Front cover: Improvements made to the Miller Richardson ball field and the basketball court at Lisicke Beach during the spring of 2014. Coventry was chosen by Kaboom! Foundation as a Playful City for the 4th year in a row in recognition of initiatives to provide access to recreational spaces and opportunities. Photos by Laura Stone.
Above right: A Snowy Owl visits a Coventry rooftop on Christmas Day in 2013. Photo by Emanuel Merisotis.
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Above: Coventry flaunts its reputation as a “Daffodil Town” in April every year. 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 being sworn in on November 6, 2013, the Council started working on developing the council goals. The goals were broken down into four sections.

**Goal One: Enhance Town and School Safety:**

We will continue to improve our schools and community to keep them secure and safe.

The Council worked with the Board of Education to make sure that the best practices are in place. We have started the work to continue the sidewalks to the Middle School and High School with the Safe Routes to School Grant. A committee was established to examine and implement the fire department strategic action plan and review the need for a Fire Administrator. These meetings have been on going and have made good progress with the members that are on this committee.

**Goal Two: Review Government Structure and Staffing levels:**

This goal has been put on hold as we reduced the budget this year and these funds were removed for the Town Charter review and the independent labor audit study. The Council has worked on sharing services to increase efficiency and reduce cost. The Council and staff continue to work with the Board of Education and surrounding towns to reduce cost when available. The Town has just recently submitted an ICE grant with the Town of Mansfield to share a new Catch Basin Sweeper. We have also worked with multi-towns to purchase computers at a lower bulk cost. Coventry has partnered with the Town of Columbia to receive a $500,000 grant for Housing and Community Revitalization Projects.

**Goal Three: Protecting our rural character through land preservation and stewardship:**

The Council has been working on forming an ad-hoc Open Space Oversight Committee to help monitor and provide stewardship for open-space. The Town of Coventry just recently received a grant for $262,000 to help purchase almost 62 acres of land on Cooper Lane that abuts existing protected open space land by Joshua’s Trust and offers 430 feet of frontage on the Willimantic River.

**Goal Four: Assure Sound Fiscal Management of the Town.**

The Council continues to work toward its goal of a 10% balance in the Unreserved Fund Balance of General Fund Expenditures. We are working toward funding the Capital Non-Recurring Expenditure Fund to build reserves for the financing of depreciable assets. Also, the Council continues to strive to achieve an 80% funded ration for Town Employee’s Pension Fund.

The Council continues to improve the communication with our residents. We publish quarterly newsletters, send out a monthly eblast, broadcast Council and BOE meetings and have a recast available on the Town website as well as minutes from the meeting are always available.

The Council Steering Committee continues to recruit on an ongoing basis to fill vacancies for our Boards and Commissions. If you have a desire to serve your community, please take a look on the town website to see what there are for available openings.

Coventry has continued to strive as a Town in the renewable market for energy. You will notice most of the town building either have or will be getting solar panels in the near future.

The Council has been very active with Town staff to go after grants that are available. The Town of Coventry has also received the following grants $475,000 for the Lake Gate from the Small Town Economic Assistance Program and $405,000 for various elements of the South Coventry Village.

This Council has worked hard to do what is in the best interest of Coventry and we look forward to serving the second year of our two year term.
I am pleased and honored to submit the Annual Report for the Town of Coventry for the period of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. I urge the readers to take the time to review the activities of the various Town and related agencies. I am always amazed at the volume of accomplishments. This would not happen without the efforts of staff and the many volunteers serving the Town. This year I will focus on significant changes, major projects and use of new technologies.

In November the voters elected a new Council with three new members and four returning members with a change in party control. Council goals were evaluated and adopted. I am pleased to announce that two financial goals on fund balance and pension funding were accomplished by reaching a fund balance of 10.99% and pension funding of 89.2%. Both are indications of the financial strength of the Town.

Due to changes in State law, our Regional Council of Governments was deemed too small, and WINCOG was dissolved. We joined the Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG). This forced a change to our regional Geographic Information System mapping to CRCOG’s site.

We continued to work on studying a new model for a relationship between the Town and the two volunteer fire services to address past leadership issues and recognize that service demands may be stretching the volunteers beyond what can be expected. A study committee was charged to report before the FY 15/16 budget process.

We also celebrated the 100th anniversary of Booth & Dimock Library. Funds were approved to undertake a study of the building needs for a Library which has transformed from a book depository to an electronic information center.

Significant projects proceeded. Rescue 111 was bid out and ordered for North Coventry Volunteer Fire Department. Work continued to review preschool and school readiness issues. A major emphasis on improving student safety was undertaken with many physical and procedural updates. The Blight Ordinance came into full play this year with 44 complaints, many of which were resolved.

Capital projects worked their way through grants and permits. Pucker Street Bridge plans were finalized. A grant was received to improve Lake and Cross Streets. The State Rt. 31 Main Street Curve project inches toward bidding. Grants were submitted for additional Main Street projects including bringing the Tracey Shoddy Mill back to life, treating invasive aquatics in Eagleville Lake and replacing the lake gate. The Safe Routes to School sidewalk plans were completed with work expected to start in the fall of 2014.

