, and the Omicron variant wreaked havoc on international travel opportunities during the Winter Break.

By the end of the year, however, mask restrictions were no longer in place, and Housatonic experienced one of the busiest months of May in recent history, with many organizations holding year-end celebrations that had not taken place for several years. These began with our performances of *Into the Woods*, the school musical, in March, and continued with art openings, musical concerts, FFA events, and National Honor Society inductions, culminating in the first truly traditional graduation since 2019, with no social distancing or mask mandates in place. Of particular note was the number and amount of scholarships and awards to our graduates that totaled over \$500,000. We thank our generous communities for their continued support of our young people as they embark on the next chapters of their lives.

A new point of focus this year was on the social and emotional welfare of our students. We continued to integrate Habits of Mind, a set of characteristics that describe the traits of effective learners and citizens, such as “persistence” and “communicating with clarity.” These are important foundational skills for students as they acquire academic content, and thanks to research about brain function, we are learning more and more about their integral role in student success.

We also added a Social Worker to our staff last year to support at-risk students both in and out of the classroom. Rachel Novak accepted the position last summer and began working with students in our alternative school, Bridges, to address the obstacles to their academic success. This was a helpful addition to our School Counseling team, which lost a member through retirement the previous year.

Staffing was a challenge across the school this year, with some long-term absences, departures, and retirements. We hired several replacement paraprofessionals, a tutor, two long-term substitute teachers and, recently, two new Mathematics teachers and a Special Education teacher to fill vacancies in those areas. This represents a significant “changing of the guard” in our Mathematics department, and we are excited for what our new teachers will bring to the school.

As a school, we continue to work with our students to become the most welcoming and accepting school we can be. Next year we will run courses in Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Literature, as well as African American and Hispanic American History. Our students met several times to discuss the issue of diversity and acceptance as a school, and while our efforts to promote a safe and inclusive environment are ongoing, we are already planning a mural for our cafeteria that symbolizes our commitment to those values.

We are in the early stages of planning more extensive renovations to our cafeteria and auditorium, two of the most prominent public spaces in our building that are often the focal points for community gatherings as well as school events. Next year, we will present a comprehensive plan for updating these spaces and finalizing the installation of our Farm to Table culinary classroom that is scheduled to begin this summer.

Although our international trips this year were curtailed due to the impact of Omicron, we have a trip to Greece scheduled for this summer and trips to Scotland/Ireland and Japan planned for the following year. Our International Travel Club has raised tens of thousands of dollars to offset the costs of these experiences to make them available for all of our students as they work toward becoming more globally aware.

The resumption of these kinds of activities may not herald a “return to normalcy,” but they do mark a desire to define a “new normal” that respects the threat of infectious diseases and the importance of social and emotional wellbeing while providing a comprehensive and rigorous education. To that end, our school Leadership Team adopted several changes to our grading practices that are designed to encourage student involvement in formative learning, timely work submission, and preparation for rigorous, comprehensive final exams. Two years of learning during a pandemic has taught us a lot about how to persevere through challenges, and we are looking forward to applying those lessons to the social and academic challenges of our time.



Inland Wetlands Commission
Annual Report
July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Lynn Werner, Chairman
Donna Hayes, Land Use Administrator

In 1972, the state legislature enacted the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act, which requires the regulation of activities affecting the wetlands and watercourses of our state. In 1987, the IWWA was amended to declare it is the "public policy of the state" to require municipal regulation of such activities. The Inland Wetlands Commission in Kent is charged with overseeing regulation of such activities.

Total Fees Collected: \$2050

<u>Inland Wetlands Commission Activities:</u>	<u>Action:</u>
Applications	13
Permit Modifications	2
Permit Extensions	0
Agent Approved	4
Denied	0
Withdrawn/Void	0
Waived	3
Forestry	2

The Commission continues to work closely with applicants to ensure that the habitat, flood mitigation and water quality values of Kent's wetlands and watercourses are protected in the development process.

Inland Wetlands Commission

Appointed by the Board of Selectman for 5-year terms: Alternates serve 3-year terms

<u>Members:</u>	<u>Term Expires:</u>	<u>Alternates:</u>	<u>Term Expires:</u>
Lynn Werner	12/2025	Anthony Palumbo	12/2023
Paul Yagid	12/2026	OPEN *	12/2023
Margaret Smith	12/2022		
Ken Deitz	12/2024		
Kenneth Johnson	12/2023		

*This position was filled in December of 2021 with the Board of Selectmen's appointment of Hilary Clifton; however, she has since resigned due to relocation.

Kent Center School
9 Judd Avenue, Kent, CT

Fiscal Year Report 2021-2022

Michelle Mott, Principal

At the close of this school year, Kent Center School was the elementary school for 212 students in grades Pre-K through 8. We were still dealing with restrictions due to the COVID pandemic, but all students were doing in-person learning. Staff and students focused on social-emotional well-being in addition to their academic objectives.

In continued work with the Region on our Portrait of a Graduate and our expectations of students who attend KCS, we revised our school mission. “The mission of Kent Center School is to ensure active learning and independence through communicating, problem-solving, self-advocating, and being confident and globally aware.”

Adhering to our school mission and the goal of preparing students who are college and career ready, we continue to work on our four building improvement initiatives to find success.

Initiative 1: To implement a guaranteed and viable curriculum tied to comprehensive formative and summative assessments utilizing the Connecticut Core Standards, National Content Standards, and the Instructional Core (student, teacher, content).

A majority of our professional learning this year was spent reviewing the changes to the new continuum of professional practice. This document outlines what the Region deems as high quality teaching. Additionally, teachers continue to spend time aligning curriculum/instruction/assessment with the CCSS. Teachers in grades K-3 are working with a newly developed curriculum as identified by the curriculum audit and Regional work. Teachers in grades K-4 are in the fourth year of the math program, Bridges. The consistency of this program is beginning to show in consecutive grades. Teachers in grades 5-8 continued the Illustrative program for math. The middle school teachers are pleased with the level of discourse this program creates within their classes. At the start of this year, students were unable to attend some of their traditional field trips such as Nature’s Classroom due to the ongoing pandemic. However, many teachers took advantage of outdoor field trip opportunities and also utilized the Kent Center School activity bus. Additionally, teachers worked with local programs to host virtual events. Virtual programs from Kent Memorial Library, Kent Historical Society and other activities were live streamed into the classroom. Professional learning was also completed with our instructional coaches, new benchmark screening system, and with using technology.

Initiative 2: To demonstrate improved student achievement as evidenced by multiple data sources, including local, regional, state, and national assessments.

KCS staff uses multiple data sources to assess student achievement. The state of CT continued to offer flexibilities this year for teacher evaluation, and teachers' goals focused on social emotional learning and academic growth in the classroom. Teachers developed individual growth goals that were linked to a habit of mind based on the needs of their students. The success and analysis of

the goal was based on student reflection and growth in that specific area.

We continued to implement our data teams this year which meet every two weeks to discuss student growth. Teachers are asked to analyze benchmark assessment and classroom data to discuss at the meeting. We identify strengths and weaknesses in our curriculum and instruction at the meeting with this data. We also use the MTSS process to discuss tiered interventions that are necessary for some of our students.

We continue to assess the students using FastBridge, our benchmark assessment system. This assessment is given in the areas of reading and math three times a year. Teachers use this information as another data point to help guide their instruction. This data is also shared at our local board meeting.

Initiative 3: To continue to implement the regional teacher and school evaluation plans, with precision, fidelity, and purpose, aligned to the district's school improvement goals. The school administrative team continued their work with Amy Tepper to discuss teacher observation and evaluation. Our work on the revision of the Continuum of Professional Practice continued, and teachers were trained with this document which will be implemented in 2022-2023. The Flexibilities plan released by the CSDE for teacher evaluation was approved in the spring for a second year of use in 2022-2023.

As noted above, teachers develop social-emotional goals and academic goals with their students. They use indicators of academic growth development to identify where they would like their students to be at the end of the year. Many teachers use a reflection process for their social-emotional goals to understand students' mindset.

Initiative 4: To promote positive social and emotional health and well-being for all students. All students in grades K-8 participate in a program that promotes positive social and emotional health. Students in grades K-5 take part in *Second Step*, a program rooted in social-emotional learning that creates environments where students can be successful. Students in grades 6-8 participate in a prevention program called *Botvin Life Skills*. In partnership with HYSB and Women's Support Services, we are able to provide these programs for our students. The Safety Committee meets monthly to discuss our *Safe School Climate Plan* and *All Hazards/School Safety and Security Plan*. This plan has been revised in accordance with the requirements during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

This summer, the school had an upgrade in their front entryway and office area. The upgrades included:

- Moving the second set of front doors to create a larger front vestibule
- Installing two large picture windows to create a view from the office into the vestibule
- Increasing the square footage of the Principal's office and adding a window to increase visibility of front entryway
- Installing a door from the office to the school hallway
- Additional cameras to increase visibility

All upgrades were outlined in a security audit that was completed post Sandy Hook.

