

MEETING AGENDA
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, July 21, 2020 – 7:00 pm
Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT

Join Zoom Meeting

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CALL TO ORDER:

- 1. MOMENT OF SILENCE:**
- 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - 3.1** BOS Regular Meeting Minutes June 16, 2020 and BOS Special Meeting Minutes for June 25, 2020.
- 4. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** *For public input before the meeting please email your comments to PublicInput@columbiact.org. For public input during the meeting, your comments can be submitted through the "Chat" feature in Zoom Meeting or wave your hand and request your mic to be un-muted. PLEASE INCLUDE IN BOTH METHODS YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.*
- 5. OLD BUSINESS:**
 - 5.1** Charter Revision Committee Member Recommendations.
 - 5.2** COVID-19 Update
 - a) Workplace & Vacation Travel Policies & Procedures during the Coronavirus Pandemic.
 - b) Beach Update.
 - c) Rec Park Update.
- 6. NEW BUSINESS:**
 - 6.1** FY 2020 Homeland Security Grant Program.
 - 6.2** Medical Car Signage.
 - 6.3** Restoration to the Notice Signpost in The Library Gardens
 - 6.4** Garden at Public Beach Dedicated to Peter Naumec.
 - 6.5** Park Bench Dedication to Peter Naumec at Rec Park.
- 7. COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH.**
- 8. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:**

- 8.1 Appointment of Paul Ramsey to the Lake Management Advisory Committee (LMAC).
- 8.2 Appointments of Steven Harrington and Mary Roickle as Alternates to the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission (IWWC).

9. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- 9.1 2020 STEAP Grant
- 9.2 Paving on Lake Rd. Completed
- 9.3 Rec Park Update
- 9.4 Voting Box
- 9.5 Revised State Map for Mono Pond State Park

10. CORRESPONDENCE:

- 10.1 Thank You Letter Regarding Senior Center Staff.
- 10.2 Article's in Willimantic Chronicle
 - a) Storefronts in Columbia have been vandalized
 - b) More space to have fun at Mono Pond
 - c) Columbia to celebrate July 4 after all
 - d) Some playgrounds reopened amid outbreak
 - e) Playgrounds reopened in some towns
 - f) Welcome back to the library

11. BUDGET:

- 11.1 Transfers.
- 11.2 Refunds:

12. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:

13. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:

14. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Real estate per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(D); Pending Litigation per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(B); Personnel per State Statues Section 1-200(6)(A).

- 15.1 Personnel.

16. ADJOURNMENT:

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Tuesday, June 16, 2020 – 7:00 pm

**Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT**

Members Present via Remote Access: Steven M. Everett, First Selectman; Robert Hellstrom, Deputy Selectman; Judy Ortiz, Selectman; William O'Brien, Selectman; Lisa Napolitano

Also Present via Remote Access: Mark Walter, Town Administrator.

This is a web-based call, so we are operating under the following procedures: This session is being both video and audio-recorded. The Selectmen and staff will generally remain on mute except when speaking or voting and will generally be keeping video of themselves on throughout the meeting. If a member of the public creates an audio or video disruption, they may be manually ejected from the meeting upon recommendation of staff or the First Selectman.

CALL TO ORDER: S. Everett called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1. **MOMENT OF SILENCE:** S. Everett asked for a moment of silence.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
- 3.1 **BOS Regular Meeting Minutes for June 2, 2020.** S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Minutes for the BOS Regular Meeting Minutes for June 2, 2020. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
4. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** Mary A. Roickle, 34 Erdoni Road explained that she had sent an email to PublicInput@columbiact.org in regards to the road safety issues that impact the areas of Erdoni Road (from Lake Road to Sadlon Road). M. Roickle stated that there are ongoing speeding and/or driver distraction problems and unsafe road shoulder conditions for pedestrians. M. Roickle would like the BOS to discuss and address these issues.
5. **OLD BUSINESS:**
- 5.1 **COVID-19 Municipal Procedural Updates.** M. Walter is recommending that the Town offices open to the public by appointment only on July 6th. M. Walter explained the procedures that the town is putting in place, which include installing plexiglass, hand sanitizer will be available to residents, and social distancing and masks will be required. M. Walter explained that many services can be done on-line or through the mail and we have the lockbox available outside of Yeomans Hall for residents.

The pavilion at Rec Park will be open for rentals on June 17th. At the beach, kayak rentals will resume and the bathrooms inside the Murphy House are still closed at the beach.

The Senior Center will be re-opening the transportation program on a very limited basis and once the medical car has arrived, we will start using the medical car.

The Library submitted their Phase 2 re-opening plan. The Library will be staffed 6 days a week with Saturday hours for the summer. In-house staffing at any one time, will remain limited. The Library's large main area will have limited

browsing during set and structured times and they are working on a schedule that would allow patrons into this browsing area for a few hours during differing days and times of day to accommodate various schedules. Stacks and children's area will be closed to the public, but materials can be retrieved for them. Public rest rooms will be closed. Browsing times to begin July 7, 2020.

W. O'Brien said that the ice cream truck vendor at the beach is not wearing a mask and asked that it be addressed. M. Walter stated he would look into this.

5.2 Discussion and Approval of Veterans Exemptions.

- a) Ordinance for Additional Exemption for Veterans.
- b) Ordinance for Property Tax Exemption for Gold Star Parents and Spouses.
- c) Ordinance for Tax Exemption on Motor Vehicles Equipped for Disabled Veterans.
- d) Ordinance for Increased Exemption For 100% Disabled Veterans.

S. Everett read the following MOTION and it CARRIED 4.0.1 with S. Everett Abstaining.

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen has previously recommended that the Town adopt certain ordinances expanding property tax exemptions and abatements for veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Town Charter would ordinarily require a special town meeting to adopt those ordinances; and

WHEREAS, in light of the current Declaration of Public Health and Civil Preparedness emergencies in the State of Connecticut and executive orders issued by Governor Lamont in conjunction with such declaration the holding of a town meeting would not be prudent; and

WHEREAS, Section 4 of Executive Order 7JJ issued by Governor Lamont on May 6, 2020 permits the Board of Selectmen, upon finding that taking such action in a timely manner serves an important public interest or to avoid financial loss, to take action to adopt or amend ordinances without complying with the Town Charter or any statutory requirement to hold a town meeting or referendum to approve such adoption or amendment; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen has determined that delaying the adoption of the proposed ordinances would potentially adversely impact the financial condition of certain veterans who may be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic or otherwise.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED: That, pursuant to the authority granted under Section 4 of Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7JJ, the Board of Selectmen does hereby adopt the ordinance entitled

- Ordinance for Additional Exemption for Veterans.
- Ordinance for Property Tax Exemption for Gold Star Parents and Spouses.

- Ordinance for Tax Exemption on Motor Vehicles Equipped for Disabled Veterans.
- Ordinance for Increased Exemption For 100% Disabled Veterans.

5.3 Charter Revision Committee Member Recommendations. S. Everett explained that we have several volunteers for the Charter Revision Committee, and we are looking for more recommendations. S. Everett asked if we have a requirement for each party. Currently, the volunteers we have would result in not having enough members from each party. M. Walter explained that there can be a maximum of 5 of one party. S. Everett asked if there were any other recommendations and L. Napolitano stated she would like to be on the committee.

5.4 Authorization of the agreement between the Town of Columbia and USS Vineyard Solar LLC. M. Walter explained that this was brought to us months back and the BOS voted to support USS Vineyard Solar, LLC to install a 20-acre solar farm. M. Walter explained that this is still a competitive process that must go through CTDEEP and if approved it would still need to go through Planning and Zoning. The agreement with USS Vineyard Solar LLC would provide payment in lieu of taxes of \$5,000 a year. S. Everett MOVED to Approve and Authorize the execution of the agreement for payment in lieu of taxes between the Town of Columbia and USS Vineyard Solar LLC. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

6.1 Approval of the Recommended Contractor for the Rec Park Guardrails.

S. Everett explained that the Rec Park improvements are going along well. We recently put out a request for proposal for the installation of guardrails that would separate the road and the walkway at Rec Park. George Murphy, Public Works Director recommended that Atlas Residential and Commercial Services be awarded the contract. Even though Riverhead Building’s submittal quote came in at \$231.00 lower than Atlas Residential and Commercial Services, G. Murphy recommends Atlas Residential and Commercial Services because we have used them on other fencing work with good results. S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Recommended Contractor, Atlas Residential and Commercial Services LLC for \$21,244.50 for the supply and installation of guardrails at Rec Park. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

6.2 Authorization for the use of the Town Green and Gazebo. S. Everett explained that the Congregation Church has requested to use the Town Green near the gazebo so they can use the electrical outlet to set up a speaker to hold their Sunday services. L. Napolitano thought it was a good idea. J. Ortiz asked how many can attend. M. Walter explained that on June 17th will go up to groups of 50. S. Everett MOVED to Approve temporarily during the pandemic the Congregational Church’s request to hold outdoor services on Sunday mornings on the green. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

6.3 Discussion of Request for Rally Protocol on Town Property. S. Everett stated that Tiffany Anderson has written to the Town and has asked to organize and hold a rally on the Town Green. S. Everett asked Tiffany to explain her request to the BOS.

T. Anderson has requested to hold the “Togetherness Rally” in support of the black community this Saturday June 20th from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, to be held on the Town Green with a rain date of June 27th. She stated that parking might be at the Horace Porter or Saxton B. Little Library. She has reached out to the Columbia Resident Trooper and Troop K for collaboration and safety measures but had not heard back from them yet. She stated this is a peaceful demonstration

as a show of support for the black community, raising awareness of continued systemic racism. The message will be one of unity and collaboration to evoke needed actions and reforms. She said that social distance requirements will be mandatory for participation. Participants will be directed to properly dispose of any waste such as gloves, masks, water bottles etc. She said that methods of communication and information regarding the event would be using social media platforms, such as emails, Facebook, Instagram, and Nextdoor app. She said she will be the point of contact. She said she would be reaching out to other towns that have had successful and peaceful demonstrations.

S. Everett explained he supports the request. J. Ortiz asked about controlling crowds. T. Anderson stated that her understanding is that the regulations for crowds for this purpose are larger than 50 and she said she would look more into that. M. Walter explained that he would be talking with Troop K tomorrow and will get back to Tiffany. W. O'Brien supports the rally as long as the proper precautions are taken. R. Hellstrom is in support. L. Napolitano said she appreciates that T. Anderson stated that it will be peaceful and that they will be picking up after themselves.

Ingrid Wood, Rte 87 asked how many people will be attending and will there be bathrooms. T. Anderson responded that it is her understanding that maximum for such an event is 100 and would have to double check and that she can make sure she includes that there will be no bathrooms available in the communications about the rally.

S. Everett stated that he received an email requesting a statement from the Town of Columbia about the Black Lives Matter movement and to include a statement on the Town Green sign board. S. Everett read the following statement: "The Town of Columbia is an inclusive community that does not condone discrimination or intolerance of any kind. We stand in support of all groups and organizations that seek and deserve racial justice and respect for all." S. Everett explained that we will post on the sign board the following "We Grieve Together" and asked for support from the BOS. All BOS members unanimously gave their support. M. Walter explained that Brandon Flad had sent the email for this request and he stated it was a very well written letter.

- 6.4 Recommendation letter for Bald Eagle protection.** S. Everett stated we have two new eaglets this year and we will again ask residents to not set off fireworks. He added that fireworks are illegal. S. Everett MOVED to Approve sending out of another letter this year from CTDEEP and from BOS informing about the eaglets and asking residents to refrain from use of fireworks. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

- 7. COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH.** None.

8. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:

- 8.1 Appointment of Christine Sposito to the Board of Education.** S. Everett read the letter of recommendation from Tom Currier, Chairman of the Democratic Town Committee. C. Sposito stated she has attended BOE meetings for a couple of years and has been interested in serving for the BOE. W. O'Brien MOVED to Appoint Christine Sposito to the Board of Education. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

9. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- 9.1 Municipal Coronavirus Relief Fund.** M. Walter updated the BOS on the COVID 19 reimbursement from both State and Federal. He stated that the Town

is scheduled to get \$39,000 for reimbursement for monies spent relating to COVID-19 expenses for the Board of Education, Town, Fire Department, and the Library. We will receive 75% from FEMA and 25% from State.

- 9.2 CIRMA Members' Equity Distribution.** M. Walter explained that CIRMA has voted to distribute equity distributions to participating Towns, but he has not received a dollar amount yet.

