

COMMUNITY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Fire Department	387-2544
Police Department	387-2512
Ambulance Service	387-2512
Recreation Department	387-0216
Library	387-8681
Town Hall	387-6639
Superintendent Woodbridge Schools	389-4057
Beecher School, North	389-2195
Beecher School, South	389-6597
Center School	389-9567

REGIONAL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

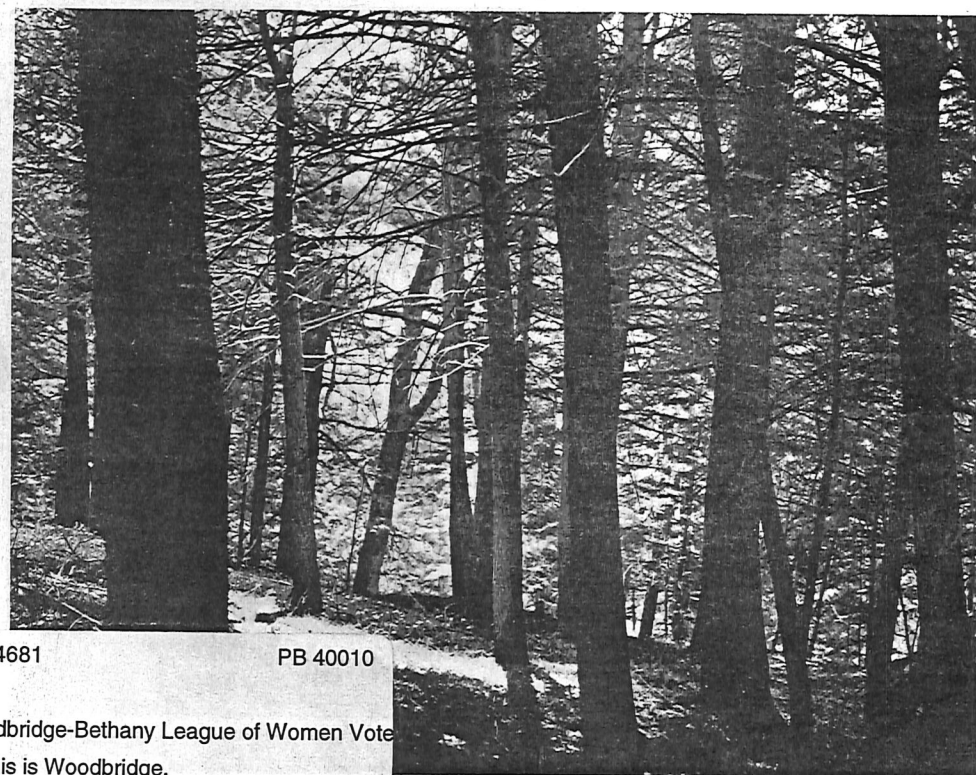
Superintendent of Amity Schools	389-5311
Amity Junior High, Bethany	389-5311
Amity Junior High, Orange	389-5311
Amity Senior High, Woodbridge	389-5311
Dog Warden	397-0024
State Police	393-2612

TOLL-FREE STATE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Governor's State Information	
Bureau	1-800-842-2220
Department of Consumer Affairs	1-800-842-2649
State Library Line Service	1-800-842-2285
Heroin Hot Line—Report	
a Pusher	1-800-368-5363

School Closing Information is broadcast over Radio 960, WELI.

THIS IS WOODBIDGE



97.4681

PB 40010

Woodbridge-Bethany League of Women Vote
This is Woodbridge.

\$5.00

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For their encouragement and support, we wish to thank our Board of Directors, town officials, business community and those individual citizens who contributed time, advice, or suggestions.

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And lastly, our special thanks to Do Irwin, President of the Woodbridge-Bethany League of Women Voters, for her complete dedication, not only to the publication of this book, but to all League activities and principals.

Tobi G. Fineberg
Linda C. Frakes

Co-Chairwomen,
"This is Woodbridge"

Extra copies are available at \$1.25 from:

W-B League of Women Voters
P.O. Box 3755
Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525

Quantity rates are available upon request.

FORWARD

The League of Women Voters has been an involved group in Woodbridge since 1956. Our concern in publishing this book is to bring a comprehensive guide to the people of Woodbridge so that each citizen may know his town, and be an active participant in its affairs. The League wishes to thank all of the advertisers, sponsors, and contributors, as well as those who provided the information necessary for publishing this booklet.

HISTORY*

The town of Woodbridge grew out of the New Haven Colony, founded in 1638 by Puritans seeking freedom from the oppressions of the reign of Charles I.

In 1662, New Haven Colony ceased to exist and the area was placed under the jurisdiction of the Connecticut Colony.

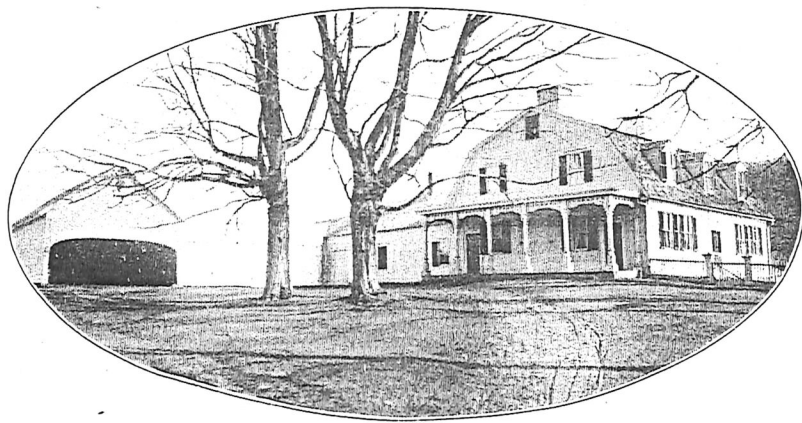
The first settlements in Woodbridge arose in three different places. Stephen Goodyear, Deputy Governor of New Haven Colony, had been granted land in the valley beyond West Rock and sent Richard Sperry out to work it for him. By 1648 the first Sperry house had been built on the west side of Amity Road where it begins to rise from the valley. Two years later the Lines family made its way up Long Hill, built a house near Lines Road, and the second settlement, 'Chestnutt Hill,' was begun. Milford, meanwhile, had made such growth from its founding that in 1685 more land was bought running north from Paugasset Path to Bladen's River. This land was divided in 1687, and the division made grants in long strips running from five to seven miles north of Milford. Joel Northrup built a house on his new land in order to save the long daily trip from Milford. Friends followed, and Northrup's Farms became the first settlement on what Woodbridge calls the 'Milford side.' Racebrook Road, parallel to Northrup Road, was cleared to reach other new grants.

