



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND  
INCORPORATED 1786

# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

TEL 860-870-3100 FAX 860-870-3102

[www.ellington-ct.gov](http://www.ellington-ct.gov)

LAURIE E. BURSTEIN  
First Selectman

MARY B. CARDIN  
Deputy First Selectman

JAMISON J. BOUCHER  
JAMES M. PRICHARD  
DAVID E. STAVENS  
SU THANVANTHRI  
CHARLOTTE WARD

MATTHEW REED  
Town Administrator

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

January 12, 2026

Nicholas J. DiCorleto, Jr. Meeting Hall  
and via ZOOM Conferencing

### **42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fire Prevention Poster Contest Awards Ceremony**

Fire Marshal James York, along with First Selectman Laurie Burstein, presented awards to the following winners and honorees of the Annual Fire Prevention Poster Contest:

**First Place:** Shreyovi Bhattacharyya, *Windermere School*

**Second Place:** Myra Ruparel, *Center School*

**Third Place:** Caleb Karnolt, *Crystal Lake School*

#### **Honorable Mentions**

Eitan Marra, *Windermere School*

Everly Simko, *Center School*

Logan O'Coin, *Crystal Lake School*

#### **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

##### I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

##### II. ROLL CALL

Selectmen Present: Laurie Burstein, David Stavens, James Prichard, Mary Cardin, Charlotte Ward, Jamison Boucher

Selectperson Absent: Su Thanvanthri

Town Staff Present: Matthew Reed, Town Administrator; \*Tom Modzelewski, Director, Perry Dikeman, Mechanic II, Department of Public Works (DPW); Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner; Tiffany Pignataro, Finance Officer/Treasurer

Emergency Service Agency Representatives Present: Peter Hany, President/Chief, Alisa Smith, Lieutenant/Scheduler, Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps (EVAC); Robert Smith, Chief, Peter Hany Jr., Captain [arrived 7:07 pm], Ellington Volunteer Fire Department (EVFD)

Elected Officials Present: Sean Kelly, Chairman, Economic Development Commission (EDC); \*Peg Busse, Chairman, Library Board of Trustees; Gomathi Ramachandran, Board of Finance (BOF)

\*Attended via ZOOM

##### III. PUBLIC COMMENT [*Shall not exceed 30 minutes unless extended by majority vote of the Board*]: No citizens came forward.

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADD TO THE AGENDA, UNDER NEW BUSINESS, ITEM H. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE PURCHASE OF AMBULANCE EQUIPMENT AND DISPOSITION OF OLD EQUIPMENT.

#### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

##### A. December 1, 2025 Organizational Meeting

MOVED (WARD), SECONDED (BOUCHER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 1, 2025 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING.

##### B. December 8, 2025 Town Meeting

MOVED (WARD), SECONDED (BOUCHER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 8, 2025 TOWN MEETING.

##### C. December 8, 2025 Regular Meeting

MOVED (WARD), SECONDED (BOUCHER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 8, 2025 REGULAR MEETING.

#### V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

##### A. Appointment of Board of Finance Rep to Shared Services Commission (Correction)

First Selectman Burstein shared that there had been discussion of multiple individuals being up for this appointment at the Board of Finance meeting, and Dan Keune was the individual who was selected. However, the information originally presented to the BOS was inaccurate, so this motion is a correction to accurately reflect the BOF recommendation.

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RESCIND THE DECEMBER 8, 2025 APPOINTMENT OF GOMATHI RAMACHANDRAN AS THE BOARD OF FINANCE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE SHARED SERVICES COMMISSION.

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT DAN KEUNE AS THE BOARD OF FINANCE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE SHARED SERVICES COMMISSION FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM THROUGH DECEMBER 6, 2027, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE.

#### VI. NEW BUSINESS

The meeting was paused at 6:37 pm to address an audio issue with Zoom and resumed at 6:45 pm.

##### A. Tax Refunds/Abatements

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE TAX REFUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,134.54 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TAX & REVENUE COLLECTOR AND AS SPECIFIED IN THE REFUNDS/ABATEMENTS STATEMENT DATED JANUARY 2026 [ATTACHED].

##### B. Presentation – Crystal Lake Milfoil Committee

Dave Arzt introduced himself as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Crystal Lake Milfoil Committee and shared a presentation [ATTACHED]. Mr. Boucher asked about the rate of regrowth after an area of milfoil is cleared. Matt Vogt, New England Aquatic Services LLC, shared that he has been working on the lake since 2009, noting that certain areas are more primed for regrowth than others due to sediment type and other factors. In those areas, more regrowth is typically expected. From there, plants can encroach on the rest of the lake in a number of different ways. Mr. Vogt shared the strategy that is used to best

utilize the budget each year. It was noted that many of the hotspot areas are in the shallows, due to sediment, traffic, and water temperature. Mr. Boucher asked if the mats were producing positive results; Mr. Vogt shared that the mats are one aspect of the overall strategy, noting that they've had good results in areas that grow densely and regularly with a lot of traffic. Mr. Stavens asked if the mats kill the milfoil growth; Mr. Vogt said that mats will kill the growth, and once a mat is moved there isn't the same rate of regrowth at that spot, although plants will come back eventually. Generally, mats are in place for a year before being moved to a new location. Ms. Cardin asked if suction harvesting and the use of mats is the industry-recommended approach to this issue, and if other techniques are being used in similar bodies of water; Mr. Vogt said that this strategy has been working well at Crystal Lake, although there are a lot of approaches out there. John Turner, 29 Fairview Avenue, shared that he was present at the first demonstration in 2009 and that he has spent a lot of time at the lake over the years; he urged the BOS not to underappreciate the efforts of this group which has worked for years to protect the water quality, adding that they deserve continued support, especially since the Recreation Department is a direct beneficiary of their efforts. First Selectman Burstein thanked Mr. Arzt for the presentation, commenting that Crystal Lake makes Ellington special and it is something that should be embraced, noting her appreciation of the Committee's dedication. Mr. Arzt echoed his own appreciation for the support they receive from the Town.

#### C. Library Board of Trustees Membership – Elected Position

##### 1. Resignation of Mary Cone

Ms. Cardin thanked Ms. Cone for her time volunteering for the Town on the Library Board.

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF MARY CONE FROM THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

##### 2. ERTC Recommendation to Fill Vacancy

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (BOUCHER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT DEANNA WAMBOLT-GULICK TO COMPLETE AN UNEXPIRED TERM THROUGH DECEMBER 6, 2027, CREATED BY THE RESIGNATION OF MARY CONE AND AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ELLINGTON REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE.

