Annual Report

Town of Coventry
Connecticut

Fiscal Year
July 1, 2012 –
June 30, 2013

Office of the Town Manager
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Front cover: Project highlights from FY 2012-2013. Top to bottom: Photovoltaic panels on the roof of the DPW building, the new statue of Capt. Nathan Hale on the Veterans’ Memorial Green, and the new North Coventry Volunteer Department Main Station on Rt. 31. Photos by Laura Stone.
Above right: The signature lone tree at Cassidy Hill Vineyard is a local landmark, and is featured on the vineyard’s wine bottle labels. Cassidy Hill produced a commemorative wine, Tricentennial White, for Coventry’s 300th Anniversary. Photo by Laura Stone.
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**Above:** One of the many highlights during Coventry’s 300th Anniversary Parade in September 2012.  
*Photo by Laura Stone.*
Right: The Town crest. The motto, Altiora in votis, in Latin, translates as “I pray for the higher things.”
Town Council

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

**Financial Management:** The Council began the budget process by meeting with many of the various department/agency heads to better understand service requirements and budget proposals. Then we undertook our deliberations with the goal of preserving appropriate levels of town and educational services and programs while at the same time recognizing economic reality. The Budget that was approved was a 1.47% increase over the previous year, however there was a zero increase in the mil rate for 27 mils. This was done while adding Full Day Kindergarten classes to Coventry Grammar School.

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

**Citizen Involvement and Communications:** We continue to publish three town newsletters each year, broadcast Council and BOE meetings and have the recasts available via our town web site. The Town has redesigned and launched its new website. Town Committee Agendas and minutes can be found on the website, along with a calendar for the meetings. An important activity is attracting talented and enthusiastic volunteers to serve on the multitude of town boards, commissions and committees. The Council Steering Committee recruits on an ongoing basis so as to ensure a steady stream of candidates to fill vacancies as they occur.

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

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

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

The Council has faced many challenges, but has worked together to resolve the issues for the good of the Town and we look forward to serving you for the next two years.
As Town staff we are honored annually to present detailed information about the state of our Town, the various issues we dealt with and the progress we made during the fiscal year July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. We continued to celebrate our 300th anniversary with major events including a fantastic parade. Please take the time to review all the enclosed reports to get a sense of the depth and breadth of your Town. On a personal note this is my 25th annual report and I am thankful to be given the opportunity to continue to serve as your Town Manager.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Elsesser
Town Manager
TOWN OFFICIALS

Above: Members of the Coventry Town Council march along with State officials at the Coventry 300th Anniversary Parade. Photo by Laura Stone.
OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS
As Of June 30, 2013

ELECTED

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Jennifer E. Beausoleil
Todd S. Cancelliere
William M. Oros, Sr.
Mary S. Kortmann
Eugene T. Marchand
Mary T. Minor
Denise A. Ryan

BOARD ASSESSMENT APPEALS
Robert E. Dextradeur
Erin Emily Henry
Robert Kramer
Robert McMahon, Jr.
Jill Wood Reviczky

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
Raymond Chicoine
Charles Clapp, Jr.
John R. Henry
William Riordan
Erik A. Williams

ZBA ALTERNATES
Jacques R. Collard
Stephen F. Curtis
Joram L. Echoles

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
Inge Pope
Marjorie L. Roach

JUDGE OF PROBATE
Claire C. Tweddy

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

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

APPOINTED

TOWN MANAGER
John A. Elsesser

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
David Petrone

AUDITOR
Blum Shapiro

FINANCE DIRECTOR/TREASURER
Elizabeth Bauer

CHIEF OF POLICE
Mark A. Palmer

DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
Robert Miller

TOWN CLERK/REGISTRAR
VITAL STATISTICS
Susan J. Cyr

TAX COLLECTOR
Linda L. Greenbacker

ASSESSOR
Michael D’Amicolo

HUMAN SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR
Courtney Chan

YOUTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR
Crystal Morawitz

SENIOR CENTER COORDINATOR
Sarah Taylor West

BUILDING OFFICIAL
Joseph Callahan

SANITARIAN
Glenn Bagdoian

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
David K. Gorstein

TOWN PlANNER
Eric M. Trott

ZONING AGENT
Michael Antonellis

TOWN ENGINEER
INLAND WETLANDS AGENT
Todd Penney

RECREATION DIRECTOR
Wendy L. Rubin

CANINE CONTROL
John H. Chipman, III

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
Noel Waite

Municipal Agent
Sarah Taylor West

PUBLIC HEALTH
Visiting Nurse Health

BURNING OFFICIAL/
FIRE MARSHAL
Noel Waite

TREE WARDEN
Douglas Reese

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

CEMETERY COM:
Deborah L. Blakeley
Thomas Scott Boudreaux
Sherry L. Chapman
Linda G. Pagliuca
Anne Claudine Vieten

