

# Annual Report

Town of Coventry  
Connecticut

Fiscal Year  
July 1, 2012 –  
June 30, 2013

Office of the Town Manager  
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Coventry, CT 06238

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[www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org)





***Above:** Actor portrayal of Capt. Nathan Hale during Coventry's 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parade in September 2012.*

***Front cover:** Project highlights from FY 2012-2013. Top to bottom: Photovoltaic panels on the roof of the DPW building, the new statue of Capt. Nathan Hale on the Veterans' Memorial Green, and the new North Coventry Volunteer Department Main Station on Rt. 31. Photos by Laura Stone.*



# TOWN OF COVENTRY ANNUAL REPORT FY 2012 – 2013

*Above right: The signature lone tree at Cassidy Hill Vineyard is a local landmark, and is featured on the vineyard's wine bottle labels. Cassidy Hill produced a commemorative wine, Tricentennial White, for Coventry's 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Photo by Laura Stone.*



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*Above: One of the many highlights during  
Coventry's 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parade  
in September 2012.  
Photo by Laura Stone.*





# **TOWN COUNCIL & TOWN MANAGER**

*Right: The Town crest. The motto, Altiora in votis, in Latin, translates as "I pray for the higher things."*





*L to R: Julie Blanchard, Joan Lewis, Steven Hall, Elizabeth Woolf, Mike Griswold, Jeff Shorts, Lisa Thomas.*

## Town Council

After having a successful first year the Council took to the challenge of its second year in office. We kept in mind the goals and priorities we set when we were first elected. The following are just a few of them:

**Financial Management:** The Council began the budget process by meeting with many of the various department/agency heads to better understand service requirements and budget proposals. Then we undertook our deliberations with the goal of preserving appropriate levels of town and educational services and programs while at the same time recognizing economic reality. The Budget that was approved was a

1.47% increase over the previous year, however there was a zero increase in the mil rate for 27 mils. This was done while adding Full Day Kindergarten classes to Coventry Grammar School.

**Land Use and Economic Development:** One of our Council priorities was to determine what to do with the old Town garage on Bradbury Lane. With that the Council finalized an agreement Earth Dynamics in January 2013 to sell the old Public Works Garage. The Council also passed the “Right to Farm” Ordinance. The Land Use Office has new trail mapping and brochures out for Patriots Park Woods, Mill Brook Park, Riverview Trail Park and Creaser Park. Recycling Tipper Carts were also placed at the Town Parks.

**Citizen Involvement and Communications:** We continue to publish three town newsletters each year, broadcast Council and BOE meetings and have the recasts available via our town web site. The Town has redesigned and launched its new website. Town Committee Agendas and minutes can be found on the website, along with a calendar for the meetings

An important activity is attracting talented and enthusiastic volunteers to serve on the multitude of town boards, commissions and committees. The Council Steering Committee recruits on an ongoing basis so as to ensure a steady stream of candidates to fill vacancies as they occur.

**Municipal Infrastructure and Services:** This fiscal year saw the dedication of the new North Coventry Fire Department on Main St. on September 8, 2012. The Public Works Building went active with its Solar Arrays. The town agreed to purchase a new Fire Rescue Truck for North Coventry Fire Department.

**Community Quality of Life:** The Council approved an appropriation for the purchase and installation of lights at the H.S. athletic stadium. It also directed the establishment of an ad hoc committee to develop the concept plan and oversee the installation. This is a winner for everyone and reinforces the pride that we have as a community for our Coventry High School and its superb athletic programs and athletes!

2012 marked the 300<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the Town of Coventry and our celebration came to an end on September 29, 2012 after a grand parade was had. We thank the 300<sup>th</sup> Committee for their dedication and hard work and the many volunteers that helped us celebrate our 300<sup>th</sup> Birthday. This fiscal year saw some other milestone, in which the Grange turned 125 in January 2013 and our Town Manager celebrated 25 years of service in June 2013. The Town of Coventry participated in the Solarized Connecticut Program. Laidlaw Park received handicap parking and an accessible path to both fields.

The Council has faced many challenges, but has worked together to resolve the issues for the good of the Town and we look forward to serving you for the next two years.



## Town Manager

As Town staff we are honored annually to present detailed information about the state of our Town, the various issues we dealt with and the progress we made during the fiscal year July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. We continued to celebrate our 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary with major events including a fantastic parade. Please take the time to review all the enclosed reports to get a sense of the depth and breadth of your Town. On a personal note this is my 25<sup>th</sup> annual report and I am thankful to be given the opportunity to continue to serve as your Town Manager.