#### D. Pavement Management Program Presentation

Mr. Modzelewski introduced Tony Garro of BETA Group, who shared a presentation [ATTACHED]. Mr. Stavens asked how often the roadway survey should be done; Mr. Garro shared that most communities do it every three years. Mr. Boucher asked if all roads were weighted the same; Mr. Garro noted that heavily-trafficked roads are weighted more than those with light traffic. Ms. Cardin asked, with the data collected and information learned, if this would allow the Town to predict what will happen to different categories of roadways over time. Mr. Garro confirmed this, noting that regular evaluation of the roads can lead to a model that predicts deterioration due to different factors. Mr. Modzelewski added that rescanning the roads in future years will also help identify how specific treatments have performed over time, as topical treatments may be better suited to certain road types. Ms. Cardin asked if data was also being collected from other nearby towns in a way that could benefit communities as a whole; Mr. Garro shared that their consistent AI-based approach allows them to apply regional data. First Selectman Burstein shared her appreciation for the presentation, noting that this information is beneficial.

#### E. Equipment Disposal Request – Windermere Generator and Boiler

Ms. Cardin asked where the money from the sale would go; Ms. Pignataro shared that the money would be deposited into the capital reserve fund to offset the future purchase of capital equipment. Ms. Cardin noted that the Crystal Lake Fire Department will need a generator at some point and asked if the Windermere generator would work for them. Mr. Modzelewski shared that the Windermere generator is 200kw, while the CLFD needs a 50kw generator; when a generator is oversized, it can cause premature failure of the equipment since it isn't working hard enough. Ms. Pignataro shared that Mr. Modzelewski had been involved in a study with the Board of Education to ensure that there was no alternative use for the generator, and it was determined that it could not be feasibly used elsewhere.

MOVED (WARD), SECONDED (BOUCHER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS AND/OR FINANCE OFFICER TO LIST FOR SALE AND/OR DISPOSE OF THE BLUE STAR JE200-01 DIESEL GENERATOR AND RAYPAK H7-2007 BOILER RELATED TO THE WINDERMERE SCHOOL RENOVATION PROJECT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON'S PURCHASING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL.

#### F. Grant Application Approvals

##### 1. BUILD Grant

Ms. Cardin asked for a description of what this grant will do. Mr. Modzelewski shared that the State recently completed a realignment of Newell Hill Road, which improved a portion of the roadway; this grant would allow for the improvement of the remaining portion of Newell Hill all the way to the Ludwig Road intersection and down to Wheelock. Within the scope of the project, there would be drainage work done to fix some existing issues. Mr. Reed shared that all three of these grants are competitive, noting that these actions are just to authorize the applications, not approve the actual projects. Ms. Cardin asked if any additional money would be spent on these projects; Mr. Modzelewski said not necessarily, as it depends on each specific grant and project and whether or not the Town has to front the funding before reimbursement. Mr. Modzelewski also noted that all three proposals are very preliminary in both the grant and design aspects, adding that the Town will invest in engineering.

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE BUILD GRANT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY – US DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE NEWELL HILL ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,236,400, AS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE.

##### 2. Road to Zero Traffic Safety Grant

Ms. Ward asked how quickly the Town would hear back on these applications. Mr. Modzelewski said it was difficult to say and that it could be anywhere from three months to a year. This particular grant is specifically for funding for the design of the project; the Town would apply for another grant in the future to pay for implementation. First Selectman Burstein noted that the state is putting a lot of funding into rotary projects this year.

MOVED (WARD), SECONDED (CARDIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE 2026 ROAD TO ZERO TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION AND NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL FOR THE ELLINGTON CENTER ROTARY DESIGN PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$116,500, AS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE.

### 3. Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program Grant

Mr. Modzelewski noted that this is a very preliminary proposal for sidewalks from Crystal Ridge along Sandy Beach Road to the entrance of Crystal Lake School. Typically, the cost of utility relocation is shared between the Town and the utility company. Mr. Modzelewski shared that engineering through the review phases of the project would be funded by the Town, while tasks performed by the engineer during the construction phase would be covered by the grant.

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE LOCAL TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FROM THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE SANDY BEACH ROAD SIDEWALKS PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000, AS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE.

#### G. Tax Abatement Request: Roaring Brook Farm & Aborn Farm

Ms. Cardin asked if it was typical of these agreements to be retroactive; Mr. Reed shared that it is based on the date of the Grand List and was specifically agreed to with the EDC. Moving forward, taxes will be based on the percentage of completion of the relevant construction; it was noted that the abatement is specifically related to the named structures. Ms. Cardin noted the uncertainty of the value of the improvements; Ms. Houlihan shared that the evaluation is tentative since the improvements are not yet complete, noting that the memo from the Assessor includes an anticipated range. Once work is complete, the assessment will be finalized.

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT PURSUANT TO THE ELLINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TAX ABATEMENT POLICY, THE ELLINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN HEREBY APPROVES A FIFTY PERCENT (50%) PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT AS REQUESTED BY ROARING BROOK FARM, LLC AND ABORN FARM, LLC, AND AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AT ITS MEETING OF DECEMBER 17, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT SUCH ABATEMENT SHALL BE IN EFFECT FOR A PERIOD OF SEVEN (7) YEARS, COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2025, AND SHALL APPLY EXCLUSIVELY TO THE NEWLY CONSTRUCTED FREE-STALL BARN AND MILK HOUSE, AND THE NEWLY CONSTRUCTED WASTE MANURE STORAGE FACILITY LOCATED ON OR ABOUT THE PREMISES OF 18 MEADOW BROOK ROAD, ELLINGTON.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR IS HEREBY DIRECTED TO ENGAGE THE TOWN ATTORNEY TO PREPARE AN ABATEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN AND THE REQUESTING PARTIES, WHICH SHALL BE PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN FOR CONSIDERATION AT A FUTURE MEETING.

#### H. Discussion Regarding the Purchase of Ambulance Equipment and Disposition of Old Equipment

Chief Hany presented pros and cons of keeping the old ambulance as a third apparatus for the department. He shared that EVAC is close to having 6am to 6pm on Saturdays and Sundays covered by the second ambulance; however, if one vehicle needs service, there would need to be a third to provide that coverage. However, there is currently no place to put a third ambulance, and renting a space would be expensive. All three vehicles would also need to be identically equipped. Chief Hany shared that EVAC did submit a capital request for the equipment and supplies needed for a third

vehicle. Mr. Reed noted that this has been an ongoing conversation and that the EMS Director would review this when he starts in early February. Mr. Reed commented that this is the only emergency service that can recover funds, which could be used to support additional personnel and equipment, and that the goal is to consistently staff a second ambulance to enhance the services that are provided. Mr. Reed stated that it is unlikely that the Town will consider purchasing a third ambulance, and that the one that is currently in possession may be a worthy investment, adding that the new Director will be able to do a cost-benefit analysis and review the overall needs of the department and the Town.

