



The Lisbon Quarterly

A Newsletter for Lisbon Residents

Town Clerk's Corner

By Michelle Grant, Town Clerk

With Gratitude to Those Serving Our Community

Election Results

The following individuals were elected/re-elected at the November 7, 2023 municipal election:

First Selectman	Thomas Sparkman
Selectmen	Robert Browne / William Surfus
Town Clerk	Michelle Grant
Treasurer	Chris Maynard
Tax Collector	Kenneth Bomba
Board of Assessment Appeals	Leo MacDonald / Steven M Beck
Board of Education	Karen Barber / Brandi Larkin / Joseph Lewerk
Board of Finance	Randal Baah / Philip Kinslow / Wayne Donaldson (Alt)
Planning & Zoning Commission	Benjamin Hull / Jason Lebel / Tim Minor/ Blake Wawrzynowicz
Zoning Board of Appeals	Leo MacDonald / Robert Ladoucer / Brandi Larkin (Alt)
Constables	Steven Beck / Kevin Larkin / Jason Lebel / Benjamin Hull / Dennis Savage

Honoring a Lifetime of Service

The Town of Lisbon lost a valued member of its community this past spring. On April 4th, Ron Babbitt a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for what would have been his 32rd year passed away unexpectedly. It is through the commitment and dedication like Mr. Babbitt's that the Town of Lisbon has grown and thrived.

Board Vacancies

If you too would like to make a difference and are willing to find the time, the following Boards and Commissions currently have openings. If you are an elector in the Town of Lisbon and are interested in learning more about a particular position, please contact the Selectman's office at 860-376-3400. You can view the current meeting schedules on the town website by clicking on the "Calendar" tab on the Home page of the website: www.lisbonct.com.

Elected Boards:

Board of Finance (2 Alternate Positions)
Planning and Zoning (2 Alternate Positions)
Zoning Board of Appeals (2 Alternate Positions)

Appointed Boards:

Conservation Commission (Alternate)
Farmers Market Committee (Alternate)
Recreation Committee (1 Position)
Water Pollution Control Authority (2 Positions)

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Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA)*By Joseph Lewerk, Member*

The WPCA was recently able to conclude a series of upgrades and projects utilizing federal government money from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Both pumps at the River Rd./Rt. 12 sewer station were replaced along with the electronic controls. Additionally, ARPA funds were used to replace the backup generator at the sewer station, ensuring the reliability of the system during power outages. The WPCA also oversaw the contracted camera inspection of the main sewer line along River Rd. paid for with ARPA funds. This is only the second camera inspection of the system and, with the exception of one connection out of alignment, the system is in healthy shape after more than 20 years of operation.

The WPCA conducted its semi-annual inspections of grease traps at businesses in the sewer district. Inspection reports were provided to those businesses, especially ones with issues requiring attention. This was all in an effort to keep the system running as efficiently and economically as possible. As part of the upgrades to the pump stations' electronics, the landline connection to the monitoring system for the station was replaced with a cellular line, enabling more thorough monitoring of the system by Norwich Public Utilities, our contracted maintenance partner, and fewer service calls for false alarms.

Finally, the WPCA was pleased to work with local Scout, Lucas Grant, as he learned about the operations of the Authority as well as the Jewett City sewer plant and then worked to implement an informational campaign for customers in the sewer district about limiting non-flushables in the system. These non-flushables can and have clogged up the system and damaged equipment. This Scout's efforts are appreciated and of great value in maintaining this community resource as he worked toward achieving his First Class rank status.

There continues to be two vacancies for volunteers on the five member WPCA. Anyone interested in the work of the WPCA is invited to join its meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 PM in Lisbon Town Hall.

Trail Committee*By Joseph Lewerk, Chairman*

The fall of 2023 marked 5 years since the opening of the Burnham Tavern Trail. The Trail Committee appreciates the wide usage the trail has enjoyed and the respect that most users have demonstrated in keeping the environment pristine. In the years since the trail opened, the committee added an improved parking area as well as an additional half mile segment and trail head opposite Kimball Heights Lane. Aside from on-going trail maintenance, committee members also have been enhancing the butterfly garden, cultivating milk weed and planting many pollinator-friendly butterfly bushes this fall.

