

# ANNUAL REPORT FY 2018-2019



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## **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. In addition, we have included reports from most of the Departments, Boards and Commissions which this budget funded.

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 is happening in town. The more you go... the more you know.

Board of Finance meetings are generally held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Conference Room of the Town Hall at 7:00pm. In addition, a lot of Board of Finance information is posted on the Board of Finance page on the town website. Check it out: [www.preston-ct.org](http://www.preston-ct.org)

Sincerely,

*John Moulson*

Preston Board of Finance Chair

# DEPARTMENTS

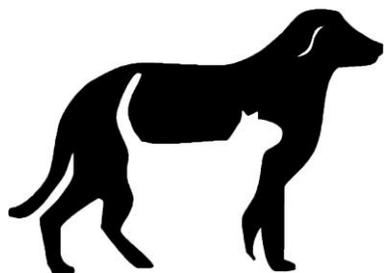
## Animal Control

As the Animal Control Officer for the Town of Preston, I am responsible for enforcing all State and Federal laws associated with domesticated animals. Additionally, I am responsible for running and maintaining the dog pound along with Assistant Animal Control Officer, Michael Daniels and a loyal volunteer. We take care of feeding and taking animals to vet visits, as well as medicating animals, as needed. I make trips to Rocky Hill, to the State Lab, with suspected rabid animals for testing. I make calls to the newspaper and have ads placed in the paper and on web sites to help adopt out animals.



Fourteen animals were redeemed by their owners. Three animals were adopted out as pets. Five animals were deceased when picked up. Two animals were euthanized. I had one hundred and ten complaints. These complaints include roaming dogs, loose horses, dog bites, injured animals, and exposure to suspected rabid animals. I have issued numerous verbal warnings, written warnings and infraction tickets for roaming dogs, dogs being a nuisance and failure to license a dog.

We investigated five dog bites. Biting dogs were quarantined. Reports are required by the State of Connecticut Department of Agriculture for each dog bite.



Animal control is required to prepare monthly reports. 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.

This job requires Animal Control to be on call seven days a week and twenty-four hours a day. This includes being available on weekends and holidays. Additionally, I am required, by law, to do six hours of training a year and be licensed by the State of Connecticut.

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



# Assessor

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 2019 Grand list increased over the 2018 Grand list by only \$ 3,815,861. This is a disappointment that reflects the economy is sluggish in our area.

The 2019 Motor Vehicles increased \$1,711,711. The purchases of new cars helped increase the Grand List.

The 2019 Personal Property decreased \$287,375. A few in Town accounts have closed their businesses, about 4 out of town businesses have removed their holdings.

The 2019 Real Estate increased only \$2,181,345. This is a reflection on the values from the 2017 Revaluation. The 6 additional dwellings were assessed at a much lower rate than would have occurred with the tables reflecting the 2016 assessments.

The CAMA system has been upgraded to provide faster updates to account information. The GIS mapping system is updated on a yearly basis. It is important for residents making any changes to bring their maps in to get them updated. If a resident buys, sells, junks or disposes of a motor vehicle, they should come to the office and notify us so they will be assessed correctly.

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



# 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 are also 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



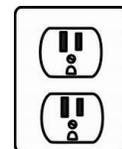
During this past fiscal year, permits were issued with a total construction value of \$11,827,160 and permit fees collected totaled \$120,847.

The following permits were issued:

- 19 Single Family Dwellings (Construction Valuation of \$5,889,281)
- 48 Roofing, Siding and Windows
- 45 Additions & Alterations
- 15 Commercial Permits (new construction, renovations and trade permits)
- 3 Demolition Permits

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

- 23 PV Solar Installations
- 12 Accessory Structures including decks
- 11 Swimming Pools
- 35 Electrical Permits (\*\*\*)
- 58 Mechanical Permits (\*\*\*)
- 7 Plumbing Permits (\*\*\*)



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

The State Building Inspector, State Fire Marshal and the Codes and Standards Committee have announced the intent to adopt the 2020 State Building and Fire Safety Codes based on the 2018 editions of the International Code Council (ICC) documents. Technical review of these codes has been conducted by the Committee's Codes Amendment Subcommittee (CAS) along with DAS staff. It is projected to be adopted in the Fall of 2020.

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

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

**Leigh Pappas**  
**Administrative Assistant**  
Phone: 860-887-5581, ext. 103  
[lpappas@preston-ct.org](mailto:lpappas@preston-ct.org)



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## Fire & Emergency Services

Fire and emergency response in the Town of Preston is provided by members of the Poquetanuck and Preston City Volunteer Fire Departments, the Poquetanuck Ambulance, the Preston Fire Marshal's Office and the Preston Office of Emergency Management, along with a full-time career Fire Chief/Fire Marshal, Chief Thomas Casey and a paid staff made up of one full-time career firefighter/EMT, Captain Michael Guiher and a compliment of part-time paid firefighter/EMTs. During the past year, paid staffing was increased to provide coverage 24 hours a day, seven days a week in an effort improve our ability to respond to all emergencies.



The Department operates with a rescue pumper, an engine, a tanker and two ambulances responding from the Poquetanuck station and a rescue pumper, a tanker, an EMS/service truck and a forestry truck responding from the Preston City station. The emergency services responded to 107 fire calls, 46 service calls, and 525 rescue/ EMS calls for a total of 678 emergency responses during the fiscal year of 2018-2019. The department currently has approximately 6 active volunteer firefighters, EMTs and fire police.

The Fire Marshal's Office conducted 57 fire investigations, more than 100 code enforcement inspections, issued 117 burning permits and approximately 24 blasting permits.

Both Volunteer Departments and the paid personnel respond to the majority of 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 and Ice, Holiday parades in Town and Safety Days at the schools. Staff also conducted tours of the fire stations, offered CPR certification training and provided public fire education in the schools and at various events in town.



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 more than 270 hours of continuing education classes and the Post Blast Investigation Class held at the Riverwalk property.

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

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

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## Health Department

### *Uncas Health District*

**CHIEF PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR:** Patrick McCormack  
**PHONE NUMBER:** (860) 823-1189  
<https://uncashd.org/>

**MISSION:** “The Uncas Health District exists to promote and protect the public’s health in order to prevent illness, death and disability among its residents.”

**VISION:** The Uncas Health District will continue to monitor changes and trends to prepare for emerging Public Health issues.

### **GOALS & ACTION PLANS:**

The Uncas Health District utilizes regional, state, and national data to develop programs and provide resources to meet the mandated functions of local public health, while incorporating additional programming to address trends and needs to improve the health of residents.

### **FY 2018/19 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- The Uncas Health District became the local health department for the Town of Preston on June 1, 2019.
- The Uncas Health District is comprised of eleven municipalities and 99,553 residents.
- The Uncas Health District’s full-time public health nurse provides prevention services including vaccination services and screenings.
- In 2019, the Uncas Health District began a Harm Reduction Program including a syringe services program to provide a linkage to substance use disorder treatment; access to and disposal of sterile syringes and injection equipment; and linkage to care and treatment for infectious diseases.