#### VII. ADMINISTRATIVE/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Nothing was discussed.

#### VIII. SELECTMEN COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

##### A. Personnel Committee

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (CARDIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF DALE GERBER FROM THE PERMANENT BUILDING COMMITTEE.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (CARDIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT DREW GILBERT TO THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY TO COMPLETE AN UNEXPIRED TERM THROUGH APRIL 30, 2026, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ELLINGTON DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (CARDIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT DIVYA KATARIA TO THE INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY TO COMPLETE AN UNEXPIRED TERM THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2029, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ELLINGTON DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (CARDIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT RONALD STOMBERG TO THE PERMANENT BUILDING COMMITTEE TO COMPLETE AN UNEXPIRED TERM THROUGH FEBRUARY 29, 2028, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ELLINGTON REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (CARDIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REAPPOINT SUREN THIRUMAPPAN TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS TO SERVE A THREE-YEAR TERM THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2029.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (CARDIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REAPPOINT JOSEPH MALONE AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS TO SERVE A TWO-YEAR TERM THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2028.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (CARDIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REAPPOINT MADELINE WILLIAMS TO THE ETHICS COMMISSION TO SERVE A FOUR-YEAR TERM THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2030.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (CARDIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REAPPOINT DEBORAH NEWTON, KALAGENA SULLIVAN, PATRICIA SZAFIR, AND LENORA WILLIAMS TO THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION TO SERVE FOUR-YEAR TERMS THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2030.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (CARDIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REAPPOINT SHAY DRAKE, KEVIN HAYES, CHRISTOPHER WEITZ, TARA KOZIK, AND SHERRYL KRAUS TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION TO SERVE FOUR-YEAR TERMS THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2030.

## B. Liaison Reports

Ms. Ward has been attending recent BOE budget meetings which have been well attended; hopefully people will be engaged throughout the process. She is looking forward to working with the new EMS Director and collaboratively bolstering services.

Ms. Cardin shared that she met with Chief Seitz to learn more about the CLFD, attending a commissioners meeting; she also attended a recent ice rescue drill with First Selectman Burstein and plans to attend tomorrow's Conservation Commission meeting.

First Selectman Burstein attended the recent BOF meeting.

## IX. FIRST SELECTMAN/TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

First Selectman Burstein recently attended a Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) meeting for newly elected officials where attendees shared concerns that municipalities are facing; it was noted that a lack of volunteerism in emergency services is a nationwide issue. She also reconnected with several Town leaders at a Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) newly elected workshop which was very informative and included information on budgets, the Freedom of Information Act, and ethics. She visited the Ellington Senior Center where many expressed concerns about their taxes. Alisha Carpino gave her a tour of Windermere School which is currently undergoing renovations. First Selectman Burstein also mentioned the ice rescue drill; CLFD and EVFD participated, and it was very impressive and showed the dedication of the personnel. She continues to meet with department heads and has attended a wide variety of commission meetings. Lastly, she noted that the Town is entering into budget season, which is an important process; challenges include the impact of the recent revaluation and any financial liability that may stem from the CMERS decision. Town and school officials are closely working to present a balanced budget that is in the best interest of the Town.

Mr. Reed noted that his report was included in the meeting material, reminding all attendees that all documentation that is referred to throughout these meetings is available online on the BOS page of the website. Mr. Reed also shared that on January 21, 1968, Firefighter John Turner gave his life in the line of duty while fighting a fire in Town – next Wednesday, on the anniversary of his death, there will be a brief ceremony at Station 243 to remember his sacrifice.

X. CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER COMMUNICATION FROM THE BOS: None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (WARD), SECONDED (PRICHARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AT 8:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Julia Merriam*

Julia Merriam, Recording Secretary

*Laurie Burstein*

Laurie Burstein, First Selectman

**TOWN OF ELLINGTON  
TAX AND REVENUE COLLECTOR'S REFUND REPORT  
January 2026**

<b>Amount</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Tax</b>	<b>GL Year</b>	<b>Requesting Dept.</b>	<b>Reason</b>
\$ 87.13	BAHLER AMOSJOHN	MV	2024	TAX	OVERPAYMENT
\$ 404.23	HONDA LEASE TRUST	MV	2023	ASSESSOR	SOLD 10/23
\$ 70.74	KAPU KESAVA	MV	2024	ASSESSOR	TOTAL LOSS 8/25
\$ 385.59	NISSAN MOTOR ACCEPTANCE CORP	MV	2023	ASSESSOR	SOLD OFF LEASE 11/23
\$ 424.45	NISSAN MOTOR ACCEPTANCE CORP	MV	2023	ASSESSOR	SOLD OFF LEASE 10/23
\$ 285.55	NISSAN MOTOR ACCEPTANCE CORP	MV	2023	ASSESSOR	SOLD 2/24
\$ 251.63	NISSAN MOTOR ACCEPTANCE CORP	MV	2023	ASSESSOR	SOLD OFF LEASE 4/24
\$ 264.60	NOEL TYREIK	MV	2023	ASSESSOR	REPO 11/23
\$ 111.53	SCHMIDT KEVIN	MV	2024	ASSESSOR	SOLD 4/25
\$ 68.33	SILVA JENNA	MV	2024	ASSESSOR	SOLD 5/25
\$ 780.76	SPIELMAN LORI	MV	2024	ASSESSOR	SOLD 4/25
<b>\$ 3,134.54</b>	<b>REFUND TOTAL FOR JANUARY 2026</b>				

## Presentation to the Town of Ellington Board of Selectman

January 12, 2026  
585 Crystal Lake Water Monitor

David Arzt, Chairman  
Town of Ellington  
Ad Hoc Crystal Lake Milfoil Committee



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### Agenda

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- Ad Hoc Crystal Lake Milfoil Committee
- Crystal Lake Overview and History
- Dam Repair
- Water Monitoring
- Problem Aquatic Plants in Crystal Lake
- Milfoil Suction Harvesting Strategy and Results
- Going Forward Strategy
- Thank You to the Town of Ellington

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## Town of Ellington

### Ad Hoc Crystal Lake Milfoil Committee

**Members:**

David Arzt (Chairman)	Jean Burns	Rodger Hosig
	Victor Laptik	Leon Veretto

**Mission:**

Control problematic and invasive aquatic plants in an ecologically friendly and safe manner, without the use of chemicals

**Purpose:**

- Protect Crystal Lake from invasive plants
- Monitor Water Quality
- Coordinate remediation efforts, including funding

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## Key Team Members

**Crystal Lake Association**

**Mission:** Inform everyone of the issues and news pertaining to Crystal Lake and the surrounding watershed

**Purpose:** Preserve, protect and improve Crystal Lake and its surrounding area, and promote the general welfare of the property, its owners, residents and future generations

[www.crystallakeellingtonct.com](http://www.crystallakeellingtonct.com)

**Northeast Aquatic Research (NEAR)**

George Knoecklein  
 74 Higgins Highway  
 Mansfield Center, CT 06250  
[www.northeastaquaticresearch.net](http://www.northeastaquaticresearch.net)

- Water Testing & Analysis
- Plant Surveys
- Reports & Recommendations
- Consultation

**New England Aquatic Services (NEAS)**

Matthew Vogt, President  
 12 Leach Hollow Road  
 Sherman, CT 06784  
[www.newenglandaquatic.com](http://www.newenglandaquatic.com)

- Suction Harvesting & Reporting
- Benthic Barriers
- Consultation & Recommendations

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## Crystal Lake – Ellington / Stafford CT

200 Acre Lake with Crystal Clear Water and Beautiful Sunsets

Sandy Beach – public beach heavily utilized by residents and non-residents

State Boat Launch – Heavily utilized for fishing and recreational boating

Recreational Activities include swimming, boating, skiing, wake boarding, tubing, kayaking, paddle boarding and fishing

Wildlife includes – wide variety of fish (trout, bass, salmon, etc.), ducks, geese, great blue herons, red tailed hawks, bald eagles, beavers, otters and turtles



585 Crystal Lake Water Monitor

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## Ellington Historical Society 2023

**Amusements**



The Crystal Lake Hotel opened in 1894 and included a carousel, bowling alley, tavern, dance hall and billiards.