*John A. Elsesser, Town  
Manager and Laura Stone,  
Executive Assistant*

This year we focused on five major areas: direct citizen service; long-term planning; financial resilience; quality of life and municipal infrastructure.

The Town took strides toward community engagement and experimented with non-traditional means to implement and fund new projects for communication with our citizens. The biggest leap forward was winning a website makeover from CivicPlus. The new website offers citizens the ability to choose the level of engagement they wish and they can receive agendas, minutes, alerts, video links, report a problem and a host of other options. We continued to promote an alternative electric provider for our citizens until the renewal rate was no longer competitive. Working with our Energy Committee on a Solarize Coventry project, 42 households took advantage of the power of group purchasing to install residential photovoltaic systems on their homes. Working with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities we offered a discount prescription drug program with 353 claims from 66 users saving \$11,111 in the first 10 months.

Our birthday reminded us of our long-term responsibility to assure the Town grows into who we want it to be. The Council accepted the work of the Planning & Zoning Commission and other volunteers in completing our update of the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development. Additionally, studies were completed for the Rt. 6 Corridor for economic development and transportation working with Bolton, Andover and Columbia. The Town submitted an RPIP grant for economic development with Mansfield and Tolland to look at how we can coordinate with UConn's growth plans. Long-term planning for our Village continued. One of the most important issues undertaken was a strategic plan for the Volunteer Fire Services, contracted through CRCOG, to address significant misconduct of a few members of leadership. We also started discussions with Connecticut Water about working cooperatively to expand the public water system and upgrading to allow fire suppression capabilities.

Finally the Town had an excellent financial year. We applaud the Finance Office for a clean audit and again being awarded GFOA's Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting. We were able to reach the Town Council's goals for pension funding and fund balance without increasing the mil rate. We were major partners in setting up Connecticut's first Municipal Health Insurance Pool – ECHIP – with five towns, five Boards of Education and EASTCONN. It had a successful year.

The quality of life improved with a major open space acquisition of Thornton Brook Preserve; football field lights joined the bleachers at Coventry High and the Sports Complex was finally complete. The old landfill was converted to athletic fields for youth football. The Coventry Regional Farmers' Market turned over ownership of the Market Barn at the Nathan Hale Homestead for shared use. As part of the 300<sup>th</sup> celebration, a life-size statue of Capt. Nathan Hale was commissioned and placed on the Veterans' Memorial Green adjacent to Patriots Park. We obtained grants to extend sidewalks to Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School and through the Village area of Main Street. The Council's Blight Ordinance was successful in resolving over 20 complaints with only a handful needing legal enforcement. A new Right to Farm ordinance was adopted to assure our

future recognizes our heritage. Finally, the STEPS program completed their action plan and we saw the Board of Education start full-day kindergarten.

While all these other issues were ongoing, we did not lose sight of Town-owned infrastructure. We accepted Kings Road, Farmstead Lane, Windswept Way and Hetzel Lane as Town roads. We proceeded with final design for a replacement bridge on Pucker Street. Three building committees were thanked and released from their duties: School Roofs, North Coventry Volunteer Fire Station and the Public Works Garage. All the projects came in on time and under budget. We continued with energy savings projects including an exterior lighting conversation to LED lights for Town and School properties. Additional solar arrays, financed under power purchase agreements for Coventry Volunteer Fire Station and carports at the Police Station, were approved. Several major pieces of rolling stock were replaced with the most notable being a new rescue truck for North Coventry Fire.

I think we were able to celebrate our heritage and honor our future with a very productive year. I believe we ended the year in a very positive place on a solid path into the future. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped us accomplish so much and thank you to the Town staff for all your contributions.

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Elsesser  
Town Manager





## TOWN OFFICIALS

*Above: Members of the Coventry Town Council march along with State officials at the Coventry 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parade. Photo by Laura Stone.*



**OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS**  
As Of June 30, 2013

**ELECTED**

**TOWN COUNCIL**

Julie A. Blanchard  
Michael E. Griswold  
Steven L. Hall  
Joan A. Lewis  
Jeffrey A. Shorts  
Lisa D. Thomas  
Elizabeth A. Woolf

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Jennifer E. Beausoleil  
Todd S. Cancelliere  
William M. Gros, Sr.