M. Walter added that the Columbia Lake Association will be holding a boat parade Saturday, July 4th at 4:00 PM. The theme for this year's parade is "Unsung Heroes".

10. CORRESPONDENCE:

- 10.1 State Police Monthly Report for May 2020.**

- 10.2 AHM Press Release: \$1,500 donation to Columbia from the Hero's Lawn sign campaign.**

11. BUDGET:

- 11.1 Transfers.** S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Transfers presented from the respective accounts to the receiving accounts as listed on the transfer forms.

TRANSFER #/AMOUNT	FROM A/C# DESCRIPTION	TO A/C# DESCRIPTION
2020-036/\$5.00	10-4112-460/Commercial Insurance	10-4112-240/Fuel
2020-038/ \$5,000.00	10-4800-900/Contingency	10-4112-300/General Supplies
2020-039/\$58.00	10-4133-770/Transportation	10-4133-770/Professional/Tech
2020-040/\$210.00	10-4135-520/Printing	10-4135-110/Postage
2020-040/\$53.00		10-4135-130/Legal Notices
2020-041/\$50.00	10-4260-230/Electricity	10-4260-240/Fuel
2020-042/\$140.00	10-4310-500/Professional/Tech	10-4310-600/Repairs/Maintenance
2020-043/\$3,000.00	10-4410-011/Salaries-DPW OT	10-4410-600/Repairs/Maintenance
2020-044/\$2,000.00	10-4520-130/Legal Notices 10-4520-500/Professional Tech	10-4520-010/Salaries-Inlands/Wetlands
2020-045/\$1,500.00	10-4112-040/Group Insurance	10-4670-010/Salaries-Recreation

MOTION CARRIEMOTION CARRIED 5.0.

- 11.2 Refunds:** S. Everett MOVED to Refund \$181.70.

AMOUNT	FROM	TO
\$181.70	Town of Columbia	VW Credit Leasing LTD

MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

- 12. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:** S. Everett MOVED to Approve the bills totaling \$248,360.48 consisting of 2019-2020 Emergency, 2019-2020 Regular, Bond '01 Payment, Credit Card and Paychex. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

- 13. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** Christine Sposito of 62 Double Day asked are there any plans for the playground to be open. M. Walter stated that playgrounds will be open on June 17th

14. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** L. Napolitano stated that in driving through Hebron there was a rally and she noticed that the State Police were in the middle of the rally and gave her thanks to the troopers.
15. **EXECUTIVE SESSION: Real estate per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(D); Pending Litigation per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(B); Personnel per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(A). None.**
16. **ADJOURNMENT:** S. Everett MOVED to Adjourn at 7:56 pm. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully Submitted by Jennifer C. LaVoie

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Thursday, June 25, 2020 – 4:30 pm
Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT**

CALL TO ORDER:

1. **MOMENT OF SILENCE:** S. Everett asked for a moment of silence.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** S. Everett MOVED to Approve the Agenda.
MOTION CARRIED 5.0.
3. **NEW BUSINESS:**
- 3.1 **Discussion and Approval of 4th of July Car Parade.** Nancy Doulton addressed the BOS to explain the route and what the plans were for the car parade. The Columbia Congregational Church Honkin' Hello's will be organizing a 4th of July Car Parade on the 4th from 10:00-12:00. The Columbia Volunteer Fire Department has agreed to participate, and she will be posting on the Everything Columbia Facebook page for other organizations and individuals to join the parade. Priority will be given to organizations then individuals can join.

The limit will be set at 25 cars per the State Troopers request. No trailers will be allowed, no wagons, and no one can be riding in the back of a pickup truck. People are encouraged to get their flags, make signs, and bring out the noisemakers to greet the parade as it goes by. The route is listed below, and the organizers are encouraging residents to find a spot on the route (Town Beach parking lot, Town Green) where you can safely maintain proper 6-ft distance and wear your mask.

Start at school, right on Rte. 66
Right on Rte. 87 to Whitney Rd.
Right off Whitney on Heritage to Dilaj
Left on Whitney to Rte. 87
Left on Rte. 87 to Lake Rd.
Right on Lake Rd. to West St.
Left on West St., straight on Hunt Rd.
Right on Wellswood to Lake Ridge
Wildwood to Lake Ridge
Right on Hunt Rd. to Yeomans Rd.
Left on Hunt to Pine St.
Left on Pine St. to Russmar, Timber
Trail and Brenda Trail
Left on Pine St. to Chesboro Bridge
Left on Doubleday to Rte. 87
Right on Rte. 87 to Samuel Hill
Right on Rte. 87 to Szegda Rd.
Right on Johnson rd to Gaulin Rd.
Straight on Cherry Valley
Across to Edgarton Rd., left on Thompson Hill
Left on Macht Rd., right on Rte. 66 to school

Discussion included that this car parade does not replace the annual Lions Club parade, but that it is only happening due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

S. Everett MOVED to Authorize, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, an alternative motorized parade for the 4th of July. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Real estate per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(D); Pending Litigation per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(B); Personnel per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(A). None.

5. ADJOURNMENT: S. Everett MOVED to ADJOURN at 4:47 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Jennifer C. LaVoie

Charter Revision Candidate Recommendations (8)

Judy Ortiz (D)

Kate Haakonsen (D)

Henry Beck Jr. (D)

Rick Nassiff (D)

Paul Ramsey (U)

Lisa Napolitano (R)

Kelly Peck (R)

Workplace & Vacation Travel Policies & Procedures During

Town of Columbia

Coronavirus Pandemic

I. PURPOSE

To facilitate a safe work environment for all employees, the policies and procedures listed herein must be observed in the workplace as well as upon each employee's return from specified travel locations.

II. WORKPLACE POLICY

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, employees are to follow continuous direction on appropriate precautions while carrying out their work responsibilities as well as procedures to follow in the event they experience symptoms or exposure. That direction included, but was not limited, to the following:

- Notify your supervisor and stay home if you have symptoms (i.e., fever or chills; cough; shortness of breath or difficulty breathing) and/or a temperature above 100.4 degrees F.
- Notify your supervisor and leave work if you develop these symptoms while at the workplace.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow. Throw used tissues into no-touch trash cans and immediately wash hands with soap or water for at least 20 seconds.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available. Key times for you to clean your hands include: (1) before and after work shifts; (2) before and after work breaks; (3) after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing; (3) after using the restroom; (4) before eating or preparing food; and (5) after putting on, touching, or removing face coverings.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Avoid handshaking.
- Avoid using other employees' phones, desks, offices, or other work tools and equipment, when possible. If using, clean and disinfect after use.
- Wear a face covering that covers your mouth and nose if within 6-feet of others while in the workplace, except to the extent that you are using break time to eat or drink. In workplace settings where you are working alone in a segregated space (i.e., cubicles with walls, private offices, etc.), you may remove your mask. If you have a medical condition and the face covering is contrary to your health or safety, you are not required to wear a face covering (please notify Town Administrator).
- Wear a face covering from the time you enter the building until the time you arrive at your cubicle/workstation and at any time you are leaving your work station and moving around common areas (i.e., in hallways and stairwells, going to the restroom or break room, etc.).
- Practice social distancing by avoiding large gatherings and maintaining distance (at least 6 feet) from others when possible.
- If you have had close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, notify your direct supervisor. You will not be permitted on the work site and must self-quarantine at home for fourteen (14) days. If you have been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19 and are unable to telework, you will be eligible for paid sick leave under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act ("EPSLA") of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act ("FFCRA").

III. EMPLOYEES WITH SYMPTOMS

1. Employees must notify their direct supervisor immediately if they have any of the following symptoms:
 - i. Temperature of 100.4 degrees F or higher as measured by a touchless thermometer;
 - ii. Cough (excluding chronic cough due to known medical reason other than COVID-19),
 - iii. Shortness of breath;
 - iv. Chills;
 - v. Muscle or body aches;
 - vi. New loss of taste or smell;
 - vii. Sore throat;
 - viii. Congestion or runny nose;
 - ix. Nausea or vomiting; or
 - x. Diarrhea (excluding diarrhea due to know medical reason other than COVID-19).
2. If an employee is experiencing symptoms, they should immediately notify their medical provider and their supervisor. If testing is performed, the town will follow the CDC and the local Department of Health and Human Services guidelines for actions to take based on negative/positive test results.
3. Employees will not be permitted to return to work and must self-quarantine at home for fourteen (14) days after symptoms began. Employees must also have at least seventy-two (72) hours with no fever (three full days of no fever without use of medicine that reduces fever) and improvement on other symptoms (i.e., cough and shortness of breath have improved) before returning to work Per handbook/policy.
4. While at home, employees are responsible for keeping their supervisor informed of return to work status.
5. Employees who have (1) symptoms and are seeking a medical diagnosis *or* (2) have been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19 are eligible for paid sick leave under the EPSLA of the FFCRA when unable to telework. Employees should consult the Town of Columbia's FFCRA Policy to review specific limitations or exclusions.

IV. VACATION POLICY

As the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") and state or local public health officials have recommended that people who visit specified locations remain at home for several days, the Town of Columbia will monitor employee travel plans during the COVID-19 pandemic. Employees traveling out-of-state or internationally will be subject to applicable screening or self-quarantine requirements in order to limit the potential for community spread to other employees.

Effective immediately, all vacation leave requests involving travel must include an acknowledgement of TYPE of travel (i.e., travel within Connecticut, out-of-state vehicle, rail, or domestic air travel, or international travel) and TRAVEL DESTINATION (state or country of travel). Leave requests will not be approved without disclosure of this information. Employees who are dishonest in such leave requests will be subject to discipline.

This policy will be reviewed to determine if continuation is warranted based on the guidance available at that time. Revisions to restrictions, recommendations, procedures, and other COVID-

19 related information are constantly changing. The Town of Columbia's administration is committed to following protocols from the CDC and the State of Connecticut Department of Health for the well-being of all employees.

V. PROCEDURES FOR RETURNING TO WORK FOLLOWING TRAVEL

1. Travel within the State of Connecticut

Employees who travel within the State of Connecticut must familiarize themselves with the signs and symptoms of the virus and self-monitor before reporting to work following in-state travel.

2. All Travel outside the State of Connecticut

Effective June 25, 2020 at 12:01 a.m., Governor Lamont issued an Executive Order that **requires** all individuals who travel to a state with a positive test rate higher than 10 per 100,000 residents, or higher than a 10% test positivity rate over a seven-day rolling average to self-quarantine for a period of 14 days. The list of applicable states is modified on a weekly basis and can be found here: <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Covid-19-Knowledge-Base/Travel-In-or-Out-of-CT>. **The State of Connecticut urges residents to avoid travel to the impacted states whenever possible because of the risk of contracting infection and the need to self-quarantine on return.**

A. Employees are required to notify their supervisor of all out of state travel being planned including the states on the travel list. <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Covid-19-Knowledge-Base/Travel-In-or-Out-of-CT>

B. Where possible and when consistent with the employee's job functions, employees will be permitted to telework during a required quarantine period.

C. For full-time employees who are unable to telework and have not previously exhausted their paid sick leave under the EPSLA of the FFCRA are eligible for up to eighty (80) hours of paid sick leave over a two (2) week period when they are subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19.

D. For part-time employees who are unable to telework and have not previously exhausted their paid sick leave under the EPSLA of the FFCRA are eligible for the average number of work hours in a two (2) week period when they are subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19.

E. If an employee has previously utilized all applicable paid sick leave under the EPSLA, the employee can use any available accrued time off leave for any period of quarantine and if the employee does not have sufficient accrued leave, the employee will be placed on unpaid leave.

F. If an employee develops symptoms during the 14-day self-quarantine, the employee must follow the procedures outlined in Section III of this policy.

Employees should be aware that each state has implemented its own variation on restrictions and social distancing protocols which may vary from those established within the State of Connecticut; therefore, employees traveling outside of Connecticut to states that do not meet the requirements of the Executive Order will be subject to the following screening procedures upon return to work:

A. Before the start of each workday and continuing through the first week of their return to work, employees must report to their supervisor (or other pre-designated personnel) and take their own temperature with the touchless thermometer.

B. The supervisor or designated personnel will read the thermometer and note the date, time, and thermometer reading on a log that will be placed in the employee's confidential medical file. The thermometer will be sanitized for next use.

C. If the temperature reads 100.4 degrees F or higher, the employee will be asked the screening questions and will be sent home to follow the procedures outlined in Section III of this policy.