The Roller Skating Rink at Sandy Beach doubled as a dance hall and music venue. The Water Wheel and slide were enjoyed by many and boxing was a popular sport.





**Beaches of Crystal Lake**




Rau's Pavilion was built 1915. By the 1930s, it was attracting crowds of 1,000.




George Bokis purchased Sandy Beach in 1925. A roller skating rink doubled as a dance hall.



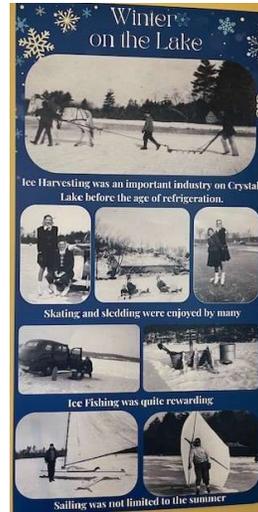
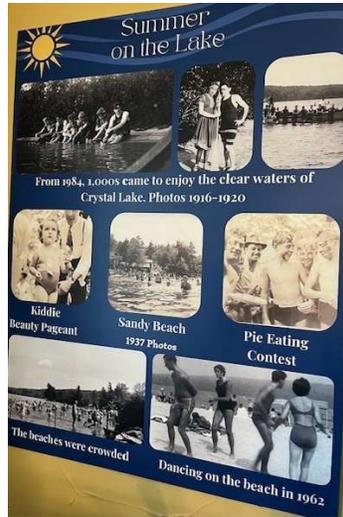

...rdel's, best known for the Crystal Ballroom, opened in 1946. A concession stand, rafts, and water slides were also...

585 Crystal Lake Water Monitor

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# Ellington Historical Society 2023

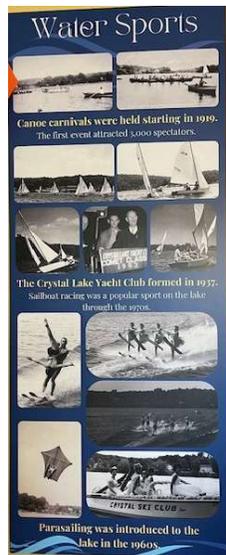


585 Crystal Lake Water Monitor

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# Ellington Historical Society 2023



585 Crystal Lake Water Monitor

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## Dam Repair

- 2013 Buck & Buck Report: Dam in state of gradual failure
- CLA Fund Raising; ~50% of funding by CLA
- Private LLC obtained state and federal permits
- 2017 & 2020: Delray Contracting Inc. Repaired Dam
- Structural repairs to Dam: No change to spillway size, capacity or lake level



585 Crystal Lake Water Monitor

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## Water Monitoring

### Monthly Sampling by Crystal Lake Association (March – November)

#### In-Lake

- Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen
- Phosphorous and Nitrogen
- Water Clarity (Secchi disk)

#### Inlet:

- Lab test for Phosphorous and Nitrogen (3 locations)

#### Stormwater

- 7 locations (First Flush)

Annual Reports to Town and CLA website (state MS4 permitting and analysis)

Performed for over 20 years

**Lake is generally in Good Condition but continued monitoring required to safeguard and maintain quality**

585 Crystal Lake Water Monitor

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## Problem Aquatic Plants in Crystal Lake

### Variable milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*)



#### Variable Leaf Water Milfoil (INVASIVE)

- Primary Invasive Species on Crystal Lake
- Can overtake waterways
- Identified in 2000
- Suction Harvested Since 2009
- Spreads through plant fractures and root system
- Fractures caused by recreational activity, wildlife and natural fragmenting

### Potamogeton epihydrus (Red-leaf pondweed)



#### Red Leaf Pondweed (NATIVE - PROBLEMATIC)

- Spreads through fragmentation
- Less volume and more difficult to remove
- Managed through suction harvesting
- Saw a significant spike in 2025

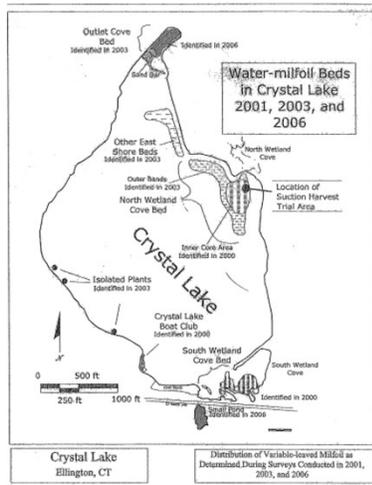
585 Crystal Lake Water Monitor

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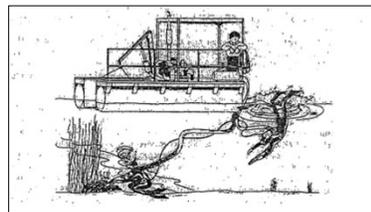
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## 2006 Suction Harvesting Demonstration Project

p 1. Distribution of Variable-leaved Milfoil in Crystal Lake.



NEAR



Milfoil Suction Harvesting

#### Project Cost \$3,500

CT DEP 75% Grant  
25% Town of Ellington

#### 0.4 Acres of Dense Milfoil Removed

Suction Harvesting proved feasible to control milfoil

Town of Ellington in Forefront of Invasive Plant Control

585 Crystal Lake Water Monitor

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## 2009 Milfoil Project

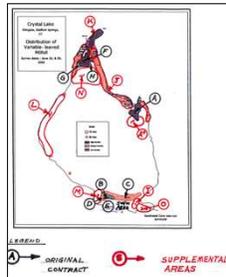
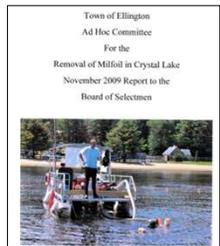
- CT DEP Grant Application – Invasive Plants
  - Max grant \$50K – town required match 25% or \$17K (total of \$67K)
- CLA presented Project to Town
- Town decided to fund project (\$67K capital expenditure and \$25K annual budget)
- If Grant received, the funds would be put back into General Fund
- CT DEP canceled Grant (\$150K for 151 towns)
- Ellington Formed Ad Hoc Crystal Lake Milfoil Committee
- Suction Harvesting Contractor selected
  - Waters Edge Restoration & Management (WERM)

