

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

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Lynne A. Vanderslice
First Selectwoman

Joshua S. Cole
Second Selectman

Kimberley Healy
Selectwoman

Basam Nabulsi
Selectman

Ross H. Tartell
Selectman

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Monday November 21, 2022
Held Electronically

PRESENT: First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice, Joshua Cole, Kimberley Healy, Ross Tartell

ABSENT: Basam Nabulsi

GUESTS: Captain Rob Cipolla, Social Services Director Sarah Heath, Chief Jim Blanchfield, Director Planning & Land Use Management Michael Wrinn, CFO Dawn Norton

A. Call to Order

Ms. Vanderslice called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

B. Public Comment

None

C. Consent Agenda

Motion made by Mr. Cole seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 4-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as follows amending the November 7, 2022 Minutes to show in item 5 changing "Skunk" to "Skunk Lane", and in item 7 to show "FY2033" to "FY2022":

- Minutes
 - Board of Selectmen Meeting – November 7, 2022
- Gifts
 - Berkshire Hathaway - Fire Dept (towards Purchase of Particulate Blocking Fire Hoods) - \$500.00
 - Wilton PBA Association – Wilton Senior Center Luncheon - \$500.00

Ms. Vanderslice thanked all for their generous gifts.

D. Discussion and/or Action

1. Crisis and Mental Health Resources – Captain Rob Cipolla & Sarah Heath
Captain Rob Cipolla and Social Services Director Sarah Heath reviewed the attached presentation with the BoS regarding Municipal Crisis Response and Mental Health Resources. Captain Cipolla discussed the Department's Crisis Intervention Team and noted 34 of the current 43 department officers are certified responders. Certified responders are required to undergo 40 hours of training. Ms. Heath noted her department provides personalized referral services which match the resident with the right provider and when needed and appropriate, provides financial assistance with the

cost of counseling services. Due to the vast number of resources, residents are encouraged to consult with the Social Services Department to understand each. After the presentation Captain Cipolla and Ms. Heath fielded questions from the board.

2. Traffic Enforcement Needs – Chief John Lynch & Police Commission Chair Chris Giovino
Chief Lynch & Police Commission Chair Chris Giovino reviewed the Traffic Enforcement Needs. Chief Lynch, Mr. Giovino and Ms. Vanderslice noted the post-pandemic increase in complaints regarding traffic and speeding. Chief Lynch noted the current lack of officers' time available to dedicate to traffic enforcement. He noted this fact and other factors noted supported the need for a dedicated traffic officer. He requested the addition of one additional officer, bringing the department size back to 45 officers. After further discussion with the board, motion moved by Ms. Healy to authorize increasing the headcount for the Wilton Police Department to 45. Motion seconded by Mr. Cole and carried 4-0.
3. Consideration of Awarding Unspent Budget for Additional Elderly and Disabled Tax Relief Credits
Ms. Vanderslice reminded the board members that under the enabling ordinance, the board is allowed to award additional January tax credits using the approximate \$483,000 of unused, but budgeted funds. She noted the unused amount was unusually high due low use of deferrals and approximately 60 less participants in the program than the year prior. After further discussion, including inflationary pressures on elderly and disabled residents on a fixed income, motion moved by Mr. Cole to authorize the use of the excess budget fund to fund January 1 elderly and disabled property tax relief, with the caveat no credit should exceed a property tax bill. Motion seconded by Ms. Healy and carried 4-0.
4. Recognition of Actions by Town Departments and Town Organizations Resulting in Wilton's SustainableCT Silver Award
Item tabled.
5. Board and Commission Appointments and Reappointments
Mr. Vanderslice noted the board had received a schedule of proposed reappointments to which Steven Parrinello of the Housing Committee should be added. Motion to approve reappointments as indicated on the attached with the addition of Steven Parrinello moved by Ms. Healy. Motion seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 4-0.
6. Blight
Ms. Vanderslice reviewed Blight on Wilton properties with the BoS (see attached memo).
 - a. Wilton's Blight Ordinance
Ms. Vanderslice reminded the board members of the details of three foreclosure actions taken in 2019.
 - b. Blight Foreclosure Award
Ms. Vanderslice noted the judge hearing on one of the foreclosures had awarded the Town \$100,000 in blight fines, interest, legal fee reimbursements and bills cost. She recommended the fines and interest to be used for the public good, such as supporting new affordable housing or funding a town amenity. After further discussion, motion to set up a blight fund to receive the blight fines and interest on those fines received from a court award to be used for designated purposes moved by Mr. Tartell. Motion seconded by Ms. Healy and carried 4-0.