- The Uncas Health District helps with access to health insurance in the State of Connecticut.
- The Uncas Health District provides Certified Food Protection Manager training on a monthly basis and FAST (Food Awareness Safety Training) as needed to individuals and groups serving food on a temporary basis.
- The Uncas Health District continues to implement grants to support the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program, Medical Reserve Corps, Teen Outreach Program, Falls Prevention, Lead Poisoning Prevention, Prescription Drug Prevention, Tobacco Cessation, and Hepatitis C prevention.
- The Uncas Health District staff members participated in numerous coalitions, advisory groups, boards, commissions, and other partnerships to collaborate on various initiatives intended to improve the lives of the residents including the Eastern CT Health Collaborative, the SCCOG Human Services Advisory Committee and the UCFS Board of Directors.

**MEASURES OF ACTIVITY AND PERFORMANCE (Health District)**

**No data available for FY 2018/2019**  
*This will be collected for future years.*

<i>Town of Preston Environmental Health Indicators</i>	
INDICATOR	
	Restaurant Inspections
	Complaints Investigated
	Complaints Closed
	Septic Permits
	Discharge Permits
	Well Permits
	Public Bathing Area Samples
	Group Home / Daycare Inspections
	Campground Inspections
	Public Pool Inspection
	Septic & B100a Plans Reviewed
	Temporary Food Permits
	Salon Inspections

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## Library

**Mission Statement**

The mission 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:** 816

**Total Library Visits:** 11,026

**Total Holdings:** 37,512

**Public Service Hours:** 2,860

**Total Number of Items Circulated:** 13,541

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. Circulation figures do not measure the in-house use of library materials: people who come in to read newspapers and magazines, use Reference and Historical Collection Material, read aloud to their children or access one of our electronic databases. Online access from home is also not measured.

**Total Projected Expenses:** \$192,562.00 (including other revenue and grants)

**Town Appropriation:** \$187,492.00 which includes utilities, staff and materials; \$4,694.00 in unspent funds were returned to the town; in addition, the Library receives the following services from the Town: lawn mowing; snow plowing and shoveling; general building maintenance.

The Friends of the Library funded 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. This year our featured author was Nan Rossiter, author of Summer Dance. We thank the Friends for their support which lets the Library provide activities our patrons enjoy!



The Library offers programs and meeting space for our community, providing a welcoming gathering place. Special emphasis is placed on encouraging children to develop an interest in reading and learning by offering appropriate materials and programs by collaborating with the Preston Public Schools. The Summer Reading Program is the highlight of this effort, encouraging students to develop skills learned throughout the academic year. In addition, the Library works to provide people of all ages with high-demand, high-interest resources in a variety of formats, fostering life-long learning.

Books remain a core library service, but today they are available in a variety of formats. The Library offers patrons books in the following formats: print (regular and large print), CDs, eBooks (digital), and Audio (in-house and digital). We also obtain titles requested by our patrons not available in the collection: participation in the statewide Interlibrary Loan Program allows us to fill many requests, a significant cost saving resource. Membership in statewide cooperatives provides movies, books, CDs, and FLIC (Foreign Language and Independent) DVDs; borrowing materials from the State Service Center in Middletown lets us rotate new materials through the collection without purchasing them, another cost-effective resource.



### **Looking Towards the Future:**

In order to better serve the community of Preston in the future, the Library conducted a Needs Assessment in May 2019. This information was used to create the Library's first Strategic Plan in June 2019. This plan states the Library's mission, values, and goals while outlining steps to achieve these goals over the next several years. This plan will enable the Library to continue to successfully meet the needs of our community.

### **Community Programs and Activities:**

Story Times

Museum Passes

Connecticut Authors Trail

Book Club Materials

Summer Reading Program: Libraries Rock!

Friends of the Library Book Sales and Programs

Children and Family Programs

Materials for Schools

**Meeting Room Space for Local Community Groups:**

Literacy Volunteers                      The ARC of New London County Town  
Committees/Board                      Parks and Recreation Programs  
Homeschool Groups                      State Representative Town Hall Meetings

When the library is not open, patrons can still search our catalog, place holds, access eBooks and other downloadable material, consult databases all found on our website: [www.prestonlibrary.org](http://www.prestonlibrary.org).

**Services and Databases:**

Online Catalog                      Internet Access (in-house computers and Wi-Fi)  
Interlibrary Loan Service                      RBDigital (eBooks and Audiobooks)  
Preston Historical Files                      Reference Service  
Best Sellers                      Non-Fiction Books  
Magazines                      DVDs and Videos Community Meeting Room  
IRS Forms

**Online Databases:**

Encyclopedia Britannica                      Learning Express  
Job Now                      Consumer Reports with Cars  
researchIt CT (student research)                      findIt CT (statewide catalog)

**Making a Difference in the Community:**

In lieu of fines, the Library accepts non-perishable items year-round for the Food Pantry of Preston City Congregational Church. There is a drop off box located in front of the circulation desk.

**Library Staff:**

Susan Brosnan  
Marion Landri  
Jayne Perry  
Clare Markley  
Barbara DiFrancecsa  
Alli Sutton

**Library Trustees:**

Katherine Allingham  
Patricia Bell  
Kelly Ennis-Davis  
Ann Legler  
Mary Jo Nugent

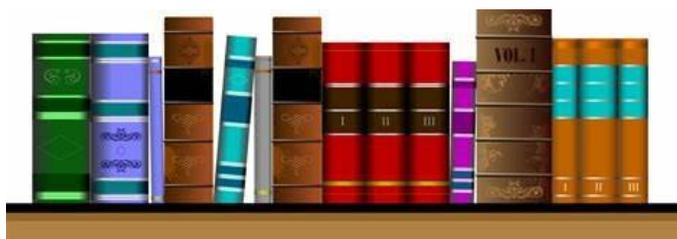


**Hours:**

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.

We can be reached at (860) 886-1010 or visit us on the web at [www.prestonlibrary.org](http://www.prestonlibrary.org). We are proud to serve the people of Preston, strive to offer something for everyone and encourage all residents to visit your library, the Preston Public Library. Thank You!

**Diane Deedy**  
**Director**  
860-886-1010



# 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, field trips, 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 much more! We brought in \$3,350.00 for the calendar year of 2019 in pavilion rentals and field usage, which will go towards future improvements at the park!!

Preston Parks & Recreation held several fundraisers throughout the year which included: 911 emergency signs, kickball tournament, cow patty bingo and our biggest fundraiser Preston Palooza!!

Our department brought in over \$86,000.00 in program registration fees for the fiscal year of July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019. Our biggest programs continue to be summer camp and summer youth camp. We also held specialty summer camps which included: archery camp, mini hawk camp, and multi-sport camp.



In addition, we offered the following kid programs: youth basketball program, field trips on half days, babysitter training, golf clinics, dance classes, basketball open gym for high schoolers, Lake Compounce Haunted Graveyard field trip, snow tubing 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. We expanded our offerings for the year to include more senior

activities, including trips. We offered country line dancing, tai chi and senior swim.

Community events included Summerfest, Trunk or Treat, tree lighting ceremony, community yard sale and the kids fishing derby.

In June, we were approved for a LoCIP grant to replace our aging playground at the park. The grant will cover the cost of the new playground as well part of the wood fibers safety surfacing. The playground will be constructed through a Community Build that is planned for April of 2020.

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

**Heather Helwig**  
**Parks & Recreation Assistant**  
[hhelwig@preston-ct.org](mailto:hhelwig@preston-ct.org)

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## Planning and Zoning

**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.

**Goals:** The Planning and Zoning Department goals include continue to review land use applications using the new application process which expedites and creates a more comprehensive review process, prepare the comprehensive updates of the Preston Subdivision Regulations, update the Schedule Planner (an addendum to the 2014 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) that measures the accomplishments of the various department agencies in meeting the goals of the POCD) , and continue to manage the various grant applications.