585 Crystal Lake Water Monitor

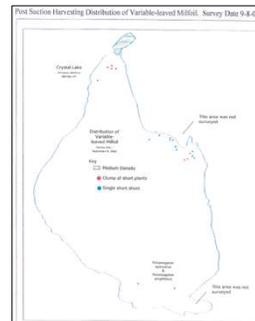
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## 2009 Milfoil Project



TV3 Media Day



- 717 Hours to remove 17.5 Acres of Milfoil
- 174.5 Bags of Milfoil Removed (6x8 foot bags weighing up to 1,500 pounds)

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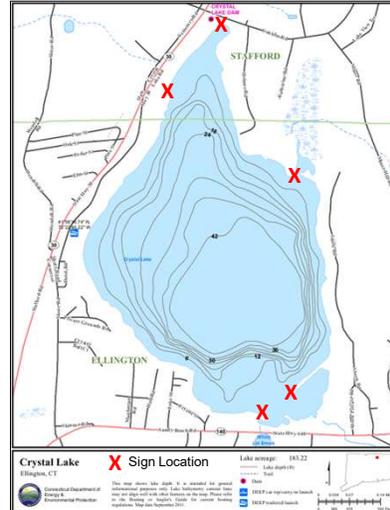
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# Crystal Lake Association – Public Communications Milfoil Signs



2011 Original Installation  
2020 Replaced Damaged Signs

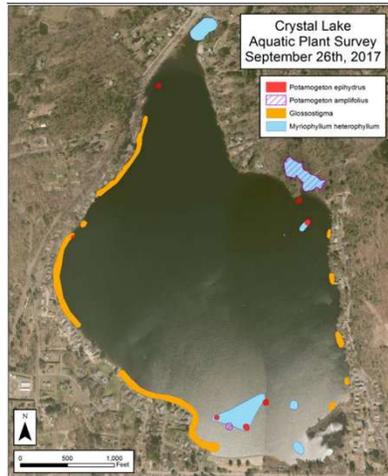


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# Milfoil Suction Harvesting



2017 NEAR Plant Survey  
Similar For 2010-2019



2025 NEAR Plant Survey  
Pre-Harvest

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### Milfoil Suction Harvesting – 2010-2025

(\$ x1000)	Town Budget	Suction Harvesting	Hours	Acres	Bags
2010-2019	25	24	120	4.2	158
2020-2022	40	30	142	3.5	270
2023-2024	60	47	215	4.8	410*
2025 Milfoil	60	51**	246	15.9	1009
2025 Pondweed		34**	185	70.0	233

**ALL LAKES IN CT WORKED BY NEAS HAVE EXPERIENCED SIMILAR AQUATIC PLANT GROWTH OF MILFOIL AND PONDWEED IN 2025**

Increases in density and spread of Milfoil in 2024 and 2025

Large spread of Pond Weed in 2025 (prior years est. at 10-15% of total)

Crystal Lake Association has contributed ~\$20K to Milfoil remediation over the years



Keep Milfoil Under Control

\*Added 18 Mats in Dam Area

\*\*Total of \$85K; \$51K from ARPA

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### Grants

2016	CT DEP: Suction Harvesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$25K Applied / \$15K Received</li> </ul>
2024	American Rescue Plan Act of 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ARPA / COVID-19</li> <li>\$25K to update 2002 Crystal Lake Drainage Study</li> </ul>
2024	ARPA / COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$60 K: Crystal Lake Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting</li> </ul>
2025	CT DEEP: Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$25K (Pending): Bottom Mats</li> </ul>

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## Emergency Harvesting and Bottom Mats - 2024



Milfoil Growth at Surface in Dam Area (needed immediate attention)

CLA funded 24 emergency suction harvesting hours prior to July 4 holiday to prevent kayak and paddleboards from cutting / spreading milfoil

18 Mats relocated in Dam Area in August to maintain paddling path along west shore



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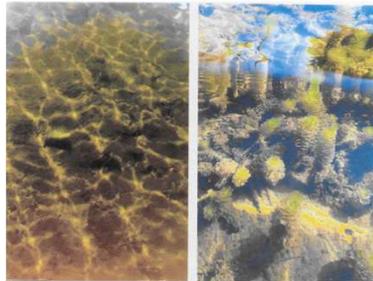
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## Bottom Blanket (Mats) - Strategy for Regrowth



Some Regrowth Post 2025 Suction Harvesting

October 2025 Milfoil at Dam



With Mat

Without Mat

18 Mats at Dam Area show little to no re-growth (Mats = 10' x 40'; held down by rebar)

DEEP Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Grant applied for by Town

Relocate 18 Mats at Dam (2026 and 2027)

Purchase and install 15 Mats at Northeast Cove in 2026 and relocate in 2027

\$25K (75% state and 25% town)

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## Going Forward Strategy

- Continue monthly water monitoring
- Continue storm water sampling
- Continue and expand suction harvesting
- Continue plant surveys
- Expand Benthic Barriers (Bottom Mats) in persistent milfoil regrowth areas (Dam Area and Northeast Cove)
- Increase 585 Budget to \$100K (from present \$60K) to counter excessive state wide aquatic plant growth

NEAS Divers Love Working in Crystal Lake – One of the nicest lakes they work

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## Going Forward Strategy – Requested Budget

(\$ 000's)	NEAR	NEAS		Total
	Water Testing Plant Surveys Reports	Suction Harvesting	Mats	
<b>FY 2025-2026 Balance</b>	\$8	\$17 80 hours – June 2026	0	\$25
<b>FY 2026-2027</b>	\$20	\$73.6 254 hours – August 2026 100 hour – June 2027 354 hours - Total	6.4*	\$100
<b>CT DEEP AIS Grant</b>	\$6.7	0	\$12.3	\$19*

\* CT DEEP 75% (\$19); Town 25% (\$6.4) – Town Portion included in FY 2026-2027

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**THANK YOU TO THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON  
FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN  
ALLOWING US TO SAFEGUARD AND  
PROTECT CRYSTAL LAKE**

585 Crystal Lake Water Monitor

**Town of Ellington, CT**

*Pavement Management Program*

*Summary of Findings*

Monday  
January 12, 2026




**BETA**

*Burbank Rd*

1

**Benefits of Pavement Management**



- Protects a community's investment by maximizing the life span of the roadway network
- Provides the ability to plan-ahead and predict budgetary needs (minimize costs while maximizing value)
- Apply the appropriate treatment at the correct location and time
- ***Provides foundation for decision making***

***Proactive vs. Reactive***



**BETA**

2

## Program Goals & Objectives

- Conduct Pavement Condition Assessment
- Understand Roadway Conditions & Needs
- Evaluate Repair Strategies & Benefits
- Establish Estimated Backlog of Improvements
- ***Develop Prioritized Plan***