An Open Space grant was submitted for the Williams parcel between Cooper Lane and the Willimantic River. Funds combined to match a grant to purchase development rights for the Reynolds Farm on Flanders Road. Thornton Brook Preserve was opened and we worked with CT DEEP to spread stone dust on the Hop River Rails to Trails.

Improvements were also made to Miller Richardson baseball field, and Lisicke Beach was spruced up including fixing the basketball court. Summer road work continued with major work on reconstructing sections of South Street east of Rt. 6.

We also continued to take advantage of technology to enhance service, save money or improve the environment, and with the goals of providing better and more convenient service while also trying to make it
cost effective. This year we implemented several energy projects including replacing all exterior lighting (Town and Schools) with LED lighting taking advantage of incentives from the electric company. Solar projects for all four schools and several Town buildings were completed and approved to proceed. The Public Works facility and CVFA fire station are performing well. Plans for the Town Hall, North Coventry Fire and Police Station are planned for spring of 2015. For the citizens we ran a Solarize Coventry program and assisted over 40 on their houses in a State-subsidized group purchase. We also got a grant for an electric vehicle charging station and electric car. The charging station is located and Town Hall and can be used by the public free of charge. Finally we concluded the experiment with wind power and due to mechanical costs and issues removed the system. The Town’s expenses were fully covered and we determined that today’s technology is not yet ready for small in-land wind power.

Several software changes were implemented and services expanded. We upgraded our tax software which will allow us to implement new payment systems and online balance verification. Our online imaging was transitioned to the Capital Region Council of Government’s site, new electronic tax maps were prepared for the Assessor’s office. The Town Clerk’s office now has electronic deeds and maps online sufficient to conduct deed research without having to come into the Town Hall. They were also among the first offices in the State to accept e-filing of land records.

The Town Council went to paperless agendas and through our website citizens now have access to the full agenda packets. The website site also allows citizens to select the information they want to receive when content is added to the website, including agendas and minutes; calendar notices; bid postings; employment announcements; the Town’s monthly e-blast; newsletters and more.

The Town received State funding to tie the Town Hall into the Nutmeg Network. This fiber connection will add cost-effective Internet and inter-town sharing. We will be sharing software to track Public Works vehicles with South Windsor to allow better snow fighting information. It will also allow us to participate in a video streaming project to broadcast meetings live over the Internet. Our online building permit use continues to grow with 84 permits issued without builders having to come into the Town Hall.

This year also allowed some experiments with the Library installing a 3-D printer, walking trails mapped with GPS and an app under development to bring them to your Smart Phone. Crowdsourcing for a fundraiser for a playscape at Laidlaw Park was approved for the winter of 2015.

Our goal is to provide cost-effective and convenient service to our citizens. We believe we made great progress and set the table for more enhancements to come. We have a great town and great staff. It is my pleasure to continue to serve as your Town Manager.

John A. Elsesser
Town Manager
Above: Coventry received a grant for our first electric vehicle charging station during the winter of 2013. L to R: John Elsesser, Town Manager; Jeff Shorts, Town Council Chair; Jennifer Reilly, Chair, Energy Conservation – Alternative Energy Committee and Tim Ackert, State Representative. Photo by Laura Stone.
OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS
As Of June 30, 2014

ELECTED
TOWN COUNCIL
Michael E. Griswold
Joan A. Lewis
Hannah G. Pietrantonio
Wayne T. Post
Jeffrey A. Shorts
Lisa D. Thomas
Micah J. Welintukonis

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

BOARD ASSESSMENT APPEALS
Robert E. Dextraudeur
Robert Kramer
Robert McMahon, Jr.
Joan M. Oros
Jill Wood Reviczky

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
Raymond Chicoine
Carol Chipkin
Karen Post
William Riordan
Valdis Vinkels

ZBA ALTERNATES
Stephen F. Curtiss
Joram L. Echeles
Jo Ann Watson

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
Inge Pope
Marjorie L. Roach

JUDGE OF PROBATE
Claire C. Twerdy

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

APPOINTED
TOWN MANAGER
John A. Bisessar

TOWN ATTORNEY
Duncan Forsyth

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
David Petrone

AUDITOR
Blum Shapiro

FINANCE DIRECTOR/TREASURER
Elizabeth Bauer

CHIEF OF POLICE
Mark A. Palmer

DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
Robert Miller

TOWN CLERK/REGISTRAR

VITAL STATISTICS
Susan J. Cyr

TAX COLLECTOR
Linda L. Greenbacker

ASSessor
Michael D’Amico

HUMAN SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR
Courtney Chan

YOUTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR
Crystal Morawitz

SENIOR CENTER COORDINATOR
Sarah Taylor West

BUILDING OFFICIAL
Joseph Callahan

SANITARIAN
Glenn Bagdoian

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
David R. Goefstein

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
Courtney Chan

PUBLIC HEALTH
Visiting Nurse Health

BURNING OFFICIAL/
FIRE MARSHAL
Noel Waite

TREE WARDEN
Douglas Reese

BBLG CODE ED APPEALS
Brian W. Canny
Michael F. Cleary
John N. Motycka
Harvey Barrette
1 vacancy