Motion moved by Mr. Tartell for monies being deposited from the most recent award to be designated to be used to support new affordable housing in Wilton. Motion seconded by Mr. Cole and carried 4-0.

Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion to add to the agenda and item 10 to appoint Mark Lawrence as Blight Enforcement Officer. Motion seconded by Ms. Healy and carried 4-0.

7. Proposed 2023 Town Employee Holiday Schedule

Ms. Vanderslice reviewed the Proposed 2023 Town Employee Holiday Schedule with the BoS. After review motion to approve the Proposed 2023 Town Employee Holiday Schedule as presented moved by Ms. Healy seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 4-0.

8. Proposed 2023 BoS Regular Meeting and Budget Review Dates

Item tabled. To be addressed at the next BOS meeting.

9. POCD Implementation Status

Item tabled.

10. Appointment of Mark Lawrence as Blight Enforcement Officer

Motion to appoint Mark Lawrence as Blight Enforcement Officer moved by Mr. Cole seconded by Ms. Healy and carried 4-0.

E. Selectmen's Reports

1. First Selectwoman

- Ms. Vanderslice thanked the Registrars and all the election workers for all their efforts during the election.
- Ms. Vanderslice reported on the recent BOF meeting and discussions surrounding a FY2024 mill rate projection.
- Ms. Vanderslice reported New Canaan's request for a moratorium from 8-30 (g) had been rejected. In what was perceived as a change in interpretation of the statute, the CT Dept of Housing did not allow credits for affordable housing units that existed as of the date of the prior application, but were not used in the prior application.
- Ms. Vanderslice reported in the most recent legislative session a bill was passed impacting the Norwalk Transit District (NTD) and one other transit district. The bill requires the reduction of state funding for any district with a population of less than 100,000. Although Wilton isn't a member, Norwalk Transit District provides bus service from Norwalk to Wilton and disability transportation for Wilton residents. To avoid a reduction in state funding, NTD has asked Wilton to join. Wilton to investigate.
- Ms. Vanderslice reported the Town received a second payment from National Opioid Settlement funds and noted the total received exceeded \$50,000. She reminded members the funds had previously been designated for educational efforts.

2. Selectmen/Selectwomen

Ms. Healy

Ms. Healy commented on feedback she had received regarding remarks made by Mr. Tartell at the previous BoS meeting.

Mr. Tartell

Mr. Tartell addressed Ms. Healy's comments. He also noted kudos to Mr. Cole for representing the BoS at the Veterans Day event.

Mr. Cole

Mr. Cole noted he was happy to represent the town at the Veterans Day event noting his family's long history in the military.

F. Public Comment

None.

G. Adjournment

Having no further business, motion to adjourn moved by Mr. Tartell at 8:35pm, seconded by Mr. Cole and carried 4-0.