**Pavement Deterioration Curve**

100	Good	Routine Maintenance
85	Satisfactory	Preventative Maintenance
70	Fair	Minor Rehabilitation
55	Poor	Major Rehabilitation
40	Very Poor	Major Rehabilitation
25	Serious	Major Rehabilitation
10	Failed	Major Rehabilitation
0		

CIP Tool




3

## Five-Step Project Approach

1. System Set-up & GIS Mapping
2. Pavement Inspection Program
3. Existing Conditions Analysis
4. Planning & Prioritization
5. System Deployment & Training




4

## System Configuration & Mapping

### Roadway Profile

Roadway Type	Miles
Town	102.37 Miles 
Private	23.23 Miles
State	25.05 Miles



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## Pavement Inspection Program

### *Automated Approach*



#### *LiDAR Technology:*

- Data Captured in Fall 2023
- Pavement distresses identified utilizing a LiDAR sensor mounted to vehicle which ultimately generates 0 - 100 Road Surface Rating (RSR)
- High resolution photographs located every 20' are available for viewing via BETA's ArcGIS Online based platform



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## RSR– Representative Examples (Good)



7

## RSR– Representative Examples (Fair)



8

## RSR– Representative Examples (Poor)



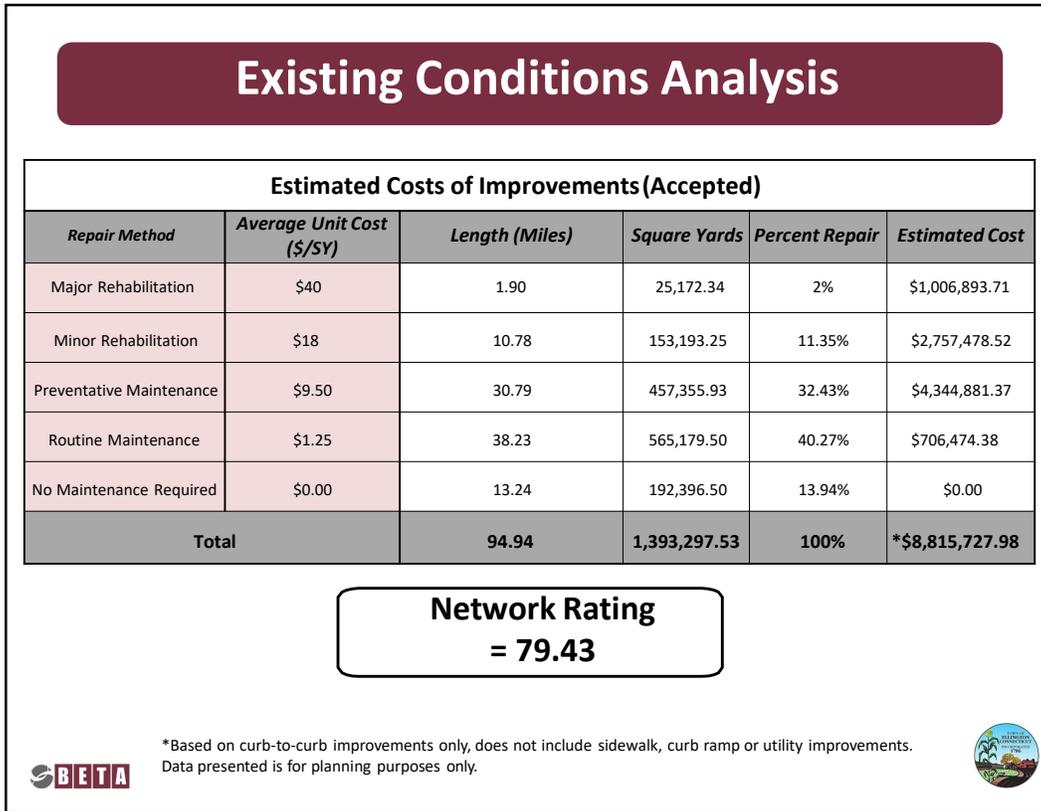
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## Pavement Inspection Program *Repair Bands & Conditions*

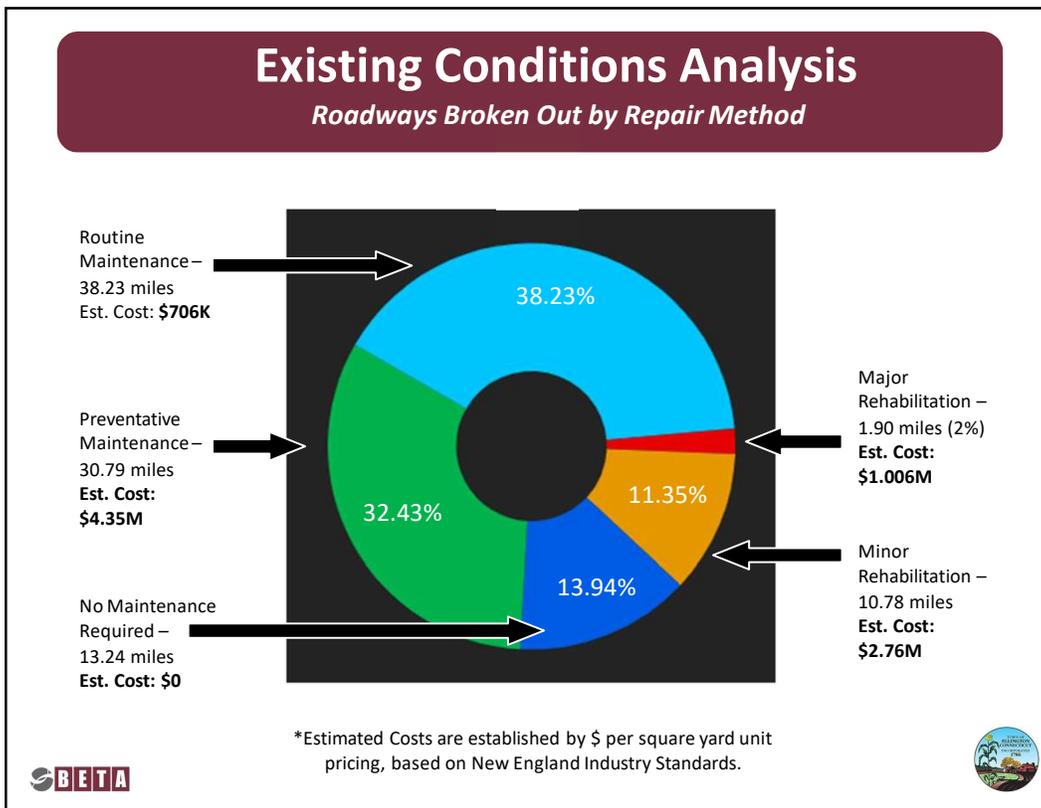
Repair Band	RSR Range	Repair Band Description	Repair Method Examples
Defer Maintenance	92-100	<b>Excellent Condition</b> – Pavement needs no immediate repairs or maintenance.	- N/A
Routine Maintenance	80-92	<b>Good Condition</b> – Pavement may need crack sealing/fog sealing or minor localized repairs.	- Crack Sealing - Fog Sealing - Rejuvenators
Preventative Maintenance	65-80	<b>Fair Condition</b> – Pavement surface needs a surface seal or thin overlay	- Chip Seal - Microsurfacing - Shim & Overlay
Minor Rehabilitation	50-65	<b>Poor Condition</b> – Pavement surface structure needs added strength for existing traffic. Typically, an overlay or mill & overlay for these roads.	- Mill & Overlay - Cold In-Place Recycling (RSR) - Level & Overlay
Major Rehabilitation	0-50	<b>Deficient Condition</b> – Typically, the base layers of the pavement need to be rebuilt. The implementation of a reclamation or full depth reconstruction is needed.	- Reclamation - Reconstruction - Full Depth Reclamation (FDR)