Cemetery Commn
Thomas Scott Boudreau
Sherry L. Chapman
Linda G. Pagliuco
Anne Claudine Vieten
1 vacancy

CONSERVATION COMM
Brian D. Coss
Arthur Hall, Jr.
Leroy Lowe, Jr.
Paul C. Manzone
Vincent E. Messino
Robert R. Proctor
Aaron Strong

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMM
Barbara Barry
Samuel Belizo
Richard Giggy
William J. Jobbacy
Mark C. Lavitt
Timothy Liptrap
Carol Polsky
Sondra A. Stave
Robert Wilmot

HOUSING AUTHORITY
Jeffrey S. Ann
Albert E. Bradley
Marilyn E. Barrette
Harlene W. Fairbanks
Lorraine V. Lynch
HUD HOUSING REHAB/PARK HOUSING COMM
Albert Bradley
Mark C. Levitt
Marjorie L. Roach
2 vacancies

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

PARKS & RECREATION
Jennifer L. Bynes
Antonia C. Conti
Teresa S. Mersisotis
Todd W. Messier
Ryan M. Nowosielski

PARKS/RECREATION ALTERNATES
Todd W. Messier
Ryan Nowosielski
1 vacancy

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

PENSION & RETIREMENT
Benedict D. Emanuele
Paul E. Jatkowski
Robert Murzy
David C. Fowers
Cara M. Revett

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

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
Raymond F. Giglio
William J. Jobbaggy
Christine Pattee
Darby L. Pollansky
Robert E. Wilmot

P&Z ALTERNATES
Stephen E. Marek
2 vacancies

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

INLAND WETLANDS ALTERNATES
Michael John Burokas
David W. Sorich

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

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Heather A. Bear
Albert E. Bradley
Michael J. Kurpiewski
Marjorie L. Roach
1 vacancy

YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD
Phyllis C. Bishop
Annie Bobbitt
Judy Buzz
Terrie B. Carpenter
Vicki Deveau
John Elsesser
Maria L. Genco
Arthur J. Houleberg
Florence LaJouanneau
Roger J. LaPierre
Heather MacKintosh
Michael McDonagh
Ginny Molle
Crystal Morawitz
Lynn Obomalayat
David Petrone
1 vacancy

VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMISSION
Leroy A. Lowe, Jr.
Eric Chind
Joseph Recesso, Sr.
Donna L. Sanborn-LeDoyt
Richard C. Sanborn, Jr.
2 vacancies

LOCAL EMERGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Ken Boutin, CVFA
Stephen Curtiss, NCVFD
W. Dennis Dittrich, CVFA
John Elsesser, Tn. Mgr.
Ray Eldridge, Jr., NCVFD
David Gofstein, Pub. Works
Mark Palmer, Police Chief
Paul Noel, CPS Maintenance
Jeffrey A. Shorts, Council
Mchel Weintuckons, Council

ENERGY CONSERVATION/ALTERNATIVE ENERGY
Christine L. Chart
Wayne English
Matthew E. Milten
Paul Noel
Jennifer Lynn Reilly

LIBRARY EXPANSION BUILDING COMMITTEE
William Bonney
Kathleen M. Ryan
Sondra Astor Stave
DeWilton Timberman
1 vacancy

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

HEALTH DISTRICT
John A. Elsesser
M. Deborah Walsh

MUNICIPAL HISTORIAN
David B. Grady

CT WATER CO. ADVISORY BOARD
Albert Landry, Jr.

WINDHAM REGIONAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL REP.
Marjorie Roach

CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Eugene T. Marchand
Joan Meldrum
1 vacancy

WINCOG
Arthur Hall
1 vacancy

WINDHAM REGIONAL TRANSIT
Marjorie Roach

REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH
Christine J. Brunell

EASTERN REGION MENTAL HEALTH
David Ruth

AD-HOC LAKE COVENTRY LAKE ADVISORY & MONITORING COMMITTEE
Lorraine M. Burokas
John C. Clausen
Mary Ann Hansen
Leslie McCaig Shor
Gerard F. Zak
Deborah B. Zeppa
1 vacancy
AD-HOC WATER SUPPLY STUDY
COMMITTEE
Albert E. Bradley
Mark C. Lavitt
William M. Oros, Sr.
Christine Pattee
William J. Senko

AD-HOC FIRE & EMS STUDY
COMMITTEE
Raymond Eldridge, Jr. NCFD
Beth Mancini Goldsnider, NCFD
Danielle M. Taber, CVFA
John L. Twerdy
William J. Senko
Julie A. Blanchard
Kenneth M. Boutin, CVFA
Michael E. Griswold, Town Council
Wayne T. Post, Town Council
David C. Rappe

FLOOD & EROSION CONTROL BOARD
Michael E. Griswold
Joan A. Lewis
Hannah G. Pietrantonio
Wayne T. Post
Jeffrey A. Shorts
Lisa D. Thomas
Micah J. Welintukonis