

# ANNUAL REPORT

## FY 2017-2018



# Contents

<b>BOARD OF FINANCE: MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>DEPARTMENTS</b>	<b>4</b>
ANIMAL CONTROL	4
ASSESSOR	5
BUILDING DEPARTMENT	5
FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES	7
PUBLIC LIBRARY	8
PARKS & RECREATION	10
PLANNING AND ZONING	12
PLANNING	12
ZONING ENFORCEMENT OFFICE	13
PUBLIC WORKS	14
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS	14
TAX COLLECTOR	16
TOWN CLERK	18
<b>OUR SCHOOLS</b>	<b>19</b>
REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS	19
<b>GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>21</b>
BOARD OF FINANCE	21
BOARD OF SELECTMEN	23
PRESTON EMERGENCY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE	24
ETHICS COMMISSION	25
HOUSING AUTHORITY	25
INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES COMMISSION	26
PRESTON REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY	27
SENIOR AFFAIRS	29
PRESTON YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU	30
<b>IN THE COMMUNITY</b>	<b>31</b>
AMOS LAKE ASSOCIATION	31
HISTORICAL SOCIETY	33
<b>CONTACT INFORMATION</b>	<b>34</b>

## Board of Finance: Message from the Chair

Dear Preston Residents,

One of the responsibilities of the Board of Finance is to prepare and publish the Annual Town Report. The report must include reports of town officers and boards required by law, a statement of the amount received for Town Aid Road and its use, and any other matters the Board deems appropriate. Required reports include the comments and recommendations of the Town Auditor, the annual report of the Board of Education and Superintendent, the annual report of the Town Director of Health, and the annual report of the Tax Collector.

Looking back, previous versions of the Annual Report have been robust and inclusive documents that included the auditor's report, financial goals, and summaries of events and achievements of the various Boards and Departments over the course of the year. Due to the amount of time it takes to compile the annual report, the coordination required with various departments and boards, as well the timing of the annual report with budget preparations for the upcoming fiscal year, the annual report over the last few years dwindled to a summary of the audit report and town finances. It was the Board's goal to restore the annual report with full participation from all boards, commissions, and departments in this year's annual report.

I hope you find the 2018 Annual Town Report filled with helpful information.

Want to know more? **YOU** are invited to attend the meetings of all boards and commissions in town. Agendas and minutes are posted in hard copy at the Town Clerk's Office and many are posted on the town website as well. Get involved. Find out what's happening in town. The more you go... the more you know.

Board of Finance meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Conference Room of the Town Hall at 7 p.m. A lot of Board of Finance information is posted on the Board of Finance page from the town website. Check it out: [www.preston-ct.org](http://www.preston-ct.org)!

Have questions? Please ask! All Preston Board of Finance members are residents of Preston and volunteer their time to help make Preston that community we all want to be proud to call home.

Sincerely,

*Melissa Lennon*

**Preston Board of Finance Chair**

# DEPARTMENTS

## Animal Control



As Animal Control Officers for the Town of Preston, we are responsible for enforcing all State and Federal laws associated with domesticated animals.

There were 390 dogs licensed, and one kennel tag in the Town of Preston. 109 complaints were investigated. These complaints included dog bites, roaming dogs, injured or neglected animals, and loose or neglected livestock. We captured horses, pigs, and even a rogue swan, which are not reflected in our monthly dog reports. Our monthly reports showed 37 animals were picked up. These animals either were redeemed by their owner, adopted as pets, picked up deceased along the roadway, or humanely euthanized, if necessary.

Numerous verbal warnings, infraction tickets and written warning tickets were issued for roaming dogs, failure to license a dog, allowing a dog to be a nuisance, and failure to vaccinate for rabies.

All animals that are impounded are cared for by the animal control officers and one superb volunteer. This care includes cleaning, feeding, and veterinary visits, if necessary. We also are caretakers for the dog pound itself.

As Animal Control Officers, we are required by law to receive 6 hours of training a year and to be licensed by the State of Connecticut. We are on call 365 days a year, 7 days a week, 24 hours day, including weekends and holidays.

A written report is required every month. This report includes all animals that have been picked up, and whether they were redeemed, adopted out, picked up deceased, or euthanized. The report includes the number of complaints that were investigated, the number of dog bites, and the total number of infractions or summons issued. A copy is sent to the State Department of Agriculture, Animal Control Division. A copy is kept at Preston Town Hall. Preston Animal Control retains a copy as well. All dog bites require a separate report, in which a copy is sent to the victim, the dog owner, State Animal Control, and a copy is retained by Preston Animal Control.

We operated the Preston Dog Pound with \$6,800 from the General Fund. We received funding from dog licenses, bail money, and donations to cover the remainder of our costs. Our salary was \$12,265 for both Patti Daniels and Michael Daniels as Animal Control Officers. We received a stipend of \$4,717 for fuel. We use our own vehicles, pay for our own insurance, and receive no benefits.

**Patti Daniels**  
**Animal Control Officer**  
**860-887-8091**



## Assessor

**Mildred Peringer,  
CCMAII Assessor**

**Phone: 860-887-5581, ext. 115**

**[Peringer@preston-ct.org](mailto:Peringer@preston-ct.org)**



The Assessor's Office annually provides a listing of assessment for every property within the Town limits of Preston. According to State Statute, the assessment is 70% of the fair market value, which is determined every five years via REVALUATION. This listing is referred to as the GRAND LIST, which provides the basis against which taxes will be levied during the following fiscal year.

The Assessor's Office maintains an up-to-date inventory of all property, including land and improvements thereon, including changes in ownership, new construction, alterations, and subdivisions filed as of the assessment date. The Connecticut Department of Motor vehicles remits the motor vehicle list of Preston registered vehicles priced according to NADA as required by State Statute. Personal Property declarations are submitted by business entities on a yearly basis. Non-profits file every four years.

The Assessor and staff administer state and local programs of tax relief, apply State Statute Exemptions as well as local options, and assist the public with a variety of inquiries.

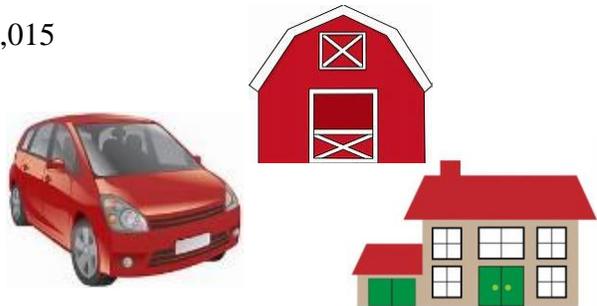
Municipal Valuation Services LLC, conducted the October 1, 2017 Grand List. The next State mandated revaluation will be effective October 1, 2022.

The 2017 Grand list was a negative 4% @ 433,052,015

The 2018 Grand List increased to \$440,219,319

Sincerely,

Mildred Peringer CCMAII



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## Building Department

The Building Department is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Connecticut State Building Code (CSBC) and Demolition Code. The Building Department accepts and reviews construction documents for all construction projects within the Town (except for those on state and federal property). Permit Applications are reviewed to determine compliance with the CSBC. Staff also coordinate and direct applicants to other applicable Town departments.

Inspections also are conducted to confirm compliance with the CSBC and with approved permit applications on file. Reports are issued, if violations are noted, and follow-up inspections are conducted. Upon the completion of the work, either a certificate of occupancy or approval is issued pursuant to Connecticut State Statutes.

The Building Code is a constantly evolving model document meant to provide a minimum standard of safety. The current code is known as the 2018 CSBC, which was adopted on October 1, 2018.

Applicable Model Building Codes as of this writing:

- 2015 International Building Code
- 2015 International Existing Building Code
- 2015 International Plumbing Code
- 2015 International Mechanical Code
- 2015 International Residential Code
- 2015 International Energy Conservation Code
- 2017 National Electrical Code (NFPA 70)
- ICC A117.1-2009 standard for accessibility



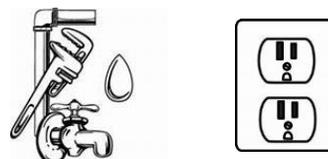
During this past fiscal year, permits were issued with a total construction value of \$5,779,433 and permit fees collected totaled \$53,382.

The following permits were issued:

- 12 Single Family Dwellings (Construction Valuation of \$3,132,128)
- 44 Roofing, Siding and Windows
- 46 Additions & Alterations
- 6+ Commercial Permits (new construction, renovations and trade permits)
- 1+ 3 Demolition Permits

The Building Department also issued permits for miscellaneous types of construction activities that included:

- 4 PV Solar Installations
- 3 Accessory Structures including decks
- 4 Swimming Pools
- 43 Electrical Permits (\*\*\*)
- 66 Mechanical Permits (\*\*\*)
- 8 Plumbing Permits (\*\*\*)



(\*\*\* - Does NOT includes trade permit applications as part of Single-Family Residences and Additions & Alterations)

The Building Department takes pride in providing thorough, prompt and courteous service to all taxpayers and conduct inspections that enables our town to grow in a safe and positive direction.