Additional information regarding travel within the United States is available on the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-in-the-us.html>.

3. International Travel

The CDC recommends that individuals avoid all non-essential international travel because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many countries are implementing travel restrictions and mandatory quarantines, closing borders, and prohibiting non-citizens from entry with little advance notice.

A. International travel is discouraged due to the highly contagious aspect of the virus. Employees are asked to reconsider non-essential international travel because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

B. The CDC advises that all travelers arriving in the United States from international travel should stay home and self-quarantine for fourteen (14) days upon return. They are expected to monitor their health, stay home and avoid contact with others, and practice social distancing. Employees should check the [CDC's Traveler's Health Notices](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel) (<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel>) for the latest guidance and recommendations for each country where they plan to travel, which can be found here: Specific travel information for travelers going to and returning from countries with travel advisories can be found on the [CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>).

C. Based on the CDC guidance, the Town of Columbia **requires** all employees to **self-quarantine at home for fourteen (14) days following their return home from international travel**. For employees whom remote work is not available or feasible, the additional fourteen (14) days (or 10 workdays) required for self-quarantine will be charged to the employee's annual leave balance. If the employee does not have enough accrued vacation leave, the employee will be placed on unpaid leave.

D. If an employee develops symptoms during the 14-day self-quarantine, the employee must follow the procedures outlined in Section III of this policy.

As for residents being turned away and the lack of indoor bathrooms, this is why there was almost a 30% discount on beach passes. We have also turned away less than 15 cars this entire year, with the majority of those on 2 specific days.

As for the port-a-potties, both are cleaned and disinfected twice a week on Monday and Thursdays. The sanitizing station on the deck is there so it is in front of a camera and can be watched and does not get stolen as the ones in the bathrooms have. The confined space in the Murphy House would not allow for any type of social distancing as the hallway is only 5-ft wide. In addition, there are 2 offices that house staff and would subject them to over 50 people a day coming through common areas. We also have no way to keep the bathrooms clean and disinfected between use.

Mr. Morrison mentioned surrounding towns, perhaps we should remind him we are one of the few towns that has discounted beach passes, staffed the beach with lifeguards, and we were one of the first to do it. Other towns have restricted their beaches to no swimming, and none have opened indoor bathrooms.

As for his comparison to the pavilion, that is for private rentals, all the people that would be attending a rental are specifically invited and have a choice to go or not. In addition, the area at the pavilion which includes the lower lawn parking lot and volleyball lawn is significantly larger than the beach.

Mr. Morrison said himself that the majority of the state is still shut down, so why he is rushing to let it be a free for all down here I am not sure. Yes, we are doing well in this area right now, but as we witnessed in North Carolina, Florida, and other southern states that are shutting down again that can change.

For every time he complains about the structure, we get 3 complaints on how people are not wearing masks or social distancing and we need to do more.

Marc Volza
Director of Parks and Recreation
Town of Columbia
Phone: 860-228-8513

AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION OF THE

TOWN OF COLUMBIA

CERTIFICATION:

I, Robin M. Kenefick, the Town Clerk of the Town of Columbia, do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Town of Columbia at its duly called and held meeting on July 21, 2020, at which a quorum was present and acting throughout, and that the resolution has not been modified, rescinded, or revoked and is at present in full force and effect:

RESOLVED, that the Town of Columbia may enter into with and deliver to the **State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security** any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Steven M. Everett, as First Selectman of Town of Columbia, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Columbia and to do and perform all acts and things which he/she deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.

The undersigned further certifies that Steven M. Everett now holds the office of First Selectman and that he/she has held that office since November 27, 2017.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF: The undersigned has executed this certificate this ____ day of _____, _____.

Robin M. Kenefick, Columbia Town Clerk

PLACE
SEAL HERE
(or "L.S." if
no seal)



**FFY 2020 STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM
Region 4 MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**



Data Sheet

Step 1- Fill out this datasheet form to auto populate MOA document in this PDF file.

THIS DATASHEET MUST BE COMPLETED ELECTRONICALLY

Step 2-After populating the document, print out entire MOA and obtain the correct signatures as outlined by the completion checklist on the following page.

Town Information: 	
Person Completing Document:	Steven M. Everett
Municipality Name:	TOWN OF COLUMBIA
Town CEO Name:	Steven M. Everett
Town CEO Title (ie. Mayor):	First Selectman

***Municipality Name - Municipalities can enter the name as either the long or short name, for example: enter name as either "New Haven" or "City of New Haven"**

Point of Contact Information: 	
POC Name & Title:	Mark B. Walter Town Administrator
Address:	323 Route 87, Columbia, CT
Email:	townadministrator@columbiact.org
Phone:	860-228-0110
Fax:	860-228-1952



**FFY 2020 STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT
PROGRAM Region 4 MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
CHECKLIST**



Please use this checklist to insure completion and accuracy of the following agreement.

1.

Instructions for:

TOWN OF COLUMBIA

Received by: Steven M. Everett

For the MOA:

- A municipal point of contact been identified in Part III, Section M.
- The Chief Executive Officer has signed and dated the agreement.
- The Chief Executive Officer's name and title has been typed in the space provided.

Authorizing Resolution Attached

The Blanket Resolution Template includes the recommended language for the resolution. If you do not use this template, the resolution must reference the FFY 2020 Homeland Security Grant Program. No other resolutions will be accepted.

Please note: The Fiduciary and Municipality shall complete Appendix A Custodial Ownership and Memorandum of Agreement (Appendix A), for any municipality that takes ownership of equipment purchased with 2020 HSGP funds by the REPT. *(These documents are not attached to this MOA, but will be sent directly to the Fiduciary)*

Once complete, mail or email the complete MOA package to: James Butler, Executive Director, Southeastern CT Council of Governments, 5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, CT 06360

2.

Instructions for the Southeastern CT Council of Governments

Received by: _____

Review and Signature

- The Chief Executive Officer has signed and dated the agreement.
- The Chief Executive Officer's name and title has been typed in the space provided.
- The Region 4 REPT Chair has signed and dated the agreement.
- The Region 4 REPT Chair's name has been typed in the space provided.
- All of the items listed on this checklist have been completed and are correct.

Once complete please contact your DESPP/DEMHS Program Manager to schedule a MOA review meeting.

Please note: The Fiduciary shall complete Appendix A, Custodial Ownership, for any Municipality that takes ownership of equipment purchased with 2020 HSGP funds by the REPT. *(These documents are not attached to this MOA, but will be sent directly to the Fiduciary)*

DUE DATE: October 20, 2020

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

REGARDING USE OF FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2020 STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT FUNDING AND CUSTODIAL OWNERSHIP OF REGIONAL ASSETS IN DEMHS Region 4

I. AGREEMENT REGARDING THE USE OF FEDERAL HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT FUNDS TO SUPPORT REGIONAL SET-ASIDE PROJECTS

A. Introduction

The following facts are understood and agreed to by all parties:

1. The parties to this part of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) are the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), including the Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (DEMHS), the municipality of TOWN OF COLUMBIA, the Southeastern CT Council of Governments (Fiduciary) and the Region 4 Regional Emergency Planning Team (Region 4 REPT).
2. DESPP is the designated recipient and State Administrative Agency (SAA) of the United States Department of Homeland Security for Federal Fiscal Year 2020 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP), Award No. EMW-2020-SS-*pending*. DEMHS is the division of DESPP responsible for program management of the grants, including consulting with the DEMHS Advisory Council, and the DEMHS Regional Planning Teams to provide a coordinated and integrated program of emergency management and homeland security.
3. The DEMHS Advisory Council, through its Homeland Security Working Group, has approved the allocation formula for grant funds available under the SHSGP;
4. DESPP/DEMHS is retaining pass-through funds from 2020 SHSGP in the total amount of \$1,654,801 on behalf of local units of government, for the following eight regional set-aside projects designed to benefit the state's municipalities:
 - a. Regional Collaboration;
 - b. Enhancing Information and Intelligence Sharing and cooperation with Federal Agencies, including DHS;
 - c. Addressing Emergent Threats;
 - d. Capitol Region Metropolitan Medical Response System - MMRS;
 - e. Medical Preparation and Response; and
 - f. Citizen Corps. Program;
 - g. Enhancing Cyber Security; and,
 - h. Enhancing Protection of Soft Targets and Crowded Places.
5. DEMHS – in coordination and cooperation with the municipalities located within DEMHS Region 4 including TOWN OF COLUMBIA – has created, and established bylaws for, the Region 4 REPT, a multi-disciplinary, multi-jurisdictional regional group to facilitate planning and resource coordination within DEMHS Region 4.
6. TOWN OF COLUMBIA is eligible to participate in those Federal Fiscal Year 2020 SHSGP regional allocations made through the Region 4 REPT and not included in the set-aside projects, in the amount of \$382,156.80 for Region 4 which will be made available to the jurisdictions in Region 4 in the manner recommended by the Region 4 REPT in accordance with its approved bylaws, upon execution of the grant application and as accepted by the SAA.

B. Purpose of Agreement

The SAA and TOWN OF COLUMBIA enter into Part I of this MOA authorizing the SAA to act as the agent of TOWN OF COLUMBIA and allowing the SAA to retain and administer grant funds provided under 2020 SHSGP for the eight regional set-aside projects listed above, and also for The Southeastern CT Council of Governments to provide the financial and programmatic oversight described below.

C. SAA and TOWN OF COLUMBIA Responsibilities.

The SAA agrees to administer the SHSGP grant funds of \$1,654,801 in furtherance of the eight regional set-aside projects listed above.

TOWN OF COLUMBIA agrees to allow the SAA to provide financial and programmatic oversight of the \$1,654,801 for the purpose of supporting the allocations and uses of funds under the

2020 SHSGP consistent with the 2020 State Homeland Security Grant Application that has been reviewed and approved by the federal Department of Homeland Security and supported by the Initial Strategy Implementation Spending Plan (ISIP) as part of the Biannual Strategy Implementation Report (BSIR) approved by the Emergency Management & Homeland Security Council, now known as the DEMHS Advisory Council. TOWN OF COLUMBIA agrees to allow the SAA to hold, manage, and disburse the grant funds that have been reserved for the eight regional set-aside projects listed above.

D. Southeastern CT Council of Governments & TOWN OF COLUMBIA Responsibilities.

TOWN OF COLUMBIA also agrees to allow the Southeastern CT Council of Governments to provide financial and programmatic oversight of the Federal Fiscal Year 2020 regional allocation not included in the eight regional set-aside projects in the amount of \$382,156.80 targeted to member municipalities in DEMHS Region 4 and recommended through the Region 4 REPT in accordance with its approved bylaws. Such funds will be applied to specific projects developed and approved by the Region 4 REPT and DEMHS.

II. AGREEMENT REGARDING CUSTODIAL OWNERSHIP OF REGIONAL ASSETS

A. Introduction

The following facts are understood and agreed to by all parties:

1. The parties to this part of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) are the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), including the Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (DEMHS), the municipality of TOWN OF COLUMBIA, the Southeastern CT Council of Governments (Fiduciary), and the DEMHS Region 4 Regional Emergency Planning Team (Region 4 REPT).
2. DESPP is the designated recipient and State Administrative Agency (SAA) of the United States Department of Homeland Security for grants awarded beginning in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2004, up to the present time. DEMHS is the division of DESPP responsible for program management of the grants, including consulting with the DEMHS Advisory Council, and the DEMHS Regional Planning Teams to provide a coordinated and integrated program of emergency management and homeland security.
3. TOWN OF COLUMBIA has agreed to operate as the custodial owner of the asset(s) described in Appendix A, on behalf of TOWN OF COLUMBIA, the region, and if necessary, the State. (Please note: If a town takes ownership of assets, the Fiduciary will assist them in completing Appendix A. The Appendix will be added to this MOA).
4. The parties also agree that TOWN OF COLUMBIA may operate as the custodial owner of additional assets purchased on behalf of the Region from FFY 2020 grant funds, as approved by the Region 4 REPT, and DEMHS, which assets will be added to Appendix A by the Fiduciary within thirty (30) days of approval by the Region 4 REPT.
5. The Region 4 REPT has been established to foster regional collaboration and mutual aid through, among other things, collaborative plan development, resource sharing and coordination.
6. The Southeastern CT Council of Governments (Fiduciary) has agreed to operate as the fiscal agent for the federal SHSGP grants awarded to DEMHS Region 4 for Federal Fiscal Year 2020.