As time went on, houses were built farther and farther out what is now Amity Road. For these people it was an eight or nine mile drive to the required Sunday services on the New Haven Green. Over unimproved roads it was bad in the winter and worse in the spring mud-time. In 1728, Chestnutt Hill asked for the privilege of having 'winter preaching.' The New Haven Society consented reluctantly, because it meant the loss of part of the religious taxes from Chestnutt Hill. By 1737, Northrup's Farms also tired of her long Sunday trip to Milford, and joined Chestnutt Hill in petitioning the General Assembly to let them become a separate parish. New Haven again objected, but in 1738, the Parish of Amity was created by the General Assembly. Its bounds included the present area of Woodbridge and Bethany, and parts of Beacon Falls and Naugatuck. The old Milford-New Haven boundary ran north and south just west of the present Town Hall.

In the same October, 1738, a meeting was called to organize an Ecclesiastical Society; Captain Issac Johnson was chosen Moderator, Ebenezer Peck was voted to be 'Society Clerk,' and Nathan Ford was to collect taxes. Closely supervised by the General Assembly, the Ecclesiastical Society was responsible not only for religious affairs, but for all the functions of a town government in the parish. For nearly fifty years, the Society managed the town pound, established the school, laid the taxes for church and town, and controlled military training.

* The History of Woodbridge has been abridged from the original handbook prepared by the League of Women Voters and written by Mrs. Benjamin Nagle.

In 1739 Ebenezer Beecher gave the Society three acres of land for a 'meeting house and the convenience of voting.' This grant included the present Green, plus Meeting House Lane and half of the northern lawn of Center School. The Society then built the first meeting house on the site now marked by the large boulder on the Green. Visiting ministers supplied the pulpit until 1742, when the Reverend Benjamin Woodbridge was called to settle in the parish.



Residence of G. H. Bishop built by Thomas Darling*

A school was started in 1740, with school money owed to Amity by Milford. Later Ebenezer Peck and Barnabas Baldwin asked New Haven's First Society for Amity's 'proportionable share' of money from the sale of lands which was allotted for schools. Taxes were also laid.

In 1755, the northern half of Amity Parish asked for 'winter preaching.' Even with 'Sabbath Day housen' erected on the Green by families for shelter during the long wait between morning and afternoon preaching, it was a long, hard trip from the Bethany hills. The southern half opposed this just as New Haven had opposed Amity's request thirty years before, and for the same reason, loss of religious taxes. But in October, 1762, the General Assembly voted that the northern half of the Parish of Amity should 'be a distinct society...known by the name of Bethany.'

There were Woodbridge men fighting in the Revolution and the Ecclesiastical Society Records reflect the attitude of the town as it swung from

*Woodbridge Civic Association, *Woodbridge Hills*, Woodbridge, Connecticut, 1911.

its century and a half of English colonial life towards the new loyalty to the young republic. In 1778 the minutes read, 'Inhabitants of Amity voted to choose Society Officers by those that have taken the oath of fidelity.' This fidelity was tested on July 5, 1779. Soon after midnight, cannonading shook the hills. Forty-eight ships containing 5,000 soldiers and sailors were at the mouth of New Haven's Harbor. General Tryon landed at Lighthouse Point, on the east side of the harbor, while General Barth landed at West Haven and marched north following Forest Road towards Westville. Here Samuel Baldwin was killed as he fired at the advancing British and it is said that Thaddeus Russell met the same fate when they reached the West River bridge at Whalley Avenue. There is a marker in memory of Samuel Baldwin on the east side of Race Brook Road, just north of Ansonia Road, at the site of the Baldwin homestead.

But there were Loyalists here, too, and the pastor was one of them. The Society minutes for April 5, 1779, three months before the invasion, said that Mr. Woodbridge refused to take oath of fidelity to the States and said, "when America has got independents whether by force or by agreement he did not know but he should take ye oath of fidelity." Lifelong loyalty to England was not to be lightly forsworn. The peace treaty was signed in September, 1783, and on February 26, 1784, the Reverend Benjamin Woodbridge took 'the oath of fidelity.' That he was not alone in his views is shown by the fact that his name heads a list of thirty-two who took the oath.

The Records of the State of Connecticut show this entry: 'Jan. 1784 Upon the Memorial of the Inhabitants of the Parishes of Amity and Bethany in the County of New Haven Praying to be incorporated into a Town... Resolved by this Assembly that the said parishes of Amity and Bethany... are hereby incorporated and Constituted a Town by the name of Woodbridge with all the Rights, Privileges,' etc. The parishioners whom Benjamin Woodbridge had served with honesty and devotion for over forty years had created a permanent memorial by choosing his name for the new town.

After 1784, the Ecclesiastical Society no longer governed the community, and the minutes of town businesses were recorded in the new 'Town Journal.' A town house became necessary, and after a compromise, Bethany and Amity Parishes chose the south-west corner of Amity and Woodbury (Seymour) Roads, and Town House Corner became a center of activity.

By 1800, there were two toll roads. One ran from the New Haven Court House to the Litchfield Court House with a toll station just north of Bradley Road. Amity Road, more tortuous then than now, was used to avoid the toll, hence was called a "Shunpike." A second toll road, Rimmon Road, ran from Hotchkisstown (Westville) to Chuse Town (Seymour).

Bethany's 30 year struggle to become a separate town succeeded in 1832, so the Town House on the Bethany line was sold, and town business and elections were carried on in the basement of the new meeting house.

There was a surprising amount of industry in Woodbridge in the mid-nineteenth century. The most famous was the making of friction matches by Thomas Sanford. There was a Cabinet and Carriage Shop at Town House Corner, a cork screw factory, melodeons were made by Fisk and Randall, and there are the ruins of cement kilns near Dillon Road on Litchfield Turnpike. Iron candlesticks, pocketbook springs, cart wheels, ploughs, and carriage springs were among the items manufactured in the town.

The land, however, still provided most of the income. There were wool-producing merino and other sheep; there was production of lumber and firewood; the town produced bushels of Indian corn, wheat, rye, barley, fruit, oats, potatoes, and more. There were rounds of butter and cheese, and the selling of cattle became so profitable that the men would go 'upstate' to buy them, fatten them in Woodbridge and drive them into New Haven to sell.

The pattern of the census figures is interesting. From a high of 2,124 in 1790, the census drops to 2,052 in 1830 and to 958 in 1840 after Bethany had left. It declined for the next fifty years. One reason was the movement of people to the west. The Mexican War, California gold, the Civil War, and free land under the Homestead Act all nibbled away at the totals until in 1880, it had dropped to a low of 829. Another reason was that the water power supply compared poorly with the supply of the coastal towns. The introduction of trolleys in New Haven had a profound effect on the city's growth. The plains of Hamden were far more accessible and inviting for the laying of track than the hills of Woodbridge, and population moved out along the trolley tracks.