Respectfully submitted,

**Kathy LaCombe**  
**Town of Preston Building Official**  
**Phone: 860-887-5581, ext. 130**  
**[Lacombe@preston-ct.org](mailto:Lacombe@preston-ct.org)**



**Administrative Assistant: Leigh Pappas**

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## Fire & Emergency Services

Fire and emergency services in the Town of Preston are provided by the Poquetanuck and Preston City Fire Departments, Poquetanuck Ambulance, the Preston Fire Marshal's Office, and the Preston Office of Emergency Management. All these entities operate under the command, control, and administration of the Preston Fire & Emergency Services. The Preston Fire & Emergency Services also provides a full-time career Fire Chief/Fire Marshal and a paid staff made up of one full-time career firefighter/EMT and part-time paid firefighter/EMTs.



The Poquetanuck Fire Department operates with a rescue pumper, an engine, a tanker, and two ambulances. The Preston City Fire Department operates with a rescue pumper, a tanker, an EMS/service truck, and a forestry truck. The emergency services responded to 121 fire calls, 42 service calls, and 482 rescue/ EMS calls for a total of 645 emergency responses during the Fiscal Year 2017-2018. The department currently has approximately 6 active volunteer firefighters, EMTs, and fire police.



The paid personnel responded to 508 emergency calls between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018 along with the volunteers from both departments.

The Fire Marshal's Office conducted 57 fire investigations, more than 100 code enforcement inspections, issued 140 burning permits as well as approximately 24 blasting permits.

Both Volunteer Departments and the paid personnel respond to most calls together and work cooperatively to provide the best possible public safety service to the residents and visitors of Preston. Personnel also provide traffic control and stand-by service at many community events throughout the year including the Scarecrow Festival, Palooza, Fire & Ice, Holiday parades in Town, and

Safety Days at the schools. Staff conducted tours of the fire stations, offered CPR certification training, and provided public fire education in the schools and at various events in town as well.

Training takes up a large part of the time provided to the town by the emergency service personnel. During the year, members attended 24 monthly drills, EMT and EMR re-certification classes, and walk-through tours of target hazards. The Fire Marshals attended numerous continuing education classes and Post Blast Investigation Class at the Riverwalk property.

**Thomas Casey**  
**Fire Marshall**  
[firechief@preston-ct.org](mailto:firechief@preston-ct.org)

**Mike Guiher, Deputy Fire Marshall**  
**Keith Wucik, Deputy Fire Marshall**  
**Ron York, Deputy Fire Marshall**

<https://www.facebook.com/PrestonCityFire>

<https://www.facebook.com/Poquetanuck.Volunteer.Fire.Dept.Inc/>

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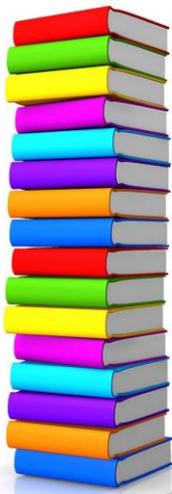
## Public Library

### Mission Statement

The purpose of the Preston Public Library is to serve as a center of information for the town of Preston by offering free access to materials that present diverse points of view. The Preston Public Library seeks to provide cultural, educational, and recreational opportunities for the residents of Preston.

**Total registered Patrons:** 1,939 Preston residents & 387 Out-of-town borrowers  
**Total holdings:** 34,837      **Total library visits:** 14,456      **Public Service Hours:** 2,364  
**Total number of items circulated:** 16,539

The annual circulation is the total circulation of all library materials. A circulation transaction is the act of lending an item from the library's collection for use outside the library. What is not measured by circulation figures is the in-house use of library materials: people who come in to read our newspapers and magazines, use our Reference and Local History collections, read aloud to their children, or access one of our electronic databases. Also not measured is online access from home.



**Total projected expenses:** \$190,618.00 (including other revenue and grants)  
**Town appropriation:** \$185,548.00 (utilities, staff, and materials expenses)  
\$4,129.00 in unspent funds was returned to the town. In addition, the Library receives the following services from the Town: lawn mowing, snow plowing and shoveling, and general building maintenance.

The library was the recipient of a Connecticut State Library grant for \$5,074.00, which connected us to high-speed internet through the Connecticut Education Network (CEN). We also changed to VOIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) for the telephone system.

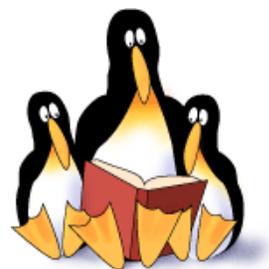
The Friends of the Preston Public Library helped to fund museum passes and various cultural and educational programs throughout the year. Their support allowed the library to participate in the annual Connecticut Authors Trail program. We thank the Friends for providing the “extras” our patrons enjoy.

The Library offers programs and meeting space for our youngest to oldest patrons, providing a community gathering place. Special emphasis is placed on encouraging children to develop an interest in reading and learning by offering appropriate materials and programs as well as collaborating with Preston Public Schools to facilitate the summer reading program. In addition, the Library works to provide people of all ages with high-demand, high-interest resources in a variety of formats to encouraging life-long learning.

Books still are the core of library service; but today books come in many formats. The library offers our patrons books in regular and large print, on CD, as eBooks, and as downloadable audios. We work hard to obtain the titles requested by our patrons and to keep our collection up-to-date. Participation in the statewide Interlibrary Loan program allows us to fill many more requests than we could if we had to purchase each title. Membership in statewide cooperatives provides movies, books-on-cd, and FLIC (Foreign Language and Independent Cinema) DVDs. By borrowing materials from the Connecticut Service Center, we can rotate new materials into the collection without purchasing them.

### **Community Programs and Activities**

- Drop-in Storytimes
- Summer Reading Program
- Passes to Area Attractions
- Friends of the Library Book Sales & Programs
- Connecticut Authors Trail
- Children and Family Programs
- Materials provided for Book Clubs and schools
- Meeting space for Literacy Volunteers, ARC, homeschool groups, town committees and boards, Parks and Recreation Programs, State Representative Town Hall meetings



Even when the library is not physically open, patrons can search our catalog; place holds; access eBooks, audiobooks, and other downloadable media; consult databases; and much more 24/7 from our “virtual library” at [www.prestonlibrary.org](http://www.prestonlibrary.org).

### **Services and Free Patron Use Databases include:**

Online Catalog\* Internet Access, including in-house computers and Wi-Fi \* Interlibrary Loan Service\* Audiobooks & eBooks from RBDigital \* Preston Historical Files \* Best Sellers \* Non-fiction books\* Magazines \* DVDs & Videos \* Audio Books for children & adults \* Reference Service\* Community Meeting Room \* VHS to DVD Converter \* IRS Forms

### **Online Databases include:**

Encyclopedia Britannica \* Learning Express \* Job Now \* Consumer Reports w/Cars\* researchIT CT (provides all students online access to essential library and information resources) \* findIT CT (statewide catalog)

**Patrons Making a Difference:** We accept non-perishable donations for the Food Pantry hosted by Preston City Congregational Church. Items are accepted in lieu of fines year-round. If you would like to donate, there is a drop off box located at the library.

**Library Staff**

Susan Brosnan, Director  
Marion Landi  
Jayne Perry  
Claire Markley  
Barbara DiFrancecsa  
Nancy Milne  
Maria Girard  
Nicolette Scarpa  
Jacob LaMothe

**Board of Trustees**

Katherine Allingham  
Patricia Bell  
Kelly Davis  
Ann Legler  
Mary Jo Nugent

**Hours:**

Monday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Tuesday –Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

<http://www.prestonlibrary.org/>  
[library@prestonlibrary.org](mailto:library@prestonlibrary.org)

We can be reached at 860.886.1010 or visit us on the web at prestonlibrary.org. We are proud to serve the people of Preston, strive to offer something for everyone, and encourage all our residents to visit the Preston Public Library. We look forward to seeing you.

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## Parks & Recreation

**COMMISSION MEMBERS:**

Antonio Farinha, Chairman  
Daniel Coley, Vice Chairman  
Paul LoPresti, Treasurer  
David Przygoda  
Gary Deveau  
Tom Turner  
David Verhasselt  
Patricia Jankowski  
Kimberly Koniecko

Roberta Charpentier (*Alternate*)  
Open Position (*Alternate*)

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The Parks & Recreation Commission meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Preston Town Hall in the Conference Room at 7:00 p.m. October through February. Meetings during March through September are at 7:30 p.m. There is no regular scheduled meeting in December.

**PRESTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MISSION STATEMENT:**

*To develop, provide and maintain publicly accessible recreation facilities, parks and programs to be used in a safe and nondiscriminatory manner. It is our belief that these facilities, parks and programs are to be made available to all Preston residents. This is in accordance with the ordinance dated February 28, 1968 establishing the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Municipal Capital and Non-Recurring Expense Fund.*

Preston Parks & Recreation offers year-round recreation programs, activities, and community events for all ages.

Additionally, the Parks & Recreation department oversees the scheduling and maintenance of Preston Community Park, located at 13 Route 117. The Park Pavilion is available for rental and is the ideal location for birthday parties, family reunions, graduation parties, baby showers, and

<b>2017 - 2018 Budget</b>	
Director	33,015.00
Office/Program Assistant	6,552.00
Youth Employment	6,000.00
Maintenance Employees	17,261.00
Maintenance	16,050.00
Office Supplies	3,000.00
Camp Transportation & Supplies	2,810.00
Dues/Mileage	1,345.00
Youth Sports	3,000.00
Community Events	2000.00
Senior Activities	500.00
Meeting Recorder	1020.00
Program Supplies	500.00
Geese	2,000.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>95,053.00</b>

much more! In June, we resealed the parking lot at the park (\$5,375). This project was funded solely through the revenue collected from fundraisers and renting out the pavilion and athletic fields. Our three biggest fundraisers for the fiscal year were: Palooza (\$5,966), Kickball Tournament (\$1,788), and Comedy Show (\$1,266). Parks & Recreation Commission plans to continue our fundraising efforts with hopes to upgrade the playscape at the park.

Preston Parks & Recreation had lots of exciting programs happening during fiscal year July 2017 - June 2018! Our total program revenue was over \$69,000.00!! In December, we were able to go live with online registration. Our online registration system has been received very positively from Preston residents!! <https://secure.rec1.com/CT/preston-ct/catalog>



Our biggest program continues to be summer camp!! We also held specialty summer camps, which included: basketball camp, archery camp, and multi-sport camp. In addition, we offered the following kid programs: youth basketball program, field trips on half days (Jordan's IT, movies, roller skating, and trampoline park), babysitter training, dance classes, basketball open gym for high schoolers, Lake Compounce Haunted Graveyard field trip, Tiny Tykes soccer, and more!!

We offered the following adult programs: men's basketball, co-ed volleyball, core de force class, knitting, yoga basics, and chair yoga.

Community events included summer concerts at the park, Trunk or Treat, tree lighting ceremony and kids fishing derby.

*Lastly, in April, we celebrated Paul LoPresti being a Preston Parks & Recreation Commission member for 50 years!!*

**Amy Brosnan**  
**Parks & Recreation**  
 860-887-5581 x113  
[recreation@preston-ct.org](mailto:recreation@preston-ct.org)

**Heather Helwig**  
**Parks & Recreation Assistant**

# Planning and Zoning

## Planning

**Kathy B. Warzecha**

**Town Planner**

**860-887-5581, ext. 109**

**[kwarzecha@preston-ct.org](mailto:kwarzecha@preston-ct.org)**

**Planning & Land Use**

**Administrative Assistant: Bekah Little**

**Duties and Responsibilities:** The **Town Planner** is a part-time position that reports to the Planning and Zoning Commission and the First Selectman. The Planner is responsible for the technical review of land use applications, including site plans, special exceptions, zoning permits, zoning map amendments, and zoning and subdivision amendments. The Planner provides recommendations to the Planning and Zoning Commission and other land use boards and commissions (upon request) regarding the review of the various land use applications. In addition, the Planner prepares drafts of various town plans such as the POCD and amendments to the Zoning and Subdivision regulations, oversees the Geographic Information System, prepares maps, prepares grant applications, and manages approved grants received from the state and federal government.

The **Planning and Zoning Commission** is responsible for reviewing and acting on zoning and subdivision regulation changes, site plans, special exceptions, zoning permits and subdivisions. The Commission also is responsible for preparing and adopting planning documents such as the Preston Plan of Conservation and Development. The Commission meets the fourth Tuesday of each month. There are seven regular members and three alternates on the Commission.

Accomplishments this year:

During 2018, the Planner managed two Brownfield grants worth over \$10,000,000. From the time the Preston Riverwalk cleanup started in 2009, there were a total of 33 grant applications prepared and submitted to the State and Federal Government.

This fiscal year the Commission held nine regular meetings and four special meetings. The Commission reviewed and approved:

- Three subdivisions creating six new building lots.
- One Zoning Text Amendment allowing campgrounds in vacation resorts in Resort Commercial districts.
- Four Zoning Permits
- Two Special Exceptions
- Three Site Plans
- One Coastal Site Plan
- The Commission worked on a comprehensive update to the Zoning Regulations that includes – updating fees, adding new agricultural business uses to help retain the farms in Preston, adding several new definitions, updating the permitting process, home

occupations, accessory apartments, rear lot requirements, special exception criteria and site plan criteria, etc.



**Goals:**

Continue to review land use applications, adopt the comprehensive update of the Preston Zoning Regulations, update the Schedule Planner, an addendum to the 2014 Plan of Conservation and Development, continue to manage the various grant applications, and start the preparation of the comprehensive revisions to the Preston Subdivision Regulations.

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## Zoning Enforcement Office

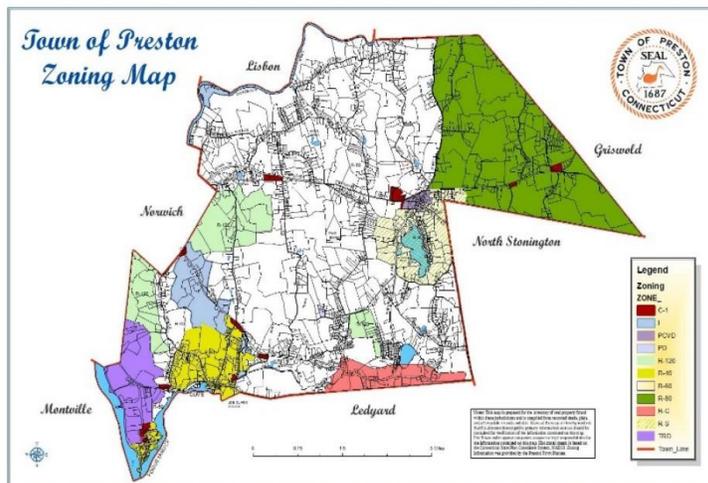
**Mildred Peringer, CCMAII**  
**Zoning Enforcement Officer**

**Phone: 860-887-5581, ext. 115**  
**[Peringer@preston-ct.org](mailto:Peringer@preston-ct.org)**

The Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZOE) position covers many aspects of the Preston Zoning Regulations. There are reviews of site plans for building projects, field reviews for compliance issues, and investigations of citizen complaints.

Preston does not parole the Town. Neighbors usually work together. If that doesn't work, a formal complaint must be submitted in writing and filed at the Town Hall.

Adherence to the Preston Zoning Regulations is important for safety and the well-being of the citizens. No certificate of occupancy shall be issued without a written form from the ZEO and occupancy does not occur unless the form is issued. There is a possibility of fines or litigation if occupancy occurs prior to the issuance of a CO (certificate of occupancy).



## Public Works

Eddie Fleming, a very valuable and long-term employee of the Public Works Department, retired this year to allow him time to farm and travel. Eddie has agreed to help the Public Works Department on a part-time basis with snow plowing and roadside mowing. This arrangement provides the Public Works Department experienced resources during events such as hurricanes and snowstorms. While Eddie will be missed as a full-time employee, we thank him for his dedicated service to the town and wish him the best in semi-retirement.

This past year was a difficult year for the Public Works department due to the uncertainties of State funding for municipal transportation, Town Aid Road (TAR). Governor Malloy proposed cutting nearly \$100,000 from the TAR funding. Finally, just weeks before the end of the fiscal year, the funds were paid to municipalities allowing us to expend \$148,000 on road repairs and chip sealing.

We would like to thank Preston voters for approving a five-year capital projects plan that allowed the Public Works Department to replace an aging backhoe and loader.

**Robert Congdon**  
Public Works Director  
[Congdon@preston-ct.org](mailto:Congdon@preston-ct.org)  
Phone: 860-887-5581, ext. 105

**Robert Boyd**  
Road Foreman  
Phone: 860-887-5581, ext. 101



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## Registrar of Voters

The Registrars of Voters are responsible for running local, state, and federal elections; referenda; and primaries for the town. They work closely with The Office of Secretary of the State to ensure the voting rights of Preston citizens and administer all elections based on current election laws.