B. Purpose.

DESPP/DEMHS, the Region 4 REPT, Southeastern CT Council of Governments (Fiduciary), and TOWN OF COLUMBIA, enter into Part II of this MOA regarding asset(s) for which TOWN OF COLUMBIA agrees to be the custodial owner, and which are described in the approved 2020 Subgrant Application and will be added to this MOA as Appendix A.

C. Agreements and Responsibilities of the Parties.

1. Definitions.

As used in this MOA:

- The term "authorized training" means training that is authorized by DESPP/DEMHS.
- The term "custodial owner" means a political subdivision or tribe that has agreed to accept title and responsibility for the asset(s), subject to possible redeployment under the terms outlined in Paragraph C(4) below.

2. Responsibilities of DESPP/DEMHS and Southeastern CT Council of Governments (Fiduciary)

In its role as SAA, DESPP/DEMHS will subgrant funds to Southeastern CT Council of Governments which, as the Region 4 Fiscal Agent, will procure the asset(s) listed in their approved Subgrant Application (which will be added to Appendix A).

3. Appendix A.

The parties agree that decisions regarding the placement of regional assets in TOWN OF COLUMBIA may be made after the execution of this agreement and that Appendix A shall be completed accordingly. TOWN OF COLUMBIA agrees to be bound by the terms of this agreement for any asset added to Appendix A. The parties also agree that Appendix A must be signed by the DEMHS Deputy Commissioner, the chair of the Region 4 REPT, and the Chief Executive Officer, or his/her designee, of TOWN OF COLUMBIA.

4. Responsibilities of Custodial Owner

TOWN OF COLUMBIA understands that it is the Custodial Owner, on behalf of itself and the Region, of the asset(s) which will be added to Appendix A, as may be amended pursuant to Paragraph C(4) above. As Custodial Owner, TOWN OF COLUMBIA agrees:

- a. To safeguard the asset(s) in a secure location, including, for example, providing refrigeration or protection from the elements, if appropriate;
- b. To regularly test, use and maintain the asset(s) in working order. It is understood by the parties that trained personnel of TOWN OF COLUMBIA's municipal agencies may use the asset(s) for appropriate emergency response/emergency management purposes, including authorized training and exercise;
- c. To provide the asset(s) in a timely manner, in working order, and with appropriate staffing, if necessary, when deployment is requested: under the terms of this MOA; under a mutual aid agreement, including a civil preparedness mutual aid agreement approved by DESPP/DEMHS, as required by Conn. Gen. Stat. §28-7(d); under the terms of the intrastate mutual aid system, Connecticut General Statutes §28-22a; or at any time by the State of Connecticut, including DESPP/DEMHS;
- d. To provide the asset(s) in a timely manner, in working order, and with appropriate staffing, if necessary, when deployment is requested for authorized training and/or exercise;
- e. To maintain records of the use of the asset(s), including deployment for an actual incident or for authorized training, and to provide these records to DESPP/DEMHS as requested;
- f. To maintain an inventory of the asset(s), including a unique tagging system (including the DEMHS logo) so that the asset(s) can be easily identified as separate from the Custodial Owner's other property, and to provide that inventory to DESPP/DEMHS as requested.
- g. To maintain all necessary insurance regarding the asset(s) and their use;
- h. To cooperate with any state or federal audit of the asset(s) and/or their use;
- i. To abide by the bylaws and/or procedures established under any applicable State of Connecticut or regional plan;
- j. That the State, including DESPP/DEMHS, does not guarantee any further funding for, or provision of repairs to, the asset(s) beyond the terms of this MOA;
- k. That all maintenance and operations of the asset(s) by TOWN OF COLUMBIA shall conform to the manufacturer's recommendations. If appropriate, TOWN OF COLUMBIA shall maintain trained personnel available to transport and supervise the operation of the asset(s). All personnel or agents of TOWN OF COLUMBIA performing any maintenance or repair services in connection with these asset(s) shall be fully qualified and authorized or permitted under federal, state, and local laws to perform such services.

5. Responsibilities of the REPT.

The Region 4 REPT understands and acknowledges that, in accepting responsibility as the custodial owner of the asset(s), TOWN OF COLUMBIA is furthering regional collaboration and mutual aid on behalf of all of the members of Region 4.

6. Assignment of Asset(s).

If TOWN OF COLUMBIA does not comply with the requirements under this MOA, or terminates its involvement in this MOA, then DESPP/DEMHS, in consultation with the REPT Chair, may redirect the asset(s), preferably to a different town within the Region. Whenever possible, DESPP/DEMHS will provide 60 days' notice before re-assigning the asset.

III. GENERAL TERMS OF AGREEMENT APPLICABLE TO ALL PARTS OF THIS MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**A. Effective Date.**

The terms of this agreement will become effective when all parties have executed it.

B. Authority to Enter Agreement.

DESPP/DEMHS is authorized to enter into this Agreement through the Deputy Commissioner of the DESPP/DEMHS pursuant to the authority provided under Connecticut General Statutes §4-8 and Titles 28 and 29. The Municipality of TOWN OF COLUMBIA is authorized to enter into this agreement through its Chief Executive Officer, authorized pursuant to the attached [original or certified copy of resolution, ordinance or charter provision]. The other persons executing this Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on behalf of their respective entities hereby represent and warrant that they have the right, power, legal capacity, and appropriate authority to enter into this agreement on behalf of the entity for which they sign, as indicated by valid resolutions, if necessary.

C. Duration of Agreement.

Part I of this MOA, as modified with the consent of the parties, remains in full force and effect until the end of the grant period, or any extension thereof, covered by this MOA, unless cancelled by the SAA, giving TOWN OF COLUMBIA written notice of such intention at least thirty (30) days in advance. Any party may terminate its involvement with Part II of this agreement upon sixty days' written notice to the other parties. DESPP/DEMHS reserves the right to cancel any funding under this MOA without prior written notice when the funding is no longer available.

D. Amendment of the Agreement.

This agreement may be modified upon the mutual written consent of the parties.

E. Litigation.

The Parties agree to good faith consultation with one another to resolve disagreements that may arise under or relating to this MOA before referring the matter to any other person or entity for settlement. The Parties agree that any disputes under Part II, Paragraph C.6 shall be resolved by DEMHS. The Parties also agree that the sole and exclusive means for the presentation of any claim against the State, including the SAA, arising from this agreement shall be in accordance with Chapter 53 of the Connecticut General Statutes (Claims Against the State) and the Parties further agree not to initiate legal proceedings in any State or Federal Court in addition to, or in lieu of, said Chapter 53 proceedings.

F. State Liability.

The Parties agree to indemnify and hold harmless the State of Connecticut with regard to the activities described within this MOA, and recognize that the State does not waive its right to sovereign immunity with regard to any provision of this MOA. The State of Connecticut assumes no liability for funding under the terms of this MOA until TOWN OF COLUMBIA, through the Region 4 REPT, is notified by the SAA that this MOA has been approved and executed by DEMHS and by any other applicable state agency.

G. Confidential Information

a. Confidential Information: Any name, number or other information that may be used, alone or in conjunction with any other information, to identify a specific individual including, but not limited to, such individual's name, date of birth, mother's maiden name, motor vehicle operator's license number, Social Security number, employee identification number, employer or taxpayer identification number, alien registration number, government passport number, health insurance identification number, demand deposit account number, savings account number, credit card number, debit card number or unique biometric data such as fingerprint, voice print, retina or iris image, or other unique physical representation. Without limiting the foregoing, Confidential Information shall also include any information that DESPP/ DEMHS classifies as "confidential" or "restricted." Confidential Information shall not include information that may be lawfully obtained from publicly available sources or from federal, state, or local government records which are lawfully made available to the general public.

b. Confidential Information Breach: Generally, an instance where an unauthorized person or entity accesses Confidential Information in any manner, including but not limited to the following occurrences: (1) any Confidential Information that is not encrypted or protected is misplaced, lost, stolen or in any way compromised; (2) one or more third parties have had access to or taken control or possession of any Confidential Information that is not encrypted or protected without prior written authorization from the State; (3) the unauthorized acquisition of encrypted or protected Confidential Information together with the confidential process or key that is capable of compromising the integrity of the Confidential Information; or (4) if there is a substantial risk of identity theft or fraud to the client, the Contractor, the Department or State.

H. Audit Compliance.

If TOWN OF COLUMBIA through the Region 4 REPT, agrees to serve as a host or custodial owner of equipment purchased with the grant funds referenced in this MOA, then TOWN OF COLUMBIA must comply with the Federal Single Audit Act of 1984, P.L. 98-502 and the Amendments of 1996, P.L. 104-156 and with the Connecticut Statutes §7-396a and 396b, and the State Single Audit Act § 4-230 through 236 inclusive, and the regulations promulgated thereunder.

TOWN OF COLUMBIA agrees that all fiscal records, if any, pertaining to the projects shall be maintained for a period of not less than three (3) years from the date of the signing of this MOA. Such records will be made available to state and/or federal auditors upon request.

I. Lobbying, Debarment, and Suspension.

TOWN OF COLUMBIA commits to compliance with the requirements under 28 CFR Part 66 (Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants to States); 28 CFR Part 69, New Restrictions on Lobbying; 28 CFR Part 67, Government-wide Debarment and Suspension (Non-procurement) and Government-wide Requirements for Drug Free Workplace (Grants); Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-87, addressing cost principles for grants to state

and local governments; 28 CFR Part 70 (Common Rules for Administrative Requirements for Grants to Non-Profits); OMB Circulars A-122 and A-21 addressing Cost Principles for Grants to Non-Profit Entities and requirements included in the Department of Homeland Security Office of Grants and Training Financial Guides.

J. Executive Orders.

This contract is subject to the provisions of Executive Order No. Three of Governor Thomas J. Meskill promulgated June 16, 1971, and, as such, this contract may be cancelled, terminated or suspended by the State Labor Commissioner for violation of or noncompliance with said Executive Order No. Three, or any State or federal law concerning non-discrimination, notwithstanding that the Labor Commissioner is not a party to this contract. The parties to this contract, as part of the consideration hereof, agree that said Executive Order No. Three is incorporated herein by reference and made a part hereof. The parties agree and abide by said Executive Order and agree that the State Labor Commissioner shall have continuing jurisdiction in respect to contract performance in regard to non-discrimination, until the contract is completed or terminated prior to completion. TOWN OF COLUMBIA agrees, as part consideration hereof, that this contract is subject to the Guidelines and Rules issued by the State Labor Commissioner to implement Executive Order No. Three, and that it will not discriminate in its employment practices or policies, will file all reports as required, and will fully cooperate with the State of Connecticut and the State Labor Commissioner. This contract is also subject to the provision of Executive Order No. 16 of Governor John G. Rowland promulgated August 4, 1999 adopting a zero tolerance policy for workplace violence, and as such, this contract may be cancelled terminated or suspended by the State for violation of or noncompliance with said Executive Order No. Sixteen. The parties to this contract, as part of the consideration hereof, agree that said Executive Order No. Sixteen is incorporated herein by reference and made a part thereof. The parties agree to abide by such Executive Order. The contract is also subject to provisions of Executive Order No. Seventeen of Governor Thomas J. Meskill promulgated February 15, 1973, and, as such this contract may be cancelled, terminated or suspended by the contracting agency or the State Labor Commissioner for violation of or non-compliance with said Executive Order No. Seventeen, notwithstanding that the Labor Commissioner may not be a party to this contract. The parties to this contract, as part of the consideration hereof, agree that Executive Order No. Seventeen is incorporated herein by reference and made a part hereof. The parties agree to abide by such Executive Order and agree that the contracting agency and the State Labor Commissioner shall have joint and several continuing jurisdiction in respect to contract performance in regard to listing all employment openings with the Connecticut State Employment Service. This contract may also be subject to Executive Order No. 14 and Executive Order No. 49. Executive Order of Governor M. Jodi Rell, promulgated April 17, 2016, concerning procurement of cleaning products and services. Executive Order No. 49 of Governor Dannel P. Malloy, promulgated May 22, 2015, mandating disclosure of certain gifts to public employees and contributions to certain candidates for office in accordance with their respective terms and conditions.