Jacqueline Rochester

Recording Secretary

Taken from Video

Mental Health: Crisis Response and Support

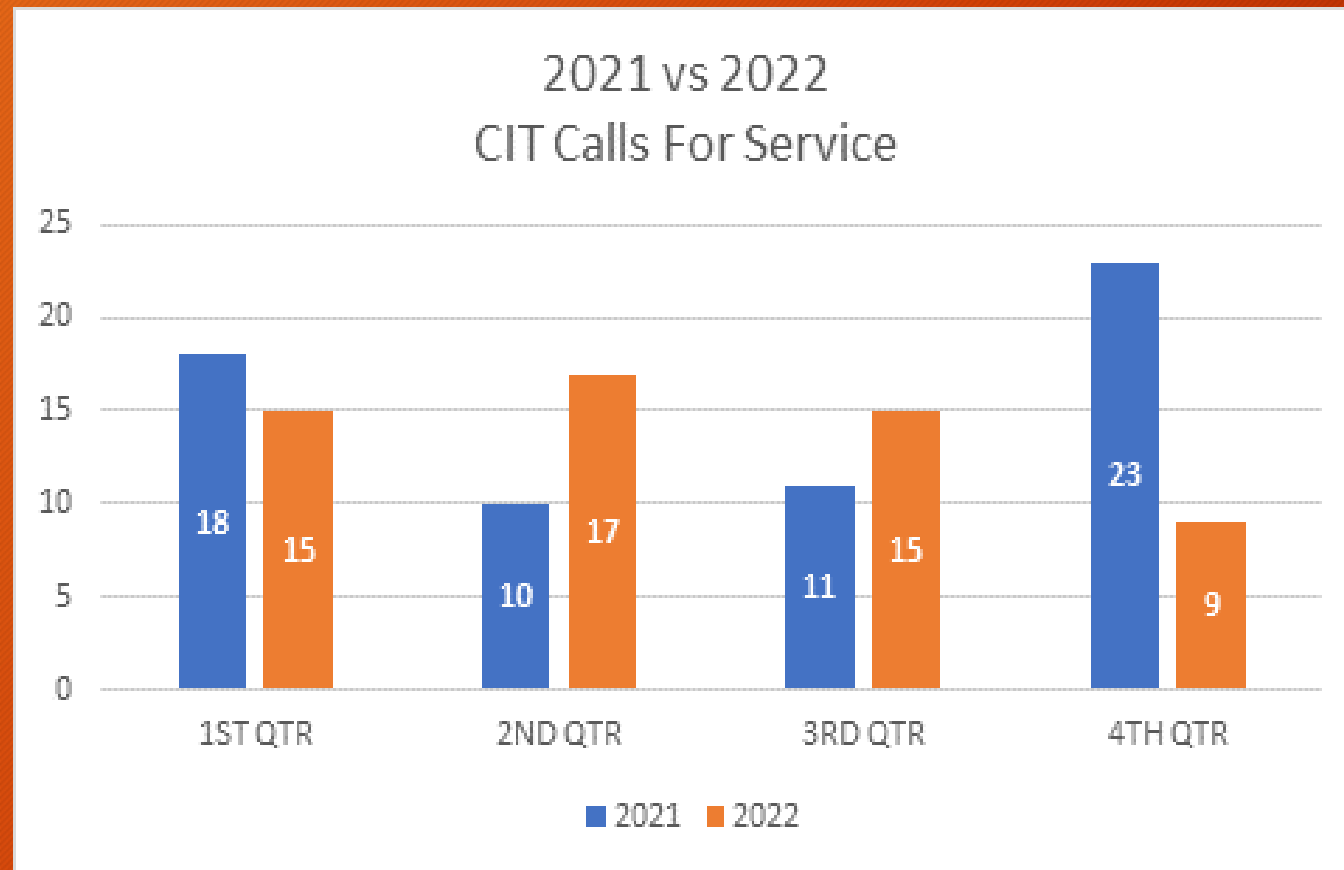
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Wilton Police Department Response