The committee is also slowly embarking on the second phase of trail development across the road from the Burnham Tavern. The new trail which has already been tentatively laid out, will begin at Sergeants Way and North Burnham Highway/Rt 169 and dead end (for now, pending the building of a wetlands crossing) at a point opposite Burnham Tavern. It will be about two miles in length, running through woodlands and extensive wetlands that will also skirt the active corn fields on the property while also utilizing some portions of the existing farm roads.



Trail Committee (Cont)

The wetlands and perennial streams on the property are the headwaters of Blissville Brook which also flows through the property year round. Because of these factors a number of wetland and stream crossings need to be constructed. The committee was fortunate to have the services of Lisbon resident and Scout Weston Gil in constructing the first of two required crossings of Blissville Brook. Weston, a member of Troop 31, Crompton, RI, volunteered to build a 12 foot long bridge across one section of the Blissville Brook for his Eagle Project. Weston obtained all the necessary approvals from the town and then organized and carried out the construction at a location in the woods a half mile off the nearest farm road. One thing working against Weston all fall was the rain that seemed to arrive every weekend but his project was a success and will be an integral part of the second phase of developing the Burnham Tavern Trail. On the list of things still needing to be done: continued clearing of brush on the path, blazing of the trail, building of wetland and stream crossings, trail map signage and installation.

If anyone is looking for a community service project to address an item or items on the "to do list" or is just interested in the work of the Trail Committee, please join us on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 PM in Lisbon Town Hall.

WINTER PARKING BANS

The Winter Parking Ban is in effect for Town-owned roads and is enforced when the weather is expected to be hazardous for vehicles. Any vehicle found parked on Lisbon Town roads during the ban may be towed at the owner's expense.

SAINT MARY'S FOOD PANTRY

Saint Mary's in Jewett City is the Town's designated Food Bank.

Food can be picked up at the Rectory every second and fourth Tuesday of the month,
10am – 11am and 3pm – 4pm.

To donate, please call:
860-376-2044

For important distribution information and calendar, visit the Town's website: <https://www.lisbonct.com/home/pages/town-services>

Emergency Management

In the event of a Local, Regional or even a State or Federal emergency, our Director of Emergency Management is available to answer your questions:

Jonathan Arpin

Emergency Management Director
1-(860)-625-0026

Information is also available on the Town website, under Departments - Emergency Management:
<https://www.lisbonct.com/emergency-management>

Assessor's Office

By Rosalyn Dupuis, CCMA I, Assessor

MOTOR VEHICLE INFORMATION

Regular motor vehicles are assessed at seventy percent of their average retail value on the October 1st assessment date. Vehicles which have active registrations appear on the October 1st Grand List are assessed with the bills being due in July the following year. Vehicles registered after October 1st appear on the Supplemental Grand List and are assessed from the month of registration. These bills are due in January.

If a vehicle has been disposed of during the described period, an owner may apply for an adjustment to their assessment. The required documentation must specifically identify the vehicle in question by make, year and identification number, and the date of the transaction. Proof of registration cancellation plus one other form of proof is generally required. Some examples of additional proof are a bill of sale, junk/salvage receipt, out of state registration, charity donation receipt and a repossession letter showing date of sale/auction.

If you have transferred license plates from this vehicle to a replacement vehicle, you do not need to submit further documentation. The current bill should be paid in full, and a credit from the resulting over-payment will be applied against the replacement vehicle's supplemental tax bill, which is due in January.

CT Department of Motor Vehicles does not inform towns when plates are returned nor when vehicles are sold, registered out of state or otherwise disposed of. It is the taxpayer's responsibility to provide the required documentation within the time limits as provided under applicable CT law.

OUT-OF-TOWN

By state statute, you pay the town where you resided as of October 1st. There is no provision for pro-rating the bills between towns in Connecticut. You must change your address with DMV for all your vehicle registrations. You may obtain a change-of-address form from the DMV site through the following link: <http://www.ct.gov/dmv/lib/dmv/20/29/b-58ind.pdf>

HOMEOWNERS & TOTALLY DISABLED

Residents 65 years of age or totally disabled may be eligible for a tax credit on real estate; income guidelines apply and are adjusted each year. Applications are accepted February 1, 2024 and must be filed on or before May 15, 2024.

VETERANS

Veterans may be eligible for an additional exemption if their income is within the approved limits. Applications are accepted February 1, 2024 and must be filed on or before September 30, 2024.