K. Non-Discrimination Clause.

In accordance with Public Act 88-351, the Town agrees and warrants that, (a) For the purposes of this section, "minority business enterprise" means any small grantee or supplier of materials fifty-one percent or more of the capital stock, if any, or asset(s) of which is owned by person or persons: (1) Who are active in the daily affairs of the enterprise, (2) who have the power to direct the management and policies of the enterprise and (3) who are members of a minority, as such term is defined in subsection (a) of Conn. Gen. Stat. Sect. 32-9n; and "good faith" means that degree of diligence which a reasonable person would exercise in the performance of legal duties and obligations. "Good faith efforts" include, but not be limited to, those reasonable initial efforts necessary to comply with statutory or regulatory requirements and additional or substituted efforts when it is determined that such initial efforts will not be sufficient to comply with such requirements.

For purposes of the section, "Commission" means the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities. For purposes of this section, "Public works contract" means any agreement between any individual, firm or corporation and the State or any political subdivision of the State other than a municipality for construction, rehabilitation, conversion, extension, demolition or repair of a public building, highway, or other changes or improvements in real property, or which is financed in whole or in part by the State, including but not limited to, matching expenditures, grants, loans, insurance or guarantees.

The Town agrees and warrants that in the performance of the contract such Town will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group or persons on the grounds of race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, sex, mental retardation or physical disability, including but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such Town that such disability prevents performance of the work involved, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the State of Connecticut.

The Town further agrees to take affirmative action to insure that applicants with job related qualifications are employed and that employees are treated when employed without regard to their race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, mental retardation, or physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such Town that such disability prevents performance of the work involved: the Town agrees, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the Town, to state that it is an "affirmative action – equal opportunity employer" in accordance with the regulations adopted by the Commission; the Town agrees to provide each labor union or representative of workers with which such Town has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract of understanding and each vendor with which Town has a contract of understanding, a notice to be provided by the Commission advising the labor union of workers' representative of the Town's commitments under this section, and to post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment; the Town agrees to comply with each provision of this section and Conn. Gen. Stat. Sect. 46a-68f and with each regulation or relevant order issued by said Commission pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. Sect. 46a-56, as amended by Section 5 of Public Act 89-253, 46a-68e and 46a-68f; the Town agrees to provide the Commission of Human Rights and Opportunities with such information requested by the Commission, permit access to pertinent books, records and accounts, concerning the employment practices and procedures of the Town as related to the provisions of this section and section 46a-56. If the contract is a public works contract, the Town agrees and warrants that he will make good faith efforts to employ minority business enterprises as subgrantees and suppliers of materials on such public works project.

Determination of the Town's good faith efforts shall include but shall not be limited to the following factors: The Town's employment and subcontracting policies, patterns and practices; affirmative advertising, recruitment and training; technical assistance activities and such other reasonable activities or efforts as the Commission may prescribe that are designed to ensure the participation of minority business enterprises in public works projects.

The Town shall develop and maintain adequate documentation, in a manner prescribed by the Commission, of its good faith efforts.

The Town shall include the provisions of subsection (b) of this section in every subcontract or purchase order entered into in order to fulfill any obligation or a contract with the State and such provisions shall be binding on a subgrantee, vendor or manufacturer, unless exempted by regulations or orders of the Commission. The Town shall take such action with respect to any such subcontract or purchase order as the Commission may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for non-compliance in accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. Sect. 47a-56, as amended by Section 5 of Public Act 89-253; provided, if such Town becomes involved in, or is threatened with litigation with a subgrantee or vendor as a result of such direction by the Commission, the Town may request the State of Connecticut to enter into any such litigation prior thereto to protect the interest of the State and the State may so enter.

The Town agrees to comply with the regulations referred to in this section as they exist on the date of this contract and as they may be adopted or amended from time to time during the term of this contract and any amendments thereto.

Pursuant to Public Act 89-227, as amended, as of January 1, 1991, no agency of the State of Connecticut may purchase new products packaged in or composed in whole or part of polystyrene foam if such foam is manufactured using chlorofluorocarbons (CFC). Manufacturers are required by the Act to provide information regarding the CFC content of polystyrene foam used in such products or packaging to any person selling the product who requests such information. By submitting an offer to sell to or accepting an order from the State of Connecticut the vendor certifies that no CFC are used in the manufacture of polystyrene foam contained in such products or packaging.

L. Non-discrimination on the Grounds of Sexual Orientation.

1. The Town agrees/warrants that in the performance of the contract such Town will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of sexual orientation, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the State of Connecticut, and that employees are treated when employed without regard to their sexual orientation.
2. The Town agrees to provide each labor union or representative of workers with which such Town has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding and each vendor with which such Town has a contract or understanding and each vendor with which such Town or understanding, a notice to be provided by the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities advising the labor union or workers' representative of the Town's commitments under this section, and to post

copies of the of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment;

3. The Town agrees to comply with each provision of this Section and Sections 46a-68f of the General Statutes and with each regulation or relevant order issued by said Commission pursuant to Sections 46a-56, 46a-68e and 46a-68f of the General Statutes;
4. The Town agrees to provide the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities with such information requested by the Commission, and permit access to pertinent books, records and accounts, concerning the employment practices and procedures of the Town as related to the provisions of this section and Section 46a-56 of the General Statutes.
5. The Town shall include the provisions of paragraph (1) of this addendum in every subcontract or purchase order entered into in order to fulfill any obligation of a contract with the State and such provisions shall be binding on a subgrantee, vendor or manufacturer unless exempted by regulations or orders of the Commission. The Town shall take such actions with respect to any such subcontract or purchase order as the Commission may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for non-compliance in accordance with Section 46a-56 of the General Statutes; provided, if such Town becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subgrantee or vendor as a result of such direction by the Commission, the Town may request the State of Connecticut to enter into any such litigation or negotiation prior thereto to protect the interests of the State and the State may so enter.

M. Points of Contact.

1. The Point of Contact for the SAA	
Name & Title: Deputy Commissioner Regina Y. Rush-Kittle	
Address: 1111 Country Club Road, Middletown, CT 06457	
Emails: regina.rush-kittle@ct.gov and rita.stewart@ct.gov	Phone: 860-685-8531
	Fax: 860-685-8902
2. The Point of Contact for TOWN OF COLUMBIA (Please fill in the following fields)	
Name & Title: Mark B. Walter Town Administrator	
Address: 323 Route 87, Columbia, CT	
Email Address: townadministrator@columbiact.org	Phone: 860-228-0110
	Fax: 860-228-1952

N. Other provisions.

Nothing in this agreement is intended to conflict with current laws or regulations of the State of Connecticut or TOWN OF COLUMBIA. If a term of this agreement is inconsistent with such authority, then that term shall be invalid, but the remaining terms and conditions of this agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have set their hands and seals on the dates written below:

THE TOWN OF COLUMBIA

By: _____ Date: _____
 Its Chief Executive Officer
 Duly Authorized
 Typed Name &
 Title: Steven M. Everett First Selectman

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

By: _____ Date: _____
 Its Chief Executive Officer
 Duly Authorized
 Typed Name _____

MOA THE Region 4 REGIONAL EMERGENCY PLANNING TEAM

By:

Date:

Its Chair
Duly Authorized
Typed Name: _____

**DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION/
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY**

Date:

By:

Regina Y. Rush-Kittle
Duly Authorized

Message for Medical Car

“Community & Safety Driven... Columbia Ford” (CONA)

“Our Mission is Your Health” (Bill O’Brien)

“In Community with Columbia Ford” (Bev Ciurylo)

July 3,2020

To: Mark Walter and Board of Selectmen

From: Millie Ramsey Columbia Historical Society Vice President

RE: Restoring the Notice Signpost to an area in the library gardens which requires approval of the BOS

On behalf of the Columbia Historical Society I am asking to have the old signpost reinstalled in an area of prominence in one of the gardens outside of the library.

The signpost became the property of the CHS when it was removed from in front of the administrative offices sometime during the 1990s. Pictures of the sign post appear in the publication The Story of Columbia Continues....1954-1992 on page one and page five for your reference.

The signpost box has been repaired and weatherized and is ready to be installed on a new 4X4 post.

I have spoken with Sue Epstein, our town librarian and she has no reservations about having it placed in a front garden area that receives a good deal of foot traffic into the library. In fact, she said she likes the idea. Placement would not obstruct plowing or shoveling of winter snow. Placement in an already existing garden area should also minimize future maintenance needs and there will most likely not be any interference with underground wiring etc.

The history of signposts and their importance as a communication vehicle go back to the early days of Columbia. The CHS would use the post in much the same way as it was originally used: as a spot to pin notices of upcoming events etc.

A short history of signposts would also be displayed.

I look forward to answering any questions you might have. I can be reached at 860- 729-5472. I will repair any garden plantings disturbed by this installation.

My hope is that the installation of this signpost can take place expeditiously.

July 3,2020

To: Mark Walter and Board of Selectmen

From: Millie Ramsey - Self-appointed " tender" of the Murphy House gardens

RE: Dedicating a garden down at the public beach to honor Peter Naumec which requires approval of the BOS

The Town established July 26th as a day to honor former Public Works Director Peter Naumec. I had the privilege of working closely with Pete on the Murphy House renovations and the redesign of the parking lot in the early 1990s. With his assistance and guidance, the project was completed under budget and it has withstood the test of time.

He supervised the Town Crew's installation of the septic system. The granite steps that abut the side porch are there because Pete cared enough to obtain them as surplus from the State of Ct. The red weeping maple tree that is in one of the roadside gardens (now overgrowing with poison Ivy and bittersweet!) is there because Pete cared enough to have his crew dig it up and replant it when it was realized that it would be too large for the garden in front of the house. The large maple trees that dot the property were not bought as twigs because Pete's crew was willing to plant larger trees using their equipment instead of shovels wielded by volunteers. But lastly, the gardens that surround the Murphy House are there because Pete was willing to get horse manure from Carol Williamson's home to enrich the soil. From her home he also hauled the large boulders that abut the front entrance. He obtained and installed the surplus telephone poles that surround the gardens .He brought in soil when needed. Without Pete's assistance there would be no gardens at the Murphy House.

I have spoken with his daughter Nancy about the family's thoughts on a garden dedicated to Pete at the beach. They are appreciative of such a gesture. Pete's favorite color was red so it seems fitting to add red plantings to an already established garden. Perhaps when the new beach sign is installed that garden area could be replanted with red perennials.

Thank you for considering this request. I look forward to working with you to iron out the specifics.

“Hi, My name is Nancy Shaw Svach and I am the daughter of Peter Naumec. My family would like to dedicate a park bench in my late fathers’ memory at the Rec field. Through the many years of working for the town, and even after his retirement, he always had a special place in his heart for the fields and for the children who played there. Thank you for your time, and my family and I await your response. Stay well.”

Possible locations for the bench are near the tennis court to the right; however, if the Shaw family chooses that location it would probably be best to wait until the courts are build. The anticipated completion of the tennis courts will be sometime around August.

Another option would be under the tree by the pavilion facing the stone dust trail.

We request that the same style of bench will be purchased and installed that we have at Rec Park. This is the Classic Park Bench at 4’ in Evergreen from the Bench Factory. See attached photo.

6/30/20

Good Morning, Mark,

I have been contacted by members of LMAC that the Commission would welcome my participation.

I am, then, requesting that you put my name before the Board of Selectmen to be considered for membership on LMAC.

Thank you,
Paul

Paul W Ramsey
860-916-6474

Hi Mark:

As you may recall at our June LMAC meeting we discussed the need to better link the actions of LMAC with the IWWC as many lake front permit applications involve both the lake front land, lake wall, shoreline, lake water, and/or a dock and/or a boat covering/boat lift. A LMAC motion was passed unanimously that a LMAC subcommittee of Mary Roickle and Steve Harrington be formed to meet with IWWC to explore better coordination on lake front property issues.

One opportunity for Steve and I is to fill the two IWWC vacancies as alternates. Either one of us or both of us can be available for IWWC meetings. This ensures that we share and communicate LMAC and IWWC joint issues that do occur on many lake front permit requests. Also, understanding the impact of other wetlands properties beyond the lake would be beneficial to the IWWC, LMAC and the town for the protection and preservation of the lake.

Thus please find this email as a request on behalf go Steve and I that we desire to fill the two open IWWC alternate vacancies.