From a slow, static period, the upswing began at the beginning of 1900 and has continued ever since. The development of the rich valley land cultivated by Richard Sperry, the increasing use of automobiles, and improved roads have brought new "settlers" to the town. Today there is little industry, and agriculture has diminished to a handful of farms as people have come here to live, but to work in neighboring towns and cities.

WOODBIDGE TODAY

The town of Woodbridge is set among the hills west of the city of New Haven. Traditionally a rural community, it has become increasingly residential with the growth of New Haven and the surrounding area. It has, nevertheless, kept its rustic beauty, and its residents have the same civic spirit shown by its first citizens at its incorporation in 1784.

The people of Woodbridge are interested in their town, and are concerned with its government and its schools. The two elementary schools and the Amity Regional High School are noted for their excellence. Churches and a synagogue represent Protestant, Catholic and Jewish faiths. There are also a number of active clubs, organizations, and social groups.

Today Woodbridge is faced with the problem of adapting to the needs of a growing population while retaining the characteristics which have appealed to both old and new inhabitants. Planning and conservation are essential if its varied countryside is to be preserved, and although town and private organizations are concerned with this, much can be done by the individual citizen.

Woodbridge, like other Connecticut towns, derives its powers of government through General Statutes and Special Acts of the General Assembly. Over the years its government was based on this combination of General Statutes and Special Acts of the State Legislature, plus local ordinances and unrecorded custom. In 1957, the Connecticut Home Rule Act initiated a new era for local government in Connecticut; it allowed towns a wide range of

choice in setting the structure of their local governments. The Charter, which was adopted in 1960 and revised in 1965, is the basic law of the Town. Amendments were made in January 1973. Ordinances, passed by the Town Meeting, fill in the details.

TOWN GOVERNMENT

Woodbridge is governed by a Board of Selectmen and other officers and boards as specified in the Town Charter.

Town elections are held biennially on the first Monday in May of odd-numbered years. Voting is done by machine. State and national elections are held in November of even-numbered years, at which time Woodbridge votes for its representative from the 103rd Assembly district to the Connecticut General Assembly, a State Senator from the 14th Senatorial District, and a United States Representative from the 3rd Congressional District. Two United States' Senators, serving 6 year terms, and the Governor of Connecticut, serving a 4 year term, are elected in the appropriate even-numbered years.

The Town Meeting

The town meeting is the legislative body of the town. Members of the Town Meeting include all the electors of the town (registered voters) and owners of real or personal property valued at \$1,000 or more on the latest Grand List of the Town. The Grand List, dated October 1 of each year, includes both real and personal property.

Annual and Special Town Meetings

Annual town meetings are held on the first Monday in June. The annual Budget Meeting is held not less than 75 days prior to the date of the annual town meeting.

Special meetings of the town meeting are held when called by the Board of Selectmen when they think it is desirable or necessary.

The Board of Selectmen must call a special town meeting when it receives a petition requesting such a meeting signed by at least 50 people qualified to vote in the town meeting.

A warning or notice of any meeting of the Town Meeting and the subject of the meeting must be given to the citizens of the town not less than 10 and not more than 30 days in advance of the date set for the meeting.

Conduct Of The Meeting

There must be a quorum of at least 100 persons qualified to vote to open a special meeting of the Town Meeting, and the business discussed is limited to the matters contained in the warning. In the case of a special meeting called by petition, the matters specified in the petition are the first order of business. The majority of votes cast at a Town Meeting constitute the act of the Town Meeting, except in cases where an ordinance changes the number of votes necessary.

There is a Town Meeting moderator who is the presiding officer of the Meeting. All residents of Woodbridge are welcome to attend any meeting.



Photo by Harriet Gans

Board Of Selectmen

The Board of Selectmen consists of 5 Selectmen plus the First Selectman. The Selectmen are elected biennially for two year terms. Both parties must be represented under the minority representation rule. The Selectmen exercise their power as a body and the Town Charter specifies their duties as "carrying out the acts, policies and ordinances of the Town Meeting." The Selectmen are responsible for hiring town personnel except for those employed by the Board of Education and by the Town Clerk. They also appoint members to the various boards of the town and oversee their activities.

First Selectman

The First Selectman is the chief administrative and executive officer of the town. He presides at meetings of the Board of Selectmen where he has a tie-breaking vote. He is an ex officio member of the Board of Finance where he has a vote only when there is a tie. He is also an ex officio member of all other boards, commissions, and agencies of the town, but does not have the power to vote on any of them. The First Selectman is responsible for co-ordinating the activities of the various agencies and boards of the town. He carries out the ordinances, resolutions, and policies voted by the Board of Selectmen and the Town Meeting and continuously reviews the current and future physical and financial needs of the town. Budget requests from each office, board, commission, or agency of the town are collected by the First Selectman along with the recommendations of the Board of Selectmen and are organized into the overall form which constitutes the budget for the following fiscal year. This is then presented at the required annual public hearing held by the Board of Finance.

The Town Clerk

The Town Clerk, elected at each biennial town election, is the registrar of vital statistics, the keeper of the calendar of town committee and board meetings, and the custodian of all land and property records plus the official Grand List. The Town Clerk is also the Chief Election Officer. Absentee ballots and records of the election are also taken care of by the Town Clerk. The Town Journal is maintained by the Town Clerk.

FINANCE

Board of Finance

The Board of Finance has six members, two appointed each year for three year terms. The members are appointed by the Board of Selectmen and they are not paid. A chairman and vice-chairman are elected at the Board's organizational meeting at the beginning of the fiscal year. Also at this meeting, the Board sets a schedule of not less than 10 regular meetings to be held during the fiscal year. Special meeting can be called upon request of the chairman, or by written request of any two members.

The basic responsibility of the Board of Finance is the continuous review of current and projected financial needs of the town. The Board must review all budget requests from town departments and then recommend a budget to the Town Meeting. If approved, the board then sets the tax mill rate. The Board must also prepare a five year estimate of prospective capital expenditures. It also supervises the publication of the Annual Report of the town, which contains reports of the year's activities from the department heads and the auditor's report on the financial record of the town.

In order to make changes in the budget, 250 people must be present and voting at the annual town meeting, with 60% of the 250 votes favoring a change.

Assessor

The assessor is appointed by the Board of Selectmen for a four year term and is a paid official. The role of the assessor is to determine the taxable value of property. Real estate is assessed at 50% of market value, but a special agricultural assessment is available for farmers under the General Statutes. All property is reassessed every ten years.