Registrars are responsible for, among other things: registering voters; maintaining active and inactive voter registry lists; organizing and conducting annual canvass of voters to ascertain residency; removing from the list electors who move from the town, die or are disenfranchised; appointing and training poll workers; and ensuring proper maintenance, storage and preparation of voting machines.

The Registrars of Voters successfully conducted four election events during Fiscal Year 2017-2018.

- A Referendum was held on October 1, 2017.  
Preston voters were asked whether the Town should appropriate \$3,840,000 for the Fiscal Year 2018-2022 Capital Projects Plan and finance the appropriation by issuing the Town's bonds, notes, other obligation or temporary notes in an amount not to exceed \$3,840,000. Preston voters rejected this referendum question.

- A Municipal Election was held on November 7, 2017.  
Preston voters selected Bob Congdon as First Selectman; Lynwood Crary as Second Selectman; and Mike Sinko as Third Selectman; Hattie Wucik as Town Clerk/Tax Collector; Susan Nysten as Town Treasurer; Stacey Becker and Dan Duprey to the Board of Finance; Keith Wucik to fill a two year vacancy on the Board of Finance; Lennie Spencer as an Alternate on the Board of Finance; Cindy Luty, Edward Gauthier, and Charles Raymond to the Board of Education, Gregory S. Moran, Sr. to Board of Assessment Appeals; Anne Sabrowski, Daniel Sporduto, and Charles Raymond to Planning and Zoning Commission; Mike Sinko as Planning and Zoning Commission Alternate; Merrill Gerber and Jerry Morales to Zoning Board of Appeals; and Roberta T. Carpentier and Gary Cardot as Zoning Board of Appeals Alternates.
- A Referendum was held on February 6, 2018.  
Preston voters were asked whether the Town should appropriate \$3,560,000 for the Fiscal Year 2018-2022 Capital Projects Plan and finance the appropriation by issuing town bonds in an amount not to exceed \$3,500,000. Preston voters also were asked whether the Town should appropriate \$47,000 for an additional Resident State Trooper for the remainder of the 2017-2018 fiscal year as recommended by the Board of Finance. Preston voters approved both measures.
- A Referendum was held on June 12, 2018.  
Preston voters were asked whether the Town should adopt the expenditure budget of the General Government (\$3,496,000) and Board of Education (\$11,926,804) for Fiscal Year July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 as recommended by the Board of Finance. Preston voters rejected both budgets.

As part of their duties, Registrars of Voters are required to obtain and maintain certification. In complying with this mandate, the Registrars attended Fall and Spring conferences sponsored by The Office of Secretary of the State and the Registrar of Voters Association of Connecticut. In addition, they attended monthly meetings of the New London Registrar of Voters Association where information regarding their duties and responsibilities are shared and discussed.



2018	2019
Norman Gauthier (R)/ Desiree Majcher (R)	Desiree Majcher (R)
Cheryl Roberts (D)	Karen Stockton (D)

# Tax Collector

**Hattie Wucik**

**Tax Collector**

**Phone: 860-887-5581, ext. 111**

**[townclerk@preston-ct.org](mailto:townclerk@preston-ct.org)**

**Assistant: Linda Hopkins**

**Assistant: Renee Wucik**

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, the Tax Collector's Office collected \$10,740,548 in property taxes from the October 1, 2016 Grand List. An additional \$91,691 in interest and lien fees brought the collection total to \$10,832,289. Prior year taxes in the amount of \$158,412 also were collected during FY 2017-2018.

There were 9,500 accounts as follows:

Real Estate	2,407
Personal Property	683
Motor Vehicle	5,452
Motor Vehicle Supplemental	958
<b>TOTAL ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>9,500</b>

In early 2017-2018, taxpayers began to pay online using a credit card through a portal on the Town website.

**GENERAL FUND  
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES  
BUDGET AND ACTUAL  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2018**

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance With Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
<b>Revenues:</b>				
<b>Property taxes</b>				
Property taxes - current year	\$ 9,479,813	\$ 9,479,813	\$ 10,740,598	\$ 1,260,785
Interest & lien fees	80,000	80,000	91,691	11,691
Property taxes - prior years	120,000	120,000	158,412	38,412
	<u>9,679,813</u>	<u>9,679,813</u>	<u>10,990,701</u>	<u>1,310,888</u>
<b>Intergovernmental:</b>				
Education Cost Sharing (ECS)	1,934,374	1,934,374	2,589,050	654,676
Mashantucket Pequot Grant	1,177,788	1,177,788	1,125,119	(52,669)
Pilot for state hospital and property	8,657	8,657	655	(8,002)
Town Aid Road	199,827	199,827	199,569	(258)
Youth service bureau grants	14,000	14,000	14,000	-
Elderly Tax Grant	20,000	20,000	-	(20,000)
Judicial branch	2,000	2,000	2,490	490
SPED grant	1,298,003	1,298,003	94,455	(1,203,548)
Veterans Tax Relief	1,000	1,000	1,008	8
Other grants	84,835	84,835	19,113	(65,722)
Totally disabled	-	-	312	312
LOCIP	81,676	81,676	-	(81,676)
	<u>4,822,160</u>	<u>4,822,160</u>	<u>4,045,771</u>	<u>(776,389)</u>
<b>Local:</b>				
Incinerator host town agreement	1,100,000	1,100,000	-	(1,100,000)
Town clerk fees	70,000	70,000	93,205	23,205
Construction permit fees	40,000	40,000	54,560	14,560
Paper, metal, and transfer station	10,000	10,000	22,634	12,634
Sprint antenna	17,424	17,424	19,166	1,742
Investment income	5,000	5,000	29,050	24,050
Miscellaneous fees	-	-	828	828
License and permit fees	3,000	3,000	2,400	(600)
Telephone/cable access	15,000	15,000	10,661	(4,339)
Other	-	-	65,398	65,398
Farmland preservation fees	600	600	810	210
Historic document fees	600	600	1,292	692
	<u>1,261,624</u>	<u>1,261,624</u>	<u>300,004</u>	<u>(961,620)</u>
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>\$ 15,763,597</b>	<b>\$ 15,763,597</b>	<b>\$ 15,336,476</b>	<b>\$ (427,121)</b>

**TOWN OF PRESTON, CONNECTICUT  
REPORT OF THE TAX COLLECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2018**

Grand List October 1,	Taxes Receivable July 1, 2017	Lawful Corrections		Suspense Transfers	Adjusted Taxes Receivable	Collections			Taxes Receivable June 30, 2018
		Additions	Deductions			Taxes	Interest and Liens	Total	
2016	\$ 10,881,430	\$ 27,450	\$ 42,669	\$ -	\$ 10,866,211	10,708,747	45,114	\$ 10,753,861	\$ 157,464
2015	193,219	991	3,711	-	190,499	135,504	29,176	164,680	54,995
2014	71,672	311	1,301	(18,381)	52,301	41,342	14,591	55,933	10,959
2013	15,503	-	200	-	15,303	11,580	3,920	15,500	3,723
2012	4,864	-	3,475	-	1,389	2,445	4,865	7,310	(1,056)
2011	2,159	-	517	-	1,642	-	-	-	1,642
2010	2,159	-	174	-	1,985	-	-	-	1,985
2009	550	-	162	-	388	-	-	-	388
2008	784	-	437	-	347	-	-	-	347
2007	496	-	539	-	(43)	-	-	-	(43)
2006	1,051	-	813	-	238	-	-	-	238
2005	3,267	-	1,243	-	2,024	-	-	-	2,024
2004	3,795	-	1,743	-	2,052	-	-	-	2,052
2003	878	-	432	-	446	-	-	-	446
2002	42	-	367	-	(325)	-	-	-	(325)
	<u>\$ 11,181,869</u>	<u>\$ 28,752</u>	<u>\$ 57,783</u>	<u>\$ (18,381)</u>	<u>\$ 11,134,457</u>	<u>\$ 10,899,618</u>	<u>\$ 97,666</u>	<u>\$ 10,997,284</u>	<u>\$ 234,839</u>

## Town Clerk

The Town Clerk Office is the keeper of records. We record all land records, births, marriages, deaths and burial permits. I am pleased to say my vault with these valuable records have to-date all been archived and preserved.

Our land use computer has been scanned, for review, all the way back to the 1700s.

State of Connecticut Historic Document Preservation Program was approved for \$4,000. This Grant money was used to help codify our town ordinances.

We also issue dog licenses, fishing and hunting licenses, liquor permits, trade name filing, notary public certificates, and receive military discharge papers to record. We also record all Justice of the Peace official activities.

Town Clerk serves as clerk for Special Town Meetings. We receive in all meeting from boards and commissions to be placed in meeting books. We administer the oath of office to all town officials.