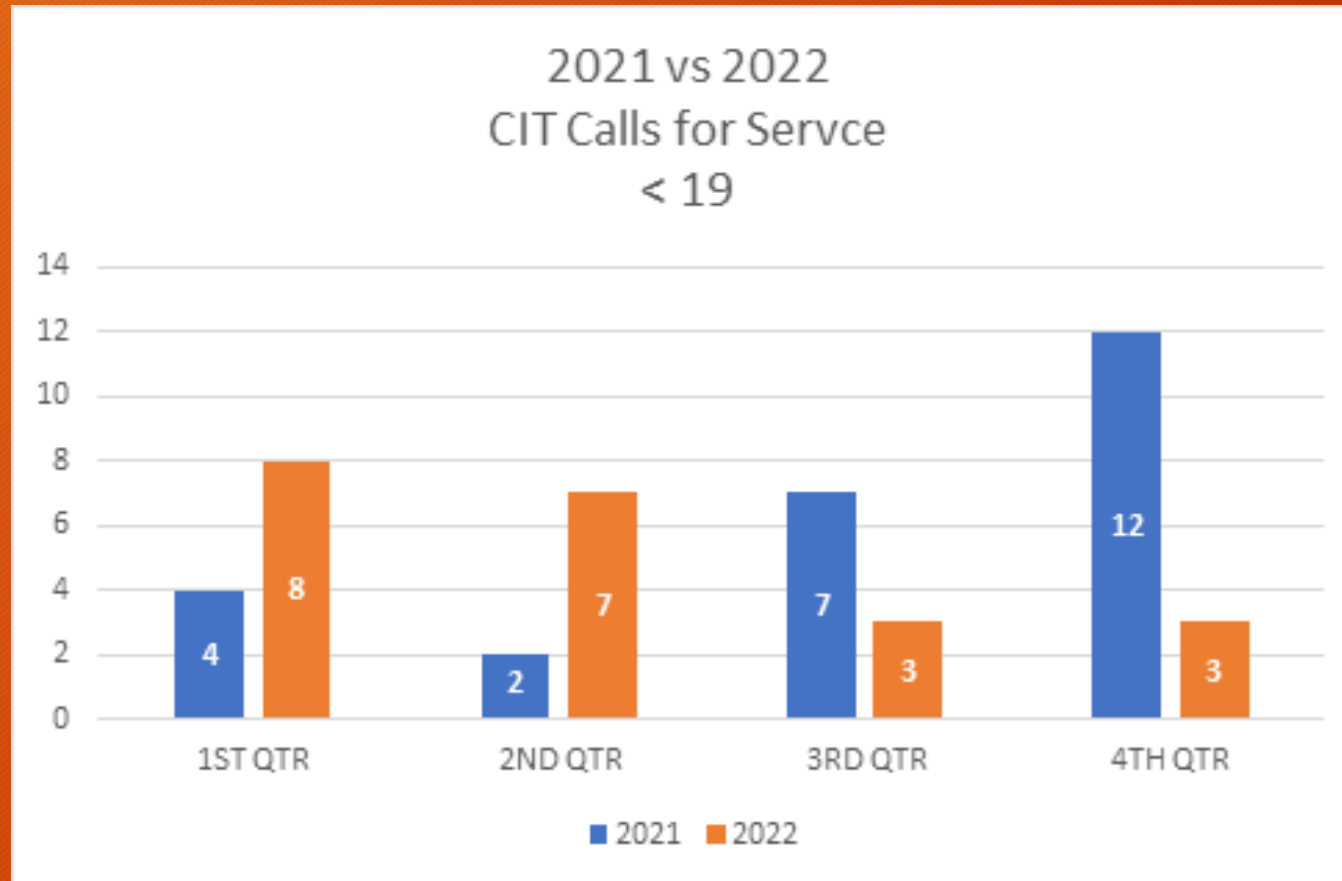
Crisis Intervention Calls for Service (CFS)

- Persons known to have mental illness who are experiencing a crisis; or
- Persons displaying behavior indicative of mental illness;
- Attempted or threatened suicides; or
- Calls involving gravely disabled individuals; or
- Calls in which individuals may be experiencing emotional trauma.

Wilton Police Department Response



Wilton Police Department Response



Wilton Police Department Response

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)

The goal of the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) is to facilitate safe resolutions to crisis situations for all parties involved: officers, community, and person in crisis. In addition, similar to providing a victim of domestic violence with information on appropriate advocacy services, the CIT will link persons in crisis to appropriate services that may benefit them.

- 5 day/40 hour training
- 34 certified officers



Wilton Police Department Response

Police Emergency Examination Request (PEER) C.G.S. 17a-503

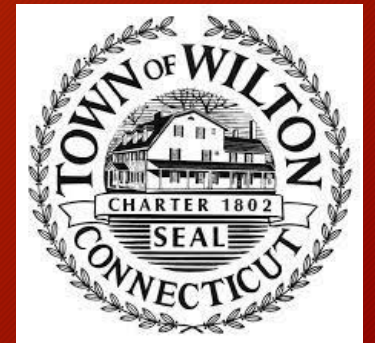
Any police officer who has reasonable cause to believe that a person has psychiatric disabilities and is dangerous to himself or herself or others or gravely disabled, and in need of immediate care and treatment, may take such person into custody and take or cause such person to be taken to a general hospital for emergency examination under this section.