Board Of Tax Review

The Board of Tax Review consists of three members. Two members are elected at each regular town election and each member serves for four years. The purpose of this Board is to hear appeals on property assessments and it is empowered to make adjustments.

Tax Collector

The Tax Collector is appointed for four years. He sends out tax notices, collects the taxes and keeps the tax records.

Town Treasurer

The Town Treasurer is elected biennially and is the Custodian of Town funds and keeper of financial records. He pays the town's bills on the authorization of the Selectmen.

Agent Of The Town Deposit Fund

The Agent of the Town Deposit Fund is elected biennially and has charge of the town's share of the interest in the Western Reserve Fund.

PLANNING AND ZONING:

The Town Plan & Zoning Board

The Town Plan and Zoning Board has six members and three alternates each serving a four year term. They are appointed by the Selectmen and are not paid. This Board's authority is independent of the Town meeting. Its powers are outlined in the General Statutes. Its duty is to coordinate the planning of the Town's development with the zoning of the land. Among its planning functions is the preparation of plans for the desirable use of land based on physical and economic conditions and population growth. It also approves new subdivisions, roads, and layouts of lots, and can reject plans that do not measure up to certain standards and consideration of health and welfare. The zoning functions include the regulation of land use, lot size, building use and placement.

Zoning became a concern in Woodbridge in the 1920's when several areas were developed with very small lots. The first zoning ordinance was passed in 1932. Land was zoned almost entirely residential with 90% requiring 1 1/2 acre lots. In 1953, the Town Plan and Zoning Commission, with the help of professional advisors, developed a long range Pilot Plan containing a shopping center and large business area. After a Public Hearing, as required by law, the Board, heeding the sentiments of the residents, turned down the plan.

Since that time, the growing population of Woodbridge and the consequent rise in taxes, due largely to the increased educational budget, made it clear that residential property taxes would soon be insufficient to meet the annual budget requirement without being too heavy a burden on the taxpayers. An added concern was the existing zoning of land in the Amity Road - Litchfield Turnpike area, which permitted houses to be built on small lots, resulting in rapidly increasing population and educational costs.

In 1960, a new master plan was prepared for the Town Plan and Zoning Commission by a professional firm and this plan was approved. It amended earlier zoning regulations and rezoned land in two small development areas for commercial and industrial use, while keeping the rest of Woodbridge residential. In 1974, the Town Plan & Zoning Commission with professional help reviewed the town plan.

Board Of Zoning Appeals

The Board of Zoning Appeals consists of five regular members and three alternates, each elected for four years. Two regular members and two alter-

nates are elected in one regular Town Election and then three regular members plus one alternate are elected in the next town election.

This board has the authority to grant exceptions to and variances from the zoning regulations after a Public Hearing.

The Development And Industrial Commission

The Development and Industrial Commission is composed of five members appointed for four year terms. It was established after the adoption of the new zoning regulations to study possibilities for industrial development in the rezoned areas, and to encourage businesses to come to these areas so as to provide additional revenues for the town.

Building Official

The zoning enforcement officer is appointed to enforce the zoning regulations of the town of Woodbridge. He notifies violators of infractions of the Zoning Code.

The building official is an appointed official who is also the Zoning Enforcement Officer. He issues building, plumbing, heating and other permits and inspects buildings both for conformity to the Building Code and for fire and health hazards.

The Building Appeals Board

The Building Appeals Board is composed of five appointed officials who serve for four year terms. They review the decisions of the Building Official whenever one of his decisions is challenged. In other words, they review the State Building Code decisions as enforced by the Building Official. Further appeals may be taken to the Courts.

CONSERVATION & PRESERVATION

Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission was established by a town ordinance in 1963. It is composed of seven members appointed by the First Selectman and each holds office for a term of four years. Its purpose is the development and conservation of natural resources, including water resources. The commission is also concerned with the varying needs of the people in a rapidly growing town, and with their desire to enjoy both the advantage of urban life and of easy access to recreation.

The Conservation Commission has the power to conduct research into the utilization and possible utilization of land area, to coordinate the activities of bodies organized for similar purposes, to keep an index of all open areas, both publicly and privately owned, and to recommend to the Town Plan and Zoning Commission programs for the development and use of such areas. It may acquire land and may also accept gifts of land for the town. It may also apply for federal and state aid for the acquisition of land.

Conservation areas owned by the Town include the following:
 Alice Newton Street Memorial Park (Owned by Woodbridge Park Association.)
 Thomas Darling Estate
 Sperry Falls
 Rice's Pond
 Town Landfill and open space - Acorn Hill Road
 Open space acreage opposite library and firehouse

Woodbridge Conservation Trust

The Conservation Trust is a private organization that was created in 1964 to complement the work of the Conservation Commission. Membership is open to all. Since it is a private organization, it operates under the direction of its own board of nine members rather than the town.

The purpose of the Conservation Trust is to preserve natural resources of land, water, and wild life, and areas of historical value. It presently owns five tracts of land consisting of approximately 58 acres. The land is made up of walking trails, waterfalls, woods which are sanctuaries for birds and wildflowers, and ponds used as homes for wildlife and for skating.

The Trust's funds are available for maintenance and improvement of its lands, for educational programs and to help in the acquisition of new areas. The Trust can acquire land by gifts and through purchase.

Properties owned by the Trust include:

"The Lodge"

Peck Hill Pond

Downey Memorial

Indian Trail Pond

Wepawaug Falls



Photo by Jordan Abeshouse

Inland Wetlands And Water Courses

The ordinance to establish an Inland Wetland Agency was adopted in 1972: "The wetland and water courses are an interrelated web of nature essential to an adequate supply of surface and underground water; to hydrological stability and control of flooding and erosion; to the recharging and purification of ground water and to the existing of many forms of animal, aquatic and plant life."

The purpose of the ordinance is "to protect the citizens of the town by making provisions for the protection, preservation, maintenance and use of the wetlands and water courses by minimizing their disturbance and pollution by providing an orderly process to balance the needs for the economic growth of the town and the use of its lands with the needs to protect its environment and ecology in order to forever guarantee to the people of the town, the safety of such natural resources for their benefit and enjoyment of generations yet unborn."

The Inland Wetland Agency is composed of five regular members and two alternates, appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Two of the regular members and one of the alternates are recommended by the Chairman of the Town Plan and Zoning Commission from its membership, and three of the regular members and one of the alternates are recommended by the Chairman of the Conservation Commission from its membership.

No regulation of the agency becomes effective until after a public hearing is held by the agency, so that all concerned may speak with regard to the issue.