This was another unusual year with many COVID restrictions being relaxed as the year went on. We finally were able to lift our mask mandate on February 15. We are so grateful that we were able to be in-person with our students from the first day to the last day with very little disruption in between. Students, staff, and parents continue to be flexible, understanding, and cooperative as we communicated different changes to our COVID policies.

We would like to thank the Kent Board of Education, Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, and the Kent community for their continued support. We would also like to thank the KCS PTO for their hard work and effort this year to facilitate fundraisers, events, and activities for our students. We are so thankful for a community that supports its children's education.

We look forward to another great year at KCS next year!



Kent Memorial Library

Annual Report to the Town of Kent

Fiscal Year July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022

The Kent Memorial Library is a private non-profit association and serves as the principle public library for the Town of Kent. The historic building opened in 1922, and operations in the expanded space are overseen by the Kent Library Association, Inc. The Association raises around two thirds of its operating budget annually with a yearly Membership drive and a variety of fundraising events including a car raffle and the months-long outdoor book sale that is a staple of Main Street attractions. Having just celebrated our building's centennial, the Board is actively pursuing the possibility of further expansion of our facility to better serve the Town. The mission statements of the Association and the Library are set forth below.

- The mission of the Kent Library Association is to provide the resources and oversight needed to ensure that the Kent Memorial Library accomplishes and adheres to its mission.
- The mission of the Kent Memorial Library is to provide a center for collaborative engagement, education and enrichment for the greater Kent community.

The staff of the Library strives to meet the needs of the community by creating interesting and entertaining programs and a diverse, well-curated collection. This year programs were wide ranging and had to be flexible based on current Covid-19 status. Highlights included an event with Dr. Harold Varmus – Nobel Prize-winning scientist, another with Bill McKibben – environmental scholar, and another with Seth Meyers – Emmy-winning writer and comedian. We also celebrated our centennial with two parties for the whole town, hosted the Selectman's debate, and enjoyed Quiz Night, beer tastings, and more! We are regular collaborators with local businesses and non-profits, and are regular visitors to Kent Center School and local preschools.

Staffing and Board Oversight

For the FY'21-'22, Library staff had 4.45 FTE. Volunteers worked over 5668 hours and greatly supplemented staff resources. The Board of the Kent Library Association oversees the overall operation of the Library.

Officers as of June 2022

President:	Sandra Edelman
Co-Vice Presidents:	Sharon Hartwick and Janet Rivkin
Treasurer:	John Walker
Secretary:	Michaela Lawrence

Board Members

Jim Blackketter	Rudy Molho	Betty Ruddy
Janette Bornn	Ruth O'Meara	Julie Saxton
Sam Callaway	P.H. Nargeolet	Dana Slaughter
Ellen Horovitz	Sharon Norton	Rick Vizzari
Carol Linn	Eric Roper	John Youngblood

Friends of the Library Chair: Roz Molho

This year's fundraising numbers are skewed because, due to Covid-19, we postponed the 2021 Benefit until August but held our 2022 Benefit at its usual time, late June. Income from both of those events is reflected in the totals below. Therefore, \$39,353 of income and \$14,431 in expenses is from the event in late summer 2021, but under normal circumstances it would have been in the previous fiscal year.

We did have some significant expenses incurred with tree removal and some other building maintenance, like HVAC repairs and exterior painting. As we are hoping to expand the Library in the coming years, other major repairs in the Library building and Firehouse are on pause. A significant portion of the increased expenses this year include costs to run our fundraisers and the increased costs for staffing.

Association members and our legions of volunteers are very grateful to the Town for an increased allocation this year, and we strive to earn it every day. As three of our major fundraisers are weather-dependent, support from the town is critical for our operations.

Financial report	2020/21	2021/22	% change
Revenue			
Public:			
Federal Paycheck Protection Program	37,900	0	n/a
Town of Kent	110,000	125,000	13.63%
State of CT	1,510	1,344	-11%
Total public funds	149,410	126,344	-15.4%
Membership	81,426	90,883	11.6%
Car raffle and Benefit	48,303	161,119	233.6%
Book sale	33,761	84,225	149.5%
Other	72,355	34,423	-52%
Total private funds	235,845	370,650	57.2%
Grants	16,538	0	n/a
Total revenue	\$401,793	\$496,994	23.7%
	2020/21	2021/22	% change
Expenses			
Staff	206,561	224,537	8.7%
Books and programs	20,760	23,097	11.25%
Utilities	17,891	21,450	19.9%
Technology	34,227	33,469	-3.9%
Maintenance and repairs	17,064	21,769	27.6%
Other	46,160	89,307	97.5%
Total expenses	\$342,663	\$413,629	20.7%
Excess (deficit) of revenues over expenses	\$59,130	\$83,365	41%
	2020-21	2021-22	% change
Association Members	340	360	5.9%
Cardholders	1,010	1,013	.3%
Visitors to the Library	20,489	25,270	23.3%

Circulation:			
Books and audio books	16,925	18,220	7.65%
Downloadable e-books & audiobooks (Overdrive and hoopla)	3,161	3,278	3.7%
DVD's and videos and hoopla	1,841	1,904	3.4%
Programs (attendees / # of programs):			
Children and young adults	2484 / 202	3202 / 319	28.9% / 57.9%
Adults	2658 / 136	3251 / 183	22.3% / 34.6%
Computer usage	2378	3343	40.6%
Website hits	59557	79425	33.4%
Constant Contact Subscribers	1403	1468	4.6%

Submitted by Sarah Marshall, Director
Kent Memorial Library
32 North Main St.
PO box 127
Kent, CT 06757
smarshall@biblio.org
860-927-3761





Kent Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

28 Maple Street, PO Box 355
Kent, CT 06757

2022 Annual Report



Fire Chief: Alan Gawel

Assistant Fire Chief: Gary Hock
Ambulance Chief: Bonnie Donzella
Captain: Sean Dingee
Lieutenant: John Russell
President: John Russell
Secretary: Caralee Rochovansky

Assistant Fire Chief: Wendell Soule
Assistant Ambulance Chief: Jill Scholsohn
Captain: Edward Matson
Lieutenant: vacant
Treasurer (Interim): John Russell
Engineer: John Christen

Now entering our 112th year of mission commitment to the preservation and protection of life, limb and property from fire and other hazards, The Kent Volunteer Fire Department was first incorporated in 1911 and remains a 501(c)(3) membership-run volunteer organization to this day. Today we have 39 Active Emergency members and one Associate Emergency member, who respond to a variety of calls from structure fires, vehicle accidents and trail rescues to medical emergencies. We also have 18 Non-Emergency members and 2 Junior members. Our 36 Veteran members no longer respond to calls but have previously served 10 or more years as first responders in Kent—many have served several decades. Recently, some Veteran Members have returned to active duty to again support our critical mission. Our 34 Auxiliary members have shown a recent surge in post-pandemic activity in both event planning and fundraising. Examples of this include the return of the Firemen's Ball, Sunday Pancake Breakfasts, Golf Tournament, Ice Watch, Stuff-a-Truck, Parade of Lights and, new this year, a dedicated grant writer. The recent achievements of our Auxiliary has led to a bump in fundraising revenues as well as a boost in morale and local buzz. Recruiting and retaining volunteers who enjoy serving our town as first responders remains one of our biggest challenges and one of our highest priorities.

All of our volunteer responders have training in one or more of the areas of fire suppression, rescue or emergency medical response—several members are trained in all three areas. Our required annual training includes hazardous materials awareness and airborne & bloodborne pathogens awareness so that we remain safe on all calls. A common mantra in the first responder community states, *everyone goes home*. In fact, our record with illness and injury remains minimal. The most common injury for a Kent responder remains limited to slips, trips and falls, as well as the occasional strained muscle and bee sting. At the end of the day, *everyone goes home*.

As with most organizations, KVFD is working to manage an unsettling increase in our operating costs. For example, our contracted electricity rate has increased 50% for this coming year. Other top operating

expenses (excluding EMS staffing) include vehicle maintenance, insurance and ambulance crew stipends. Each of those alone are projected to be just under \$50,000 this year. Nevertheless, we continue to find ways to reduce our expenses including investing in efficient lighting and new thermostats and growing our volunteer base. Along with a post-pandemic increase in our fundraising results mentioned earlier, we have also begun to redirect a yearly percentage of our investment fund to supplement our annual operating budget. We are pleased that we have managed to hold at level our town grant request for the past two years despite the disruption of the pandemic and an increase in call volume as well as overall costs. KVFD operates on a calendar year and therefore our financial reports are based on activities from January through December.

In 2022 our fire and rescue apparatus responded to 244 calls for help including but not limited to; 103 automatic false alarms, 9 building (structure) fires, 33 vehicle accidents/fires, 22 medical assists, 12 downed powerlines, 9 gas leaks, 4 trail rescues and 2 animal rescues. Some of these responses were to assist fire departments in our neighboring towns. This overall total is up (35%) from last year's total of 181 calls.