- 2021 = 57 PEER
- 2022 = 51 PEER YTD



Wilton Police Department Response

- Franklin S. DuBois Center
- Office of Victim Services
- State Department of Developmental Services
- State Department of Social Services
- Wilton Social Services
- Wilton BOE



Wilton Police Department Response

Public Act 22-47

- Behavioral and Mental Health Resources for children
- <https://www.connectingtocarect.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/CONNECT-FCC-Resource-List-Southwest-Region-1-Updated-1.20.22-FINAL.pdf>



Who to Call in a Crisis?

- **911:**
 - *911 calls answered by Wilton Police Department.*
- **211:**
 - *State of CT line with crisis intervention and mental health resources. Dial 211 or search online. If you are outside of Connecticut or have a problem using the 211-number, dial 1-800-203-1234.*
- **988:**
 - *Nationwide phone number for those who are considering suicide or facing mental health issues. You can call or text that hotline, or chat online at 988lifeline.org to speak to a licensed crisis counselor.*
- **Kids in Crisis (Greenwich, CT):**
 - *Kids In Crisis is a nonprofit agency that provides 24/7 crisis prevention and intervention services through its Crisis Helpline, In-Person Counseling, and School-based and Community-based programs and services.*
 - *Access 24/7 help from Kids In Crisis by calling the Crisis Helpline (203-661-1911).*

Wilton Social Services Department-Crisis and Mental Health Support

- **Wilton Youth Services:**

- *Provides in moment crisis counseling.*
- *Provides Wilton youths and their families with information and referrals to local providers specific to their needs. Providers include private practice and counseling agencies.*
- *Provides financial assistance for counseling, support groups, and clinical based programming.*

- **Wilton Social Services:**

- *Provides in moment crisis counseling; we have 3 state licensed professionals.*
- *Provides Wilton adults and/or their families with information and referrals to local providers specific to their needs. Providers include private practice and counseling agencies.*
- *Provides financial assistance for counseling, support groups, and clinical based programming.*

Fairfield County Mental Health Provider Support

- **The HUB: Behavioral Health Action Organization for Southwestern CT**
 - *State-designated Regional Behavioral Health Action Organization (RBHAO) serving Southwest Connecticut.*
 - *Regional resource supporting and coordinating mental health, suicide awareness, substance use prevention and problem gambling efforts in the 14 communities from Greenwich through Greater Bridgeport.*
 - Provides resource guides centered around treatment and recovery resources.
 - Works and coordinates with municipal Social Services Departments
 - *Supports the Local Prevention Councils (Wilton Youth Council)*
- *Catchment Area Councils to identify needs and recommendations in the treatment and recovery systems.*

Mental Health Counseling Agencies

- **Mid-Fairfield Community Care Center (Norwalk, CT):**
 - *Nonprofit offering mental health support to children, adolescents, and young adults and families. Offers individual, group, extended day treatment for ages 5-12 to develop long-term coping skills and resilience transferable to multiple environments. For adolescents, ages 12-16, who present with a high level of emotional and behavioral health needs that occur in different environments- Intensive Outpatient is offered, typically for 6-12 weeks to help with short-term mental health stabilization/support long-term transition to a lower-level of care.*
- **Child & Family Guidance Center (Norwalk, CT):**
 - *Nonprofit offering outpatient counseling services, early childhood consultation, Functional Family Therapy (FFT) for a short-term, intensive intervention for youth 11-18 referred for behavioral or emotional problems by the juvenile justice, mental health, school, or child welfare systems, Intensive Family Preservation and Reunification programs as referred by the Department of Children and Families (DCF).*
- **Family Centers (Greenwich, Stamford, Darien and New Canaan, CT):**
 - *Offers varying levels of counseling, bereavement support and groups, trauma response, workplace counseling and various community supports throughout lower Fairfield county for pre-school aged youth (pre-schools, reunification) to housing support to help finding employment for older adults.*