The Woodbridge Park Association

In 1928, Newton H. Street donated 92 acres located in the center of Woodbridge as a memorial to his mother, Alice Newton Street. The Woodbridge Park Association, founded that year to receive this gift, has maintained this park in its natural state for the public enjoyment and the preservation of wildlife. Membership in this private organization is open to the residents of the town.

The Sperry Park Committee

The Sperry Park Committee, composed of six members, came into existence in 1955. This committee supervises the maintenance of the four acre Sperry park which is located north of Dillon Road between Glen Lake and Lake Chamberlain, on the Sargeant River. It is composed of part of the Sperry Homestead and surrounded by the Water Company properties. The wooded glen and park area are for the use of the town residents and will be maintained as a conservation area. The park area was donated by the heirs of Enoch Sperry.

EDUCATION

In Connecticut, the State Board of Education acts as an intermediary between state agencies and the local school districts. The responsibility for operating schools in local districts is delegated by the state to these districts. Minimum standards are set by law, but individual communities may set higher standards. Local Boards of Education are thus responsible both to the state as well as the local community.

The responsibility for the administration of the public schools in Woodbridge is divided between the Woodbridge Board of Education (kindergarten through sixth grade) and the Amity Regional High School Board of Education (grades seven through twelve).

All schools have bus transportation and hot lunch programs. Summer school and adult education programs are also available.

Elementary Schools

At present, there are three elementary school buildings: Center School (K-2), built in 1928 with additions in 1949 and 1956; Beecher School North (5 & 6), built in 1960; and Beecher School South (3 & 4), built in 1970. In addition to the regular classroom teachers in these schools, there are specialists in music, art, physical education, French, reading, and math. Each school is equipped with a library and a full-time librarian. Beecher South has an olympic-sized swimming pool. There is also parental involvement through the P.T.O., and a Volunteer Community Resource Program.

Board of Education

The Board of Education is composed of nine members. No more than five nor less than four members are elected at regular town elections. Each has a four year term. The Board provides and maintains school buildings and equipment, establishes policies, appoints a superintendent of schools, and hires teachers on the recommendation of the superintendent. It awards bus contracts and prepares the school budget. The Board of Education, by law, can spend money appropriated at its discretion and does not have to adhere to particular budget categories. In this respect, it differs from other town agencies.

Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent of Schools administers the details of the school system and is the professional advisor to the Board of Education. His primary concern is the instruction in the schools. There is a principal in each school to assist him with his duties.

Secondary Schools

The Amity Regional School District, formed in 1953, includes the towns of Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge. In the Amity system there are two junior high schools, one in Orange, for the Orange students and the other in Bethany, for the students of Bethany and Woodbridge. The Amity High School, serving Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge, is located on Newton Road in Woodbridge. The high school is known for its high quality. A low dropout rate and the large number of graduates who continue their education are examples of this fact.

Amity Regional School Board

The board is composed of nine members, three from each town. At the annual town meeting, one member is elected to the Regional School Board. Each is elected for a three year term. The Regional Board establishes policies and supervises the activities of the system. The board meets monthly and all scheduled meetings are open to the public. It reports to the public through the press, the Superintendent's Newsletters, its annual budget recommendation, and through special reports, as needed.

Superintendent of the Regional School Board

The Superintendent of the Regional School Board is hired by the Regional Board of Education. He is the executive agent of the Regional Board of Education, the chief administrator of the secondary schools, and head of the staff. He is also the professional advisor to the Board of Education.

School Budgets

The main source of support for the educational budget of the elementary schools is town funds. Approximately twenty-five percent comes from the state in the form of grants-in-aid (for which the system must meet minimum requirements), grants for transportation, and grants for handicapped children. The school lunch program is helped by a federal grant.

The Regional School System for the secondary schools is supported by a budget appropriated by the three towns. The Budget Meeting is also The Budget Hearing (this, in contrast to the Town Budget, which has a separate hearing and voting meeting). This meeting passes the budget, which then must be accepted by the towns as voted. The amount paid by each town is based on its share of the aggregate daily membership. Approximately ten percent of the gross budget is met by state and federal grants.

THE LIBRARY

The Library Board

The Library Board is composed of nine members, each elected for a four year term. This Board administers the affairs of the Woodbridge Town Public Library, establishes policy and prepares a budget.

The Woodbridge Town Public Library

The library is located near the Town Green in the Clark Memorial and Mary Baker Mitchell buildings. The Clark Memorial Library building was built in 1940, with funds donated by Mr. Noyes Clark. This building is comprised of the reference room and other shelves, and is at the front of the library facing Meeting House Road. The newer section of the library structure was built in 1969, from funds bequeathed to the town for this purpose by Mary Baker Mitchell, the founder of the library and its first librarian.

In addition to books, the library offers records, films and art prints.

The library is one of the many Connecticut town libraries participating in "Connecticut Card", a reciprocal service which is statewide with few exceptions. This service entitles Woodbridge Library card holders to use the check-out facilities at other libraries. There is also participation in Inter-Library loans.

Various programs are offered for children. Story Hour is available for pre-schoolers and older children. There are film programs and an arts and crafts program for five to ten year old children. Monthly art shows and displays are arranged by the Librarian. Other events, such as musical happenings, are also offered.

The library is supported by town and state library funds. As the library budget provides less than adequate funds for rapid expansion of the number of volumes, the library welcomes donations of new or used books, funds to purchase books, or memorials in the form of books or funds.

Friends Of The Library

The Friends of the Library is an organization which is the fund-raising arm of the library. Funds are raised from the town at large for those items not obtainable with the regular budgeted funds. These extra funds are made available for such items as children's records, art books, and for the purchase of non-essential furniture. The Friends of the Library also sponsor cultural activities, such as ballet performances.

RECREATION

The Recreation Committee is composed of seven members. They are appointed by the Board of Selectmen and each serves for a term of three years. The Committee sponsors recreational activities and oversees the activities of the Recreation program. With the growth of Woodbridge, the recreation program has expanded rapidly. The construction of the swimming pool at Beecher South doubled the size of the recreation program and made possible the combined use of pool and gym on a year-round basis.

It is the intention of the Recreation Committee to review the town property with the thought of proposing areas for use as tennis courts, ball fields, etc. for the community. A unified, long-term plan for the use of town property is important in terms of recreation development.

At present, organized recreation is limited to the Center Field, Center School and Beecher School areas, with Rice's Pond adding to the flexibility of the program.



Photo by Harriet Gans

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

The Fire Custodians

The Selectmen appoint a committee of three Fire Custodians to serve for three years each on a staggered schedule. Each must be a resident elector of the town and not be an active member of any volunteer fire department or association of the town. Their full title is Custodian of Fire Apparatus and Fire Houses.