Mary S. Kortmann  
Eugene T. Marchand  
Mary T. Minor  
Denise A. Ryan

**BOARD ASSESSMENT APPEALS**

Robert E. Dextrateur  
Erin Emily Henry  
Robert Kramer  
Robert McMahon, Jr.  
Jill Wood Reviczky

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

Raymond Chicoine  
Charles Clapp, Jr.  
John R. Henry  
William Riordan  
Erik A. Williams

**ZBA ALTERNATES**

Jacques R. Collard  
Stephen P. Curtiss  
Joram L. Echeles

**REGISTRAR OF VOTERS**

Inge Pope  
Marjorie L. Roach

**JUDGE OF PROBATE**

Claire C. Twerdy

**JUSTICE OF PEACE**

Albert E. Bradley  
Harvey Barrette  
Victor Birch  
Robert Birge  
Joyce Bonney  
Phyllis Chicoine  
Raymond Chicoine  
Dorothy M. Grady  
Paul F. Jatkowski  
M. Kathleen Krider  
David E. Lamore  
Patricia Naegeli  
Joan M. Gros  
Jacqueline Piccolo  
Darby Pollansky  
Thomas Pope

Jill G. Wood Reviczky  
Barbara Riordan  
Valerie Shorts  
Sondra A. Stave

**APPOINTED**

**TOWN MANAGER**  
John A. Elsesser

**TOWN ATTORNEY**  
Duncan Forsyth

**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**  
David Petrone

**AUDITOR**  
Blum Shapiro

**FINANCE DIRECTOR/TREASURER**  
Elizabeth Bauer

**CHIEF OF POLICE**  
Mark A. Palmer

**DIRECTOR OF HEALTH**  
Robert Miller

**TOWN CLERK/REGISTRAR VITAL STATISTICS**  
Susan J. Cyr

**TAX COLLECTOR**  
Linda L. Greenbacker

**ASSESSOR**  
Michael D'Amico

**HUMAN SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR**  
Courtney Chan

**YOUTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR**  
Crystal Morawitz

**SENIOR CENTER COORDINATOR**  
Sarah Taylor West

**BUILDING OFFICIAL**  
Joseph Callahan

**SANITARIAN**  
Glenn Bagdoian

**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**  
David R. Gofstein

**TOWN PLANNER**  
Eric M. Trott

**ZONING AGENT**  
Michael Antonellis

**TOWN ENGINEER**  
**INLAND WETLANDS AGENT**  
Todd Penney

**RECREATION DIRECTOR**  
Wendy L. Rubin

**CANINE CONTROL**  
John H. Chipman, III

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**  
Noel Waite

**Municipal Agent**  
Sarah Taylor West

**PUBLIC HEALTH**  
Visiting Nurse Health

**BURNING OFFICIAL/FIRE MARSHAL**  
Noel Waite

**TREE WARDEN**  
Douglas Reese

**BLDG CODE BD APPEALS**  
Brian W. Canny  
Michael F. Cleary  
David Eddy  
John N. Motycka  
Harvey Barrette

**CEMETERY COMM**  
Deborah L. Blakeley  
Thomas Scott Boudreau  
Sherry L. Chapman  
Linda G. Pagliuco  
Anne Claudine Vieten

**CONSERVATION COMM**  
Arthur Hall, Jr.  
Leroy Lowe, Jr.  
Paul C. Manzone  
Robert R. Proctor  
Roy A. Shook, Jr.  
Corey Thomas Vann  
1 vacancy

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMM**  
Barbara Barry  
Samuel Belsito  
Richard Giggey  
William J. Jobbagy  
Mark C. Lavitt  
Timothy Liptrap  
Carol Polsky  
Sondra A. Stave  
Roberta Wilmot

**HOUSING AUTHORITY**  
Jeffrey S. Arn  
Albert E. Bradley  
Marilyn E. Barrette  
Harlene W. Fairbanks

Lorraine U. Lynch

**HUD HOUSING REHAB/  
FAIR HOUSING COMM**

Albert Bradley  
Mark C. Lavitt  
David Lamore  
Marjorie L. Roach  
1 vacancy

**INSURANCE ADVISORY**

Christopher J. Belliveau  
Robert Chipkin  
David E. Forte  
Frank S. Mansella  
Paul G. Noel

**PARKS & RECREATION**

Sean S. Butler  
Jennifer L. Bynes  
Antonia C. Conti  
Donald J. Figiela  
Andrew D. Keleher  
Teresa S. Merisotis  
1 vacancy