In 2022 our ambulance crews responded to 462 calls for help (up 14% from last year). Of the calls in 2022, 137 (or 30%) were refusals of transport. Year after year the highest percentage of call type is for "falls" (20% or 86 total this year). Although our volunteer medical responders are not able to cover all ambulance shifts, our collaboration with the town on a paid staffing program has virtually eliminated the problem of having uncovered ambulance shifts in Kent. The occasional exception can be when a volunteer or staffing employee has to cancel and no substitute is available.

In addition to responding to emergencies, KVFD members enjoy working with the community by providing support, assistance and education. Examples of this work include providing CPR and First Aid classes, partnering with DPH to host a vaccine clinic and supporting major outdoor events in town with fire and/or EMS standbys.

Our need for new members, especially fire and ambulance responders, remains high. In an effort to message the community about the personal satisfaction of volunteering, our department has expanded our social media presence with a volunteer social media coordinator. KVFD also looks forward to working with the town to approve a revised tax abatement plan that will help attract and retain more volunteer emergency responders. As a result of ARPA funds, our Fitness Room committee has "flipped" our fitness room with many new upgrades, including new and safer fitness equipment.

Although there is a great deal of training and responsibility involved with this volunteer pursuit, department members enjoy the many innate rewards found in helping our town and visitors as well as organizing fun and community-minded events.

Sincerely,

John Russell
KVFD President



LAKE WARAMAUG AUTHORITY ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Under the direction of the Lake Waramaug Authority, the Marine Patrol staff patrols the lake throughout the year, primarily from early spring through Labor Day in addition to the winter months as needed depending on the conditions of the ice. Police and rescue divers are present for special permit activities on the lake such as rowing regattas and triathlons. This year, following their absence due to Covid-19, we were happy to welcome back students racing in regattas. Ice rescue drills are conducted throughout the winter months with a team of about a dozen trained members for both under water and under ice rescues. The Lake Authority has provided upgrades in gear for the members throughout the year.

This season we were delighted to have the new Police boat in service after delays in delivery caused by a variety of supply and demand issues.

The primary function of the Marine Patrol staff is education and enforcement of safe boating practices and Connecticut laws. We remind boaters of the no wake zone at the north end of the lake between the state park property and the west shore of Arrow Point. Random patrols continue to be conducted and our officers address concerns posed by residents. The officers totaled sixty patrol hours over twelve shifts which included ten safety checks; two warnings for sitting on the gunnel while under power; and three warnings for lack of PFD's on board.

We are pleased to report that the New Preston Boat Launch has successfully inspected all boats entering the lake this year. Residents continue to be most cooperative and recognize the importance of these inspections to prevent invasive species from invading the lake. Car top craft launched at the State Park also require inspection, and this continues to be conducted at Dowler's Garage in New Preston when the boat launch site is not staffed.

The Town of Warren is represented by Chairman; Ed Berner, Bill Hopkins, and Rebecca Holmes. Kent is represented by Treasurer; Sal Lillenthal, Kevin Brady and Chris Garrity. Washington is represented by Secretary; Sandy Papsin, Ed Matthews and Dean Sarjeant. The Lake Waramaug Authority's budget is supported by the three towns. 40% by Warren, 40% by Washington and 20% by Kent.

The Lake Waramaug Authority extends thanks to the Selectman of the three towns for their continued support and is appreciative of town residents who understand and recognize the fragility of the lake and take measures to continue to protect it and follow the environmental laws and safety measures that have been established throughout the years.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandy Papsin

Sandy Papsin
Lake Waramaug Authority Secretary

LITCHFIELD HILLS PROBATE DISTRICT #24
*Serving Canaan (Falls Village), Cornwall, Harwinton, Kent, Litchfield, Morris,
Norfolk, North Canaan, Salisbury, Sharon, Thomaston and Warren*

The Honorable Diane S. Blick, Judge

Litchfield Location

Dawn W. Pratt, Clerk
Carolyn Poley, *Assistant Clerk*
860-567-8065

Kent Location

Judge Blick
860-927-3729

Canaan Location

Beth L. McGuire, *Chief Clerk*
Megan W. Foley, *Clerk*
860-824-7012

It is with great pleasure that I report to the residents of the Litchfield Hills Probate District the activity of the Probate Court for fiscal year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 and request this report be included in the Town's next published Annual Report.

<u>Type of Matter</u>	<u>2020 – 2021 FY Number of Matters</u>	<u>2021 – 2022 FY Number of Matters</u>
Fee Waivers	99	78
Decedent's Estates	1,355	1389
Trusts	205	162
Conservators	226	222
Name Changes	46	24
Guardian of the Person & Estate	126	95
Guardian of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities	154	167
Adult Commitment	2	0
Children's Matters:		
Adoptions/Termination of Parental Rights and Emancipation of a Minor/Determine Paternity	12	10
Power of Attorney Accounting Matters	4	0
Total probate matters handled	2,227	2,147

Throughout the pandemic, the Court has remained open, all cases have been timely processed and hearings promptly scheduled. Currently, hearings are held either in- person, by teleconferencing or by Webex video conferencing.

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

This is the last Report which I will be providing. Effective January 1, 2023 I am retiring as I am reaching the mandated retirement age set by statute. It has truly been an honor to serve as your Judge of Probate for the past 16 years.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Diane S. Blick

Diane S. Blick
Judge of Probate

11/21/2022

TOWN OF KENT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
JUNE 30, 2022

The management of the Town of Kent, Connecticut (the "Town"), is pleased to present this overview of the financial activities of the Town for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022. The information presented below should be considered in conjunction with the Town's financial statements that follow. Wherever possible, reference to the financial statements is provided.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

On a government-wide basis the Town's assets of \$27,979,310 exceeded its liabilities and deferred outflows at June 30, 2022, resulting in a total net position of \$25,589,083. Total net position for Governmental Activities was \$22,889,835 and total net position for Business-Type Activities was \$2,699,248. Of the total \$25,589,083, \$16,599,894 was invested in capital assets while \$8,916,994 represented unrestricted net position, available to meet ongoing government obligations. The Town's net position increased \$764,905 or 3.1% during the fiscal year.

The Town's governmental funds, reported on a current financial resource's basis, combined ending fund balance is \$8,371,503, an increase of \$1,404,147 for the year. The General Fund operating increase for the year was \$405,910 vs. a budgeted decrease of \$486,250. The General Fund balance was \$3,888,129, of which \$527,500 was committed for expenditures in the 2022-2023 fiscal year, \$(26,774) was committed for Schaghticoke Litigation expenses, and \$46,741 was committed for Maple Street Debt Service.

At the end of the current fiscal year unassigned fund balance for the general fund was \$3,239,218 or 25.2% of the subsequent year's General Fund expenditures and transfers.

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the Town's basic financial statements. The Town's basic financial statements are comprised of three components: 1) government-wide financial statements, 2) fund financial statements, and 3) notes to the financial statements. In addition to the basic financial statements, this report contains other supplementary information and statistical tables.

GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The government-wide financial statements are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the Town's finances, in a manner similar to a private sector business.

The statement of net position presents information on all the Town's assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as net position. Over time, increases and decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Town is improving or deteriorating.

The statement of activities presents information showing how the Town's net position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in these statements for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods (e.g., uncollected taxes and earned, but unused vacation leave).

Both of the government-wide financial statements distinguish functions of the Town that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues (government activities) from other functions that are intended to recover all or a significant portion of their costs through user fees and charges (business-type

TOWN OF KENT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
JUNE 30, 2022

activities). The government activities of the Town include general government, public safety, public works, sanitation, health and welfare, recreation and education.

The government-wide financial statements can be found on pages 12 -13 of this report.

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for special activities or objectives. The Town, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance related legal requirements. All the funds of the Town can be divided into two categories: governmental funds and proprietary funds.

Governmental Funds

Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements, that is the Town's most basic services. Unlike the government-wide financial statements, however, the funds focus on (1) cash and other financial resources that can be readily converted to cash flow in and out and (2) balances left at year-end that are available for spending. Consequently, the governmental fund statements provide a near or short-term view of the Town's finances that may be useful in evaluating a government's near-term financing requirements.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for governmental funds with similar information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of government's near-term decisions. Both the governmental fund balance sheet and the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between governmental funds and governmental activities.

The Town maintains individual government funds. Information is presented separately in the governmental fund balance sheet and in the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances for the general fund and the capital reserve fund, both of which are considered to be major funds. Data from the other governmental funds are combined into a single, aggregated presentation. Individual fund data for each of these non-major governmental funds is provided in the form of combining statements elsewhere in this report.

The Town adopts an annual appropriated budget for its general funds. A budgetary comparison statement has been provided for the general fund to demonstrate compliance with the budget.

The basic governmental fund financial statements can be found on pages 14 - 18 of this report.

Proprietary Funds

The proprietary fund is the Sewer and Water Commission.