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## Existing Conditions Analysis Pavement Condition Map

**Legend**

**Repair Category**

- No Maintenance Required (92-100)
- Routine Maintenance (80-92)
- Preventative Maintenance (65-80)
- Minor Rehabilitation (50-65)
- Major Rehabilitation (0-50)

**Non-Inspected Roadways**

- State
- Other (Private Roads, Parking Lots, etc.)

**Other**

- Open Space
- Waterbodies

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## ManageMyRoads Platform

**Est. Cost of Improvements**  
8.82M

**Centerline Miles**  
94.94

**Square Yards**  
1.39M

**Roadway Repair Categories (Miles)**

**Road Network Rating**  
79.43  
Last Updated: 10/28/2025

**Roadway Repair History by Miles**

Street Name	Street Segment	From Street	To Street	Length	M/Fax	Width	Repair Method	RSR	Benefit Value	Square Yards	Pavement Type	Long	Ch
ABBOTT RD	ABBOTT RD-01	WINDSORVILLE RD	ELLINGTON RDG	544.34	0.10	26.00	No Maintenance Required	92		1,572.33	Asphalt	Le	
ABBOTT RD	ABBOTT RD-02	ELLINGTON RDG	ABDGEN DR	506.89	0.10	26.00	No Maintenance Required	92		1,464.33	Asphalt	Le	
ABBOTT RD	ABBOTT RD-03	ABDGEN DR	WOODLAND TRL	578.27	0.11	26.00	No Maintenance Required	92		1,670.37	Asphalt	Le	
ABBOTT RD	ABBOTT RD-04	WOODLAND TRL	WINDERMERE AVE	225.00	0.04	26.00	No Maintenance Required	92		650.01	Asphalt	Le	
ABBOTT RD	ABBOTT RD-05	WINDERMERE AVE	MONTICELLO CIR	445.36	0.08	28.00	No Maintenance Required	92		1,305.35	Asphalt	Le	
ABBOTT RD	ABBOTT RD-06	MONTICELLO CIR	ELLERIDGE PL	786.62	0.15	28.00	No Maintenance Required	92		2,484.33	Asphalt	Le	
ABBOTT RD	ABBOTT RD-07	ELLERIDGE PL	ELLERIDGE PL	952.02	0.18	28.00	No Maintenance Required	92		2,750.28	Asphalt	Le	
ABBOTT RD	ABBOTT RD-08	ELLERIDGE PL	ROCKVILLE RD	642.42	0.14	26.00	No Maintenance Required	92		1,833.26	Asphalt	Le	

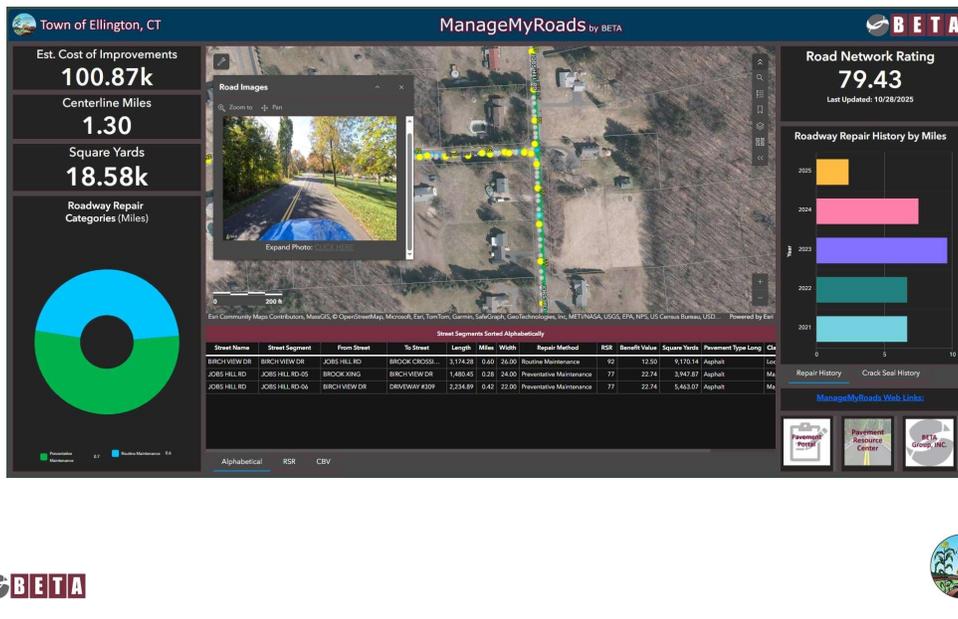
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# ManageMyRoads Platform