**Accomplishments this year:**

During 2018-2019, there were 12 Regular Meetings, 7 Public Hearings and 1 Special Workshop. In addition, the Planner managed two Brownfield grants worth \$10,165,000. From the time the Preston Riverwalk cleanup started in 2009, there were over 30 grant applications prepared and submitted to the State and Federal Government.

The Commission reviewed and approved:

- Three subdivisions creating fifteen new building lots.
- Two Zoning Text Amendments one being a revision to the accessory apartment regulations.
- Eight Zoning Permits
- One Special Exception
- Two Site Plans, and one modification to a site plan application.
- Six bond reductions/releases requests
- One Coastal Site Plan

The Commission worked extensively on completing the comprehensive update to the Zoning Regulations that includes updating land use 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. The regulations were completed in house, saving the town between \$50,000 and \$80,000. The regulations were approved on February 26, 2019, effective date on March 18, 2019.



Maple Lane Banquet facility was approved by the Commission in June 2019 after the comprehensive revisions to the zoning regulations were adopted. The project is an example of the newly created agricultural business permits. The facility will host weddings, showers, reunions, etc. and will serve local produce. It is a way to support the agricultural community and make farms more sustainable.

**Other matters addressed and discussed:**

- Updated all land use applications based on the newly adopted zoning regulations that include: Campground Renewal Permit, Site Plan Application, Special Exception Application, Zoning Permit Applications.
- Discussed and supported the acquisition of a 35-acre parcel that is part of the Tri-town Forest Preserve on Rude Road and Lewis Road.
- Invalidated an expired approved site plan for an ice cream shop for property located on Route 165A.
- Discussed the Town Planner’s job description.
- Discussed and provided a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen regarding solicitors, peddlers, vendors. Prepared draft ordinance.

- Discussed and commented on letter of support to City of Norwich for DEEP CT Recreational Trails Program Grant Application.
- Discussed the donation of property located on 41 Matthewson Mill Road for open space. The Commission recommended against the acquisition of property.
- Discussed and commented on temporary signage for Preston Riverwalk.

**Kathy B. Warzecha**  
**Town Planner**  
 860-887-5581, ext. 109  
[kwarzecha@preston-ct.org](mailto:kwarzecha@preston-ct.org)

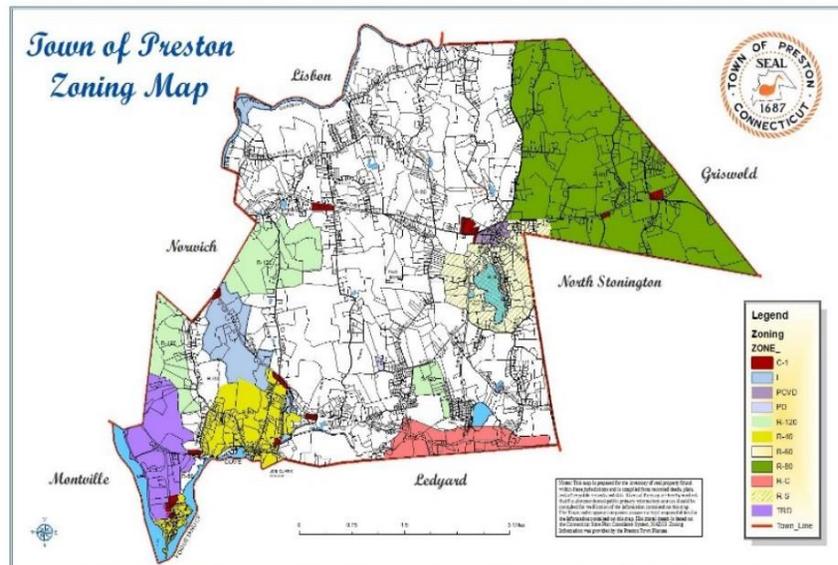
**Bekah Little**  
**Planning & Land Use Administrative Assistant**  
 860-887-5581, ext. 118  
[blittle@preston-ct.org](mailto:blittle@preston-ct.org)

## Zoning Enforcement

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 does not 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).



**Mildred Peringer, CCMAl**  
**Zoning Enforcement Officer**

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

## Public Works

This year was busy with routine road maintenance which included:

- Chip Sealed 8.9 miles of varied Town roads
- Paving of over 800 feet on Corning Road
- Line Striping to over 50 miles of roads in the Fall
- Swept 54 miles of Town roads as part of Spring/Summer clean up
- Shimming roadsides with hot asphalt to prepare for chip sealing
- Addressed and rectified multiple drainage issues

Dying and diseased trees posed much concern to many citizens both locally and on a state level. In Preston, \$10,000 was spent to trim back and remove dangerous trees on our Town Roads. Ongoing tree removal efforts and communication continued with the State and with Eversource.

The Transfer Station seemingly continues to lend a good setting for local non-profit organizations and groups to share information and promote their services and good deeds during business hours. At the Transfer Station, a lot of new services are provided to Town Residents such as handling of hazardous wastes, paint, etc. We encourage you to visit the Town's website at <https://www.preston-ct.org/248/Transfer-Station> for specifics.

We thank voters for approving a five-year capital project that allowed Public Works Department to purchase a new Roadside Mower. This utility tractor with boom mower replaced a 27-year old mower which we opted to keep serving as a backup and to allow two staff members to work consecutively.

**Robert Congdon (Retired)**  
**Public Works Director**

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

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## Registrar of Voters

In FY 2019, the Registrars of Voters conducted local, state, and federal elections, referenda, and primaries. We worked closely with The Office of Secretary of State to ensure the voting rights of Preston citizens. The Registrars also performed voter registration, maintained active and inactive voter registry lists, completed two annual canvasses of voters to ascertain residency, appointed and trained poll workers and maintained all voting equipment.

The Registrars also worked closely with the Town Clerk to ensure that absentee ballot procedures were followed and that Moderator Reports and voter registry lists indicating who voted were available to the public. The Registrars worked together with the Town Clerk when performing ballot ordering and certification of the ballot order as required by law.

During FY2019 the Registrars posted announcements in local newspapers for mandated voter registration sessions. They also posted announcements for tabulator testing and dates by which

voters must change their party affiliation if they wanted to vote in a primary election. They also provided voter registry lists to the Town Committees in support of party caucus activities.

The Registrars of Voters successfully conducted the following five election/referendum events during FY2019:

- Budget Referendum on July 10, 2018 where 673 voters from a Registration List of 2932 participated
- Democratic and Republican Primary on August 14, 2018 where 523 voters from a combined Enrollment list of 1604 participated
- Budget Referendum on August 21, 2018 where 710 voters from a Registry List of 2958 participated
- Gubernatorial Election on November 6, 2018 where 2143 voters from a Registration List of 3101 participated
- Budget Referendum on June 11, 2019 where 682 voters from a Registry List of 2983 participated

Detail results for these election/referendum events may be obtained at the Town Clerk's office.

On November 6, 2018, the Preston voter registry, according to the Connecticut Voter Registration Database reported enrollments to be as indicated in this table.

Democratic	744
Green Party	3
Independent	45
Libertarian	6
Republican	875
Working Families	0
Unaffiliated	1251

A slight difference in the total registration as shown in the Connecticut Voter Registration database and the polling place check list total was due to the delayed processing of voter registration cards received on the November 6, 2018 election day.