**PARKS/RECREATION  
ALTERNATES**

Todd W. Messier  
Ryan Nowosielski  
1 vacancy

**COVENTRYVISION COMMITTEE**

David Lamore  
Konrad Mroczek  
Robert A. Plant  
Bruce M. Stave  
1 vacancy

**PENSION & RETIREMENT**

Benedict D. Emanuele  
Paul E. Jatkowski  
Robert Murzyn  
David C. Powers  
Cara M. Revett

**PERSONNEL APPEALS BOARD**

Benedict Emanuele  
Peter L. Halvorson  
Paul F. Jatkowski  
Barbara E. Riordan  
William J. Zenko  
2 vacancies

**PLANNING & ZONING  
COMMISSION**

Raymond P. Giglio  
William Jobaggy  
Christine Pattee  
Roberta E. Wilmot  
1 vacancy

**P&Z ALTERNATES**

Darby L. Follansky  
2 vacancies

**INLAND WETLANDS  
AGENCY**

Raymond D. Chicoine  
Charles S. Clapp, Jr.  
Lori J. Mathieu  
Darby L. Follansky  
Thomas P. Woolf

**INLAND WETLANDS  
ALTERNATES**

Michael John Burokas  
David W. Sorich

**SCHOOL ROOF BUILDING  
COMMITTEE**

Jeffrey S. Arn  
Harvey R. Barrette, Jr.  
Raymond P. Giglio  
Robert P. Lezotte  
Cheryl A. Trudon

**WATER POLLUTION  
CONTROL AUTHORITY**

Richard W. Brand  
Susan E. Jamaitis  
Daniel R. Murphy  
Matthew J. Twerdy  
Lyndon Wilmot

**HUMAN RIGHTS  
COMMISSION**

Albert E. Bradley  
Thomas W. Brainard  
Amy S. Eisner  
Michael J. Kurpiewski  
Marjorie L. Roach

**YOUTH ADVISORY  
BOARD**

Annie Bobbitt  
Phyllis C. Bishop  
Terrie Carpenter  
Maria L. Genca  
David J. Hoyt  
Florence Lajeunesse  
Roger J. LaPierre  
Michael McDonagh  
Ginny Mollieur  
Crystal Morawitz  
Elizabeth R. Murphy  
1 vacancy

**VETERANS MEMORIAL  
COMMISSION**

Leroy A. Lowe, Jr.  
Eric Ohlund  
Joseph Recesso, Sr.  
William H. Root  
Donna L. Sanborn-LeDoyt  
Richard C. Sanborn, Jr.  
1 vacancy

**LOCAL EMERGENCY  
COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

Ken Boutin, CVFA  
W. Dennis Dittrich, CVFA

John Elsesser, Tn. Mgr.  
Ray Eldridge, Jr., NCVFD  
Peter Krawetzky, NCVFD  
Mark Palmer, Police Chief  
Noel Waite, Emerg. Manag.  
David Gofstein, Pub. Works  
Elizabeth Woolf, Council

**ENERGY CONSERVATION  
/ALTERNATIVE ENERGY**

Matthew Mullen  
Paul Noel  
Jennifer Lynn Reilly  
Stephen L. Savell  
Joseph B. Tindal

**ROUTE 31 ADVISORY**

Karl Acimovic  
William Jobbagy  
Mark Lavitt  
Patricia Pelkey  
Michael Williams

**AD-HOC CONSERVATION CORPS**

Eric Thomas  
Jasmine E. Wolf  
Thomas P. Woolf  
2 vacancies

**HEALTH DISTRICT**

John A. Elsesser  
M. Deborah Walsh  
1 vacancy

**MUNICIPAL HISTORIAN**

Vacant

**CT WATER CO.  
ADVISORY**

Albert Landry, Jr.

**WINDHAM REGIONAL  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL REP.**

Marjorie Roach

**CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE**

Steven King, Jr.  
Eugene T. Marchand  
Joan Meldrum

**WINCOG**

Alexander S. Acimovic  
Arthur Hall

**WINDHAM REGIONAL TRANSIT**

Marjorie Roach

**REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH**

Christine J. Brunell

**REGIONAL FEDERATED  
SERVICES FOR OLDER  
AMERICANS**

Marjorie L. Roach

**AD-HOC LAKE COVENTRY LAKE**

**ADVISORY & MONITORING  
COMMITTEE**

Lorraine M. Burokas  
John C. Clausen  
Mary Ann Hansen  
Robert R. Proctor  
Leslie McCabe Shor  
Gerard F. Zak  
Deborah B. Zeppa

**AD-HOC WATER SUPPLY STUDY**

Albert E. Bradley  
Mark C. Lavitt  
Christine Pattee  
William J. Zenko  
1 vacancy

