

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 \(ecode360.com\)](#). 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/vyhlf4046/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/vyhlf4046/f/minutes/20190506_bosm_0.pdf

Have a good weekend.