During FY 2019, the Registrars attended training for new Registrars of Voters offered by The Office of Secretary of the State (SOTS) and the Registrar of Voters Association of Connecticut (ROVAC). One Registrar attended both Fall and Spring conferences sponsored by SOTS and ROVAC. In addition, both Registrars attended monthly meetings of the New London ROVAC where information regarding their duties and anticipated changes in election law was shared and discussed.



On April 4, 2019 at a Town Meeting, Preston residents voted to relocate the Town's polling place to the gymnasium of Preston Plains Middle School (PPMS), which meets the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements for a polling place. A one-time expenditure of approximately \$3000 was made to cover the costs of a SECURALL rolling cabinet, the legally required notification by mail to all registered voters of the polling place change, and the purchase of five folding tables. No additional recurring operating costs will be required in the future. PPMS was successfully used as the new polling place for the first time at the June 11, 2019 budget referendum.

**Andrew Stockton**  
Democratic Registrar

**Desiree Majcher**  
Republican Registrar

## Resident State Troopers

Crime and motor vehicle levels in the community have remained relatively neutral from the 2018 calendar year to 2019. The numbers can be attributed to many factors, including community policing, aggressive investigative activities, citizen involvement, social media, and preventive police patrols. The stabilization of casino related traffic coupled with, a mild winter, high visibility, paired with motor vehicle enforcement efforts by the Preston Resident Trooper's Office in conjunction with Troop E – Montville personnel has offered another unwavering year of motor vehicle related incidents and a decrease in overall motor vehicle accidents. There was a noticeable increase in burglaries in 2019, however that spike was attributed to two individuals who are currently incarcerated thanks to the combined efforts of the Preston Resident Trooper's Office, Statewide Narcotics, Troop E – Montville, several local agencies, and the public. Additionally, there was an increase in DWI's and sexual assaults, many of which concluded with an arrest.

Over the course of both 2018 and 2019, the State Police and Preston Resident Trooper's Office were involved in various programs including but not limited to; Child-ID, Child Safety Seat Inspections, safety presentations for the elderly and Preston schools, meetings with several committees and town agencies, pistol permit application processing and community policing. Social media outlets have also been created for the town to further communicate with the Resident Troopers in a safe and efficient manner and allow for dissemination of town related information. Additionally, the Resident Trooper's Office has been teaching the DARE program to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes and educating them on how to make responsible choices.

In March of 2019 Tpr. Brown joined the Resident Trooper's Office as the day shift Resident Trooper. He has been a noticeable asset to school safety during school hours.

As your Resident Troopers, we wish to take this opportunity to thank the citizens of Preston for your continued support and cooperation!

**Trooper Armando Bettini #806**

**Trooper Kalen Brown #970**

### Statistics for 2018 Calendar Year

Calls for Service – 3706

Total Accidents – 189

Fatal Accidents – 0

Accidents with injury – 28

Total DWIs – 15

Burglary – 5

Disturbances – 18

Larceny – 11

Criminal Mischief – 1

Sexual Assaults – 1

Narcotics – 13

Medical Calls – 67

Untimely Deaths – 7

Motor Vehicle Stops – 1226

### Statistics for 2019 Calendar Year

Calls for Service - 3590

Total Accidents - 152

Fatal Accidents – 2

Accidents with injury - 30

Total DWIs - 28

Burglary - 9

Disturbances - 12

Larceny - 14

Criminal Mischief – 3

Sexual Assaults – 7

Narcotics – 10

Medical Calls – 67

Untimely Deaths - 4

Motor Vehicle Stops – 1094

# Tax Collector

**Jill Keith**

**Tax Collector**

Phone: 860-887-5581, ext. 111

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

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, the Tax Collector's Office received \$11,174,798 in property taxes for the current year and \$156,127 for prior years. An additional \$98,268 in interest and lien fees brought the collection total to \$11,429,193.

Real Estate	2,341
Personal Property	706
Motor Vehicle	5,532
Motor Vehicle Supplemental	937
<b>TOTAL ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>9,516</b>

In addition to the online payment portal available through the Town website, taxpayers will have the option to set up auto-payments. This will be available on March 2, 2020.

*Sources: 2018-2019 CAFR*

*Grand Rate Book Balance Sheet Report – Grand List Year 2017*

GENERAL FUND  
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES  
BUDGET AND ACTUAL  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance With Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
<b>Revenues:</b>				
<b>Property taxes</b>				
Property taxes - current year	\$ 11,050,422	\$ 11,050,422	\$ 11,174,798	\$ 124,376
Interest & lien fees	80,000	80,000	98,268	18,268
Property taxes - prior years	120,000	120,000	156,127	36,127
	<u>11,250,422</u>	<u>11,250,422</u>	<u>11,429,193</u>	<u>178,771</u>
<b>Intergovernmental:</b>				
Education Cost Sharing (ECS)	3,011,772	3,011,772	3,006,942	(4,830)
Mashantucket Pequot Grant	1,165,290	1,165,290	1,165,290	-
Pilot for state hospital and property	7,233	7,233	7,233	-
Town Aid Road	199,569	199,569	199,539	(30)
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	2,995	995
Veterans Tax Relief	1,000	1,000	1,195	195
Other grants	-	-	32,919	32,919
Totally disabled	-	-	365	365
LOCIP	51,631	51,631	-	(51,631)
	<u>4,472,495</u>	<u>4,472,495</u>	<u>4,430,478</u>	<u>(42,017)</u>
<b>Local:</b>				
Town clerk fees	70,000	70,000	85,402	15,402
Construction permit fees	40,000	40,000	123,463	83,463
Paper, metal, and transfer station	10,000	10,000	18,705	8,705
Sprint antenna	19,166	19,166	19,166	-
Investment income	10,000	10,000	48,974	38,974
Miscellaneous fees	-	-	7,045	7,045
License and permit fees	3,000	3,000	2,950	(50)
Telephone/cable access	15,000	15,000	9,623	(5,377)
Other	-	-	144,628	144,628
Farmland preservation fees	600	600	676	76
Historic document fees	1,200	1,200	1,352	152
	<u>168,966</u>	<u>168,966</u>	<u>461,984</u>	<u>293,018</u>
<b>Total revenues</b>	<u>\$ 15,891,883</u>	<u>\$ 15,891,883</u>	<u>\$ 16,321,655</u>	<u>\$ 429,772</u>

**TOWN OF PRESTON, CONNECTICUT REPORT OF THE TAX COLLECTOR FOR THE  
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019**