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COM:
Barbara Barry
Samuel Belzito
Richard Giggey
William J. Jobbaga
Mark C. Lavitt
Timothy Liptrap
Carol Polsky
Sondra A. Stave
Roberta Wilmot

HOUSING AUTHORITY
Jeffrey S. Arn
Albert E. Bradley
Marilyn E. Barrette
Harlene W. Fairbants
Lorraine U. Lynch

HUD HOUSING REHAB/FAIR HOUSING COMM
Albert Bradley
Mark C. Lavitt
David Lamore
Marjorie L. Roach
1 vacancy

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

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

PARKS/RECREATION ALTERNATES
Tod A. Messier
Ryan Nowosielecki
1 vacancy

COVENANT/VISION COMMITTEE
David Lamore
Konrad Moczek
Robert A. Plant
Bruce M. Stave
1 vacancy

PENSION & RETIREMENT
Benedict D. Emanuele
Paul E. Jakowski
Robert Mazyn
David C. Powers
Cara M. Revett

PERSONNEL APPEALS BOARD
Benedict Emanuele
Peter L. Halvorson
Paul F. Jakowski
Barbara E. Riordan
William J. Senko
2 vacancies

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
Raymond F. Giglio
William Jobbagy
Christine Pattee
Robert E. Wilmot
1 vacancy

P&Z ALTERNATES
Darby L. Pollanasky
2 vacancies

INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY
Raymond D. Chiccone
Charles S. Clapp, Jr.
Lori J. Mathieu
Darby L. Pollanasky
Thomas P. Woolf

INLAND WETLANDS ALTERNATES
Michael John Burugas
David W. Sorich

SCHOOL ROOF BUILDING COMMITTEE
Jeffrey S. Arn
Harvey R. Barrette, Jr.
Raymond F. Giglio
Robert F. Lezotte
Cheryl A. Trudon

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
Richard W. Brand
Susan E. Jamaitis
Daniel R. Murphy
Matthew J. Twesty
Lyndon Wilmot

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Albert E. Bradley
Thomas W. Brainard
Amy S. Elsner
Michael J. Kurpiewski
Marjorie L. Roach

YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD
Annie Bobbitt
Phyllis C. Bishop
Terrie Carpenter
Maria L. Genza
David J. Hoyt
Florence Lajeunesse
Roger J. LaPierre
Michael McDonagh
Ginny Molleur
Crystal Morawitz
Elizabeth R. Murphy
1 vacancy

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

LOCAL EMERGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Ken Boutin, CVFA
W. Dennis Dittrich, CVFA

John Elsesser, Tn. Mgr.
Ray Eldridge, Jr., NCVF
Peter Krawetzky, NCVF
Mark Palmer, Police Chief
David Gofstein, Pub. Works
Elizabeth Woolf, Council

ENERGY CONSERVATION/ALTERNATIVE ENERGY
Matthew Mullen
Paul Noel
Jennifer Lynn Reilly
Stephen L. Savell
Joseph B. Tindal

ROUTE 31 ADVISORY
Kari Acimovic
William Jobbagy
Mark Lavitt
Patricia Pelkey
Michael Williams

AD-HOC CONSERVATION CORES
Eric Thomas
Jasmine E. Wolf
Thomas P. Woolf
2 vacancies

HEALTH DISTRICT
John A. Elsesser
M. Deborah Walsh
1 vacancy

MUNICIPAL HISTORIAN
Vacant

CT WATER CO. ADVISORY
Albert Landry, Jr.

WINDHAM REGIONAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL REP.
Marjorie Roach

CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Steven King, Jr.
Eugene T. Marchand
Joan Meidrum

WINCRO
Alexander S. Acimovic
Arthur Hall

WINDHAM REGIONAL TRANSIT
Marjorie Roach

REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH
Christine J. Brunell

REGIONAL FEDERATED SERVICES FOR OLDER
AMERICANS
Marjorie L. Roach

AD-HOC LAKE COVENANT LAKE
ADVISORY & MONITORING COMMITTEE
Lorraine M. Burokas
John C. Clausen
Mary Ann Hansen
Robert R. Proctor
Leslie McCabe Shor
Gerard F. Sak
Deborah E. Seppa

AD-HOC WATER SUPPLY STUDY
Albert E. Bradley
Mark C. Lavitt
Christine Pattee
William J. Zenko
1 vacancy