Mental Health Counseling Agencies Continued

- **Positive Directions (Westport, CT):**

- *Nonprofit counseling agency offering inpatient counseling for any age, community prevention trainings, and recovery support groups, including peer-to-peer support for teenagers. Counseling is offered both in-person and via telehealth at the clinician's discretion.*

- **Catholic Charities (Danbury/Norwalk, CT):**

- *Nonprofit that offers up to 36 various programs from safe housing, family loans, mental health counseling, and breakfast program. Counseling services are provided at no-cost and most insurance is accepted for both telehealth or in-person sessions for any age.*

- **Family & Children's Aid (Danbury, CT):**

- *Offers a variety of programs centered on providing high-quality behavioral health services for children and families, including substance abuse treatment, supportive foster care, IICAPS is an intensive, home-based treatment program for children who have psychiatric disorders, and various in-community family supports.*

- **Elayne & James Schoke Jewish Family Service of Fairfield County (Stamford and Bridgeport, CT):**

- *Offers a variety of programs centered on individual, group and family counseling, social groups, a home companion program for seniors, emergency assistance, scholarships, services for Holocaust survivors, a Kosher food pantry, and home delivered meal services.*

Mental Health Counseling Agencies Continued

- **Mountainside Treatment Center (Wilton and Canaan, CT):**
 - *Offering intensive outpatient (IOP) or outpatient (OP) treatment alcohol and drug rehabilitation services, recovery coaching and adolescent-specific services, medication assisted treatment (MAT), and various support groups. Select services offered both in-person and via telehealth platforms.*
- **Silver Hill Hospital (New Canaan, CT):**
 - *Treatment offered for both young adults and adults living with a variety of mental health diagnoses. Multiple therapeutic approaches and levels of care offered from inpatient to transitional living to intensive outpatient (IOP). Inpatient treatment is generally covered by health insurance, with an exact list of accepted plan online.*
- **CT Renaissance (Norwalk, Bridgeport, Stamford and Waterbury, CT):**
 - *Offers outpatient counseling services for adults and children over the age of 13 with addiction, mental health, gambling issues, or with co-occurring diagnoses. Offers residential treatment stay for men ages 18 and over (Waterbury) who are in crisis to act as a hospital diversion program or step-down from an inpatient hospital stay or that which is referred by the Connecticut Court Support Services Division.*
- **Family & Children's Agency (Norwalk, CT):**
 - *Offers outpatient services catering to mental health support and substance use for children and families. Offers an IICAPS program (an in-home based, family-focused program for children with high psychiatric needs. Also offers foster care placement for children 6-17 in need of a stable living situation.*

Mental Health Counseling Agencies Continued

- **Saint Vincent's Medical Center (Westport, CT):**
 - *Offering inpatient care for children, adolescents and adults with mental health and dual diagnosis substance use disorders. Offers evaluation, stabilization, and long-term treatment planning with a multidisciplinary team of providers. Offers long-term schooling support for adolescents at the hospital, so long as they are in treatment. Funded by the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS).*
- **Norwalk Community Health Center (Norwalk, CT):**
 - *Offering adult medicine, immunization, care coordination, an onsite dental clinic, and women's health and behavioral health teams. Also offers pediatric care and a diaper bank to current clients as well as financial assistance as needed.*
- **FS Dubois Center (Stamford, CT):**
 - *Offering ongoing, individualized treatment to persons living in the community with severe behavioral health disorders who are publicly insured, uninsured and in some cases underinsured. Offers triage services and community referrals, four levels of care, and crisis support. Offers a transitional residence program (Norwalk) from inpatient and correctional institution. Offers support employment, education, and life skill development. Funded by the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS).*