Grand List October 1,	Taxes	Lawful Corrections		Suspense Transfers	Adjusted Taxes Receivable	Collections			Taxes Receivable June 30, 2019
	Receivable July 1, 2018	Additions	Deductions			Taxes	Interest and Liens	Total	
2017	\$ 11,383,627	\$ 11,741	\$ 37,774	\$ -	\$ 11,357,594	11,198,594	55,494	\$ 11,254,088	\$ 159,000
2016	157,464	1,685	4,698	-	154,451	100,432	21,746	122,178	54,019
2015	54,995	1,690	1,615	(17,420)	37,650	20,761	6,998	27,759	16,889
2014	10,959	-	-	-	10,959	1,986	572	2,558	8,973
2013	3,723	-	-	-	3,723	-	-	-	3,723
2012	(1,056)	-	-	-	(1,056)	-	-	-	(1,056)
2011	1,642	-	-	-	1,642	-	-	-	1,642
2010	1,985	-	-	-	1,985	-	-	-	1,985
2009	388	-	-	-	388	-	-	-	388
2008	347	-	-	-	347	-	-	-	347
2007	(43)	-	-	-	(43)	-	-	-	(43)
2006	238	-	-	-	238	-	-	-	238
2005	2,024	-	-	-	2,024	-	-	-	2,024
2004	2,052	-	-	-	2,052	-	-	-	2,052
2003	446	-	-	-	446	-	-	-	446
	<u>\$ 11,618,791</u>	<u>\$ 15,116</u>	<u>\$ 44,087</u>	<u>\$ (17,420)</u>	<u>\$ 11,572,400</u>	<u>\$ 11,321,773</u>	<u>\$ 84,810</u>	<u>\$ 11,406,583</u>	<u>\$ 250,627</u>

## Town Clerk

**Jill Keith**

**Town Clerk**

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

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

**Renee Wucik**

**Assistant Town Clerk**

**860-887-5581, ext. 106**

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

**Linda Hopkins**

**Assistant Town Clerk**

**860-887-5581, ext. 102**

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

The Town Clerk's office maintains all records. We receive and record a variety of documents and archive them accordingly. All these valuable records are up to date and have been preserved. We recorded a total of 868 documents and 26 mylar maps during the 2019 FY.

In addition to maintaining land records, we keep records of minutes, agendas and appointed members for all boards and commissions. We store and maintain annual fiscal reports and town ordinances.

The Town Clerk also works with the Secretary of State ensuring that state statues are followed for all municipal and federal elections. We have strict guidelines with regards to submission of appropriate forms and reports.

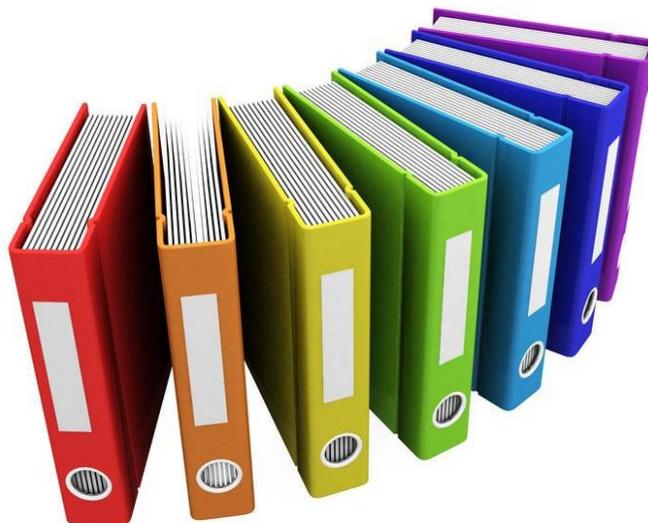
We have also issued and submitted to the appropriate agencies the following:

151 hunting and fishing licenses - **Department of Energy and Environmental Protection**

355 Dog licenses & 1 Kennel License – **Department of Agriculture**

41 Marriage licenses, 36 Death Certificates, 37 Birth Certificates – **Department of Public Health**

15 Notary certificates, 15 liquor licenses and 15 trade names - **filed with the clerk's office.**



# OUR SCHOOLS

## Report from the Superintendent of Schools

The Annual Report of the School Year 2018-2019 reflects the general operation, status, and progress of the Preston Public Schools during the July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 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 all your past support and all your future advocacy for quality learning experiences for all our students.

### Students PK-12

The Preston Public Schools enrolled 441 students in grades PK-8 during the 2018-2019 school year. This number included 296 students PK-5 at Preston Veterans' Memorial School, 46 of whom enrolled in Kindergarten, and 145 students in grades 6-8 at Preston Plains Middle School. Two hundred sixty-one (261) 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 69 students received Special Education services in-district.

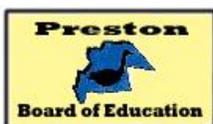


The Class of 2019 chose the following colleges: Three Rivers Community College, University of Connecticut, Eastern CT State University, Central CT State University, Western CT State University, University of New Haven, Springfield College, Sacred Heart University, Fairfield University, and Western New England College.

### Personnel PK-8

During the 2018-2019 school year, the Preston Public Schools employed 40 Teachers, 19.5 Instructional Assistants, 1.0 Superintendent, 2.0 Principals, .5 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, Charles Raymond; Vice Chair, Deborah Burke-Grabarek; Secretary, Cindy Luty, Ed Gauthier, Tom Turner, and Daniel Harris. The BOE accomplished

much, including a Capital Improvement Plan, budget improvements, student recognitions, policy reviews, and other important actions.

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

The district, at all levels, continued to work to improve the social emotional learning opportunities for all students. Important positions like the school nurse, school psychologist and school social worker coordinated with staff, administration, and parents to provide a warm, safe, and welcoming learning environment. With safety as the utmost concern, the district was able to obtain school zone status for Preston Veterans' Memorial School after years of dedicated effort. Preston students continued to participate in standardized testing programs during the year. In April and May of 2019, students in grades 3-8 participated in SBAC Testing in language arts and mathematics while students enrolled in grades 5 and 8 were also administered the Next Generation Science Field Test.



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. Senior Citizen luncheons and Grandparents’ Day filled our gym/cafeteria two times over.

Preston Plains Middle School students 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, 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) are often the center of many community-wide activities held at both schools and they supported a variety of student activities.

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., Integrated Day Charter School and the Regional Multi-Cultural Magnet School.

## School Facilities, PK-12 Finance

The Board of Education and Board of Finance monitor school expenses each month. The Preston Public Schools' net budget for 2018-2019 was \$11,831,804.20. This year, the Board of Education continued to expand and improve the budget process that has been touted by many community members as the most transparent and informative in many years. In addition, the Board of Education began using the new strategic plan, created a technology plan, and began recognition practices such as awarding the first Paw Award to a staff member who exemplified the highest qualities of professionalism, humanity, honesty, and humility. The Board continues to acknowledge students from grades PK through 12 and improve communication by implementing the next level of district educational branding.



The Board of Education also completed a rigorous policy review that was guided by a CAFE Policy analysis process. In addition, they accepted a draft of the first ever comprehensive Technology Plan that will be integrated into the Strategic Plan, and the upcoming Facility Plan. And finally, the Board continued to review, and respond to safety priorities throughout the district that focused on enhancing various safety protocols to promote a warm, safe, and welcoming environment.

## The Future

The 2018-2019 fiscal year set the cornerstone for much future work. The Board will build off the policies, practices, systems, and a thoughtful vision to further improve the budget development process, the student learning environment, and safety and well-being.

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



[https://www.prestonschools.org/home\\_page](https://www.prestonschools.org/home_page)

<https://www.prestonschools.org/boe>

[https://www.prestonschools.org/central\\_office](https://www.prestonschools.org/central_office)

[https://preston-plains-middle-school.echalksites.com/home\\_page](https://preston-plains-middle-school.echalksites.com/home_page)

[https://preston-veterans-memorial-school.echalksites.com/home\\_page](https://preston-veterans-memorial-school.echalksites.com/home_page)

# 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.

Tasks of the Board of Finance include:

- Preparing the Town Budget.
- Setting the property tax rate.
- Approving special appropriations and transfer between appropriations.
- Determining the method and extent of financial record keeping.
- Arranging for the annual audit of the Town accounts.
- Publishing the annual Town Report.