Proprietary funds provide the same type of information as the government-wide financial statements, only in more detail. The funds are combined into a single, aggregated presentation in the proprietary fund financial statements.

The basic Proprietary fund statements can be found on pages 19 - 21 of this report.

TOWN OF KENT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
JUNE 30, 2022

Notes to the Financial Statements.

The notes to the financial statements provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and financial fund statements. The notes to the financial statements can be found on pages 22 - 49 of this report.

Other Information.

The required supplementary information for the Town's pension plan and the Town's proportionate share of the Connecticut State Teachers Retirement Pension and OPEB liability can be found on pages 50-51 of this report.

The combining statements referred to earlier in connection with non-major governmental funds are presented following notes to the financial statements. Budget vs Actual, combining and individual fund statements and other schedules can be found on pages 52 – 65 of this report.

GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position and an important determinant of its ability to finance services in the future. In the case of the Town, assets exceeded liabilities by \$25,589,083 at the close of the most recent fiscal year.

By far the largest portion of the Town's assets is its investment in capital assets (e.g., land, buildings, machinery, and equipment). It is presented in the statement of net position less any related debt used to acquire those assets to provide services to citizens; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. Although the Town's investment in its capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, is reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the resources needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources, since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities.

The Town's net position increased by \$764,905 during the current fiscal year.

TOWN OF KENT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
JUNE 30, 2022

NET POSITION - June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2021

	6/30/2022 Net Position			6/30/2021 Net Position		
	Governmental Activities	Business -Type Activities	Total	Governmental Activities	Business -Type Activities	Total
<u>Assets</u>						
Current and Other Assets	\$ 9,132,425	\$ 779,302	\$ 9,911,727	\$ 8,436,715	\$ 738,789	\$ 9,175,504
Capital Assets	14,505,909	3,379,845	17,885,754	15,219,842	3,510,196	18,730,038
Non Current Assets	-	221,449	221,449	-	221,449	221,449
<u>Total Assets</u>	23,638,334	4,380,596	28,018,930	23,656,557	4,470,434	28,126,991
<u>Liabilities</u>						
Current Liabilities	567,551	200,190	767,741	1,370,675	267,904	1,638,579
Non Current Liabilities	141,328	1,481,158	1,622,486	156,482	1,507,752	1,664,234
<u>Total Liabilities</u>	708,879	1,681,348	2,390,227	1,527,157	1,775,656	3,302,813
<u>Net Position</u>						
Net Investment in Capital Assets	14,505,909	2,093,985	16,599,894	14,799,759	2,200,022	16,999,781
Restricted Net Position	72,195	-	72,195	57,450	-	57,450
Unrestricted	8,311,731	605,263	8,916,994	7,272,191	494,756	7,766,947
<u>Total Net Position</u>	\$ 22,889,835	\$ 2,699,248	\$ 25,589,083	\$ 22,129,400	\$ 2,694,778	\$ 24,824,178

The largest portion of the Town's net position (64.9%) reflects its investment in capital assets (e.g. land, buildings, machinery and equipment, and infrastructure assets), which is reported net of any related debt used to acquire those assets that are still outstanding. The Town uses these capital assets to provide services to its citizens; consequently, those assets are not available for future spending. Although the Town's investment in its capital assets is reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the resources needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources, since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities. Unrestricted net position increased \$1,150,047 or 14.8% to \$8,916,994 during the fiscal year and is 34.8% of the total net position.

TOWN OF KENT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
JUNE 30, 2022

CHANGES IN NET POSITION - June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2021 Governmental Activities

	June 30, 2022			June 30, 2021		
	Changes in Net Position			Changes in Net Position		
	Governmental Activities	Business -Type Activities	Total	Governmental Activities	Business -Type Activities	Total
Revenues:						
Program Revenues:						
Charges for Services	\$ 665,240	\$ 456,933	\$ 1,122,173	\$ 590,980	\$ 446,689	\$ 1,037,669
Operating grants and contributions	920,788	-	920,788	1,707,562	-	1,707,562
Capital grants and contributions	24,900	-	24,900	-	-	-
General Revenues:						
Property Taxes	11,348,901	-	11,348,901	11,045,304	-	11,045,304
Grants and contributions, unrestricted	178,886	-	178,886	195,134	-	195,134
Investment Income	20,533	385	20,918	9,706	383	10,089
Other Revenues	-	19,028	19,028	261,996	12,468	274,464
Total Revenues	13,159,248	476,346	13,635,594	13,810,682	459,540	14,270,222
Expenses						
General Government	\$ 1,490,935	\$ -	1,490,935	\$ 1,396,211	\$ -	1,396,211
Public Safety	557,344	-	557,344	416,595	-	416,595
Public Works	1,966,386	-	1,966,386	1,854,743	-	1,854,743
Sanitation	127,394	471,876	599,270	149,824	431,937	581,761
Health and Welfare	185,989	-	185,989	188,582	-	188,582
Interest on Long Term Debt	38,906	-	38,906	38,525	-	38,525
Recreation	189,430	-	189,430	216,282	-	216,282
Education	7,835,251	-	7,835,251	8,819,771	-	8,819,771
Capital Outlay	7,178	-	7,178	-	-	-
Total Expenses	12,398,813	471,876	12,870,689	13,080,533	431,937	13,512,470
Change in Net Position	760,435	4,470	764,905	730,149	27,603	757,752
Net Position, beginning	22,129,400	2,694,778	24,824,178	21,399,251	2,667,175	24,066,426
Net Position, ending	<u>\$ 22,889,835</u>	<u>\$ 2,699,248</u>	<u>\$ 25,589,083</u>	<u>\$ 22,129,400</u>	<u>\$ 2,694,778</u>	<u>\$ 24,824,178</u>

Approximately 83% of the governmental activities' revenue was derived from property taxes, followed by 7% from operating and capital grants, 8% from service charges, and 2% from other sources. Detailed revenue information can be found on page 52.

TOWN OF KENT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
JUNE 30, 2022

For the most part, increases in expenses closely paralleled inflation and growth in demand for services. Approximately 61% of the Town's governmental activities expenses relate to education, 15% relate to public works, 12% for general government and 12% for all other activities.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As noted earlier, the Town uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

Governmental Funds

The focus of the Town's governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the Town's financing requirements. In particular, unreserved fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources for spending at the end of a fiscal year.

On June 30, 2022, the Town's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$8,371,503. Of this amount, \$103,015 was nonspendable; \$4,317,027 was restricted for capital projects; \$52,416 was restricted special revenue funds and permanent funds; \$527,500 was committed to the subsequent year 2022/2023 budget and \$132,327 was committed for specific purposes. The remaining \$3,239,218 was unassigned.

The General Fund is the chief operating fund of the Town. As a measure of the General Fund's liquidity, it may be useful to compare both unassigned fund balance and total fund balance to total fund expenditures. The General Fund's unassigned fund balance of \$3,239,218 represents 25.2% of the General Fund budgeted appropriations for the subsequent fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. For the current fiscal year, the General Fund's fund balance increased \$405,910.

The fund balance of the capital projects fund was \$4,317,027 on June 30, 2022, an increase of \$1,005,584 from the previous fiscal year.

Proprietary Funds

The Town's proprietary fund provides the same type of information found in the government-wide financial statements, but in more detail.

Unrestricted net position of the Sewer Enterprise Fund at the end of the year amounted to \$605,263.

GENERAL FUND BUDGETARY HIGHLIGHTS

The fund balance of the Town's General Fund increased by \$405,910 or 11.65% during the fiscal year. The original budget proposed and adopted in May 2021 included an appropriation of \$486,250 from the available fund balance. Actual revenues did not meet budgetary estimates by \$99,747 and actual expenditures were \$532,315 less than appropriations, creating a General Fund budget surplus of \$432,568.

Of the \$486,250 General Fund appropriation used to balance the budget, \$0 was used.

TOWN OF KENT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
JUNE 30, 2022

Primary factors contributing to the budget surplus included favorable revenue variances of interest collected on property taxes, Building Permit fees, KCS tuition, and Park and Recreation activities. The tax collection rate remained at 99%.

Expenditure variances reflected savings in compensation costs by the BoE, DPW and Park and Recreation. In part, this was due to the timing of filling open positions. Road material expenditures were substantially under budget primarily related to spring weather conditions.

A statement of revenues and expenditures, budget and actual, can be found on page 18 of this report.

CAPITAL ASSET AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION

Capital Assets

The town's investment in capital assets (net of accumulated depreciation) for its governmental and business-type activities as of June 30, 2022 amounted to \$14,505,909 and \$3,379,845, respectively. This investment in capital assets included land, Infrastructure, buildings and system improvements, machinery and equipment and vehicles. No major capital assets were added during the year however, one vehicle and multiple lap top computers were removed as they were deemed to be no longer in service.