Applications and/or additional information for all of the above are available in the Assessor's Office. Please call 860-376-5115 or email assessor@lisbonct.com for more information.

Lisbon Historical Society Quarterly Notes

By Kim Sperry



LISBON
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
CONNECTICUT

Burnham Tavern Update: Building and Grounds chairman Ken Mahler reports that construction of the sashes and window frames are in process. A test piece of cedar we intended to use was deemed unacceptable so a switch was made to pine boards. Bill Champagne, and Nick Anderson our restoration carpenter inspected the first finished pine sash and approved the construction. The next major project are clapboards for which we will be writing grants to cover the expense. Kevin Shafer tackled a major cleanup job removing debris at the site of the old collapsed milking barn.

John Bishop House Update: The south face of the Bishop House received a new coat of paint after scraping and priming, also several clapboards were replaced. The painter notes that several window sills will need restoration by the next round of painting. Chimney and fireplace cleaning and repairs will take place over the winter; the gardens are put to bed and the water lines drained.

Anshei Israel Synagogue Update: The synagogue, no longer a house of worship, is a museum opened by appointment. Email Paula Adams at padams60@sbcglobal.net for information. Additionally, *A Refuge in the Country*, a booklet on the history of the synagogue is available upon request and at the Lisbon Town Hall.

Newent Church Update: Many thanks go out to the **Lisbon Volunteer Fire Department** for providing a crew and the hook and ladder truck to replace the incandescent lights with LED at the highest corners of the church. Other outdoor work over the past few weeks included the removal of dying trees and stump grinding; overgrown bushes were dug up and old, deteriorating planters removed and the old playscape dismantled; the church driveway was resurfaced and stripped. A crew of volunteers turned out on a Sunday to stow the picnic tables for the winter, the plan is to give them a protective coating before spring. Restoration of the memorial garden commenced in the fall and will resume in the spring. After a cost comparison and review of similar buildings throughout the Heritage Corridor it was decided that aesthetically appropriate vinyl siding is more cost effective than painting over the long term, Ken Mahler sent out a bid package for the work.

The former congregational church, like the synagogue is no longer a house of worship and is now leased to the Lisbon Historical Society. A rental agreement for groups to use the social hall for parties, gatherings, or meetings is posted on the town's website, www.lisbonct.com; go to the Historical Society under the Forms and Documents link for the agreement. Interested parties can reach out to Vicky Lawhead at 860-334-1003 or email Newentchurch@gmail.com for the scheduling and additional information.

Cans and Bottles Update. We are thankful for your donation of these redeemable glass, plastic, and aluminum bottles and cans that are marked CT or CTRV. Your donations support the John Bishop House, Anshei Israel Synagogue, Burnham Tavern and Newent Church. Although the State legislature added new products to the redemption stream like Gatorade, and tea beverages there are still a few exceptions. **Wine bottles, plastic milk jugs, plastic food packing, High Noon and Fishers Island** are not redeemable and should be recycled in blue bins on recycle day. Additionally, it is impossible for the bar code readers at the redemption centers to process crushed aluminum cans and plastic bottles.

Senior Center

Autumn Events & Activities

By Ara Wilnas Senior Center Coordinator

December

- Friday December 1st AARP Safe Driving Class
- Tuesday December 5th Holiday Luncheon (snow date Dec. 6th)
- Thursday December 7th 9-10:30 Blood Pressure Screening by Uncas Health
- Friday December 8th Art Class with Jacqui
- Tuesday December 12th Chair Massage
- Wednesday December 13th See Dreamgirls at the Goodspeed
- Wednesday December 13th 12pm Shooting Stars Public Meeting
- Friday December 15th December Birthday Celebration & Movie (Four Christmases)
- Monday December 18th Trip to Sprague Library for Smiler's Chorus Christmas Show
- Wednesday December 20th Love on a Plate Special French Toast Brunch
- Wednesday December 20th Trip to Fantasy of Lights in New Haven and Chili's Restaurant

January

- Thursday January 4th 9:30-10:30 Blood Pressure Screening by Uncas Health
- Friday January 5th Club Lisbon New Year's Celebration with DJ Papa John
- Friday January 12th Art Class with Jacqui
- Friday January 19th Veteran's Breakfast
- Wednesday January 31st Lion's Club and Red Cross Blood Drive

February

- Thursday February 1st 9:30-10:30 Blood Pressure Screening by Uncas Health
- Monday February 12th Valentine's Day Celebration with entertainment by Izzie Flores

More events, trips, and classes added every month. For more up to date information or to receive our monthly newsletter, call 860-376-2329 or email awilnas@lisbonct.com

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

11:30 Daily Lunch
(place your order by 11am)

Lunch Special Every Thursday

Come in for Crafting any time!