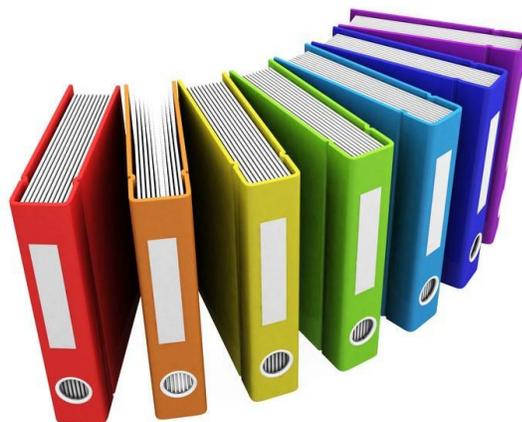
Town Clerk works closely with the Registrar of Voters in preparing, issuing, and receiving absentee ballots as well as sending reports to the State of Connecticut.

This year we had:

- 2 home births
- 9 liquor permits
- 33 Mylar maps
- 1 Kennel license
- 52 deaths
- 11 notary public certificates
- 14 trade name certificates
- 382 dog licenses
- 34 births
- 33 marriages

Respectfully submitted,

**Hattie Wucik, CCMC**  
**Town Clerk**  
**860-887-5581, ext. 111**  
[townclerk@preston-ct.org](mailto:townclerk@preston-ct.org)



# OUR SCHOOLS

## Report from the Superintendent of Schools

The Annual Report of the School Year 2017-2018 reflects the general operation, status and progress of the Preston Public Schools during July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 fiscal year. The district has had an excellent year. Our students have demonstrated success in many areas. As our schools go, so goes our community. Thank you for your past support and your future advocacy for quality learning experiences.



### **Students PK-12**

The Preston Public Schools enrolled 451 students in grades PK-8 during the 2017-2018 school year. This number included 310 students PK-5 at Preston Veterans' Memorial School, 41 of who enrolled in Kindergarten, and 130 students in grades 6-8 at Preston Plains Middle School. Two hundred forty (240) students attended the following high schools: NFA, Ledyard High School, Ledyard Agri-Science, Norwich Tech, Grasso Tech, the Science and Technology Magnet High School and the Marine Science Magnet High School. Preston's out of district special education students numbered 43 while 67 students received special education services in district.

The Class of 2018 chose the following colleges: Three Rivers Community College, University of Connecticut, Eastern CT State University, Central CT State University, Western CT State University, University of New Haven, University of Rhode Island, Boston College, Sacred Heart University, and the University of Hartford.

### **Personnel PK-8**

During the 17-18 school year, the Preston Public Schools employed 40 Teachers, 20 Instructional Assistants, 1.0 Superintendent, 2.0 Principals, .45 Director of Special Education, .8 Director of Finance, 1.0 Executive Administrative Assistant, 1.0 Assistant to the Special Education Director, 1.0 Fiscal Assistant, 2.5 School Secretaries, 2.0 School Nurses, 1.0 Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, 4.0 Custodians and 3.0 Food Service Employees.

### **Board of Education**

Members of the Board of Education included Sean Nugent; Chair, Deborah Burke-Grabarek, Cindy Luty, Ed Gauthier, Tom Turner, Daniel Harris, and Charles Raymond.

### **Education Programs, PK-8**

Preston students continued to participate in standardized testing programs during the year. Beginning in March 2017, students in grades 3-8 participated in SBAC Testing in language arts and mathematics while students enrolled in grades 5 and 8 only were administered the CMT's science. Preston Veterans Memorial School students and staff reached out to the community of Preston. "Pawsitive" assemblies were held to reinforce good citizenship. As part of this theme, students and staff participated in acts of kindness to others – giving to local food banks, senior

citizen centers, humane societies and needy families. Additionally, the 10-week D.A.R.E. program was presented to fifth graders by our resident troopers.



Preston Plains School participated in the Southeastern CT Middle School Athletic League. The following extra-curricular activities were offered at the Middle School: Boys' and Girls' Soccer, Cross Country, Boys' and Girls' Basketball, Track and Field, Geography Bee, and Project Oceanology. Several students were acknowledged at the state level in the arts, athletics, and academics.

Many parents served as school volunteers during the year. The Preston Parent-Teacher Organizations (PTOs) is often the center of many community-wide activities held at both schools and they supported a variety of student activities. We thank all involved for their commitment to our students and our schools.

During the year, the district transported PK-12 students to two Preston schools, NFA, Norwich Tech, Grasso Tech, Ledyard High School, Marine Science Magnet H.S. and Science and Technology H.S., IDCS, ISSAC, Dual Language Academy, and STEM Magnet School.

#### **School Facilities, PK-8 Finance, PK-12**

The Board of Education and Board of Finance monitor school expenses each month. The Preston Public Schools' net budget for 2017-2018 was \$11,690,889. This year, the Board of Education instituted a new budget process that has been touted by community members as the most transparent and informative in many years. In addition, the Board created, for the first-time, a strategic plan, instituted a recognition program for staff and students, and improved communication.



The Board also used its Finance Committee to examine the budget in line-by-line detail and offered significant guidance on the five-year Capital Improvement Plan. Once again, the community-at-large supported the plan with the district now moving forward with the identified projects.



As noted above, communication among and between the governing bodies of the town has been very positive. The Selectman, the Board of Finance, and the Board of Education have all held thoughtful and effective meetings both separately and together to make many crucial decisions in the name of children and the town. As a unit they have set a path of thoughtful planning and development that will keep Preston in a positive, growth-oriented mind-set for the foreseeable future.

**Dr. Roy Seitsinger, Jr.**  
**Superintendent of Schools**  
[seitsingerr@prestonschools.org](mailto:seitsingerr@prestonschools.org)

# GOVERNMENT

## Board of Finance

The Board of Finance is made up of six members who are elected for a six-year term. The Board also has two alternate members who are elected for a two-year term. Two members and two alternates are elected every two years in the municipal election.

The primary responsibility of the Board is to make an annual budget recommendation to the legislative body. To do this, the Board receives budget estimates of income and expenses from the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education. The Board of Finance then reviews these requests before making a budget recommendation that is presented at a town meeting.

The FY 2017-2018 budget was approved on June 20, 2017. The table below shows the actuals as well as the budgetary information used to create the budget:

<b>BUDGET SUMMARY</b>	<b>FY 2017-2018 ACTUAL</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
General Government Budget	\$3,412,925
Board of Education Budget	\$11,508,914
Debt Service (combine all bonds)	\$773,025
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$15,694,864</b>
<b>State &amp; Local Revenues</b>	
State Revenues	\$4,045,771
Local Revenues	\$300,004
<b>Total State &amp; Local Revenues:</b>	<b>\$4,345,775</b>
<b>Property Tax Calculation</b>	<b>FY 2017-2018</b>
Total Expenses as Budgeted	<b>\$16,138,597</b>
Less State Revenues as Budgeted	-\$4,822,160
Less Local Revenues as Budgeted	-\$1,1461,624
Less Unassigned Fund Balance (Surplus) as Budgeted	-\$375,000
<b>Property Tax Needed:</b>	<b>\$9,479,813</b>
<b>Mil rate:</b>	<b>24.00</b>
<b>Grand List</b>	<b>\$403,043,568</b>
One mil (using 98% of Grand List)	\$394,983
<b>Unassigned Fund Balance (Surplus)</b>	
Contingency Fund (9.5% of FY18 Budget)	\$1,491,012
Cash Reserve	\$1,492,151
<b>Total Available Unassigned Fund Balance (Surplus) as of 06/30/17:</b>	<b>\$2,983,163</b>

Other topics of significance brought before the Board of Finance included:

- A petition was presented to the Board of Selectmen to reinstate a second resident state trooper for the remainder of FY2017-2018. The second resident state trooper was not included in the original budget due to uncertainty at the State level regarding funding. At the time, Preston was told towns would need to pay the full expenses of having a resident state trooper and state budget cuts were unknown. The final approved State budget required towns to pay 85% of the expenses for resident state troopers. On February 6, 2018, Preston voters approved the appropriation of \$47,000 to reinstate a second resident state trooper for the remainder of the fiscal year.
- The Five-Year Capital Projects Plan to appropriate \$3,560,000 was approved on February 6, 2018. The Five-Year Capital Projects Plan includes: a pumper fire truck, a tanker fire truck, a first responder truck, and self-contained breathing apparatuses for fire fighters, plus the staggered replacement of eleven school busses over five years, two nine-passenger vans, a wheelchair-lift bus, and repaving the bus garage parking lot, as well as repairing the middle school roof, repairing the middle school parking lot, upgrading the middle school science labs, and replacing the middle school lockers, in addition to replacing the elementary school gym floor, and resurfacing the playground where there are woodchips currently.
- After replacing the elementary school gym floor, the Board of Education requested using the unspent funds from that project within the 2018 Capital Projects Bond to purchase new bleachers that would increase seating and be more ADA compliant. Preston residents approved not to exceed \$35,000 for new bleachers at Preston Veterans Memorial School from the 2018 Capital Projects Bond during a Special Town Meeting on April 26, 2018.

