

JANUARY 2024 REVIEW

Woodstock CT

Monthly Communication Update

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON



Special Town Meeting

The Board of Selectmen will soon call the upcoming Special Town Meeting to address several items that require a town vote. Please make every effort to attend and cast your vote on the following items-

- Senior Tax Freeze
- Building Office Fees
- Fire Marshal Fees
- Ordinance Concerning Appropriations

THE NEW MONTHLY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

The Town of Woodstock is proud to present the newest way to keep our employees and volunteers updated on all thing happening-

Starting with this newsletter that will review the month of January, a monthly review will be sent out to all employees as well as board, commission & committee members and volunteers in the Town of Woodstock and available for public viewing. The hope is that it will provide an efficient way to share important information and accomplishments taking place in all areas of town operations.

If you wish to have specific information shared on behalf of your department, board, commission or committee please send your input to woodstockct.edc@gmail.com at least 3 days before the end of each month. If no information is received, minutes will be reviewed to obtain monthly review topics.



Many Hands Make **LIGHT** Work

February Meetings & Events

Friday, 1st-
Board of Selectmen at 4 pm

Monday, 5th-
Inland Wetland Watercourse Agency at 7 pm

Tuesday, 6th-
Economic Development at 6:30 pm
Board of Finance (Special) at 7 pm

Thursday, 8th-
Open Space at 7 pm
Planning & Zoning at 7:30 pm

Monday, 12th-
Recreation at 7 pm

Tuesday, 13th-
Committee on Aging at 5 pm
Board of Finance at 7 pm

Wednesday, 14th-
Crystal Pond Park at 6 pm

Thursday, 15th-
Board of Selectmen at 6 pm
Planning & Zoning at 7:30 pm

Monday, 19th-
Town Hall Closed for Presidents Day

Monday, 26th-
Agriculture Commission at 1 pm
Zoning Board of Appeals at 6 pm
Conservation at 7 pm

Tuesday, 27th-
TEEG Mobile Market 1:30-2:30 pm
Committee on Aging at 5 pm
Water Pollution Control Authority at 7 pm

*Check website calendar for any cancellations

Happy Winter!

*The Conservation Commission
invites you to attend the free viewing
of-*

EARTH 2024

Wednesday, February 7, 2024
at 7 pm
in the
The Loos Center for the Arts



COMMITTEES

Arboretum Committee

Beautification Committee

The Arboretum and Beautification Committees are looking for new members!
Applications available online or in the First Selectmen's office.
Please share this opportunity with anyone who you think would like to join.

Committee on Aging - This new committee is doing great things. They have had guest speakers from several agencies to learn about available senior resources and are working hard to enhance Senior experiences in Woodstock.

Open Space Land Acquisition & Preservation Committee

Quasset School Advisory Committee

POLITICAL CORNER

Woodstock Democratic Town Committee - The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 7th at 7 pm. Meeting will take place at Room B at the Town Hall.

Woodstock Republican Town Committee

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 21st at 7 pm. Meeting will take place in Room A at the Town Hall.



Get Involved In
Town Meeting!

COMMISSIONS

Conservation Commission - The Conservation Commission is working closely with Eversource to ensure that tree trimming has a positive impact on the existing ecosystem. Please attend our upcoming free program- EARTH 2024.

Economic Development Commission - The EDC is creating a Town Business Listing for the Town Website. Please encourage any Woodstock Business to submit their information via the webform - <https://www.woodstockct.gov/economic-development-commission>. This link can be found on the Economic Development page on the Town Website.

Recreation Commission - The Recreation Page now has new information about town events, senior activities, recreational facilities and more. Woodstock Recreation has partnered with NOW to provide new programs. Visit the recreation page for all the latest info. <https://www.woodstockct.gov/recreation-department>

Public input is always welcome! Join the Recreation Commission at their next meeting to share your ideas.

Land Use Related Commissions, Boards & Agencies

Planning & Zoning Commission - Several Public Hearings took place in January and more are scheduled for February including WA Tennis Courts and Activity on Scenic Joy Road. The commission is currently working on short term rental regulations and updating the Plan of Conservation and Development for Woodstock.

Inland Wetlands & Watercourse Agency - Current topics being addressed are Proposed WA Tennis Court and Waterflow in Lake Bungee Tax District.

Zoning Board of Appeals



Did you know that our acting ZEO had his second appearance on Jeopardy on Thursday, January 11, 2024? Congratulations to John Guskowski!



BOARD & DEPARTMENT SUMMARIES

Board of Selectmen

The Board of Selectmen welcomes 2024 by returning to traditional Town Meetings. The time for the 3rd Thursday monthly BOS meeting has been changed from 7 pm to 6 pm starting January 2024.

Board of Finance

The FY 23 Audit Presentation by Mahoney Sabol will take place on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 7 pm.

Board of Education

The Board of Education meets next in the Woodstock Middle School Cafeteria on Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 7 pm.

Registrar

The office of the Registrar has moved. It is now located in the room closest to the lower level door on the left (previously room C).

AUTHORITY GROUPS

Housing Authority - Welcome to our newest member Bill Chaput!

Water Pollution Control Authority - All field work for the DPC Project has been completed is being processed for the finished assessment with recommendations.

COMMISSIONS (Cont'd)

Historic District Commission

Historic Properties Commission

The Historic District and Properties Commissions are looking for new members! Applications available online or in the First Selectmen's office. Please share this opportunity with anyone who you think would like to join.

Agricultural Commission

Crystal Pond Park Commission

Green Energy Commission- The Green Energy Commission has been inactive a long time. There have been many advances in Energy in that time and a new group to tackle the topic could have great impact on the Town of Woodstock.

Special Town Meeting Info

In order to save on referendum costs, traditional town meetings will return in 2024. This means that votes on matters listed in the Agenda will be taken in person and decisions made at the meeting. It is important to have as many Woodstock Residents attend these meetings as possible.

Please make every effort to attend the upcoming town meeting (date TBD soon) and encourage your friends and neighbors to attend as well. The meeting will be noticed in the Shoppers Guide, on the town webpage and social media accounts.

TOWN BUDGET 101

In December/January each year the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen begin their perspective meetings to formulate their budgets for the upcoming fiscal year. Our fiscal year runs from July 1st thru June 30th. This is a long process that is comprised of many public meetings.

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WOODSTOCK BUDGET BASICS

The total annual budget is split between the General and Education budgets. Approximately 80% of total budget amount goes towards education costs.

Woodstock budget relies on the annual Grand List numbers to determine the mil (tax) rate. The Grand List is comprised of all Real Estate, Personal Property and Motor Vehicle Values.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

- Annual Budgets, Capital Plans and Financial Statements can be found on the Board of Finance page on town website.
- Town Meeting Minutes are posted on the town website. You can get minutes emailed to you by signing up for email notifications

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

Woodstock residents determine the budget every year by casting their vote at Budget Referendums.

Information about the topics to be voted on at Town Meeting can be found in the Board of Selectmen minutes from the months of November & December 2023 and January 2024.

Remember that your vote matters in local government!