MONDAYS (Sign up day for paid trips/events)

- 12:00 Chair Yoga
- 1:00 Senior Fitness

TUESDAYS

- 9:30 Quilting
- 10:30 Rummikub
- 12:00 Pitch

WEDNESDAYS (Sign up day for paid trips/events)

- 9:30 Caning, Carving & Basket Making
- 10:00 Pool

THURSDAYS

- 12:00 Bingo sales from 10:30-11:30

FRIDAYS

- See the Newsletter for special events

From The History Books

DIGGING FOR TREASURE

By Marcia Shafer, Lisbon Town Historian

EARLY NEWENT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH HISTORY

Newent was first settled before 1718 when some of the settlers from Norwich decided to spread out and form a community of citizens (also known as a society of Norwich). They settled in the Crotch of the Rivers between the Showtuckett and Quinebaug Rivers. It was known as the Third Ecclesiastical Society of Norwich. They then became the Northeast Society.

As more colonists arrived in this new area, they moved from the rivers up to the center of town and a little beyond northward. They also expanded to the eastern and western lands between the rivers. Their religious privileges were very important to them and it was the reason they left England, Scotland, and Wales.

In May of 1718 the first settlers petitioned the General Assembly that they wanted a church for the society of Wales and didn't want to have to travel to the First Church in Norwich Town. The General Assembly indicated that they needed to have 27 members (not counting women and children), a building, and a minister.

The colonists had the church membership, they built a barn like structure with no heat off of Rocky Hollow Road (just down from the current church on the right). The building was also called a meeting house as a place to have the governing body of the community to meet to work out town problems and projects. At that time the church was responsible for governing the community, taking care of the roads, schools, and the poor.

Up to that time the settlers travelled from their homes in the Northeast Society by foot, horseback, or by wagon to the Church in Norwich Town. They travelled through woods, over trails that they had to walk carefully as there was a bounty for black snakes and in some areas, they made the trail better by walking over it for a long time. They had to cross the Showtuckett River without access to any bridges and sometimes were able to take a ferry across especially in the winter when everything was frozen.

They crossed the river, walked up what is now called Ox Hill Road, over what is Harland Road and continued down Ox Hill Road until they came to what is known as Canterbury Turnpike and onto East Town Street to the First Church of Norwich which at that time was on the rocks overlooking the Town Green to be able to see if any Indians were approaching. It was then moved to its present location across from the town green. It was documented the colonists travelled about 9 miles one way to get to the church and then another 9 miles to go back home.

The first minister was Rev. Daniel Kirtland, who was ordained in the first church which was named the First Church of Christ, naming it after the church they attended in Newent, Gloucestershire, England. Rev. Kirtland married Mary Perkins of Norwich in July, 1723. He was a graduate of Yale College for Theology. He served as the minister of the Newent Congregational Church also known as the United Church of Christ.

On December 10, 1723 the church was constituted and Rev. Kirtland was ordained as Pastor at the age of 22 years. On the last week of December each year the minister and various committee members met at the minister's house to pay the pastor, make repairs to the church building, take care of money for the schools and pay bills past due. A pewter communion set was sent to the congregation from the church in England and is preserved in an airtight display case.

The first year they received 27 persons into the church and the second year they received 17 persons. From the years of 1725 to 1750 they acquired several parcels of land at the crossroads of what is now the center of Lisbon so that the town hall and future churches (1757 and 1857) could be centrally located. During the years of Rev. Kirtland's service there was a smallpox outbreak and they couldn't pay their taxes. A tax collector was appointed and they paid with wood, farm crops, and garden products.

EARLY NEWENT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH HISTORY (*continued*)

In January 1736 every town with 70 families was required to maintain a schoolmaster to teach reading and writing. He was to teach for 5 months of the year. In 1738 the church ordered that a school be kept in each part of town and name a committee to oversee it. These were probably kept in someone's home until the first schools were built. They also established a committee to oversee highways.