CAPITAL ASSETS, Net of Depreciation June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2021

	June 30, 2022			June 30, 2021		
	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total
Land & Construction in Process	\$ 1,511,858	\$ -	\$ 1,511,858	\$ 1,488,358	\$ -	\$ 1,488,358
Building and improvements	6,597,296	941,306	7,538,602	7,017,153	1,004,280	8,021,433
Land improvements	42,467	-	42,467	50,996	-	50,996
Machinery and equipment	232,149	507,108	739,257	264,571	534,896	799,467
Vehicles	258,048		258,048	351,146	-	351,146
Infrastructure	5,864,091	1,931,431	7,795,522	6,047,618	1,971,020	8,018,638
Total	<u>\$ 14,505,909</u>	<u>\$ 3,379,845</u>	<u>\$ 17,885,754</u>	<u>\$ 15,219,842</u>	<u>\$ 3,510,196</u>	<u>\$ 18,730,038</u>

Long-Term Debt

At the end of the current fiscal year, the Town had total outstanding bonds and notes payable of \$1,285,860 related to business-type activities. All of the debt is backed by the full faith and credit of the Town.

The Town's total bonds and notes payable had a net decrease of \$24,314.

State statutes limit the amount of general obligation debt a governmental entity may issue to 7.0 times its total prior year tax collections. The current statutory debt limitation for the Town is \$78,489,229 which is significantly more than the Town's outstanding general obligation debt.

Additional information on the Town's long-term debt can be found in Note 9 on pages 36 – 38 of this report.

TOWN OF KENT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
JUNE 30, 2022

ECONOMIC FACTORS AND THE NEXT YEAR'S BUDGETS AND RATES

The Town's elected officials considered many factors when creating the fiscal year 2022 - 2023 budget and setting the property tax rate.

- Education costs and enrollment trends.
- EMT staffing and the appropriate funding level needed to maintain services.
- Emergency Management funding and state requirements.
- Staff retirements and adequate staffing levels.
- Capital Project funding.
- Continued stabilization of the Mil rate.

All the above factors were considered in preparing the Town's budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

Requests for Information

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview for those with an interest in the Town's finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report, or requests for additional financial information, should be addressed to the Board of Selectmen at 41 Kent Green Boulevard, P.O. Box 678, Kent, CT 06757.

TOWN OF KENT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN
FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL
BUDGETARY BASIS - GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance With Final Budget Over (Under)
	Original	Final		
<u>Revenues:</u>				
Property Taxes	\$11,021,512	\$11,021,512	\$11,226,341	\$ 204,829
Interest and lien fees	40,500	40,500	67,493	26,993
Intergovernmental	350,312	350,312	365,211	14,899
Investment income	15,000	15,000	11,802	(3,198)
Charges for services	293,950	293,950	421,693	127,743
Other Revenues	193,005	193,005	208,242	15,237
<u>Total Revenues</u>	<u>11,914,279</u>	<u>11,914,279</u>	<u>12,300,782</u>	<u>386,503</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>				
General Government	1,259,661	1,235,791	1,165,170	70,621
Public Safety	520,728	549,728	546,337	3,391
Public Works	1,823,611	1,797,611	1,627,583	170,028
Sanitation	144,154	144,154	127,394	16,760
Health and Welfare	159,281	168,281	158,327	9,954
Recreation	218,791	230,661	165,972	64,689
Debt Service	38,906	38,906	38,906	-
Education	7,196,556	7,196,556	6,999,684	196,872
<u>Total Expenditures</u>	<u>11,361,688</u>	<u>11,361,688</u>	<u>10,829,373</u>	<u>532,315</u>
<u>Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures</u>	<u>552,591</u>	<u>552,591</u>	<u>1,471,409</u>	<u>918,818</u>
<u>Other Financing Sources (Uses):</u>				
Transfers In	486,250	486,250	-	(486,250)
Transfers Out	(1,038,841)	(1,038,841)	(1,038,841)	-
<u>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</u>	<u>(552,591)</u>	<u>(552,591)</u>	<u>(1,038,841)</u>	<u>(486,250)</u>
<u>Net Change In Fund Balance</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>432,568</u>	<u>\$ 432,568</u>
<u>Fund Balance - Beginning of Year</u>			<u>3,435,594</u>	
<u>Fund Balance - End of Year</u>			<u>\$ 3,868,162</u>	

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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

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

NHCOC experienced a complete organizational changeover during the last Fiscal Year (FY), which consisted of the latter half of 2021 and the first half of 2022. Executive Director Rick Lynn retired after more than 30 years and was replaced by Robert Phillips prior to the start of the FY. Office Manager, Darlene Krukar retired after more than 20 years of service to the region. Community Development Director, Jocelyn Ayer assumed a new position outside of the COG, as did Janell Mullen; former Regional Planner for the COG. Staffing needs were analyzed along with a strategic planning exercise which resulted in modified titles and roles such as Assistant Director, Senior Regional Planner, and Financial/Office Manager, which were filled by Emily Hultquist, Kathryn Faraci and Sarah Better, respectively. Emily brought many years of previous experience with her from the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), Kathryn retired from the state DOT and brought her 35 years of expertise to the region, and Sarah brought banking experience as well as small business management to the COG.

Prior to the restaffing efforts, NHCOC operated with only two staff for approximately 2.5 months. Despite these staffing challenges, work continued on the implementation of the COG's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region later in the FY. Major strategies outlined in the CEDS include expanding access to high-speed fiber optic broadband (Fiber to the Home – FTTH), promoting tourism/arts/culture, supporting local farms, strengthening manufacturing, and encouraging entrepreneurs and innovation. A new round of funding from US EDA was applied for and granted at the end of the FY and will provide for an update to our 5-year CEDS and continued implementation of the goals and objectives.

NHCOC continuously promotes the on-line Interactive Regional Trail Map that was developed by the COG in cooperation with the Housatonic Valley Association to promote access to the public trails in the region.

NHCOC is allocated about \$2M each year from ConnDOT for priority local road improvement projects and projects are currently in various stages of approval/development in Burlington, Litchfield, Torrington, and Winchester.



NHCOG also serves as the oversight agent for approximately \$385,000 in Homeland Security Grant funding that is received each year for the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) Region 5. There are a number of projects and equipment acquisitions to support this program within multiple Emergency Support Function groups in Region 5 (all of NHCOG and portions of NVCOG and WESTCOG).

In 2021, NHCOG continued coordination of numerous popular programs such as a prescription assistance program in cooperation with the Foundation for Community Health, a Neighbor-to-Neighbor program in cooperation with the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, the Northwest Hills Public Works Equipment Cooperative, and the region's cooperative purchasing program. The Fuel Bank program partnership that was previously managed by NHCOG was concluded.

NHCOG also continued to assist local organizations including the Regional Housing Council, Northwest Hills Road Supervisors Association, Recycling Advisory Committee, and the Housatonic River Commission.

In addition, NHCOG continued to host a quarterly "5th Thursday" forum for area Planning, Zoning, and Conservation Commission members to meet and discuss items of mutual interest, hear guest speakers, and provide input on regional plans. However, two of the planned events had to be cancelled due to insufficient staffing levels.

Serving as officers of NHCOG during FY 2021-2022 were Don Stein, Chairman; Bob Valentine, followed by Henry Todd, Vice Chairmen; Charlie Perotti, Secretary; and Michael Criss, Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Phillips

Robert A Phillips, AICP
Executive Director



Kent Park & Recreation

P.O. Box 678

41 Kent Green Boulevard

Kent, Ct. 06757

parkandrec@townofkentct.org

ph: 860-927-1003

fax: 860-927-1313

TOWN OF KENT PARK & RECREATION

2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2021-2022 fiscal year certainly was an interesting one for the Town of Kent Park & Recreation Department. Attempting to return to business as usual while still under the cloud of the COVID-19 pandemic was made all the more difficult by the fact that the department went most of the year without a full-time Director of Park and Recreation and several months without anyone in the position at all. Nonetheless, between the hard work of the Commission, Chair Lynn Harrington and her successor Julia Neff, Interim Director Miranda Lovato and her successor Jared Kuczenski, the year was a relative success and certainly showed hints of a good-looking future for Kent Park & Rec.

Due to the ongoing challenges of the pandemic, the department opted not to run Camp Kent for the summer of 2021. It was a difficult decision, but one that was well received and understood by the public. Instead, Interim Director Miranda Lovato and the Commission set their sights on running a strong Summer Concert Series in coordination with the Kent Land Trust as well as establishing a successful youth soccer program for children in kindergarten through second grade. They also coordinated with the United States Tennis Association to run "Tennis in the Parks," a skill development program for children in first through fifth grades.

Fall also saw the return of KP&R's After-School Program (ASP). Despite persistent issues retaining a program director, the department was able to keep ASP running thanks to the collaborative effort of Miranda Lovato, Jared Kuczenski, a myriad of Commissioners, Town of Kent staff and the Housatonic Youth Services Bureau. The struggles of the school year were also hampered by an antiquated ASP registration process that proved to be cumbersome and problematic. This, however, would motivate Park & Rec to contract with MyRec, an online-registration and program management company. They began designing a personalized website and registration portal specifically for Kent Park & Recreation at the end of the fiscal year, which went live at the beginning of fiscal year 2023.