Thank you, MaryR

Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission (IWWC)

The IWWC meets on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. in the Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room. The IWWC consists of seven members, who shall serve staggered four-year terms, and two alternates, who shall serve two-year terms. ***There are currently 2 vacancies for alternates.*** The IWWC consists of the following members:

Member	Term	Address	Phone	Office
(U) Claude Garritt Jr.	11/09/18 - 11/22/21	106 Lake Road	860-228- 0040	860-228- 0440
(R) John Allen, Chair	11/25/19- 11/27/23	65 Lake Road	860-228- 3898	860-228- 0440
(R) Thomas Archambault, Vice-Chair	11/25/19- 11/27/23	34 Chesbro Bridge Road	860-228- 4089	860-228- 0440
(U) Ian Dann	1/9/18 - 11/22/21	186 Route 6	860-933- 2014	860-228- 0440
(D) William Ross	1/9/18 - 11/22/21	183 Route 87	860-303- 5070	860-228- 0440
(D) Ronald Wikholm, Secretary	11/25/19- 11/27/23	8 Westgate Road	860-228- 3546	860-228- 0440
(D) Carol Ann Jaswinski	1/9/18 - 11/22/21	27 Yeomans Road	860-228- 0370	860-228- 0440

From: Sandra Amado <SAmado@CCM-CT.ORG> **On Behalf Of** CCM Public Policy and Advocacy
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 4:35 PM
Subject: Governor Lamont Announces Reinstatement of STEAP Grant Program
Importance: High

Dear Municipal Leader:

Governor Lamont announced today that he is reinstating the Small Town Economic Assistance Grant Program (STEAP). OPM plans on authorizing \$15 million for this round of the STEAP program.

The Governor is also implementing a special COVID-19 provision in this round that will support towns with expenditures related to their response to the pandemic, including for new construction, expansion, renovation, or replacement for existing facilities.

Please read the press release below for more information. Applications and program details will be made available on OPM's and the Department of Administrative Services' websites over the next several days. The application period begins on Monday, July 13 and ends on August 14, 2020.

For more information, please contact [Brian O'Connor](#), Director of Public Policy at 203-804-4658.

FOR UPDATED COVID-19 INFORMATION: WWW.CT.GOV/CORONAVIRUS



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
GOVERNOR NED LAMONT

**GOVERNOR LAMONT REINSTATES SMALL TOWN GRANT PROGRAM
TO SUPPORT LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

State Plans to Provide \$15 Million to Towns in New Round of STEAP Grants

(HARTFORD, CT) – In an effort to support Connecticut's municipalities while implementing projects that will give a boost to the economy and help in their response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Ned Lamont today announced that he is reinstating the Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) – a state initiative that funds infrastructure improvement

projects for towns that are otherwise ineligible to receive urban action bonds. To accomplish this, the governor is opening a new round of grants totaling \$15 million. The program has not been active since 2016, and Governor Lamont said that restoring it will provide much needed support to towns during a period of fiscal insecurity caused by the pandemic.

The governor is also implementing a special COVID-19 provision in this round that will support towns with expenditures related to their response to the pandemic, including for new construction, expansion, renovation, or replacement for existing facilities.

“Our small towns have been hit hard by COVID-19 and are in need of our help to fund these projects,” **Governor Lamont said**. “Simply put, some of our small towns need to modernize their infrastructure so that we can support efforts to grow the economy but lack the property tax base they need to fully fund these projects on their own. The state can and should do what we can to help with these costs, as these small towns drive tourism, honor our deep and celebrated history, and provide us with family-friendly getaways that are part of the New England experience.”

The governor is able to provide support for the program through the authorization of bonding in [Public Act 20-1](#), in combination with other existing authorizations. The program is coordinated by the Office of Policy and Management, and grants are administered by the appropriate state agencies depending on the specific project involved.

Under state law, STEAP grants can only be used for capital projects. A project is considered to be a capital project if it is new construction, expansion, renovation, or replacement for an existing facility or facilities. Project costs can include the cost of land, design, engineering, architectural planning, and contract services needed to complete the project. Towns selected for an award will be required to execute a contract with the state agency assigned to administer their grant before they incur any project-related expenditures. Expenditures incurred prior to the execution of a contract will not be eligible for reimbursement.

The application period for this round will begin on July 13 and towns must apply by August 14. Recipient projects are expected to be announced in mid-September. Application materials will be published within the next several days on [the Office of Policy and Management’s STEAP website](#), as well as [the Department of Administrative Services’ BizNet Contracting Portal](#). The materials will include a list of eligible towns.

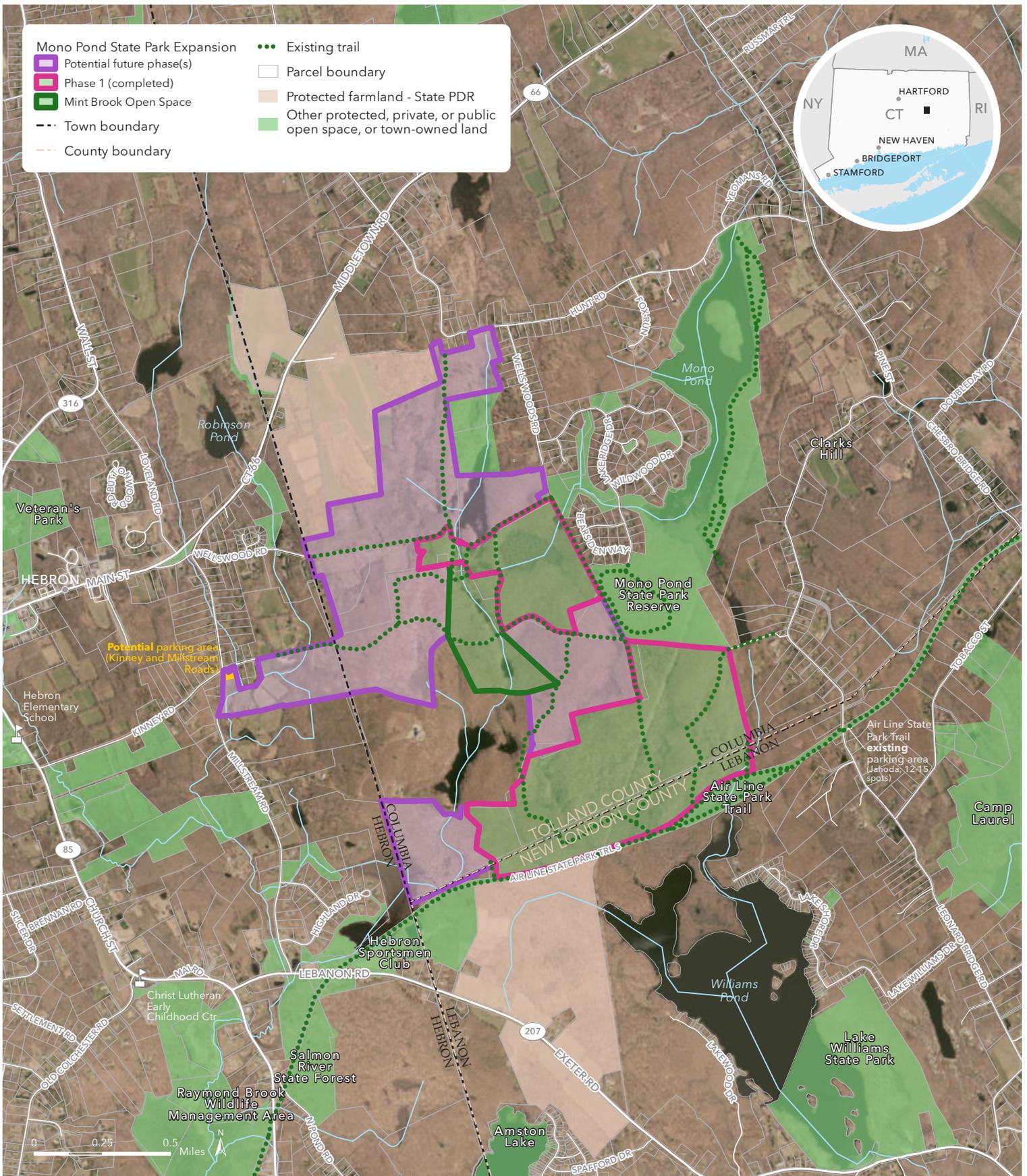
For more information about STEAP grants, [click here](#).

For a list of every STEAP grant awarded since 2005, [click here](#).

###

www.ct.gov/governor





Mono Pond State Park Expansion

COLUMBIA (TOLLAND COUNTY) AND LEBANON (NEW LONDON COUNTY), CONNECTICUT

June 30, 2020. Copyright © The Trust for Public Land. The Trust for Public Land and The Trust for Public Land logo are federally registered marks of The Trust for Public Land. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only. www.tpl.org

THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

Town of Columbia
City: Mark Walter

Thank you for the concern you have given to all of the Seniors in Town & especially thank you, Bernadette Deering, Lisa McDonald and every person who has been helping us.

Bernadette has gone above and beyond on all she is doing for Dartmouth Village. She came to you with her concerns. She, not management brought bottled water when our well went dry for all of the Village, not just seniors. She came to you over our mail boxes being broken, missing mail. She shops for us. We are so fortunate to have her as Director of the Senior Center. You could not have found a more loving, caring, gentle person. Lisa McDonald calls us every other day to check up on us, to see if we need anything. Bernadette Lisa, every volunteer that delivers

of you, God Bless...

Sincerely,
Calleen Coley
299 RT 87
Cpt. 3D
Columbia, CT
06237

860-228-1105

Storefronts in Columbia have been vandalized

COLUMBIA — Police are investigating a vandalism incident that occurred over the weekend at storefronts on 187 Route 66 East in Columbia.

According to Connecticut State Police, the storefronts were vandalized sometime between Friday and Sunday morning.

Susan Parker, the owner of the art and consignment shop By the Pond, reported her store was vandalized to police.

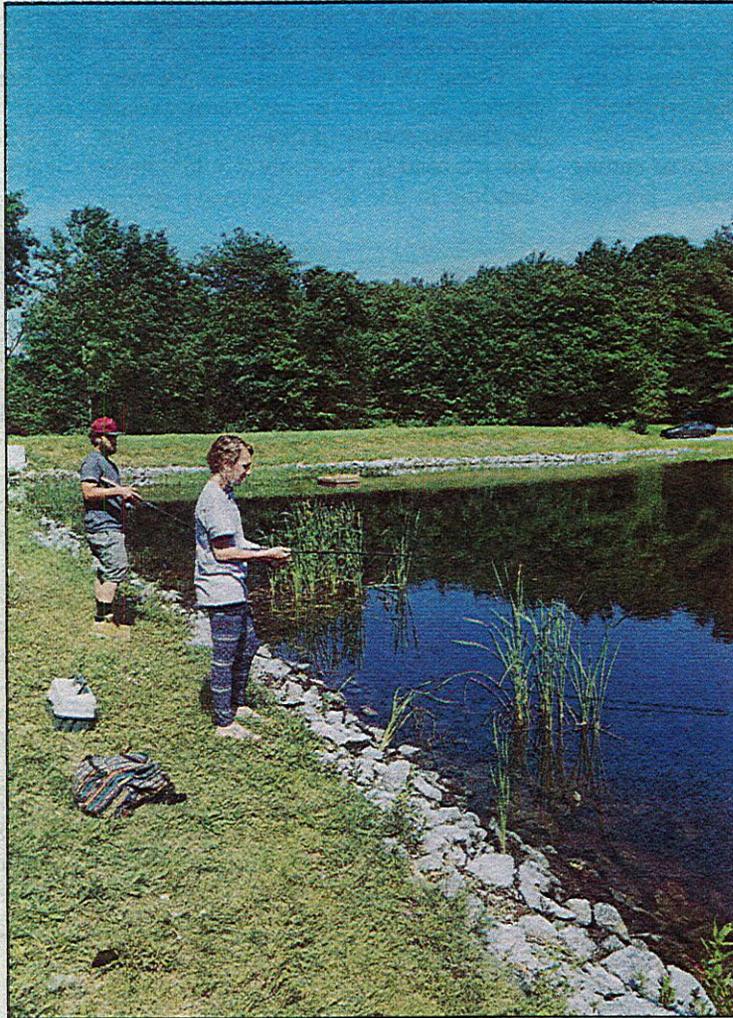
“My store, Lee’s Stir Fry and a couple of vacant storefronts were vandalized,” Parker wrote in a Facebook post. “My doll house was thrown to the ground and broken and outdoor displays thrown in the parking lot. My windows were etched with (expletives) and random scratches.”

According to Parker, the vandalism at Lee’s Stir Fry was “worse.”