Alternative Mental Health Supports

- **Pegasus Therapeutic Riding (Brewster, NY/Greenwich & Darien, CT):**
 - *A therapeutic horseback riding facility offering both mounted and unmounted programs for youth ages five and up with disabilities and socio-emotional needs. Both the mounted and unmounted programs are supervised by certified staff and volunteers. Children have the opportunity to develop lasting friendships with staff, volunteers, other students, and the horses. Scholarships and financial aid are available as needed on a case-by-case basis.*
- **The Pilot House (Fairfield, CT):**
 - *Fairfield-based community center offering social programs, life skills, therapeutic services and support to serve the diverse needs of children, young adults and adults with disabilities and socio-emotional needs, to promote their continuing growth and progress. Pilot House also offers therapeutic riding at their community farm along with art, gardening, and community social events.*
- **Ability Beyond (Chappaqua, NY/Bethel, CT):**
 - *Offers day-programming, employment programs and coaching, residential living, rehabilitation and post-high school transition services for young adults with developmental disabilities and other diverse learning needs above age 13.*
- **STAR Inc. (Norwalk, CT):**
 - *Offers day-programming, community events, case management services, transportation, family support and respite, employment programs and coaching, rehabilitation and post-high school transition services for young adults with developmental disabilities and other diverse learning needs ages 3 and up to older adult.*
- **Laurel House Inc.(Stamford, CT):**
 - *Nonprofit organization, provides mental health services and programs in Stamford, CT and the surrounding areas in lower Fairfield County. Programs and services include recovery planning, life skills coaching and skill building, supported education, supported employment, Thinking Well (cognitive remediation), housing and residential services, food service and wellness, social opportunities, and active outreach to individuals who might otherwise be isolated.*

Non-Profit Community Supports

- **The Domestic Violence Crisis Center (DVCC) (Stamford, CT):**
 - DVCC provides 24/7 crisis intervention via a 24-hour crisis hotline (888-774-2900) that helps those in need to connect with DVCC staff directly and certified counselors are available 24/7 via phone, text, chat and email, counseling and advocacy services, and emergency safe housing. Provides age and developmentally appropriate awareness and prevention education for K-12 students and other community organization.
- **The Rowan Center (Stamford, CT):**
 - Offers up to 12 free individual counseling sessions to primary and secondary survivors of sexual violence, ages 14+. Provides free, 24-hour confidential support and education to those who have experienced sexual violence or knows someone who has. Offers a 24-hour hotline (Local English: 203-329-2929 /Statewide Spanish 888-568-8332) as well as a text (888-999-5545 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.) and chat hotline.
- **Triangle Community Center (Norwalk, CT):**
 - *Providing over twenty-five regular programs for the Fairfield county LGBTQ+ community, from groups to young adult services, to community education and professional training. Offers referrals to other inclusive services, case management services, counseling, and housing referrals to youth-in-need. Also provides a service line: 203-939-7331 for various needs, group meetings, referrals, and accessibility services for current clients.*
- **Lighthouse (Greenwich, Westport, & Stamford, CT):**
 - A peer-to-peer social support group for LGBTQ+ youth and their allies. Meetings provide a safe space for LGBTQIA+ youth and allies to socialize, share, and gain lifelong skills through guest speakers, trips, parties, and other events.
- **Circle Care Center (Norwalk, CT):**
 - Non-profit primary medical care practice providing primary medical care, sexual health screenings and testing, HIV treatment and prevention, transgender-affirming care, mental health care, and an onsite pharmacy.

Additional Town Resources

- Wilton Public School District
- Wilton Youth Council
- Wilton Continuing Education
- Wilton Library
- Wilton YMCA
- Wilton Faith Communities

APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS
11/21/2022 BOS Meeting

REAPPOINTMENTS

Architectural Review Board – expire 10/21/2023

John Doyle
Sam Gardner
Kevin Quinlan
Robert Sanders

Conservation Commission – expire 11/30/2025

Azad Sadiqua
Jeff Lapnow

Council on Ethics - expire 11/30/2025

Rhonda Brown

Economic Development Commission – expire 6/30/2024

Martin Avallone
Prasad Iyer
John DiCenzo
Jason (Jake Lubel)
Peter W. Squitieri

Fire Commission – expire 11/30/2024

Casey Healy
Terrie Schwartz

Inland Wetlands Commission – expire 11/30/2025

Penelope Koechl
Nicholas Lee

Housing Committee – expire 11/30/2024

John C. Kelly
Steven Parrinello
David Rintoul
Ryan Sullivan

Wilton Employees Retirement Plan Investment Committee – expire 11/30/2024

Kenneth Hoffman

To: Board of Selectmen

From: Lynne Vanderslice

RE: Additional Information in Advance of November 21st Meeting

Going forward, I am hoping to provide you with the bulk of the meeting information on Thursday.