As the fall season came to a close, Park & Recreation was excited to be a part of the annual and much-heralded Halloween festivities in town, handing out several hundred glow-necklaces to trick-or-treaters and running their annual haunted house style activity. The latter event had morphed several times over the preceding years thanks in part to COVID-19, and in 2021 the Commission opted to run it as a "haunted trail" for trick-or-treaters to walk through on Halloween night.

The winter proved to be the busiest season for Park & Rec and featured several great programs including:

- The "Learn to Skate" program
- Several mornings of family open-skate at the Kent School ice rink
- A ski & snowboard program at Mohawk Mountain
- An instructional basketball program for children in kindergarten through second grade

All four of these activities proved to be wildly successful and amongst the best of the fiscal year, and much credit should

be given to residents Lee & Jim Sohl for their unwavering dedication to the Learn to Skate program, as well as Brian Hastings, Steve Penner & Jerry Decker for running a wonderful youth basketball program.

The end of 2021 and first few months of 2022 marked some very important changes for Kent Park & Recreation. Following the resignation of Interim Director Miranda Lovato – whom the Commission would like to thank for her excellent work during a difficult time – P&R was without a department head for several months. After conducting two rounds of interviews throughout late 2021, the Commission hired Jared Kuczenski for the position. Jared came to Kent, interestingly enough, from the Town of Kent, New York, where he worked in various positions in Parks & Rec, including as Director, for 12 years.

Jared began in Kent, CT in late January and immediately set his sights on stabilizing the After-School Program, which included eventually hiring a permanent ASP Director, Tom Ford. He also focused his energy on running Kent Park & Rec's first in-person event since the pandemic began, bringing back the annual Spring Egg Hunt at Town Hall (dubbed the EGGstravaganza). This event proved to be more successful than it had been in well over a decade, with over 100 children attending and several local community groups getting involved in the fun.

During the first third of the calendar year, Kent Park & Rec also saw the resignation of long-time commissioner and then chair, Lynn Harrington. The Commission would like to thank Lynn for her incredible dedication to Park & Rec for well over a decade and wish her the best in her future endeavors. Julia Neff, who had previously served as an alternate commissioner, was appointed chair shortly thereafter, however her vacant alternate spot would remain open throughout the fiscal year. It would eventually be filled by life-long resident Elizabeth "Biz" Bernard in the summer of 2022. Both Julia's elevation to chair and Biz's appointment to the Commission met with unanimous support.

Despite several speed bumps throughout the fiscal year, Kent Park & Recreation ended things with two rather big bangs. Spring Baseball for children in pre-K through fourth grade ended up being a tremendous success with over 60 children signing up, and the department was able to partner with Club Getaway to bring back Camp Kent for the summer! Registration for camp filled up completely as the fiscal year came to a close and although the program didn't officially begin until FY '23, it's worth noting that it was a great success and wouldn't have been possible without the incredible efforts and generosity of Club Getaway as well as the hard work of Camp Director Chris Heller and his staff.

To date, fiscal year 2023 is off to an especially good start for Kent Park & Rec and we look forward to having more great news to report on next year.



PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

Matthew Winter, Chairman July-November 2021

Wes Wyrick, Chairman December 2021-June 2022

Donna Hayes, Land Use Administrator

In their role as maintainers and establishers of the Town of Kent Zoning Regulations, the Planning and Zoning Commission is also responsible for the updating of the Plan of Conservation and Development. This update occurred over the course of this fiscal year and is on track for the final version submission to the State in January of 2023. In addition, the Commission is responsible for making sure that the regulations are updated and comply with any changes to CGS Section 8-2. During FY 21-22 several changes in the legislation were passed impacting land use, as a result, updates to the Town's regulations have been, and will continue to be, addressed accordingly.

Total Fees Collected: \$29,220

There were a total of 110 applications submitted. The breakdown is as follows:

Sign Permits	8	Subdivision Approvals	0
Zoning Permits	73	Floodplain	0
Special Permit Approvals	4	Reg. Change Approvals	0
Site Plan Approvals	19	Zone Change Approvals	0
Driveway Permits	5	Modifications	0
Temporary	1		

P&Z Commission

Members shall be elected at the biennial elections of the Town for terms of six years. Vacancies in office of members shall be filled by the Commission for the unexpired portion of the term. Alternates are appointed for 2-year terms by the Board of Selectmen.

<u>Members:</u>	<u>Term Expires:</u>	<u>Alternates:</u>	<u>Term Expires:</u>
Adam Manes	11/2023	Richard Chavka	11/2023
Darrell Cherniske	11/2025	Anne McAndrew	11/2023
Marc Weingarten	11/2023	Matt Winter	11/2023
Alice Hicks	11/2027		
Karen Casey	11/2025		
Wes Wyrick	11/2025		
David Birnbaum	11/2027		

The Architectural Review Board consists of 5 regular members and up to two alternates who are appointed by the Planning and Zoning Commission for staggered two-year terms. At the ARB's request, the Planning and Zoning Commission amended the Regulations to include an additional alternate member in FY 21/22. During this fiscal year, the ARB acted on 8 applications, all of which were for miscellaneous alterations to existing properties.

<u>Members:</u>	<u>Term Expiration</u>
Peter Hanby, AIA	8/2024
Ellen Corsel	8/2024
Victor Lewis	8/2023
Derek Larson	8/2023
Joanne Wasti	8/2024
Jonathan Moore (A)	7/2024
Jessica Pleasants (A)	7/2024

Region 1 2021-2022 Kent Annual Report

2021-2022 was a year characterized by perseverance and resilience on behalf of Region 1 staff, students, and their parents/caregivers as we all learned to live with continued presence of COVID-19. Protocols for vaccination, testing, masks and quarantine influenced classroom environments and student/staff attendance. However despite the occurrence of virus surges as it morphed into new variants, Region 1 staff remained dedicated to providing a high quality education to our students and our students remained engaged in their learning. By the end of the year, school operations had returned to near normal and the year ended on a positive note.

National media has publicized data indicating significant learning loss for students at all grade levels. This has not been the experience for students in Region 1. State summative data indicate that, while not yet attaining pre-pandemic levels of achievement, most students finished the year meeting or exceeding grade level expectations in the tested areas of English/Language Arts, Math and Science. Additionally, students were able to participate in school plays and concerts, art shows, athletic competition and field trips. Everyone worked together to successfully navigate COVID-19 disruptions, including substitute teacher and bus driver shortages.

As school staff worked hard to return schools to normal operations to the greatest extent possible, they closely monitored student mental health and the impact the pandemic has had on students. Administrators have used some of the federal ARP/ESSER funds to hire support students by adding counseling staff to ensure the presence of trained clinicians to support them. They have also planned team-building, student discussion groups and other engaging activities to cultivate safe and healthy school climates.

With respect to physical plants, school building committees continued to complete repairs and any new construction projects as needed.

Finally, administrators have worked with school safety committees to ensure that schools are safe and secure.

Region 1 staff, students and their families successfully weathered another challenging year as a result of their commitment to engaging in high quality learning experiences while caring for the well being of one another. We are proud of and thankful for the strength of the Region 1 community.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa B. Carter



Resident Trooper

The Resident Trooper program offered by the State of Connecticut has continued to offer a liaison between the State Police and the Kent town officials, public and private schools, and the public. This program supplements the 24-hour police coverage of Kent by the Connecticut State Police Barracks in Litchfield.

The Resident Trooper's duties include investigation of both reported criminal activities and reported motor vehicle accidents. Motor vehicle laws are enforced to ensure compliance, and encourage safer driving. Periodically both the Resident Trooper and patrol Troopers will engage in safety belt (seat belt) and speed enforcement. Trooper Fisher also responds to calls for assistance, as well as help fire and ambulance personnel with medical emergencies.

Trooper Fisher assisted with several community projects such as Pumpkin Run, Parade of Lights, Toy and Turkey drives. Trooper Fisher as incorporation with ECONN assisted with safety at both Kent Falls and Bulls Bridge. Trooper Fisher also assisted with the many complications of COVID-19 throughout the year.

During the fiscal year, Connecticut State Police respond to numerous request for assistance in the town of Kent. State Troopers assisted Kent Fire Department and Ambulance as well as other State and municipal agencies numerous times. State Troopers also investigated abandoned motor vehicles, assisted citizens with non-criminal issues, served subpoenas, fingerprinted various types of applicants, removed traffic hazards, respond to roaming animal complaints, lost hikers, patrol checks of residential and business, as well as conducting other caretaking functions.