“They were etched with racial slurs, the F-word and more. All of the windows, seven or so, will all have to be replaced,” Parker wrote.

People with information on the incident are asked to report to Columbia Resident State Trooper Gregory DeCarli at 860-228-6845, ext. 195.

More space to have fun at Mono Pond



Joey Blossom and Haley Blossom spend some time fishing at Mono Pond State Park recently while on a trip to visit their aunt, who lives in Columbia. Lisa Massicotte | Staff



Two cyclists ride side by side on the Air Line Trail that goes through Mono Pond State Park. Lisa Massicotte | Staff

State park has nearly tripled in size

LISA MASSICOTTE
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

COLUMBIA/LEBANON — Those looking for a new place to hike or bike, something in demand during these times, have a new option.

That's because Mono Pond State Park, located near 120 Hunt Road in Columbia, has nearly tripled in size as a result of a collaborative effort to conserve forests and expand public lands.

Roughly 403 acres was added to Mono

Pond State Park, giving a new 10-mile trail network to the Air Line State Park Trail, according to a recent announcement by the Trust for Public Land organization.

Some of the park now extends into Lebanon.

"Offering the public places to get outside for a solo walk in the woods is particularly important at a time when we are all grappling with the implications of the COVID-19," Connecticut State Parks Director Tom Tyler said in a press release

MORE SPACE, Page 4

More space to have fun at Mono Pond

Continued from Page 1

last week.

The Trust for Public Land, the towns of Columbia and Lebanon and the State of Connecticut partnered together to secure funding for this expansion.

"In addition to providing new access to the Air Line State Park Trail for thousands of people in eastern Connecticut, this newly protected property also provides important habitat. The acquired acres are part of a 1,000-acre forest block that is unbroken by development," reads a release from the TPL.

Plans to acquire another 600-plus acres of the forest block known as "Wells Woods" are still in the works.

"This is what we call Phase 1," Columbia Open Space Committee Chairperson Ann Dunnack said. "We do plan to seek more property in that area, which is about 1,000 acres of contiguous undeveloped forestland with very high quality wetlands. It's just wonderful."

Dunnack said expanding Mono Pond State Park has been a dream of hers for more than 15 years now.

She, along with the rest of the open space committee, has spearheaded the initiative to expand the park and connect it to the Air Line State Park Trail.

"This park expansion was truly driven by the commu-



Columbia residents Lucinda Marsalisi and Charlene Petrone take a walk together recently on the Columbia portion of the Air Line State Park Trail at Mono Pond State Park. Lisa Massicotte | Staff

nity. The Columbia Open Space Committee envisioned this land as protected open space more than a decade ago," reads the TPL release. "The project would not have been possible without their drive and support."

The total purchase for the 403 acres came to \$825,000, according to Trust for Public Land Press Secretary Joanna Fisher.

The federal Land and Water Conservation Fund contributed \$412,500, the State of Connecticut contributed \$347,500, Columbia contributed \$45,000 and Lebanon

contributed \$20,000, according to Fisher.

Seventy-eight acres of the newly gained property is in Lebanon while the rest, about 325 acres, is in Columbia, Fisher said.

"All town boards and commissions were behind it, a town meeting (approved) the money for the town's share to buy the Lebanon piece near the Hebron town line," Lebanon Town Planner Philip Chester said.

The state and the town of Columbia will be collaborating on a management plan going forward and the acquisition to the park immedi-

ately became available to visitors to explore on foot, according to the TPL.

"The expanded Mono Pond State Park has the potential to be a recreation destination for the region driving new business opportunities and improving quality of life for our small town. We envision building new trails for hiking and mountain biking offering a chance to experience a backcountry setting in central Connecticut," Columbia First Selectman Steven Everett said.

Follow Lisa Massicotte on Twitter - @LMassicotteTC.

Columbia to celebrate July 4 after all

LISA MASSICOTTE
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

COLUMBIA — The spirit of 1776 will still be showcased on Independence Day after all — just a little bit differently than usual.

The Columbia Congregational Church is hosting a Fourth of July “Honkin’ Hello” car parade after the regular July 4 parade was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

This event won’t feature the usual bands and floats parading before a crowd.

Rather, this smaller parade will take the celebration to much of the town via decorated automobiles and car horns.

The parade will begin Saturday at 10 a.m. at Columbia’s Horace W. Porter school and will last approximately two hours.

Interested folks can participate in the parade by calling the church at 860-228-0621.

However, Connecticut State Police

Troop K limited the number of cars in the parade to 20 to avoid traffic detours.

“We wanted it to showcase Columbia and organizations in town. We’re getting more and more organizations to showcase and show our spirit,” said Nancy Douton, who is the church’s Sunday school music teacher and bell choir director.

Participants include the Columbia Fire Department, Baptist Fellowship of Columbia, Columbia Boy Scout Troop 162, the Columbia Republican Town Committee, the Columbia Lions Club President and more.

Douton said the idea for the Fourth of July parade came after the church organized birthday parades as a means to celebrate under social distant guidelines, which led to having other car parades around town.

“It was so uplifting and everyone was so excited about it,” Douton said.

The parade route is as follows:

- From Porter School, the parade will

take a right onto Route 87 to Whitney Road.

- It will then turn onto Heritage Road and circle Dilaj Drive and go back to Heritage Road and take a left on Whitney Road.

- From there, it will turn left on Route 87 to Lake Road to West Street; across Route 66 to Hunt Road to Wells Wood Road; Lake Ridge Road to Wildwood Drive; right on Hunt Road to Yeomans Road; back to Hunt Road onto Pine Street; left on Pine Street to Russmar Trail, Timber Trail and Brenda Trail; left on Pine Street to Chesboro Bridge; left on Doubleday Road to route 87; right on route 87 to Samuel Hill Road; right on Route 87 to Szegda Road; right on Johnson Road to Gaulin Road and Cherry Valley Road; across Route 66 to Edgarton Road; left on Thompson Hill Road to Macht Road; left on Macht Road to Route 66.

- It will finish back at the Porter School.

Some playgrounds reopened amid outbreak

Mansfield, Coventry, Columbia open them; Windham's still closed

MICHELLE WARREN
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

At a time when many camps and summer programs have been canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic, it can be challenging to find activities to keep children busy and physically active.

One good place for children to get their energy out is a playground — which is now an option in some local towns.

And, based on guidance from public health officials, playgrounds in several area towns have reopened recently, while others remain closed.

When the pandemic's impact became known in mid-March, one of the first actions municipal leaders did was close the playgrounds.

The concern was the COVID-19 virus would get on the equipment and children could infect themselves and their families, lengthening the pandemic.

No mandates

As time passed, the matter



The Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation Community Playground at the Mansfield Community Center looks inviting on a sunny afternoon. Playgrounds in Mansfield were opened recently. Roxanne Pandolfi | Staff

of reopening outdoor playgrounds became a matter of individual choice for town leaders.

Eastern Highlands Health District Director Robert Miller said he discussed the situation with officials from two other health districts in eastern Connecticut — Chatham and Ledge Light.

The EHHD oversees Andover, Ashford, Bolton,

Chaplin, Columbia, Coventry, Mansfield, Scotland, Tolland and Willington.

Chatham serves Colchester, East Hampton, East Haddam, Hebron, Marlborough and Portland.

Meanwhile, Ledge Light oversees many shoreline communities in southeastern Connecticut.

Miller said municipalities, actually, were not required to

close their playgrounds.

“The decisions had all been made locally to close the playgrounds, however, they weren't comfortable reopening them without guidance from public health,” Miller said.

Miller said town officials asked when they could safely reopen playgrounds and if they did, what conditions would need to be in place.

His office sent guidance to towns the week of June 17, the same week Phase 2 of the state's reopening plan went into effect.

Miller said the likelihood of transmission via outdoor playground equipment was not as high as originally thought.

“The public health data was providing good information indicating that risks of community transmission in our area had reduced materially,” Miller said.

That being said, however, folks still need to use caution in such public, outdoor play areas.

COVID-19 CASES

According to latest figures

Andover	9
Ashford	18
Chaplin	3
Columbia	24
Coventry	40
Eastford	8
Franklin	5
Hampton	2
Hebron	27
Lebanon	26
Mansfield	33
Scotland	0
Willington	15
Windham	266

Source: Gov. Ned Lamont's office

Miller said his district has recommended there be an occupancy limit on playgrounds, masks be worn when on or near the play-

PLAYGROUNDS, Page 4

Playgrounds reopened in some towns

Continued from Page 1

grounds and people use hand sanitizer or wash their hands before or after using the playgrounds.

Mixed feelings

Despite the reopening of playgrounds in some towns, there has been mixed feedback from parents.

Some are happy to bring their children to them. Others are still not comfortable doing so yet.

"It's really an individual choice," Coventry Recreation Supervisor Caterina Merriam said.

Mansfield resident Sue Graskoski Audette said she brought her granddaughter, 7-year-old "KJ," to the playground at Southeast School in Mansfield Monday and there wasn't anyone else there. She said she brought wipes and her granddaughter used hand sanitizer after getting off the playground.

Audette said it was a good opportunity for her granddaughter to exert herself, noting it is "very hard to keep up with her."

Playgrounds are also a place for children to enjoy the outdoors.

"I think people have really been wanting to get outside and the weather's been nice," Mansfield Parks & Recreation Director Curt Vincente said.

Closed in Windham

Windham Recreation Program Coordinator Jack Jenkins said Monday the playgrounds were still closed in Windham.

He said the department is following state guidelines, as well as guidance from personnel in the town manager's office. "When it's OK to open everything, we will," Jenkins said.

In Windham, there are playgrounds at Recreation Park, Lauter Park and Memorial Park, as well as playgrounds at the schools.

Jenkins deferred further comment to personnel in the town manager's office, noting guidance is coming from them.

Windham Town Manager Jim Rivers could not be reached for comment.

Windham's regional health department, despite its southern, Windham County geographic location, is the North Central District Health Department.

That department serves towns in the northern part of the state, around Enfield.

Open playgrounds

Recently, playgrounds in Mansfield, Coventry and Columbia, were re-opened based on guidance from the EHHD.

School playgrounds are overseen by the school district in each town, while other playgrounds are overseen by the town recreation department.

While open, playgrounds in several local towns have not been regularly sanitized because it is too difficult to keep up with it, local recreation officials indicated.

Vincente said the Mansfield playgrounds are not sanitized currently, but the department is planning to get a fog-

ger that would be used to disinfect the playgrounds.

Some of the local towns, including Coventry and Mansfield, have placed signs at playgrounds, indicating they have not been sanitized and people should take their own precautions when using them.

Merriam said the playgrounds surfaces are "very difficult to disinfect on a regular basis" and it's important to put the signs up so individuals can "make an informed decision for themselves and their family."

In Mansfield, for example, a sign has been posted on the town playgrounds indicating an occupancy limit of 50.

Miller said some municipalities have calculated a reduced occupancy and, out of an abundance of caution, "reduced that even further."