**Members of the Board of Finance for FY July 2018- June 2019 were:**

<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Melissa Lennon, Chair	Melissa Lennon, Chair (until May 2019)
Jerry Grabarek, Vice Chair	Jerry Grabarek, Chair (May–June 2019) Vice Chair (until May 2019)
Stacey Becker, Clerk	Stacey Becker, Clerk
Sandra Allyn-Gauthier	Sandra Allyn-Gauthier
Keith Wucik	Keith Wucik
Ken Zachem	Ken Zachem
Lennie Spencer ( <i>Alternate</i> )	Ian Stammel
Ian Stammel ( <i>Alternate</i> )	Lennie Spencer ( <i>Alternate</i> )

The Board of Finance in FY 2019 acted on the following procedural items:

- Establishment of a BoF New Member Orientation Packet in January 2019.
- Adoption of both a Reserve Policy and a Debt Management Policy on February 26, 2019.

The FY 2018-2019 budget was approved on August 21, 2018. The table below shows the actuals as well as the budgetary information used to create the budget:

<b>BUDGET SUMMARY</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>FY 2018-2019 ACTUAL</b>
General Government Budget	\$3,495,707
Board of Education Budget	\$11,732,031
Debt Service (combine all bonds)	\$774,879
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$16,002,617</b>
<b>STATE &amp; LOCAL REVENUES</b>	<b>FY 2018-2019 ACTUAL</b>
State Revenues	\$4,430,478
Local Revenues	\$461,984
<b>Total State &amp; Local Revenues:</b>	<b>\$4,892,462</b>
<b>PROPERTY TAX CALCULATION</b>	<b>FY 2018-2019 BUDGETED</b>
Total Expenses as Budgeted	<b>\$16,090,683</b>
Less State Revenues as Budgeted	-\$4,221,295
Less Local Revenues as Budgeted	-\$368,966
Less Unassigned Fund Balance (Surplus) as Budgeted	-\$450,000
<b>Property Tax Needed:</b>	<b>\$11,050,422</b>
<b>Mil rate:</b>	<b>26.03</b>
<b>Grand List (2018)</b>	<b>\$433,170,115</b>
One mil (using 98% of Grand List)	\$424,507
<b>Unassigned Fund Balance (Surplus)</b>	
Contingency Fund (9.5% of FY19 Budget Actual)	\$1,520,249
Cash Reserve	\$1,029,526
<b>Total Available Unassigned Fund Balance (Surplus) as of 06/30/18:</b>	<b>\$2,549,775</b>

*\*Town of Preston, Connecticut Financial Statements Year Ended June 30, 2019 (Audit)*

The Board of Finance has its own page on the Town website (<https://www.preston-ct.org/240/Board-of-Finance>) 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.

You can always contact the Board of Finance at [financeboard@preston-ct.org](mailto:financeboard@preston-ct.org).

**John Moulson**  
**Board of Finance Chairman**

## Board of Selectmen



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

For the fiscal year 2018 to 2019, Robert Congdon, Lynwood Crary, and Mike Sinko were the elected officials serving on the Board of Selectmen. This annual report from the Board of Selectmen highlights their accomplishments and we thank them for their leadership and guidance.

Many long-range planning topics surfaced and workshops were held. Discussion on the pros and cons of hiring a Town Manager were presented by Mark Oefinger, former Groton Town Manager. The BOS felt they needed to consider this option since many towns in CT were having trouble finding candidates to run with the required skill set because not many qualified people are willing to risk their current careers for a 2 year term. Also, local government is getting more complicated with new labor laws, environmental law, finance requirements and economic development. The form of government for our Town would need to be changed and that would be at least a two-year process. On topic of an Internship & Professional Practice Program, the BOS and the Public Safety Committee met with the Mayor of Ledyard, Chief of Police and their Lieutenant putting together a scope of services and some preliminary numbers. This was followed by many sessions of comparing the Resident Trooper Program to a partnership with Ledyard in terms of coverage and costs. Ultimately, the decision was made to stay with the Resident State Trooper Program resulting in the hiring of a second Resident Trooper.

After much consideration, this year our Residents joined our many neighboring towns by voting to join the Uncas Health District (UHD) which is an unincorporated, unaffiliated, non-profit agency operating under Connecticut General Statutes. The agency's mission is to promote and protect the public's health in order to prevent illness, death and disability among its residents by concentration in three key areas: environmental health, health education/prevention, and public health preparedness. Funding for UHD is derived from local and state per capita contributions, grants, and fees and the UHD Board of Health is appointed by the Boards of Selectmen. As your new Local Health Department, please either visit their website at [www.uncashd.org](http://www.uncashd.org) or call (860) 823-1189 for information on services available to you. Preston thanks those valued staff members – Frank Greene, Randy Dalton and Ted Faulise – who assisted with our health needs for many years of service.

Cost savings is always a top priority and steps were taken to further reduce town spend including joining Council of Government's Purchasing Program: Capitol Region Purchasing Council; along with installation of LED Lighting throughout Town Hall in conjunction with Eversource's Small

Business Energy Advantage Program and obtaining a Bright Ideas Grant.

There was again, Federal and State uncertainty. The Federal Government shutdown resulted in Governor Lamont suggested Towns waive interest and penalties on property tax for Federal Employees and a motion was made by our Selectmen to implement a property tax interest and penalty waiver for Federal employees affected by the shutdown in compliance with House Bill #5765.

A Polling Place Study Committee was recommended and chaired by Selectman Mike Sinko to look at viable ADA compliant polling places in Town. Preston Plains Middle School was selected and, in turn, voted by the Town as the new polling location. We appreciate the assistance and cooperation from Roy Seitsinger and his staff to allow this transition.

The Preston Riverwalk continued to progress with two resolutions being passed by the BOS. The first concerning a change in terms on the environmental contingency loan from the State of CT to allow for either a job creation component or a dollar amount for construction of the project since it is easier to track the construction. The second resolution was to extend the dates in the 2013 loan agreement since the environmental clean-up is still on-going.

**Preston's three Selectmen are acknowledged and thanked for their many years of collective dedication to serving our Town: Robert Congdon (24 years of service as First Selectman), Lynwood Crary (6 years of service) and Mike Sinko (13 years of service).**

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## 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 town pays the state 85% of the total cost of each trooper's salary, fringe, and overhead. While the Resident Trooper Program has been utilized by Preston since 1964, providing professional and comprehensive police services, there has been concern for the escalating cost of the program.

In March 2019, the Board of Selectmen and members of the PESAC met with officials from the Town of Ledyard to discuss Ledyard Police providing services to Preston as an alternative to the Resident Trooper Program. The draft estimates ranged from \$550,000 to \$650,000 per year to provide 24-hour, 7-days per week, 365 days per year coverage using one (1) officer, 3 shifts per day. Ledyard's presentation was attractive and worthy of future consideration, however, is greater than the Resident Trooper cost of approximately \$345,000. The existing Resident Trooper Program has been extended.

**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, under the direction of the Preston's full-time career Fire Chief/Fire Marshal, include Preston City Volunteer Fire Department, Poquetanuck Volunteer Fire Department, and Preston Office of Emergency Management. In addition to volunteers from Preston City and Poquetanuck, The Preston Fire and Emergency Services provides a full-time career Firefighter/EMT/Deputy Fire Marshal and part-time paid firefighters / EMTs.