Trooper First Class Andrew Fisher, Kent Resident Trooper



Social Services Department Samantha Hasenflue, Director

The Social Services Department supports local residents through advocacy; referral to local, state and federal assistance programs; short-term financial assistance; linking with employment opportunities and career support services, and short-term counseling. The mission of this department is to assist the residents of Kent in developing the skills and knowledge necessary to seek services and support through self-advocacy. The Social Services director, utilizing a variety of local, State and Federal resources, assisted Kent households. The total financial assistance for the fiscal year was \$146,418.66:

\$47,218.60 State of CT/ Federal Energy Assistance Program
\$35,526 Kent Community Fund (total of 36 grants)
\$17,758.97 State of CT Renter's Rebate Program for Elderly/Disabled
\$ 4,798.42 Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation
\$ 24,392.12 Kent Food/Fuel Fund
\$ 7,603.61 Foundation for Community Health Prescription Fund
\$ 9,120.94 Town Social Services Assist Fund

This past year, the Kent Department of Social Services saw many changes; the long-time Social Services Director, Leah Pullaro retired in January. In the interim, Judy Sheridan acted as Director until Samantha Hasenflue was hired in April 2022. Samantha has been working in the Social Services field for 14 years and had the pleasure of working with Leah while working for various non-profit organizations. During the next fiscal year, Samantha has plans to open the Senior Center, restart Senior lunches and implement new programming at the Senior Center. Samantha also plans to continue the work at the Kent Food Bank, continue various programs (like Renter's Rebate and Energy Assistance) that have been in place in the previous years as well as hire an Assistant for the Social Services Department. Samantha is looking forward to working with the Kent community for the years to come; she is excited to continue meeting and serving the residents of Kent and to see the much anticipated growth of the Senior Center!

The Back to School Program provided 30 Kent children with new backpacks and a gift card to purchase clothing and other supplies. This program was made possible through the support of the Kent Community Fund, St. Andrews church, Kent School, local churches, and individual donations.

The Kent Food Bank and Diaper Bank, thanks to the support of the Kent Community Fund and generous local donors, continues to supplement the nutritional needs of many

Kent households. None of which could be possible without the hard work of dedicated volunteers. Over the last year, the Kent Food Bank provided food to an average of 36 households. The Food Bank's Vegetable Program was established in conjunction with Kent Land Trust and Marple Valley Farm provided weekly shares of fresh organic vegetables.



TOWN OF KENT
SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY TAXES LEVIED, COLLECTED AND OUTSTANDING
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

Grand List Year	Balances 6/30/2021	Current Levy	Lawful Corrections		Collectable Taxes	Collections			Transfers To Suspense	Balances 6/30/2022
			Additions	Deductions		Taxes	Interest and Liens	Total		
2020	\$ -	\$ 11,196,450	\$ 6,692	\$ 16,579	\$ 11,186,563	\$ 11,100,380	\$ 46,850	11,147,230	\$ 62	\$ 86,121
2019	93,419	-	419	1,065	92,773	44,812	8,862	53,674	445	47,516
2018	17,343	-	-	-	17,343	3,203	1,149	4,352	-	14,140
2017	4,579	-	-	-	4,579	768	421	1,189	309	3,502
2016	2,769	-	760	-	3,529	1,000	557	1,557	-	2,529
2015	1,619	-	-	81	1,538	275	248	523	-	1,263
2014	2,590	-	-	86	2,504	1,888	1,995	3,883	-	616
2013	1,690	-	-	1	1,689	1,421	1,821	3,242	-	268
2012	1,085	-	34	-	1,119	960	1,328	2,288	-	159
2011	758	-	-	-	758	731	1,173	1,904	-	27
2010	580	-	-	-	580	557	994	1,551	-	23
2009	552	-	-	-	552	547	1,075	1,622	-	5
2008	281	-	-	1	280	275	591	866	-	5
2007	768	-	-	-	768	112	295	407	-	656
2006	53	-	-	1	52	52	134	186	-	-
Totals	<u>\$ 128,086</u>	<u>\$ 11,196,450</u>	<u>\$ 7,905</u>	<u>\$ 17,814</u>	<u>\$ 11,314,627</u>	<u>\$ 11,156,981</u>	<u>\$ 67,493</u>	<u>\$ 11,224,474</u>	<u>\$ 816</u>	<u>\$ 156,830</u>

TORRINGTON AREA HEALTH DISTRICT
ANNUAL REPORT: JULY 1, 2021 – JUNE 30, 2022

The TAHD served over 133,000 people in twenty boroughs, cities, and towns covering 611 square miles.

The TAHD **Community Health Program** partnered with DPH and FoodCORE to investigate: **7** giardiasis, **4** campylobacteriosis, and **14** salmonellosis cases. TAHD guided schools, daycares, and community members on a variety of health issues and administered **563** flu vaccines to residents. TAHD consulted with 7 residents regarding potential rabies exposures submitting **7 specimens** to the DPH Laboratory for rabies testing. Ticks brought in by **64** residents were sent to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station for Lyme disease bacteria testing.

TAHD is an active member of **Fit Together**, a Northwest Connecticut Healthy Eating and Active Living Initiative. The 5210-fitness initiative is the cornerstone of the groups outreach and educational efforts. Fit together allocates its resources for community assistance and has awarded \$15,000 in mini grants to community partners to support projects that align with Fit Together's mission and strategies. These included funds to assist the Torrington Kids Marathon, a new Torrington Kids Golf program, the Torrington Middle School Fitness trail, fitness equipment for the Gilbert School and healthy snacks and healthier food preparation at Café Yum in the Torrington Public Schools. Fit Together supported sustainable healthy environmental opportunities in Torrington and Winsted by designating funding for a new all level fitness trail along the Sue Grossman Still River Greenway.

TAHD is an active member of the **Litchfield County Opiate Task Force (LCOTF)** and a member of the LCOTF executive committee, working on strategies and solutions to the opiate epidemic. TAHD received a grant to provide programming for the Statewide Expansion and Response Project for the Overdose Detection Mapping Application to ensure comprehensive coordination of services. This application along with the data from the medical examiner's office and our Spike response alert allows our team to respond to a suspected drug overdose. TAHD staff provided training to local pharmacies and medical offices on the CT Prescription Monitoring and Reporting System, Naloxone administration, Medication Assisted Treatment, and Resetting Pain Expectations as part of the **Academic Detailing on Opioid Safety**. TAHD is also part of Rural Communities Opioid Response Program-Implementation (RCORP) aimed at reducing the morbidity and mortality of substance use disorder (SUD), including opioid use disorder (OUD), in high-risk rural communities. This will advance RCORP's goal by strengthening and expanding prevention, treatment, and recovery services to enhance rural residents' ability to access treatment and move towards recovery.

TAHD entered into a contract with United Way of Connecticut (UWC) to expand upon cross-sector efforts within the state to implement a comprehensive public health approach to suicide prevention to reduce suicide morbidity and mortality among three key vulnerable populations in the state: 1) middle-aged adults 35-64 years of age, particularly those in high-risk occupations or with serious mental illness or substance use disorder, 2) young adults 18-24 years of age and 3) adolescents 10-17 years of age.

TAHD is an active member of the **National Diabetes Prevention Program** working to prevent or delay type 2 diabetes. This is a yearlong, lifestyle change program designed for people with prediabetes and those at high risk for type 2 diabetes. Goals for participants include 150 minutes of weekly activity and 5 to 7% weight loss. TAHD began the first program in November at the Winchester Senior Center. At completion of the program, participants will receive a Certificate of Completion.

The TAHD **Immunization Action Program (IAP)** worked with local providers and hospitals to ensure compliance with CT childhood immunization laws. TAHD has partnered with 12 medical and 40

community-based organizations in the district to educate, bring awareness, and encourage immunization. TAHD provided medical providers with educational materials for staff and patients to promote vaccine confidence and promoted educational events. For community partners, we have set up displays in libraries, museums, food banks and attended numerous events such as back-to-school night & health fairs. TAHD distributed approximately 100 posters in public spaces such as post offices, coffee shops, libraries, and town halls. To encourage vaccination, TAHD continues to utilize social media.

The TAHD **Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program** provided case management for more than 40 children with blood lead levels ($\geq 5\mu\text{dL}$) as well as provided educational information to more than 100 families. Abatement/Remediation Orders were issued for 1 property. 2 abatements were completed.

TAHD **Environmental Health Program** resulted in the following inspections/licenses/permits: **868** food inspections, **349** temporary food permits, **121** new septic systems, **309** repaired septic systems, **207** private well permits, **111** private pool permits, **248** beauty salons & barber shops inspections, **560** house addition permits, **366** soil tests, **38** subdivision lots, **69** public pools were inspected, and **20** daycare centers inspected. Records show that approximately **366** samples were submitted to the state lab for testing of drinking water, beach and pool water, lead in water, soil and dust, and stool samples for pathogens. Sanitarians investigated **287** complaints of various public health concerns; **25** legal orders/voluntary compliances were issued for enforcement purposes.