Members of the Board of Finance for FY2017-2018 were:

<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Norm Gauthier, Chair	Melissa Lennon, Chair
Ken Zachem, Vice Chair	Jerry Grabarek, Vice Chair
Andy Bilodeau	Stacey Becker, Clerk
Jerry Grabarek	Dan Duprey
Melissa Lennon	Keith Wucik
Bob Tousignant	Ken Zachem
Stacey Becker, Alternate	Lennie Spencer, Alternate
Andy Depta, Alternate	Ian Stammel, Alternate

As a reminder, the Town website can be a very useful tool. The Board of Finance has its own page on the Town website that includes links to previous annual reports, approved budgets, and audit reports. The page also has a link to Preston’s debt service forecast. Plus, there is a link to agendas and minutes of all Board of Finance meetings.

You are invited to attend our meetings. Regular meetings typically are held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Town Hall Conference Room at 7 p.m.

## Board of Selectmen



l. to r. [Robert Congdon](#), First Selectman; [Lynwood Crary](#), Second Selectman; [Mike Sinko](#), Third Selectman

Mike, Lynwood and I would like to thank the residents for allowing us to serve as Selectmen. It truly has been an honor and privilege.

This past year presented the Town with many fiscal challenges. State mandated property revaluation reduced our grand list by 6%, which reduced the amount of revenue each mill would produce, thus forcing a mill rate increase. Another challenge was the State's failure to approve a State Budget in a timely manner, which forced municipalities to create and approve local budgets without knowing what the revenue from the State would be. In the end, State revenues were less than previous years and less than we budgeted, which forced us to decide whether to send out supplemental tax bills or use more of our surplus to balance our budget than we originally planned. The Board of Finance chose to use surplus funds. Despite these setbacks, Preston finished the year in a strong fiscal position maintaining a positive fund balance in excess of 15% of our annual budget.

This year voters approved a new five-year capital plan, which will provide the necessary funds to maintain our School and Town buildings, grounds and equipment. Bonding agencies reviewed the Town's financial strength and, even with their concern for the financial condition at the State level, Preston received a rating of AA+, the highest rating given to municipalities of our size.

Preston Riverwalk continues to progress. The remediation of the site should be complete late summer or early fall of 2019. Once the State signs off on the remediation of the site, we will transfer the property to the Mohegan Tribe. After conveying the property to the Mohegan Tribe, development of the site will take four to five years to complete.

A very positive change for the Town and Board of Education has been the hiring of a new Superintendent, Dr. Roy Seitsinger. Dr. Seitsinger has worked very well with the Board of Selectmen to find ways to improve services and lower costs. Dr. Seitsinger also has welcomed and is committed to open lines of communication with residents.

Some of the other positive improvements have been the launch of a new town website (<https://www.preston-ct.org>), implementation of an emergency notification system, and the development of a new employee handbook. The Board of Selectmen continue to work on long range planning for the town.

## Preston Emergency Services Advisory Committee

The Preston Emergency Services Advisory Committee (PESAC) meets quarterly to advise the Board of Selectmen on matters relating to public safety within the town, such as, but are not limited to the Resident Trooper Program and Preston's Fire & Emergency Services. Members include; Co-chair James Bell, Thomas Casey, Russell Holland, Jarred Harris, and Co-chair David Paige. The committee has no supervisory or administrative authority; rather the committee assists the Board of Selectmen in an advisory role.

**Resident Trooper Program:** Currently, the town contracts with the Connecticut State Police for two (2) Resident State Troopers. The Resident Trooper Program has served Preston exceptionally well for over fifty years with continuous success and satisfaction. The program provides professional, dedicated, and comprehensive police services to meet Preston's needs. The town pays the state 85% of the total cost of each trooper's salary, fringe, and overhead. Preston's Resident Troopers report directly to, and are under the operational control of, the Commanding Officer at Troop E Montville. The First Selectman is the primary point of contact with the Resident Troopers and the Commanding Officer. Whenever additional police personnel are needed, or a Resident Trooper is off-duty, a patrol trooper from Troop E responds to calls for service 24 hours per day, 365 days per year at no additional cost.

On July 1, 2017 the Resident Trooper Program was reduced to one (1) trooper due to a reduction in the town FY17/18 budget. However, funding for the second trooper was subsequently restored after town citizens expressed concern for public safety.

**Preston Fire and Emergency Services:** Fire, rescue, and ambulance services in the Town of Preston are the responsibility of the Preston Fire and Emergency Services, consisting of: Preston City Volunteer Fire Department, Poquetanuck Volunteer Fire Department, Poquetanuck Ambulance, Preston Fire Marshal's Office and Preston Office of Emergency Management. All entities operate under the command, control, and administrative oversight of the Preston Fire Chief. In addition to volunteers from Preston City and Poquetanuck, The Preston Fire and Emergency Services provides a full-time career Fire Chief/Fire Marshal and a paid staff made up one full-time career firefighter/EMT and part-time paid firefighters / EMTs.

During this fiscal period (FY17/18) funding was included in the town budget for a paid part-time firefighter/EMT to work the late evening shift (10:00 pm to 6:00 am) five (5) days per week. Realizing the positive effect additional paid staffing was having on response, the Poquetanuck Volunteer Fire Department allocated \$20,000 per year from their Ambulance Fund to reimburse the town for two (2) additional paid part-time shifts.

Although the PESAC is encouraged with improvements in emergency response, we fully recognize that despite the dedication and hard work of our volunteer staff, the number of trained and certified

volunteer firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians continues to diminish at an alarming rate. This is an area that will be monitored closely as we move forward.

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## Ethics Commission

The Ethics Commission interprets the town's Code of Ethics, investigates and rules on complaints making each decision impartially, objectively, without political partisanship, or on the basis of any ideology.

### Members

#### Regular

Nancy Bartlett

Linda Christensen, Secretary

Hank Podraza, Chairman

#### Alternate

Gale Ennis

### Activity

Nancy Bartlett was appointed to the commission.

There were no complaints or requests for an advisory opinion submitted to the commission.

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## Housing Authority

Lincoln Park Housing is located on Lincoln Park Road Extension with forty apartments available. We provide safe, affordable housing to the disabled and elderly in a beautiful location for those who qualify. Office hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The Housing Authority meets at 4:00 p.m. on the second Monday of every month in the community room at Lincoln Park.

New security cameras were installed in and on the Community Building . The Housing Authority is looking into the feasibility of expanding the areas covered by security cameras.

Max Migliaccio's Eagle Scout project, along with the Boy Scouts from Troop 75 of Preston, constructed a greenhouse so that residents of Lincoln Park could have access to fresh vegetables at no cost all summer

long. Boy Scout Troop 4 of Norwich built beds and a fence in the summer of 2017 and continued to help increase the amount of beds in the garden in the summer of 2018.

During the year, the youth group from Preston City Congregational Church came and helped with cleaning the garden beds in preparation of planting, helped residents with grounds cleanup, and brought a delicious breakfast to share with the residents.

Other activities that are enjoyed by our residents include craft time, Bingo, Holiday dinners and coffee time.

**Commissioners:** Chairman – David Goss; Tenant Commissioner - Marie Perrin; Treasurer – Leigh Pappas; Secretary – Sara Vegliante

**Carol Onderdonk**

**Executive Director**

(860) 887-4865

[phal1@comcast.net](mailto:phal1@comcast.net)

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## Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission

The Preston Inland Wetlands Commission regulates activities in wetlands and within 100 feet of wetlands ("the buffer zone") within the Town. Some farming and homeowner activities are exempt from this oversight. If you have any questions concerning what is permitted without review by the Commission, please call the Wetlands Enforcement Officer, Leonard Johnson, at 860-887- 5581 (Town Hall); the commission chairman, John Moulson, at 860-886-0775; or the Town Hall Planning Office at 860-887-5581. The Wetlands Commission meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at the Town Hall; the public is cordially invited to attend our meetings.

During 2018, the Commission received a total of seven applications. In addition, the Commission completed the review of two applications from 2017. Of those nine, five were approved, two were "no impact" subdivision reviews, and two were "As of Right" timber harvests. The number of applications has continued its decline over the last several years due to reduced development and construction. The Commission also completed an updating of its regulations to include the latest changes to State Statutes. The updates were approved preliminarily in December and were forwarded to the DEEP for review. They have been scheduled for a public hearing in March 2019. These changes will bring the Regulations up to date with current law, court decisions, and will now require applicants to pay the cost of Legal Notices. At the present time there are no outstanding violations that require further

Commission action.