During this fiscal period (FY18/19) funding was included in the town budget for an additional paid part-time firefighter/EMT hours to expand coverage. The Poquetanuck Fire Department's Ambulance Fund provided additional funding to the Town to offset the cost of personnel. These actions have once again proven successful. Although the PESAC is encouraged with improvements in emergency response the loss of trained volunteer firefighters and EMT's continues to diminish at an alarming rate. The PESAC unanimously endorsed a budget proposal from Fire Chief Casey to hire additional paid and part-time paid personnel.

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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 based on any ideology.

### Members

#### Regular

Nancy Bartlett  
Linda Christensen, Secretary  
Hank Podraza, Chairman

#### Alternate

Gale Ennis

### Activity

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

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## Housing Authority

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

Lincoln Park Housing is located on Lincoln Park Road Extension with forty apartments available to the disabled and elderly. 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.

Improvements made at Lincoln Park include additional security cameras, extensive landscaping, tree removal, bench painting and brush clearing along the pond. Twenty birdhouses donated by Jon Gauthier were painted by the craft class and hung by Mark Perrin in various locations throughout the community. A memorial garden was created in memory of Raymond Wilber, a tenant who made it his mission to beautify the place he called home.

A successful **Meet & Greet** was held providing tenants the opportunity to ask questions and give their input as to what issues they would like the Housing Authority to address in the future. Also, a well received, first quarterly entertainment event with Eric Covino was held in the community room.

The goal of the Housing Authority is to provide safe, well maintained, affordable housing for the residents.

**Carol Onderdonk, Executive Director**  
**(860) 887-4865**  
[pha11@comcast.net](mailto:pha11@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 2019, the Commission received a total of twelve applications. Of those twelve, eight were approved, two were "As of Right" timber harvests and one was determined to be "not required". The Commission's updates to its Regulations were approved following a public hearing in March 2019. These changes brought the Regulations up to date with current law and court decisions and will now require applicants to pay the cost of Legal Notices. At the present time there are no outstanding violations which require further Commission action.

The Wetlands Commission has seven regular members and two alternates. The members and alternates are appointed to six-year terms by the Board of Selectmen. There are currently no vacancies. If you are a resident of Preston and have an interest in wetlands and/or becoming a member of the Commission, please contact John Moulson at 860-886-0775 to learn more about our work and to answer any of your questions.

**John A. Moulson**  
**Chairman**

# Preston Redevelopment Agency

**Function:** The representative body for the Town of Preston responsible for the clean-up and revitalization of Preston Riverwalk.

**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 was the ex-officio member of this agency.

**FY19 Activities:** As reported in the FY18 BoF Annual Report, the PRA spent many months developing a “detailed remediation engineering plan”. The approved detailed plan allowed the PRA to submit for Town, State and Federal permits. Approval from the Town’s Planning & Zoning (PZC) and Inland/Wetlands commissions was received in the spring of 2018 and DEEP’s Stormwater permit in mid-summer of 2018. We began the remediation work everywhere on the site except on the land adjacent to the Thames River in August 2018.

We submitted applications for work along the Thames River that required approval from both DEEP (Connecticut’s Department of Energy & Environmental Protection) and the Army Corp of Engineering; these permits were approved in March 2019 allowing us to progress our remediation effort along the Thames River.

In support of this work CSG (Construction Solutions Group) were hired to serve as the clerk-of-the-works for the PRA. This is a program management role wherein experienced engineers provided oversight and guidance to our clean-up effort. In addition, as required by the State, we hired AHS (Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc) as the archaeological firm to monitor the remediation work in the highly sensitive archaeological areas of the site.

The bulk of the remediation involved removal of the asphalt/ash-cinder roadways. DEEP required us to remove this material before they sign off that the property is clean. The first stage of this work began with the creation of the largest consolidation area, which is located on the south-western portion of the main campus along the Thames River. The area created will be filled with the asphalt/ash-cinder material, rolled (to compact it), covered with four (4) feet of clean fill to serve as a cap, and seeded to prevent future erosion. The material being placed here does not leach and it can be built on in the future. The final slope of the filled area will be significantly better than the current situation as well.



Early days of the Sand/Stone Piles

## Creating the Consolidation Area:

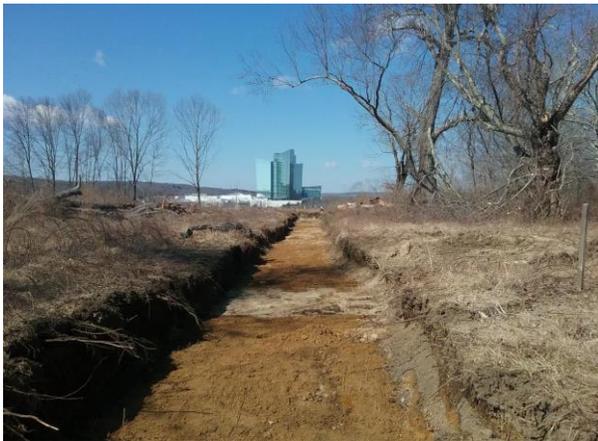


The first piles of asphalt/ash-cinder material



Asphalt/Ash-Cinder Road Remediation

With the consolidation area in place, we worked with AHS to remediate the roadway areas that overlapped with the previously identified archaeological areas. While several ‘features’ were found, none required additional archeological investigations. Those that were found were photographed, documented, and mapped for future reference per AHS’s (and the State’s) requirements.



Sidewalk Removal



AOC-6 (west of the Power House) after 15’excavation

Manafort Bros. (MBI) progressed the remediation through the fall of 2018 and the spring of 2019. In addition, once the DEEP/Army Corp permits were received, per the plan, MBI created a second consolidation area located on the north-western portion of the main campus along the Thames River. This consolidation area has been filled, graded, contoured, and planted to prevent any erosion.

During the remediation work, we encountered significantly more ash/cinder material than identified during our assessment work. For example, we expected such material to exist below the known paved roadways (with depths anywhere between one foot and four feet below the road surface). However, the clean-up work uncovered a number of situations wherein the base was forty feet wide versus the typical twenty-foot wide road. We also ran across utility trenches where ash/cinder material was used to cover and fill around these utility trenches, some more than eight feet below grade. These new findings identified to the need for additional dollars to complete the clean-up work.



Phase 4 Consolidation Area A Prep



Plantings in place at base of Consolidation Area A

In addition to working with our contractors to flesh out this information and to test the validity of the new findings, we held a number of discussions with both the Tribe and the State to find a path forward to complete the clean-up and transfer the property to the Tribe. The amount of funding and the source of this funding is in progress.

The Mohegan Ceremonial Fires were held at the site in July and December of 2018 as well as March and June of 2019. 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.

The following contractors worked with the PRA to advance our remediation efforts: Tighe & Bond (environmental), MBI (remediation), CSG (clerk-of-the works), CLA ((CLA Engineers; third party engineering firm), and AHS (archaeological firm).