The TAHD **Emergency Preparedness Program** continues to work with local and regional community partners. Activities included: outbreak investigations, contact tracing, consultation (health partners, public safety, town, and school officials) receiving and distribution of personal protective equipment, and vaccination clinics. A Point of Dispensing (POD) drill was done at the Torrington Middle School.

The **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Program** aimed its focus on local community education with a wide range of topics. Educational and training opportunities consisted of Heart Saver First Aid, CPR/AED courses, Mental Health during the COVID19 Pandemic, Opioid Crisis, recognition, and response, STOP the BLEED, and Emergency Preparedness in the home. TAHD's goal was to increase awareness and create a training curriculum so the public can better protect themselves and others in a safe, timely, and effective manner.

To date, TAHD has vaccinated 10,641 individuals for COVID through public and private clinics as well as homebound vaccinations. During November-January we held COVID-19 booster clinics. TAHD partnered with Hartford Healthcare, New Opportunities, Community Health & Wellness as well as The Office of Rural Health for the pediatric population and have hosted approximately 20 mobile vaccination clinics through DPH & Griffin Health Care. TAHD continues to distribute at-home COVID-19 test kits throughout the community including community centers, libraries, shelters, and food pantries.

The TAHD partners with Hydro Technologies lab for its **Water Testing Program**. Hydro Technologies, a full-service lab located in New Milford, CT offers a wide range of testing of drinking water. This partnership allows TAHD to offer a local option for water testing to its member towns. In addition, we offer free technical advice on private drinking water wells, sampling procedures, and water testing results.



Robert Rubbo, MPH, Director of Health

TOWN CLERK & REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS



Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Town Clerk & Registrar: Darlene F. Brady

Assistants: Marie France Corsini, Lyn Stirnweiss

The duties of the Town Clerk are based primarily on State Statutes (in fact Chapter 92 is devoted solely to the position) however we do work with several other state agencies. The statutory responsibilities of the office include; keeping the town seal (§7-101) and records of all votes of the town (§7-23), the recording of instruments and the safekeeping and indexing of records (§7-24, 25), accepting properly prepared maps for filing (§7-31), and collecting the fees for these transactions (§7-34). Liquor permits issued by the Department of Consumer Protection must be filed with the Town Clerk (§30-53) as well as Trade Name Certificates (§35-1). We also record military discharge papers (§1-219). Agendas and meeting minutes of all town boards and commissions must be filed with the Town Clerk pursuant to The Freedom of Information Act (§1-225) which in addition to maintaining files in the office; we also continue to make them accessible on the town's website. Under the guidance of the Secretary of State, we are involved with the processes of notary publics, justices of the peace, and the issuance of absentee ballots for elections. We issue dog licenses and sportsman licenses and collect the revenue for State. The Department of Public Health mandates the Town Clerk's issuing and recording of birth, marriage, and death certificates.

In addition to being open 31 hours a week for walk in business, our land records from 1928 to the present are available on-line at searchiqs.com or by following a link from our website townofkentct.org. This allows attorneys and title searchers to access the information they need to handle Kent residents' real estate transactions right from their home or office, and gives residents not able to come in during office hours the ability to directly access their information.

We always welcome comments and suggestions on how to make our office better for our customers. Please feel free to give us a call at 860.927.3433 or email us at townclerk@townofkentct.org with your ideas.

Revenues-Fees Collected			#	\$	Vital Statistics	
Recordings			521	21860.00	Births	19
Copies				310.00	Marriages	26
Vital Records				4450.00	Deaths	24
Fish & Game Licenses	60		60	60.00		
Dog Licenses	350		350	348.00		
Miscellaneous				390.00		
Conveyance Tax				135687.00		
Total Revenues				163105.00		

Women's Support Services Annual Report
01 July 2021 – 30 June 2022
Town of Kent

This past year has arguably been one of the busiest years Women's Support Services (WSS) has ever experienced. The numbers speak for themselves. During the past year we:

- Provided support services to **821 clients - 37 of these clients were from Kent.**
- **Of this number, 412 were new clients. This is a nearly 30% increase in two years.**
- The composition of our new clients includes:
 - o 381 adults and 31 children
 - o 297 female, 111 male clients, 4 clients who chose 'Other'
- Responded to **1485 hotline crisis requests – a nearly 65% increase in two years.**
- Provided **emergency shelter to 20 people for a total of 2,135 nights of shelter. This included 11 women, 2 men, and 7 children.**
- Provided criminal and civil court advocacy and support to **670 victims of family violence – a 44% increase over two years.**
- Conducted **194 prevention workshops to children and teens** in area schools. We are now active in every single elementary/middle school in the region, as well as Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

The increasing requests for support and expansion of programming has fueled growth in other areas as well. WSS recruited an additional Advocate this spring, bringing our Client Services team to 5 full-time staff. We have also added a Director of Operations, bringing us to 12 full-time staff members. We also moved into new offices this spring, and we now have the space to host events and training workshops – and room for all of our staff members! We are also in the midst of plans to create a welcoming community space, complete with kitchen and laundry, a dining area, and space for clients and their families to rest, do homework, and have a sense of normalcy, all while accessing vital services and supports under one roof. **Thank you to the Town of Kent for your grant of \$1,500 last year, which has been critical in helping Women's Support Services meet the increased requests from our clients and community.**

Our growing team has brought us diversity, critical skills, and increased capacity. Our new Director of Community Engagement, in collaboration with the Director of Clients Services, revised our prevention education program to create a seamless progression of lessons from grade 6 – grade 12. In the Region One Middle Schools and High School, every student will access WSS programming. Also exciting is the fact that our Prevention Education team has begun engaging parents around the topics

we are discussing with their children at school. This is a critical point for helping parents and caretakers to reinforce the lessons and strategies their students are learning, and will also be a learning opportunity for them. The Director also revitalized our certification training program for volunteers and re-launched our *Early Years Program*, which focuses on Kindergarten - Grade 2. This program is largely volunteer-run.

I felt like a rock star reading to the class! The kids loved brainstorming. The class was very engaged and loved asking questions during and after hearing the story. It was the end of their school day when I left. As I walked outside, I overheard one of the students talking with her dad. She was excited to show him her paper and tell him about the story from class. I'm hoping that by bringing home her paper, she (and the other students) will share the lessons with her siblings and other people outside of class.

Amanda Gregg, WSS Volunteer

We are also better able to serve our clients. We now have staff members who are bilingual in English and Spanish, we have more options for emergency and interim housing, and we have the capacity to provide consistent support to clients who enter the Rapid Re-housing program, but still need on-going support. Most clients need support beyond counseling. They need help accessing services, obtaining legal documents, negotiating with agencies, organizing meetings and childcare, etc. If they don't have a car or just need someone to be with them, there is an entirely different level of support that is required.

We are also expanding our community education program, which helps healthcare and emergency service providers identify victims of abuse and refer to them to our services. We are engaging area businesses and other community partners to ensure that we are reaching the people who need our services, to raise awareness about the many forms of domestic violence, and to spread the message that abuse is not acceptable and victims are to be believed, not blamed.

The on-going support of the Town of Kent has been critical to the continued strengthening of our programs and support services. Thank you.

Zoning Board of Appeals
Annual Report
July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Anthony DiPentima, Chairman July 2021- November 2021
Anne Bisenius, Chairman December 2021 – June 2022
Donna Hayes, Land Use Administrator

As prescribed by Chapter 123, Section and Chapter 250 Section 14 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Zoning Board of Appeals has the authority to hear and decide upon any appeal to an order, requirement, decision or determination of the Zoning Enforcement Officer. In addition, they shall have the authority to vary or adjust the strict application of the Town of Kent Zoning Regulations in only those cases where the unusual size, shape or topography of a lot or other unusual physical conditions make it impossible to strictly apply a specific regulation. They are also charged with the authority to hear and decide upon all requests for Certificates of Approval for motor vehicle sales, services and repair uses.

Activities:	Actions:
Variance Applications	2
Appeal	0

Total Fees Collected:	\$340
-----------------------	-------

Both requests were for variances to the setbacks. In FY 21/22, the Board thanked 2 members and 2 alternates for their service and welcomed 2 new alternates and 1 new member. There still remains 1 open alternate position.

Zoning Board of Appeals

The Board consists of 5 regular members and 3 alternates. All shall be elected at the biennial elections for terms of four years. The Selectmen shall appoint members and alternates to fill vacancies presently existing or hereafter occurring to hold office until the next town election.

<u>Members:</u>	<u>Term Expires:</u>	<u>Alternates:</u>	<u>Term Expires:</u>
Anthony DiPentima	7/21 - 11/21	Richard Barber	11/21/2023
Nick Downes	11/21/2023	Patricia Oris	7/21 – 11/21
Daniel Murray	11/16/2025	Mike VanValkenburg	11/19/2021
Anne Bisenius	11/21/2023	Justin Potter	11/18/2025
John Noneman	7/21 – 11/21	Open	11/18/2025
John Johnson	11/18/2025		
Steve Pener	11/18/2025		