The Wetlands Commission has seven regular members and two alternates. The Board of Selectmen appoints the members and alternates to six-year terms. There are currently no vacancies. If you are a resident of Preston and have an interest in wetlands and becoming a member of the Commission, please contact John Moulson at 886-0775 to learn more about our work and to answer any of your questions.

**John A. Moulson, Chairman**

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## Preston Redevelopment Agency

**Function:** The representative body for the Town of Preston responsible for the revitalization of Preston Riverwalk (formerly the Norwich State Hospital).

**Members:** Jim Bell (Vice-Chair & Funding), John Harris (Site Operations), Bill Legler (Finance), Linda Riegel, Merrill Gerber, Joe Biber, and Sean Nugent (Chair). Also, First Selectman Bob Congdon is a non-voting but active member of this agency.

**FY18 Activities:** Following the Town's approval of the PDDA (Property Disposition and Development Agreement) in April of 2017, the PRA spent many months working with the Tribe, our environmental consultant (Tighe & Bond), our abatement/demolition consultant (Manfort Bros.), CT Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), and CT Department of Energy and Environment Protection (DEEP) in developing a "detailed remediation engineering plan" that described the specific actions required to complete the final remediation of the site. This detailed plan was required before the PRA could submit for Town, State, and Federal permits. In developing the detailed plan, we addressed a number of questions raised by DEEP's endangered species and DECD's archeological groups. Numerous meetings and site tours were held with both departments to work through their questions and requests. Once an agreement was reached, we were able to finalize our "detailed remediation engineering plan". This plan then underwent extensive reviews by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party engineering firm (formal requirement by DEEP) who signed-off in early 2018. Third party approval allowed the PRA to submit the necessary permit applications to Town, State, and Federal agencies. We received approval from the Town's Planning & Zoning (PZC) and Inland/Wetlands commissions in the spring of 2018 and DEEP's Stormwater permit in mid- summer of 2018. These permits allowed us to begin the final remediation work in August 2018.

We also submitted two applications for work along the Thames River that requires approval from both DEEP and the Army Corp of Engineering; the review/approval is in progress.

Preston's PZC held a public hearing in June 2017 to address a request by the Mohegan Tribe to amend the zoning regulations specifically related to Preston Riverwalk. After hearing comments from the Tribe, the PRA, the 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman, and Preston residents and following an in-depth Commission discussion on the requested changes, PZC voted unanimously to accept the proposed changes with some PZC edits. The approved amendments became effective on July 15<sup>th</sup>. This was an important step for the Town as it was the final action required by the State in order for the \$10 million clean up grant to be released.

The State approved 'release' of the \$10m grant contingent upon formal approval of the "detailed remediation engineering plan".

At the end of the June 2017 State legislative session, the 'PRA Special Act' was approved as part of the state 'Conveyance Bill'. As described in the PDDA, this legislative act allows the PRA to approve or disapprove of any 'substantial redevelopment changes' to the Master Plan. This plan was presented to the Town in early January, supported by PZC, approved as the PRA's amended Redevelopment Plan, and incorporated into the PDDA.

Manafort Bros. (MBI) initiated their efforts in completing the abatement on the remaining buildings. This work began in the fall of 2017.

At the request of the Tribe and following approval by the PRA, Mohegan Ceremonial Fires were held at the site in July and December of 2017 as well as March of 2018. The fires were held to honor those that came before (tribal ancestors, those who once lived on the site, and those who worked at the former mental hospital). The ceremony served as a cleansing of all that has gone on before and to bring good medicine for the future use of the property. The fire was located in the field near the commuter lot and remained lit 24 hours a day for four days each time. Those who visited the fire shared prayers, learned more about the Mohegans and the ceremony, offered tobacco, and became part of the healing ceremony.

It is important to note that the remediation could take at least 12 months to complete. We are working with our contractors to accelerate this where and when possible.

We thank the citizens of Preston for their continued support of the Preston Redevelopment Agency (PRA).

**Respectfully submitted by Sean Nugent (Chair) on behalf of the PRA.**

## Senior Affairs

The Preston Senior Affairs Committee consists of five voting members including: Chairman, Elizabeth Bassette and members Mary Lou Jensen, Marie Perrin, Morris Fishbone, and Frances Minor. Meetings are conducted on the first Tuesday of the month (except during the months of July and August) in the lower level meeting room of the Preston Town Hall. Meeting notices/cancellations are posted on the Town of Preston website, [www.preston-ct.org](http://www.preston-ct.org) and are open to the public.

The Senior Affairs Committee has oversight of the Senior Transportation Service, which is designed to assist Preston residents who are 60 years of age and older, as well as are stewards orchestrating the caretaking responsibilities for the Preston Senior Center facility located at 42 Long Society Road. The committee scrutinizes all expenditures of the department's budget plus develops the annual Fiscal Budget proposals. The Department sponsors/coordinates programs beneficial to our aging residents such as AARP Tax Assistance, AARP Safe Driving Program, TVCCA Energy Assistance Program, Congregate (Café) Program, Meals-on-Wheels, Preston Veterans Memorial School Senior Luncheon and Volunteer Reading Programs, Renters Rebate, Elderly and Totally Disabled Tax Relief Program, Annual Flu & Pneumonia Clinic, monthly blood pressure screenings, Nutrition Talks, loans of durable medical equipment, lending library, Benefits Counseling through Senior Resources Agency on Aging, co-sponsor efforts to recognize Veterans, and hosts special events at the Center.

We participate in a Medical Transportation program designed for seniors 60+ and persons with disabilities who are unable to drive and need transportation to medical appointments that occur outside of the hours or area that town funded transportation services provide. The program is provided through the Eastern Connecticut Transportation Consortium, Inc. ECTC is a private, non-profit agency that brokers and provides transit services for persons of low income, seniors, and persons with disabilities. There is an annual membership fee of \$24.00, which entitles the participant to be eligible for 48 one-way rides (within New London County and parts of Westerly). For more information on the Medical Transportation Program, Caregiver Mileage Reimbursement Program, or to obtain an application form, please contact the Preston Senior Affairs office by telephoning 860-887-5581 ext. 6.

Two safety measures were addressed as priorities at the Senior Center this year. First on the docket was to repair a sagging portion of the wood floor in the meeting room and secondly to install an intrusion alarm system.

On the surface, it may appear to be a redundant commentary, but it needs to be repeated! Our extraordinary team of volunteers, coupled with a very caring and generous community, is the foundation of our existence. Our greatest accomplishment isn't ours, it's yours! For those who support senior center programming, thank you! For those who hesitate, the welcome mat always is out and we're saving a place for you.

**Fran Minor**  
**Municipal Agent for the Elderly**

**Phone: 860-887-5581, ext. 104**  
**[seniors@preston-ct.org](mailto:seniors@preston-ct.org)**

## Preston Youth Service Bureau

Preston Youth Service Bureau is funded by \$14,000 from the Town and a \$14,000 grant from the State of Connecticut.

During the year, surveys were conducted to assess the needs of our residents. Surveys were completed by students, parents, teachers, and community members.

Preston Youth Services sponsored a homework club after school at Preston Plains Middle School as well as at Preston Veterans Memorial School for students in third grade through fifth grade.

We sponsored a presentation from Ginger Katz, from The Courage to Speak Foundation, at Preston Plains Middle School. Ginger shared her tragic story of the loss of her beloved son due to a drug overdose. Since the loss of her son, her mission has been to share her story with schools and parent organizations around the country to encourage and empower youth to be drug free.

We also sponsored DARE for fifth graders, which was taught by Preston Resident State Trooper Armando Bettini. DARE concluded with an end of the year field trip celebration for all students at the Lisbon movie theater and 1000 Degree Pizza!

EMPOWER Leadership Sports came and held team building exercises with the entire student body at Preston Plains Middle School.

Each school enjoyed festivities on their last day of school. Preston Plains students were treated to an inflatable obstacle course, a circus variety show, and a visit from an ice cream truck. Preston Veterans Memorial School students enjoyed a bicycle stunt show by Chris Poulos who also shared life lessons he learned along his path to becoming a world champion athlete. After the assembly, students had a surprise visit from an ice cream truck as well!!

Preston Youth Services funded a high school give back trip to Crab Apple Whitewater for Preston high school students who volunteered in the community during the year.

**Amy Brosnan**

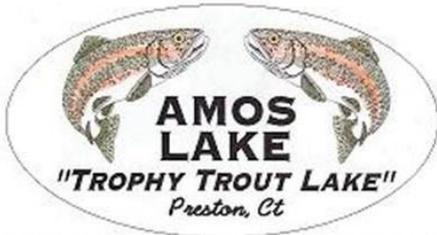
**Parks & Recreation**

860-887-5581 x113

[recreation@preston-ct.org](mailto:recreation@preston-ct.org)

## IN THE COMMUNITY

### Amos Lake Association



Amos Lake Association (ALA) is an advocate for current and future generations. Our goal is to assist landowners and all other interested citizens in an educational role to maintain, protect and enhance the water quality of Amos Lake, its surroundings, and waterways.