The Custodians are responsible for the general management and control of the town fire apparatus and houses. They submit a budget each year to the Board of Finance. The Custodians elect a Chairman from among themselves and either he or a majority of the members can call a meeting of the Board.

The Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Association

This a volunteer organization not under the direct control of the town and is made up of 60 active members who meet weekly for drill and training. They are not paid and they elect their own Chief. A 24 hour-a-day alarm system is maintained.

The Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Association cooperates with the grammar school in presenting a fire prevention program.

The Forest Fire Wardens

The Forest Fire Wardens issue fire permits for outside burning. Their names are available from the Town Clerk's office.

The Fire Marshal

The Fire Marshal is appointed yearly to investigate fires.

The Board of Police Commissioners and the Police Chief:

The three police commissioners are appointed for three year terms. They confer with the Chief of Police, also an appointed official, about regulations and applicants, but are solely responsible for the preparation of the Police department budget.

The police department consists of the Chief, a lieutenant, thirteen officers, and four supernumeraries plus dispatchers. Four police vehicles are currently in use. These are equipped with two-way radios and carry resuscitators and inhalators.

There is a testing program and a one year probationary program during which applicants attend the Municipal Police Training Academy as dictated by state law. Special classes for training in specialized services are given at regular intervals at the Police Academy.

There are emergency call boxes at the fire house and at the police station (for use when the station is closed). The department aids the residents of the town in many ways; patrol of vacant houses, emergency first aid, supplying of etching pens for identification of belongings, location of missing children, investigation of suspicious happenings, etc.

The Director of Public Works

The Director of Public Works is responsible to the Selectmen for the maintenance and construction of the 71.64 miles of town roads. A road crew is employed the year round, and often overtime in winter, so that Woodbridge roads are well-kept, plowed and sanded.

The Tree Warden

The Tree Warden is responsible for the trees on town property.

Sewer Authority

The Sewer Authority is composed of five members, appointed for four year terms. The board was created in 1960 in order to deal with any potential health hazard.

Sewer lines have been installed along Litchfield Turnpike as far north as Bond Road, and along Amity Road and the intervening cross streets plus Selden Street, Hazel Terrace and Luciani Street. Sewers were also brought into the Beecher School area at the time of the addition to the school.

The Board is on call and has no set schedule of meetings.

Refuse Disposal

The Selectmen have designated property located off Acorn Hill Road as the town's sanitary landfill refuse disposal area. Separate bins have been located there for glass recycling and paper collection. There is an attendant on duty during the hours which it is open and residents must be identified by having a permit displayed on their windshield. Commercial concerns collect refuse within the town, but must first pay a fee to obtain a permit before being permitted to do so.

Some burning of tree branches and leaves is allowed, but permission must be obtained first from the designated official.

The Board of Health

The Board of Health has seven members each serving for four year terms. The Health Director and Public Health Nurse serve on the Board. The Board is responsible for health and sanitation in the community.

Health Director

The Health Director is an appointed official and must be a practicing physician. He serves as school physician and is called on by the town as needed. He is also responsible for the correction of nuisances (mostly sanitation problems) and the control of infectious diseases. The Health Director is also responsible for the examination of all third and sixth grade students who are not examined by their private physician, as required by Connecticut law.

Regional Visiting Nurses Agency, Inc. - Hamden, Connecticut

This home-nursing program is a regional agency. The agency provides home health services to any resident of the town who has a health need which can be met by the agency. Home health aide services, physical therapy, speech therapy, skilled nursing care, and health teaching and counselling with individual families concerning health problems are available to all residents.

Public Health Nurse

The Public Health Nurse works closely with the patient's physician, giving assistance and instruction on the care of the sick.

Dog Warden

The dog warden oversees the three towns of Orange, Bethany and Woodbridge. The regional pound is on Bradley Road and is state controlled.

JUDICIAL

There are eight Justices of the Peace, each elected biennially, who give oaths, notarize papers and perform marriages in the town of Woodbridge.

Prior to 1959, there was a trial Justice Court in Woodbridge which heard cases involving minor offenses. More serious offenders were heard in the Superior Court in New Haven. The State of Connecticut initiated a state-operated court system in 1959, but the family and Probate Courts are excluded from this state system.

All local matters are now handled in the appropriate state court. The Circuit Court hears civil cases involving amounts up to \$7,500 and criminal cases punishable by a maximum \$5,000 fine, five year imprisonment, or both. Jury trials may be demanded in civil cases involving \$250 or more and in criminal cases threatening 30 days in jail, a \$50 fine, or both. There are eighteen circuit courts in the state. Woodbridge is in the sixth Circuit, which also includes Bethany and New Haven. Judges are assigned to a circuit for a maximum of four months. Sessions are held at 121 Elm Street, New Haven. Appeals from the Circuit Court are heard by an appellate session of the Court of Common Pleas. If there is a substantial question of law involved, the case may then be heard by the Supreme Court of Connecticut.

The Superior Court is available to hear criminal cases, family relations matters, and other civil cases where the amount demanded does not exceed \$7,500. The Court of Common Pleas may hear civil matters where the amount demanded does not exceed \$15,000. Both the Superior Court and the Court of Common Pleas for New Haven County are located at 235 Church Street in New Haven.

The Juvenile Court, which is maintained by the State, handles all cases involving youths up to 16 years of age. The nearest office is at 291 Orange Street, in New Haven. At their discretion, judges of the Circuit may transfer offenders between the ages of 16 and 18 to Juvenile Court.

The Probate Court serving Woodbridge is located in the New Haven City Hall. The Court, which also serves New Haven and Orange, is one of 125 such courts in the State. It appoints guardians, arranges adoptions, settles estates and probates wills, issues marriage licenses to persons under sixteen years of age, and commits the mentally ill. The Judge of Probate is the only judgeship in the state filled by election.

The Town Counsel

The Town Counsel, an appointed official, is the legal advisor to the town, its officials and boards, and handles litigation involving the town.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS



WOODBIDGE CONNECTICUT

Because we think it is important for all citizens and their children to be informed about their town, we have distributed this book without cost to all residences.