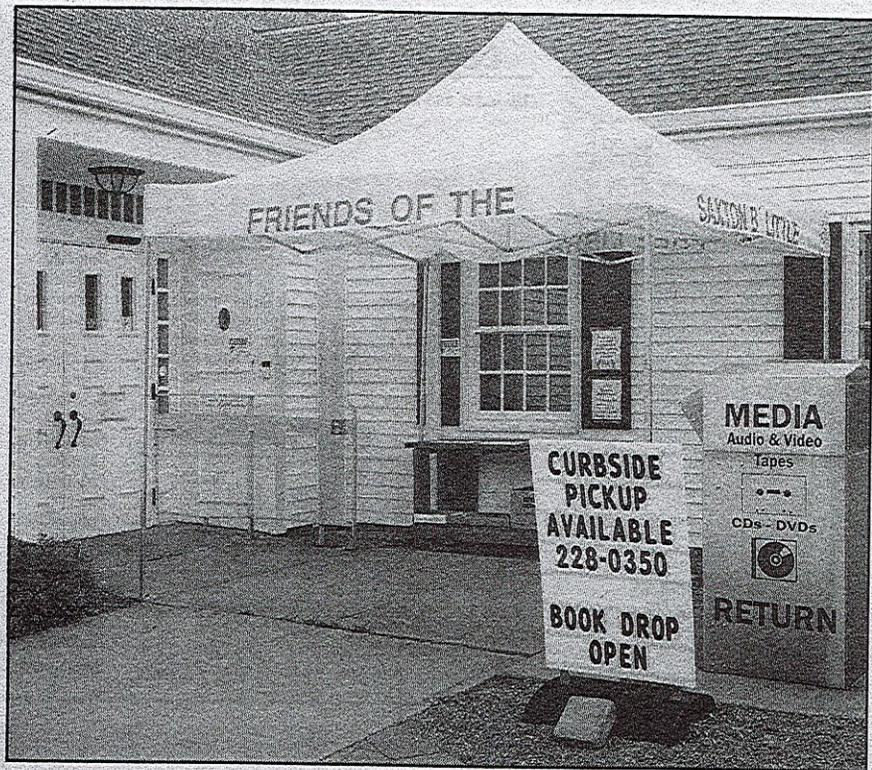
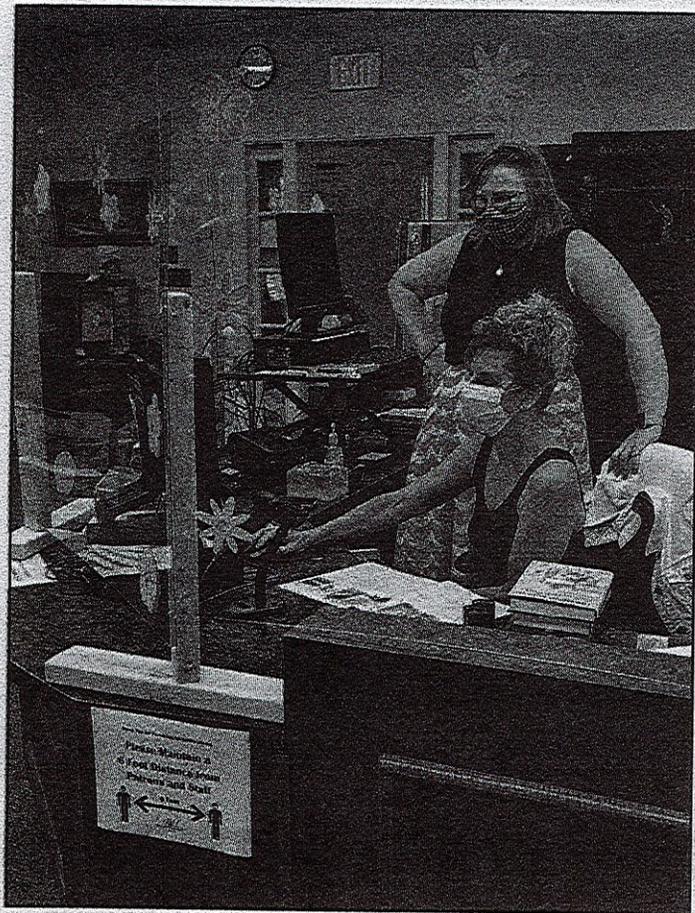
Vincente said he has not heard feedback from parents about using the playgrounds, which were closed in mid-March and reopened June 17.

"My sense is that there are certainly people that are still hesitant to go out, but there are certainly people that have been using them, so it's a mixture (of perspectives)," he said.

Vincente said there has been some, but not a lot, of use at the community center playground since it reopened.

"I don't think it's very crowded at all," he said.

Follow Michelle Warren on Twitter - @mwarrenc.



Children's librarian Frances McGrath, left, works with library assistant Donna Maheu at the Jonathan Trumbull Library in Lebanon, which reopened its inside facility to the public June 22. Columbia's Saxton B. Little Free Library, above, has a curbside pickup service tent. The library anticipates a limited reopening soon. Lisa Massicotte | Staff

Welcome back to the library

Facilities cautiously reopening after coronavirus shutdown

LISA MASSICOTTE
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

There's something special about searching through titles on a bookshelf and fingering through the pages of countless books at a local library.

Online catalogs and curbside pickup services temporarily replaced that special something in an effort to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus. After a period of well over three months, some libraries are starting to anticipate a new normal, where patrons can once again peruse the shelves.

"People miss the serendipity of exploring the library," Jonathan Trumbull Library Director Matthew Earls said last week.

The Jonathan Trumbull Library, located at 580 Exeter Road in Lebanon, was one of the first libraries to reopen its doors to the public on June 22 with new hours and precautions.

People can enter the library with a face mask on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 8 p.m., Wednesdays from noon to 6 p.m., Fridays from 1 to 6 p.m. and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Window-side pick-up and appointment scheduling will still be available at the Jonathan Trumbull Library by calling 860-642-7763.

Since closing in March, the library has run online games, storytime and crafting programs.

Jonathan Trumbull Children's Librarian Frances McGrath said the initial transition to online services and book requests allowed staff to interact with patrons and get much more familiar with the library catalog.

Libraries are cautiously reopening

Continued from Page 1

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"I know all the books so much better now because I've gotten those emails that have said, 'can you give me 10 new picture books, five books about fairies and two easy readers about bugs,'" she explained.

Last week, the Jonathan Trumbull Library began outdoor programs and recently set up tents for the programs at the Lebanon Green.

In order to reopen, staff deep-cleaned the library, put up acrylic barriers and reorganized some sections of books to allow for better social distancing in the library.

The library staff has been encouraging families to enter the library from the basement door, which will lead them directly into the program room and children's section. "Which I think has worked really well because my desk is down there in the program room now, so I can greet people when they come in," McGrath said.

She'll also make sure everyone is wearing a mask and inform them of new rules, which includes a time limit if needed.

"But we haven't had a crowd yet, which has been good. We're limiting it to two families downstairs but there's only been one point where we've had two families," McGrath said.

The Douglas Library of Hebron has reopened its building today, with reduced hours: Mondays and Wednesdays from noon to 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

All visitors must wear

masks and practice social distancing.

The building will be thoroughly cleaned between uses. Curbside pick-up is still available Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

More information is listed on its website, douglaslibrary.org.

Starting July 14, the Booth & Dimock Memorial Library in Coventry will be open for computer use by appointment only, according to library director Margaret Khan.

The Saxton B. Little Public Library in Columbia is planning to reopen for patron browsing Tuesday, according to library director Su Epstein.

"During browsing, we will have limited materials on display. No access to the stacks, children's area or restrooms," Epstein said. "We will need to limit the number of patrons in the building to 10, so one person per family is encour-

aged. Masks will be required and patrons will be required to maintain six-foot social distancing."

Almost all other libraries in the surrounding areas are operational, however, most are still only offering curbside pickup, online/phone ordering and virtual programs.

These libraries also recently kicked off their summer reading programs last week, offering adult, teen and children programs.

The Willimantic Public Library does not have a reopening date yet, however, staff are doing well with its book request system, according to Willimantic Public Library Director Dan Paquette.

"It's going well. We have a system where people can call to request items or they can do it online and email us or place holds in our catalog," Paquette said.

"We're used to seeing people and helping people out in person, so it's been a change, but (staff) has been great adjusting."

All the libraries in Windham/Willimantic are doing something similar for now, according to Paquette.

"Each library is doing it in its own way," he said.

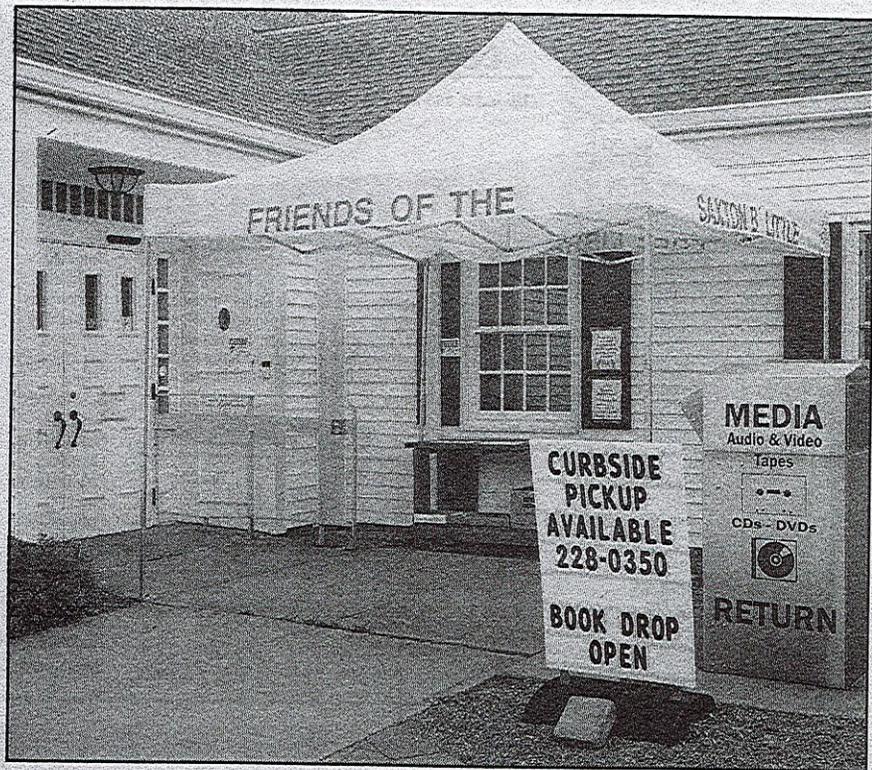
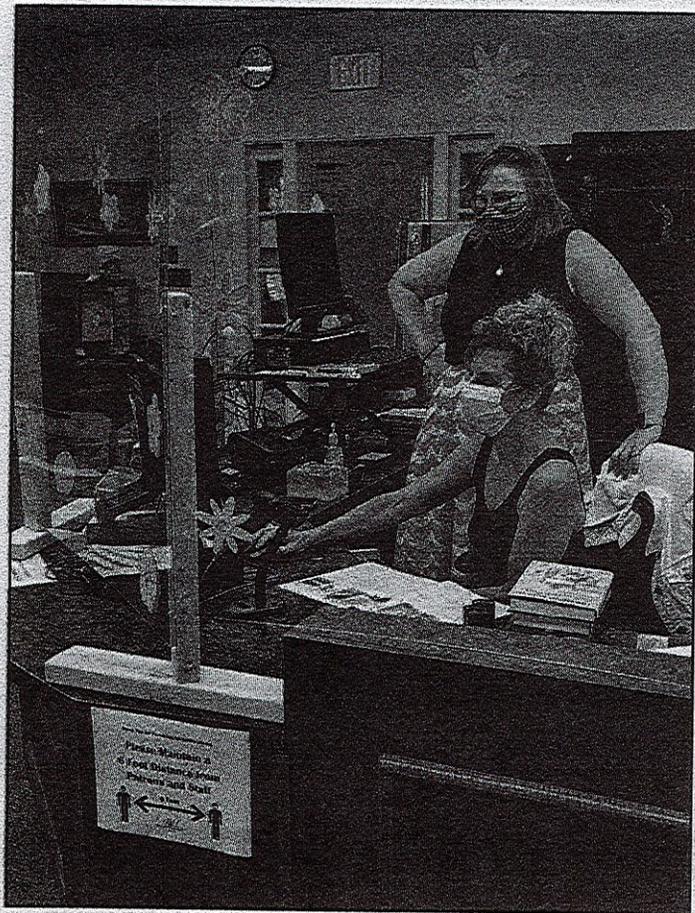
Paquette is anticipating reopening in the future, but plans will begin to come together once the library receives furniture fit for social distancing.

"We have furniture that's on order that's more meetable to social distancing, so when that comes in, then we can start planning out when we'll actually reopen," Paquette said. "As you can imagine, everyone's ordering that furniture so it's a little delayed."

Follow Lisa Massicotte on Twitter - @LMassicotteTC.



Willimantic Public Library Director Dan Paquette stands behind the library's summer reading program display and book pick-up table. Lisa Massicotte | Staff



Children's librarian Frances McGrath, left, works with library assistant Donna Maheu at the Jonathan Trumbull Library in Lebanon, which reopened its inside facility to the public June 22. Columbia's Saxton B. Little Free Library, above, has a curbside pickup service tent. The library anticipates a limited reopening soon. Lisa Massicotte | Staff

Welcome back to the library

Facilities cautiously reopening after coronavirus shutdown

LISA MASSICOTTE
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

There's something special about searching through titles on a bookshelf and fingering through the pages of countless books at a local library.

Online catalogs and curbside pickup services temporarily replaced that special something in an effort to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus. After a period of well over three months, some libraries are starting to anticipate a new normal, where patrons can once again peruse the shelves.

"People miss the serendipity of exploring the library," Jonathan Trumbull Library Director Matthew Earls said last week.

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