The following is information for the certain agenda items.

- **Consideration of Awarding Unspent Budgeted Funds for Additional Elderly and Disabled Tax Relief Credits:** The ordinance provides for the BOS to consider authorizing January property tax credits using any remaining FY2023 budgeted elderly and disabled tax relief funds. As funds remain, I recommend we authorize funding of additional tax credits up to the remaining budget to be applied to the January 1st tax bill on a pro-rated basis to previously qualified recipients, subject to no recipient receiving an award greater than their tax liability.
- **Recognition of Achievements by Town Departments and Town Organizations Resulting in the SustainableCT Silver Award:** Following the discussion at our last meeting, we created the attached spreadsheet which itemizes the work performed by town employees and town organizations which resulted in the SustainableCT silver award. The following list of 12 town departments, 6 boards and commission and 19 other organizations will be shared at the meeting. The number following the name of the town department or organization is the number of items which referenced them.

Wilton Go Green	13
First Selectwoman's Office	6
P&Z Commission	6
Board of Selectmen	6
Conservation Commission	5
Social Services Department	5
Department of Public Works	4
Police Department	4
Parks & Rec Department	4
Environmental Affairs Dept	3
P&Z Department	3
Wilton Chamber	3

2 or 1

Finance Department
Fire Department
Health Department
Tax Department

Town Clerk's Office
HDHP Commission
Housing Committee
POCD Working Groups
Wilton Public Schools
Wilton Library
Ambler Farms
CERT
Historical Society
Kiwanis
NRVT
NRWA
Pollinator Pathway
Stay at Home in Wilton
Trout Unlimited
Wilton Commons
Wilton Garden Club
Wilton Land Trust
Wilton Y
Wilton Youth Council
Woodcock Nature Center

- **Board and Commission Appointments and Reappointments:** Jackie will email the list at the end of the day on Friday.
- **Blight:** In 2019, the Board of Selectmen authorized three blight foreclosure actions. In one of the matters, the foreclosure court awarded the Town more than \$100,000 in blight fines, interest, legal fee reimbursements and bills of cost. The other two blight foreclosures remain open.

I recommend the Board consider whether to designate part or all of the received blight fines and interest to be used for the public good, such as supporting new affordable housing or funding a town amenity.

Following the resolution of the two outstanding blight foreclosures, the Board should consider adopting a policy related to blight fees and interest.

As three of you were not on the Board at the time of Board's action, the following is the background:

- The Town has a blight ordinance, which is available here: [Town of Wilton, CT Blighted and Unsafe Premises \(ecode360.com\)](https://www.ecode360.com/ct/town-of-wilton-blighted-and-unsafe-premises-ordinance). The ordinance allows the Blight

Enforcement Office to issue fines. We have found the possibility of being fined or receipt of a fine is generally a motivator to correct the blight.

- At the time I took office, there were approximately 10 blighted properties.
- December 6, 2016 the BOS appointed Ira Bloom of Berchem Moses as Town Counsel. Town Counsel was asked to assist the Town with the then approximately 13 blighted properties. Town Counsel Ira Bloom designated Berchem Moses Partner Mario Coppola to assist a town-employee blight committee. All but three outstanding blight properties were resolved.
- On January 7, 2019, the Board of Selectmen adopted a blight foreclosure policy. The meeting minutes and policy are on this link:
https://www.wiltonct.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif4046/f/minutes/20190107_bosm.pdf.
- On May 6, 2019, the Board of Selectmen considered blight foreclosure for three properties and voted to move forward to the next steps. Meeting minutes and a memo to the board are on this link:
https://www.wiltonct.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif4046/f/minutes/20190506_bosm_0.pdf

Have a good weekend.