If you are pleased with the book and would like to help the League of Women Voters of Woodbridge in its continuing efforts to encourage active participation of townspeople in local government, your contribution would be much appreciated.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

Schedule of Woodbridge Board and Commission Meetings

Amity Regional Board of Education	2nd Monday each month	7:30	Cafeteria-East wing Amity Senior High School
Conservation Comm.	2nd Tuesday each month	8:00	Town Hall
Woodbridge Board of Education	1st Monday each month	8:00	Beecher South
Inland Wetlands Agency	2nd Tuesday each month	8:00	Town Hall
Library Board	Quarterly	8:00	Library
Recreation Comm.	2nd Monday each month	8:00	Teacher's Lounge Beecher South
Town Planning and Zoning	1st Monday each month	8:00	Town Hall
Board of Selectmen	2nd Wednesday each month	7:30	Town Hall
Zoning Board of Appeals	3rd Tuesday each month	8:00	Town Hall

Any changes in schedule of these Boards and Commission plus the scheduling of meeting by the remaining Boards and Commissions of the Town, must be filed with the Town Clerk at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

VOTER INFORMATION

Eligibility and Registration

A person must be 18 years old, a citizen of the United States and a resident of Connecticut in order to be eligible to register as a voter. A person may register at the Town Clerk's office any day that the Town Hall is open. Extra voter making sessions are held occasionally on Saturdays and at night. These special dates are published in the newspaper or may be known by asking at the Town Hall. Statutory provisions exist for physically disabled persons.

Absentee ballots are allowed in local, state, and national primaries and elections. Anyone who is ill or expects to be out of town on Election Day may apply to the Town Clerk for a numbered application to vote. Upon receipt of the application, the Town Clerk will mail the applicant a ballot which may be marked and returned in an envelope dated and signed under penalties of perjury at least one day prior to the election.

Political Parties

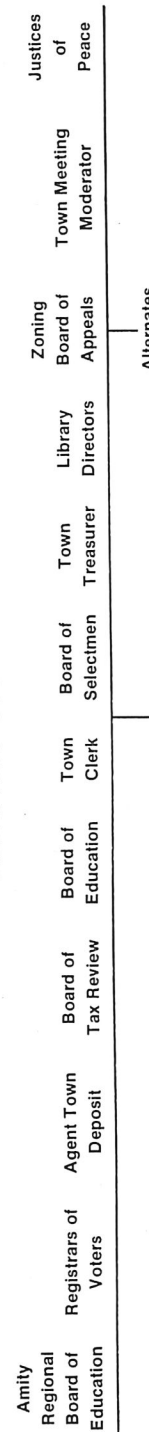
When a person registers to vote, he is given the opportunity to join one of the political parties. Only voters enrolled in a party are allowed to vote in the caucuses, where candidates for local office and delegates to state conventions are chosen. The League of Women Voters urges party membership because it insures a voice in the nomination of local candidates, but in no way commits one to a straight party vote at election time.

Both the Democratic and Republican parties are active on local, state, and national levels. The Democratic Town Committee and the Republican Town Committee set the local policies and try to encourage wide citizen participation.

The Registrars of voters, one from each party, are, by law, elected at state rather than local elections. They help administer elections, keep voting lists up to date, and enroll new members in their parties.

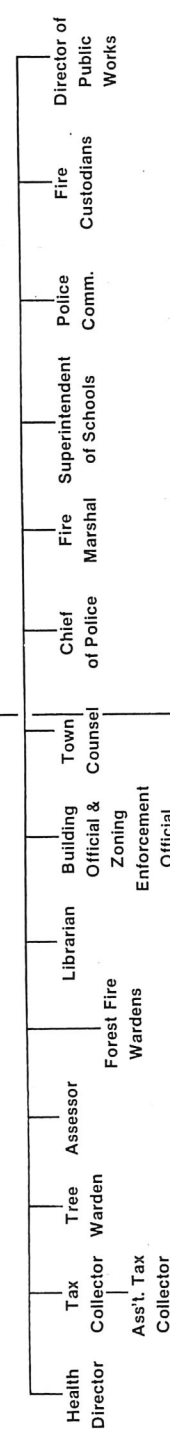
State law provides for at least one representative of the minority parties on all elected and appointed boards.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