During the service of Rev. Kirtland, there became issues with Separatists. They encouraged lay preaching, no ordained ministers, felt their present church had no Gospel order and no ordained ruling elder. After a brief period, the commotion died down but Rev. Kirtland was unable to support his large family, his health was failing, the turmoil with the Separatists, and he was declared to have a weakness of mind and body. He was dismissed in 1753 and went to serve in the Groton CT area from 1755 to 1758. He recovered from his weakness of mind and body but it is unknown if he returned to being a pastor again.

The Separatists resurrected themselves again and built a church off Town House Road. In 1762 the Separatists moved to Bennington, VT. There was a small bound book which holds the records of the Separatists Church while they existed in Newent. This book can be found in the Bennington VT church. The Church in Bennington was built similarly to the Newent Church and you can go online and see the interior of the Church.

The Separatist Church on Town House Road was taken down and it is written that the frame and was taken to the eastern section of the parish and it is said that a barn on the Tracy farm was built with it and also a portion was used in a barn of Earle Palmer farm.

Rev. Kirtland's son Samuel Kirtland was ordained in 1766 and went to Columbia, NY to be a missionary to the Oneida Indians repeating what his father, Daniel, had done. Rev. Daniel Kirtland died May 17, 1773 at the age of 72 years in Newent/Lisbon and is buried in Old Norwich Town Cemetery. He had served the parish from 1723 to 1753.





LISBON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Annual Santa Parade

GIFT DROP OFF

NOVEMBER 30TH, 5:30-9PM OR ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1ST BY 2PM

Fri. Dec. 1st at 4:30PM

138 to River Rd.
 Bushnell Road
 Ross Hill Road Ext.
 Sylvandale Road
 River Rd. (1 - 225)
 Lee Road
 Dogwood Drive
 Kanahan Road
 Mell Road
 Blueberry Lane
 Ames Road
 Preston Allen Road
 Kendall Road
 Kendall Road Ext.
 Strnad Road
 Kenyon Road
 McNeeley Road
 Versailles Road
 Paper Mill Road
 Allen Road
 Kinsman Hill Road Ext
 Town House Road

Sat. Dec. 2nd at 3:30PM

N. Burnham Hwy (1-198)
 Lisbon Heights
 Autumn View Drive
 Kinsman Hill Road
 Inland Road
 Westminster Road
 Gavin Way
 Sullivan Road
 Regina Drive
 Baron Road
 Rex Road
 Kimball Heights
 Kimball Road
 Meadowbrook Cir.
 N. Burnham Hwy (198 - 500)
 Harvest Dr.
 Oak Drive
 Phillips Road
 Ross Hill Road (217 - 317)
 Strawberry Fields
 Penny Lane
 Ross Hill Road (211 - 1)
 Bayberry Lane
 138 towards Ross Hill

Sun. Dec. 3rd at 3:30PM

S. Burnham Hwy to Mell Rd
 Barber Farm
 River Rd (225 - 689)
 Round Hill Court
 Tunnel Hill Rd
 Tunnel Hill Court
 Lower Blissville Rd
 Ice House Rd
 Blissville Rd
 John St
 Jurewicz St
 Club House Rd
 Nora St
 Graham Terrace
 James St
 Bundy Hill
 Lisbon Mobile Park
 Remik Rd
 School House Rd
 South Burnham Hwy
 Ethel Acres
 Laurier Lane
 Rocky Hollow Rd
 South Burnham to Fire House

Please note Saturday night will be opposite of last year.

For additional information or questions please follow us on Lisbonfire.org, Instagram or contact at Lisbon Firehouse 860-376-2558 Matt Babcock 860-608-5044 Jackie DeVore 860-608-3207

**Slater Library is looking for Artists from
Griswold, Lisbon and the surrounding
towns who would like to have their work
seen by the public.**

Slater Library Open House Art Show

Will take place April 6, 2024 2-5pm



Artists interested in displaying pieces at this event and being on site to speak with patrons should contact the Library Director, Rebecca Jusseaume at 860-376-0024 during open hours or email slaterlibrary.director@yahoo.com for more information.

- Signed waivers absolving the library of any liability for damage or theft will be required.
- All pieces will be subject to review before being displayed and must be suitable for all age.
- No sales will be handled by the library or any library staff member.