Our accomplishments include:

In 2009 – 2010 Amos Lake Association partnered with Connecticut Federation of Lakes and Eastern Connecticut Conservation District. The goal of the Amos Lake Public Awareness Project is to bring awareness to residents of the watershed and how everyday activities affect the soil, water, and air around us.

2012 – 2015 The Amos Lake Association partnered with the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District developing a Watershed Management Plan for Preston under the funding of the EPA 319 Clean Water Act. The Watershed presentation was made to the Town of Preston boards and commissions and is at town hall and the library.

2013 – 2014 United States Coast Guard Academy Civil Engineering Faculty capstone project.

2014 – 2015 The Town of Preston Planner was to develop a Schedule Planner for 2014 – 2024 to set and address goals for the Town's Plan of Development

2015 Assisted the Town of Preston in the application and implementation of CT DEEP AIS grant.

2016 A Preston Community Grant was used to bring awareness to residents of the watershed through a watershed welcome folder distributed to new owners within the 960-acre watershed.

2017 With funding from the Preston Community Grant, a Groundwater Maintenance and Recordkeeping Folder awareness program was distributed with the Pipeline to provide residents with information of how everyday activities affect groundwater and awareness about where your groundwater comes from and how to protect it.

Annually we provide a free soil-testing day for the residents of Preston, CT as well as conduct water quality monitoring. Annually in August, volunteers sample the lake for temperature, water clarity, total phosphorous, and chlorophyll as part of The Last Green Citizens Valley Water Quality Monitoring Program. We share tips on how you can save your favorite lake and protect its ecology, health, and enjoyment into the future.

Future Projects Include:

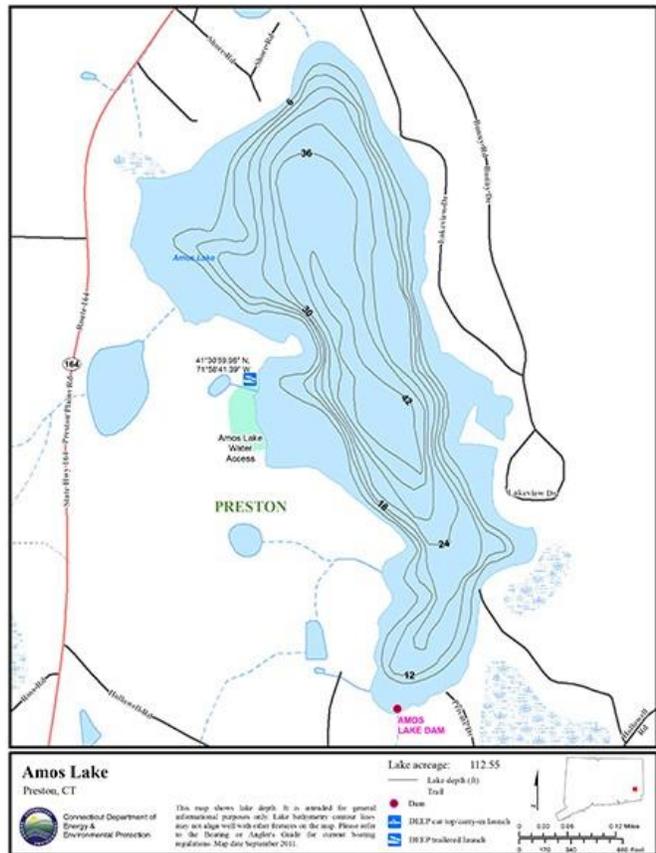
- Risk assessment evaluations of residential homes to identify pollutant sources that may pose a risk to human health and the environment. Private wells tap into ground water. This project will take corrective measures to ensure contaminants do not flow from a neighbor's property to your well.
- A low impact development planning and design approach utilizing low impact development practices such as bio-retention, permeable pavers, and rain barrels are examples of corrective solutions.

Our volunteers, ECCD advisors, as well as community volunteers will be involved in this project.

The Amos Lake watershed is 1.5 square miles (960 acres) and is part of the Thames Main Stem regional watershed (CT3000). Amos Lake is an important resource to the people of Preston. The lake is managed as both a Bass Management and Trophy Trout Lake. Amos Lake has been popular for recreational activities for decades. These recreation activities include sailing, kayaking, canoeing, fishing, boating, and ice fishing.

Wildlife in the watershed include white-tailed deer, North American river otter, muskrat, red fox, raccoon, and opossum. Waterfowl observed by lake residents include American Coot, Canada Geese, Double Crested Cormorant, Hooded Merganser, Mallard, Mute Swan, Great Blue and Little Blue Heron, Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, Falcons and Osprey.

ALA continues to develop, implement, and present recommendations to protect and preserve Preston's waterways and, finally, maintain these public resources as accessible for diverse nature and recreational uses by current and future generations.



Amos Lake Association is a volunteer non-profit organization. We welcome you to volunteer. If you are unable to volunteer, we hope you will support our Association, so we may continue projects such as water sampling, free soil-testing, landowner education, boating safety, and watershed management. Come learn how you can get involved in protecting our waterways. Our meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Preston Library meeting room.

**Pat Monahan, President**

Phone: 860-887-8661

[amoslake@gmail.com](mailto:amoslake@gmail.com)

## Historical Society



The Preston Historical Society (PHS) is an organization dedicated to preserving Preston's history and rural identity while promoting and enhancing community life for future generations. We believe that building awareness of Preston's past helps citizens appreciate their town, leading to increased pride in their community. The major goals of the PHS are to perpetuate the history and preserve documents and records of this history; sponsor historical and civic programs; assist with cemetery clean-up; and

support local educational initiatives.

The officers for Preston Historical Society are: Bridget Park-president, Mark Christensen-Treasurer, Jan Clancy-Secretary, Sandra Bouffard-Director, Mary Ann Melgey-Director, and Mike Clancy-Director

Over the past few years, our main goal has been the purchase and restoration of the Long Society Meetinghouse. Through grants, fundraisers, and support from the town, the Mohegan tribe, and local citizens, we have been able to fix the outside walls, put on a new roof, replace the windows, and paint the exterior of the building.

In the coming year, we plan to install a new walkway from the street to the entrance of LSM as well as erect a new flagpole and flag with lighting. We will complete the structural repairs to the Meetinghouse, too. Another project has been the digitization of our documents through the Connecticut League of Historical Societies.



Most of PHS documents are at the Preston Public Library for easy viewing. There are 3 books published by the PHS. These books can be purchased at the Preston Public Library and the Town Clerk's Office.

PHS information and membership applications are available at the Town of Preston web page- <https://www.preston-ct.org/294/Historical-Society>

PHS Facebook page- [facebook.com/prestonhistoricalsocietyct](https://www.facebook.com/prestonhistoricalsocietyct)

Or via email- [prestoncthistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:prestoncthistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

**Bridget Park**  
**President**

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Department	Phone Number
Animal Control	860-887-8091
Assessor	860-887-5581, Ext. 115
Board of Education	860-889-6098
Preston Plains School	860-889-3831
Preston Veterans' Memorial School	860-889-3831
Building Department	860-887-5581, Ext. 103
<b>Fire Department</b>	Poquetanuck Fire Department      860-887-5151 Preston City Fire Company      860-887-4815 Non-Emergency Dispatch – Ledyard      860-464-1138 <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">Emergency 911</span>
Health Department	860-887-5581, Ext. 103
Inland Wetlands & Watercourses	860-887-5581, Ext. 103
Library	860-886-1010
Parks & Recreation	860-887-5581, Ext. 113
Planning & Zoning Department	860-887-5581, Ext. 118
Public Works	860-886-7220
Registrar of Voters	860-887-5581, Ext. 116
<b>Resident State Trooper</b>	Trooper Armando Bettini      860-887-8232 Troop E – Montville      800-953-7747 or 860-848-6500 <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">Emergency 911</span>
Selectmen's Office	860-887-5581, Ext. 101
Senior Affairs	860-887-5581 Ext. 104
Senior Center	860-889-0770
Tax Collector	860-887-5581, Ext. 111
Town Clerk	860-887-5581, Ext. 111
Town Hall	860-887-5581
Transfer Station	860-886-1836
Treasurer	860-887-5581, Ext. 110
Webmaster	860-887-5581, Ext. 103
Youth Services	860- 887-5581, Ext. 113
Zoning Enforcement	860-887-5581, Ext. 115