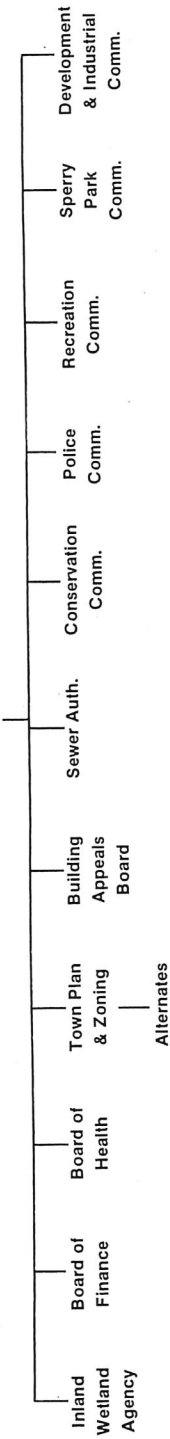


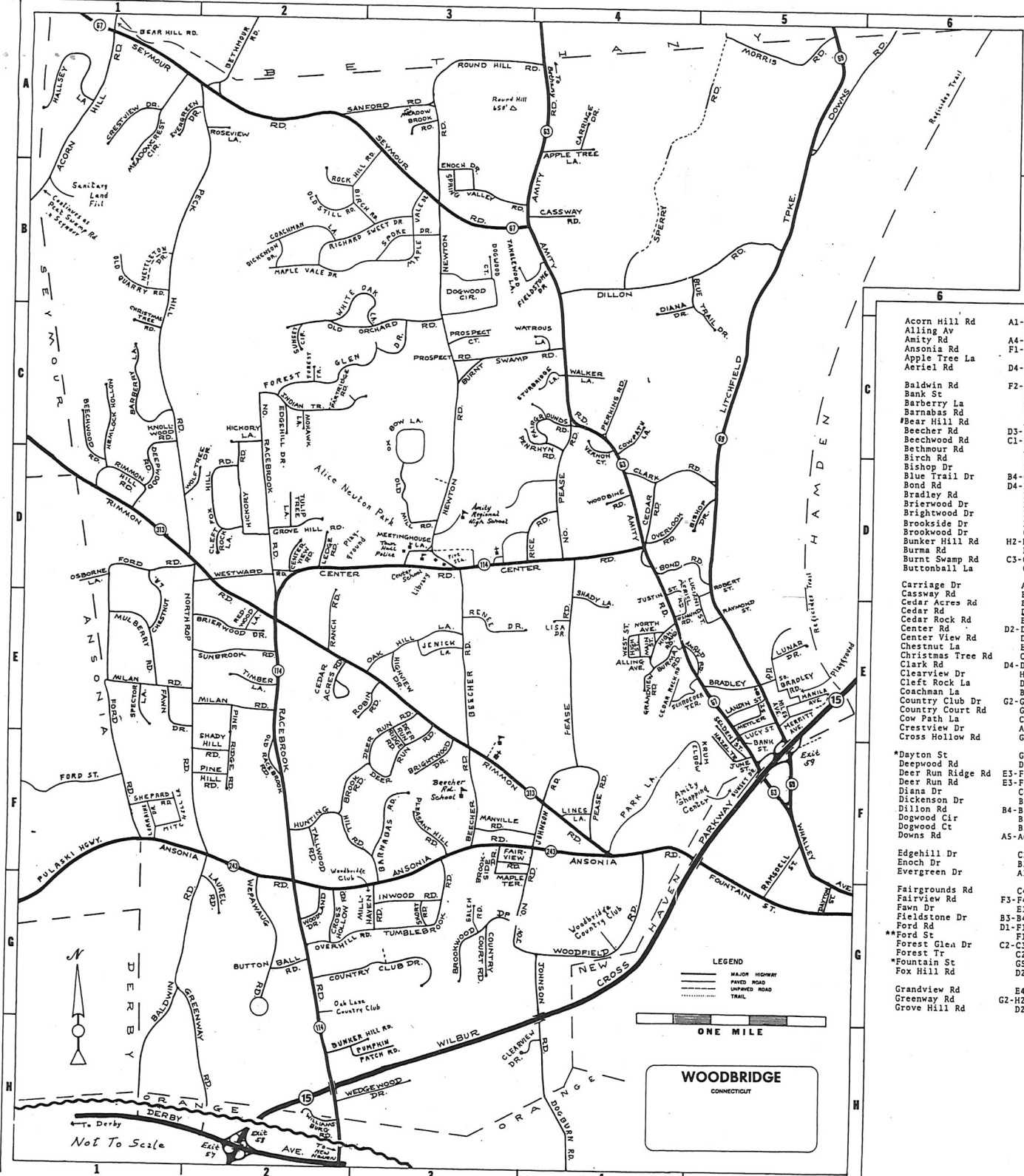
APPOINTED TOWN DEPTS. & OFFICIALS

1st Selectman's Office
Adm. Assistants



APPOINTED BOARDS & COMMISSIONS





WOODBIDGE STREET INDEX

Hallsey La	A1	Salem Rd	A3-G3
Hazel Trail	E5-F5	Sanford Rd	A2-A3
Hemlock Hollow	C1-D1	Schroder Ter	A4
Hickory La	C2	Selden St	E5-F5
Hickory Rd	D2	Seymour Rd	A1-B3
High St	E4	Shady La	F2
Highland Rd	E4	Shady Hill Rd	F1
Highview Dr	E3	Short Rd	G3
Hunting Hill Rd	F2-F3	South Bradley Rd	E5
Indian Trail	C2	Spector La	E1
Inwood Rd	G3	Sperry Rd	A5-B4
Jenick La	E3	Spoke Dr	B3
Johnson Rd	F4-H4	Spring Valley Rd	B3
June St	F5	Sturbridge La	C4
Justin St	D4	Sunbrook Rd	E2
		Sunset Cir	C2
		*Sunset Dr	F5
Knollwood Rd	C1	Tallwood Rd	F2
Krum Elbow	F4	Tanglewood La	B3
		Timber La	E2
		Tulip Tree La	D2
		Tumble Brook Rd	G3
		Vernon Ct	C4
		Walker La	C4
		Watrous La	C4
		Wedgewood Dr	H2-H3
		Wepawaug Rd	G2
		West St	E4
		Westward Rd	D2
		*Whalley Av	F5
		White Oak La	C2-C3
		Wilbur Cross Pky	E5-H2
		Williamsburg Rd	H2
		Wolf Tree Dr	D1-D2
		Woodbine Rd	D4
		Woodfield Rd	F4-G4
		Woodland Dr	G2
		#Bethany	
		*New Haven	
		*Ansonia	
Acorn Hill Rd	A1-B1		
Aling Av	E4		
Amity Rd	A4-F5		
Ansonia Rd	F1-F4		
Apple Tree La	A4		
Ariel Rd	D4-E4		
Baldwin Rd	F2-H1		
Bank St	E5		
Barberry La	C1		
Barnabas Rd	F3		
*Bear Hill Rd	A1		
Beecher Rd	D3-F3		
Beechwood Rd	C1-D1		
Bethmour Rd	A2		
Birch Rd	B2		
Bishop Dr	D5		
Blue Trail Dr	B4-C5		
Bond Rd	D4-D5		
Bradley Rd	E5		
Brierwood Dr	E2		
Brightwood Dr	F3		
Brookside Dr	F3		
Brookwood Dr	G3		
Bunker Hill Rd	H2-H3		
Burma Rd	E4		
Burnt Swamp Rd	C3-C4		
Buttonball La	G2		
Carriage Dr	A4		
Cassway Rd	B4		
Cedar Acres Rd	E2		
Cedar Rd	D4		
Cedar Rock Rd	E4		
Center Rd	D2-D4		
Center View Rd	D2		
Chestnut La	E1		
Christmas Tree Rd	C1		
Clark Rd	D4-D5		
Clearview Dr	H4		
Cleft Rock La	D2		
Coachman La	B2		
Country Club Dr	G2-G3		
Country Court Rd	G3		
Cow Path La	C4		
Crestview Dr	A1		
Cross Hollow Rd	G2		
*Dayton St	G5		
Deepwood Rd	D1		
Deer Run Ridge Rd	E3-F3		
Deer Run Rd	E3-F3		
Diana Dr	C4		
Dickenson Dr	B2		
Dillon Rd	B4-B5		
Dogwood Cir	B3		
Dogwood Ct	B3		
Downs Rd	A5-A6		
Edgehill Dr	C2		
Enoch Dr	B3		
Evergreen Dr	A1		
Fairgrounds Rd	C4		
Fairview Rd	F3-F4		
Fawn Dr	E1		
Fieldstone Dr	B3-B4		
Ford Rd	D1-F1		
*Ford St	F1		
*Forest Glen Dr	C2-C3		
Forest Tr	C2		
*Fountain St	G5		
Fox Hill Rd	D2		
Grandview Rd	E4		
Greenway Rd	G2-H2		
Grove Hill Rd	D2		
Racebrook Rd	E2-H2		
*Ramsdell St	F5		
Ranch Rd	E2		
Raymond St	E5		
Redwood La	E2		
Renee Dr	E3		
Rice Rd	D3-D4		
Richard Sweet Dr	B2-B3		
Rimmon Rd	D1-F4		
Rimmon Hill Rd	D1		
Robert St	D5		
Robin Rd	E3		
Rock Hill Rd	B2-A3		
Roseview La	A2		
Round Hill Rd	A3-A4		

Map
Of
Woodbridge