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.**

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## Senior Affairs Committee

Who are we? What do we do? What are our responsibilities to the residents of Preston? We are an appointed committee consisting of five members including Chairman Elizabeth Bassette, MaryLou Jensen, Marie Perrin, Morris Fishbone and Fran Minor. Our stewardship consists of providing services and programs for older adults that promote their well-being, support their independence and quality of life. To that end, we offer a TVCCA Café Program, deliver meals-on wheels to eligible Preston residents, provide food baskets to the needy and manage a small food pantry. The department sponsors/coordinates programming such as TVCCA Energy Assistance, AARP Tax Assistance, AARP Safe Driving Program, Renters Rebate, Elderly and Totally Disabled Tax Relief Program, social events conducted at the Preston Senior Center and Benefits Counseling services

which are co-sponsored with Senior Resources Agency on Aging. The afore mentioned activities are a thumbnail sketch of our commitment to offer valuable services and opportunities to our elder population.

A monthly blood pressure screening is conducted, free of charge, for Preston residents at Lincoln Park Housing. Annual flu & Pneumonia clinics are conducted. We were fortunate to have the ability to partner with Uncas Health District to offer TDAP injections made possible through a grant from the Edward and Mary Lord Foundation. To assist local emergency personnel if/when they are called to your residence, we distribute File of Life packets which contain emergency contact information essential to expedite the process of intake. Health talks on various subjects are provided on a quarterly basis at the Preston Senior Center by TVCCA staff members.

Transportation in this rural community is not a luxury, it is a necessity. Two forms of transportation are available. Eastern Connecticut Transportation Consortium, Inc. is a private, non-profit agency that brokers and provides transit services for persons of low income, seniors, and persons with disabilities. Medical transportation for seniors or disabled individuals is only available to qualified residents of the 12-town region which includes Preston. The medical transportation program is designed for seniors 60+ and persons with disabilities who are unable to drive and need transportation to appointments that occur outside of the hours or area that town funded transportation services provide. An annual membership fee is applicable for participation which entitles the participants to be eligible for 12 one-way rides within New London County and parts of Westerly. The Town of Preston provides transportation to residents who are 60 years of age and older. A 25-mile radius restriction is imposed for all medical transportation requests. No fee is assessed for utilization of the town's transportation service. Reservations must be made in advance by telephoning the Senior Affairs Office at 860-887-5581 extension 6.



Volunteerism is our lifeline to a successful program. As a Committee we are most grateful to those individuals who unselfishly support us, day in and day out. Through the efforts of many individuals including the U.S. Navy Chief's, Preston VFW and coordinator Maureen Domina, we are the recipients of an American Flag and flagpole which are proudly displayed in the front of the senior center.

We are humbled by your generosity and honored to serve this community

**Fran Minor**  
Municipal Agent for the Elderly

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

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## 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. Preston Youth Services works closely with the school system to enhance the

lives of youth and families in town.

We sponsored D.A.R.E. for fifth grade students at Preston Veterans Memorial School, which was taught by Preston Resident State Trooper Armando Bettini. D.A.R.E. envisions a world in which students everywhere are empowered to respect others and choose to lead lives free from violence, substance use, and other dangerous behaviors. D.A.R.E. ended with a pizza party and trip to Lisbon movies!

Preston Youth Services once again organized our Presents for Preston program which helps families in need in Preston with Christmas presents. It is our goal to make sure every child in Preston has a Merry Christmas.

Preston Youth Services sponsored homework club at Preston Plains Middle School for students in grades six through eight and at Preston Veterans Memorial School for students in grades three through five. Homework Club allows students to stay after school two days per week with a teacher to complete their homework assignments.

Our department sponsored an internet safety presentation at Preston Plains Middle School which taught students how to use technology safely while avoiding potential dangers of the Internet, social media and cyber bullying.

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.

Preston Youth Services, in conjunction with our Resident State Troopers, organized safety day at Preston Veterans Memorial School which teaches kids all about safety including bike safety, fire safety, stranger dangers, dog safety and water safety.

Preston Youth Services sponsored the new fitness center that is the stage at Preston Plains Middle School. In addition, we brought end of the year assemblies to both Preston Plains Middle School and Preston Veterans Memorial School. Our department also sponsored the rock wall at Preston Palooza which was a huge hit with event goers!!

**Amy Brosnan**

**Parks & Recreation**

860-887-5581 x113

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

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## Zoning Board of Appeals

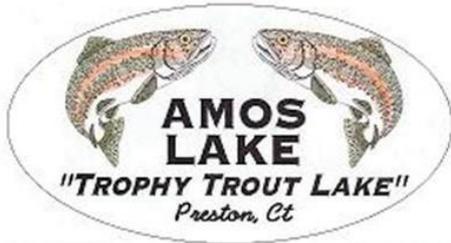
The primary function of the Zoning Board of Appeals is to hear and act upon appeals of decisions of the Zoning Enforcement Officer. Most appeals to the Board involve cases where there is a perceived hardship involved with meeting the zoning regulations on a nonconforming lot. To be approved, appeals to the Board must meet the hardship criteria as outlined in the Connecticut General Statutes.

The Board processes on average about four appeals per year.

**John A. Moulson**  
**Chairman**

# IN THE COMMUNITY

## Amos Lake Association



Amos Lake Association (ALA) is an advocate for current and future generations. Annually our projects include water sampling, free soil-testing, landowner education, boating safety, and watershed management. 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.

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. <http://www.amoslake.com/about.html>



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, birding, boating, and ice fishing.



In Fiscal year 2018-19, with funds from the Preston Community Fund, we provided residents with information about the importance of groundwater, protecting and maintaining well water, and recording septic maintenance. The record keeping folder was distributed in the Pipeline to every household in Preston.

Participated in the Last Green Valley water quality monitoring program. Monitoring mid-lake deep hole depth profile for temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, and turbidity at 1 M intervals.

Conducted a free soil testing drop off day collections at Flemings and the Preston Transfer Station.

Hired CAES to perform an aquatic plant survey of Amos lake.

We partnered with Eastern Connecticut Conservation District to provide a free rain barrel workshop for Preston residents.





Updated and digitalized our new neighbor welcome packet. Check out our digital Welcome Packet at the following link <http://online.fliphtml5.com/udcrw/poex/>.

**Pat Monahan, President**  
**Phone: 860-887-8661**  
[amoslake@gmail.com](mailto:amoslake@gmail.com)

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## 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. 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, Pat Macek-vice president, Mark Christensen-treasure, Linda Christensen-secretary, Sandra Bouffard, director-Mary Ann Melgey-director, and Mike Clancy-director

### The Achievements in 2019

- The Long Society Meetinghouse
  - completion of the exterior and structural repairs
  - new flagpole with light and path were installed
  - new granite steps installed with railing extending from the original steps to the street
- Digitization of our documents through the Connecticut League of Historical Societies continues.
- Donna Bowles is now submitting articles to The Thames River Times for PHS.
- Brochures for PHS have been printed and distributed to the town hall and library.



## The Events in 2019

- In May-[Leffingwell House Museum](#) Tour
- In July- Sons of Liberty Presented by Dayne Rugh
- In September, booth at Scarecrow Festival.
- In October, an Open House at Long Society Meeting House and a Walktober Event-Heart of Preston City.
- In November, Our Trivial Night and Mary Brown of the Mayflower Society presented the 1<sup>st</sup> Thanksgiving.
- Cemetery Clean-up at Safford-Guile and LSMH Cemeteries.
- Bi-Monthly Meetings in Feb., Apr., Jun., Aug., Oct., and Dec.



Our membership remains steady at around 50 members.

Most 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 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 <b>Emergency 911</b>
Health Department- Uncas Health District	Patrick McCormack 860-823-1189
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 <b>Emergency 911</b>
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