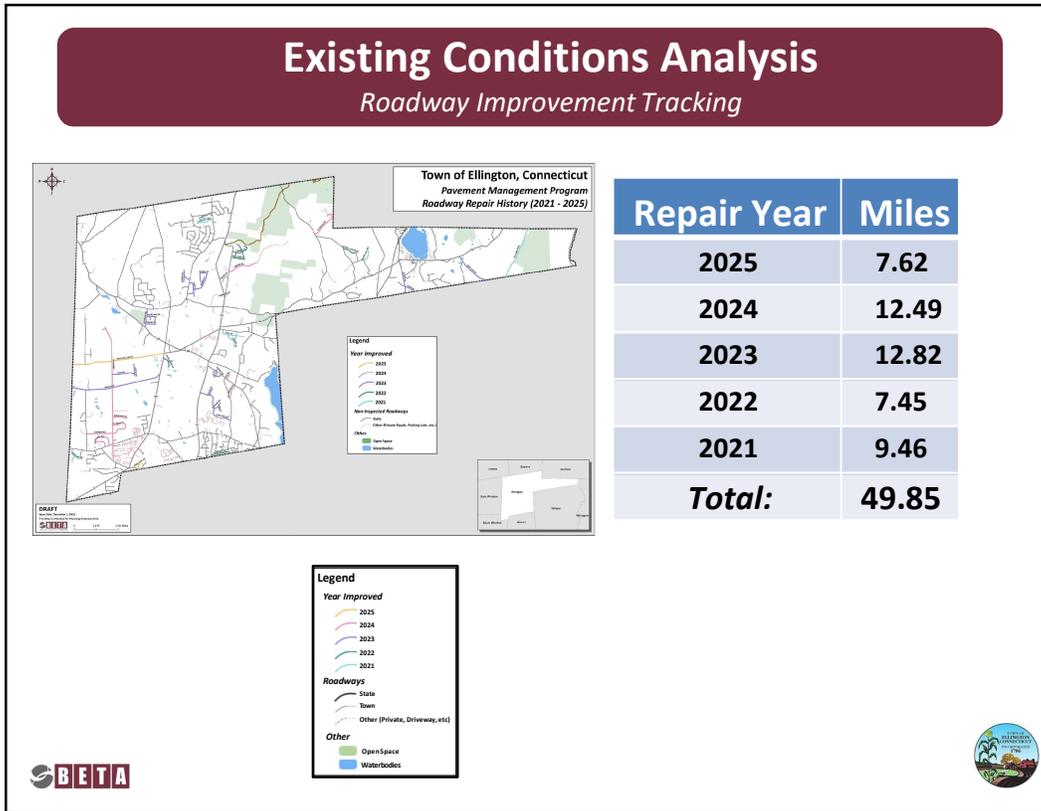


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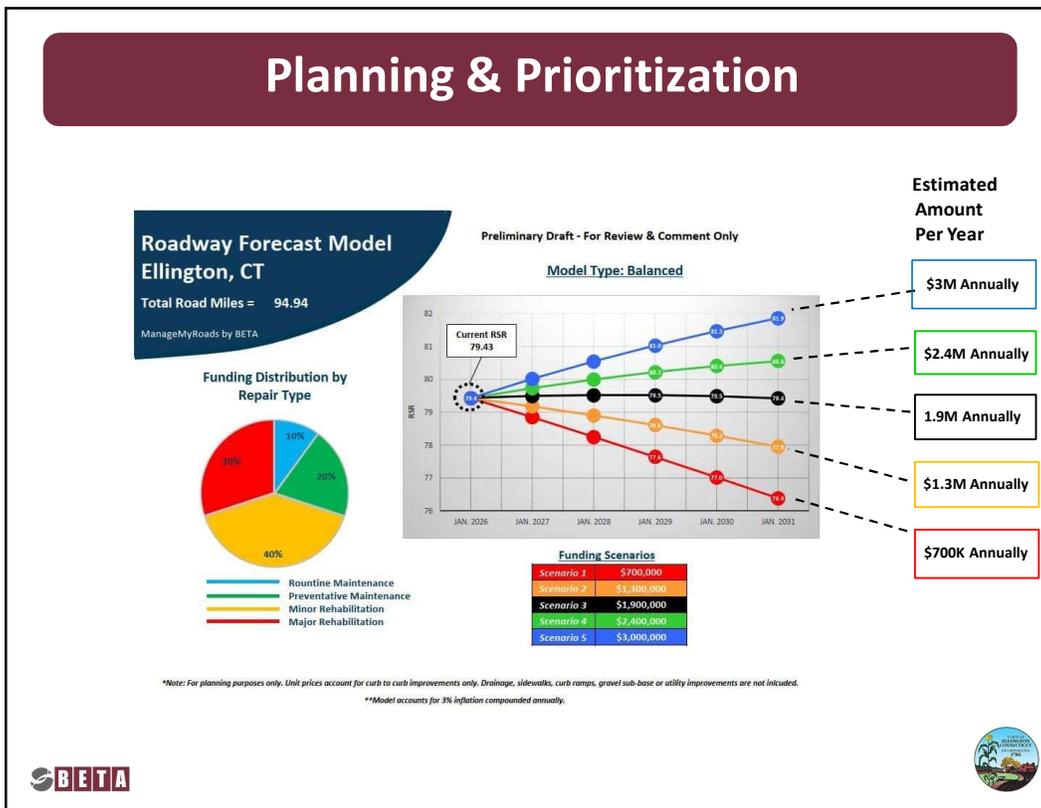
# ManageMyRoads Platform



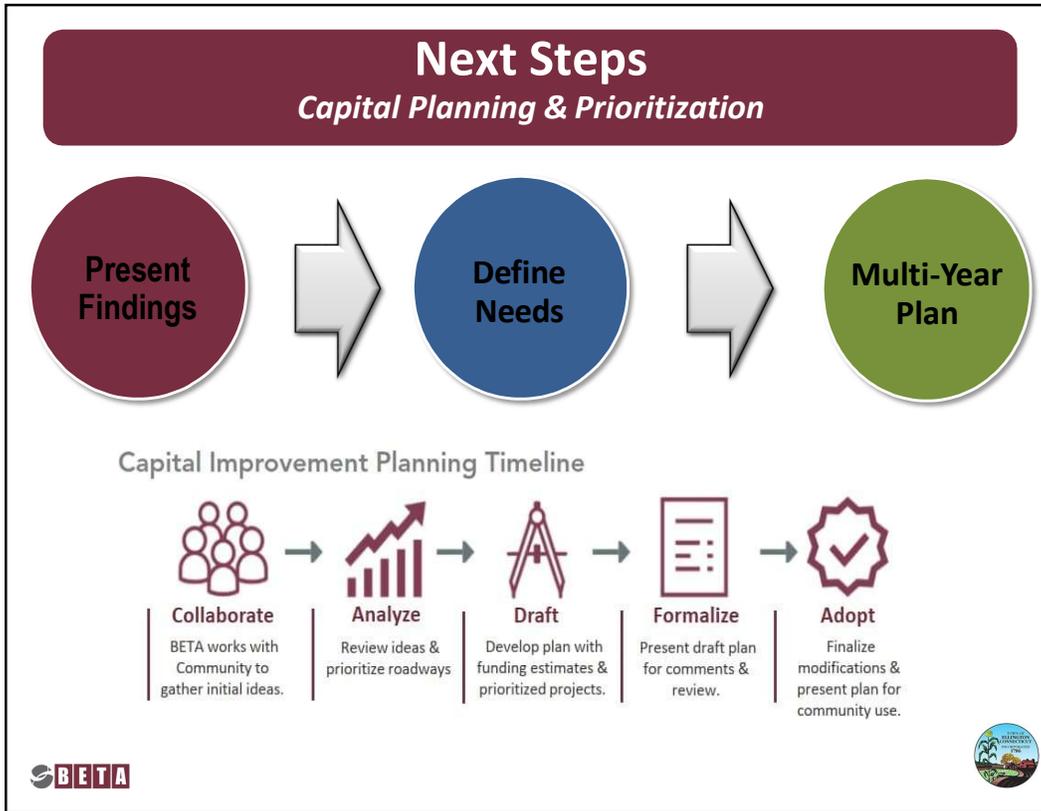
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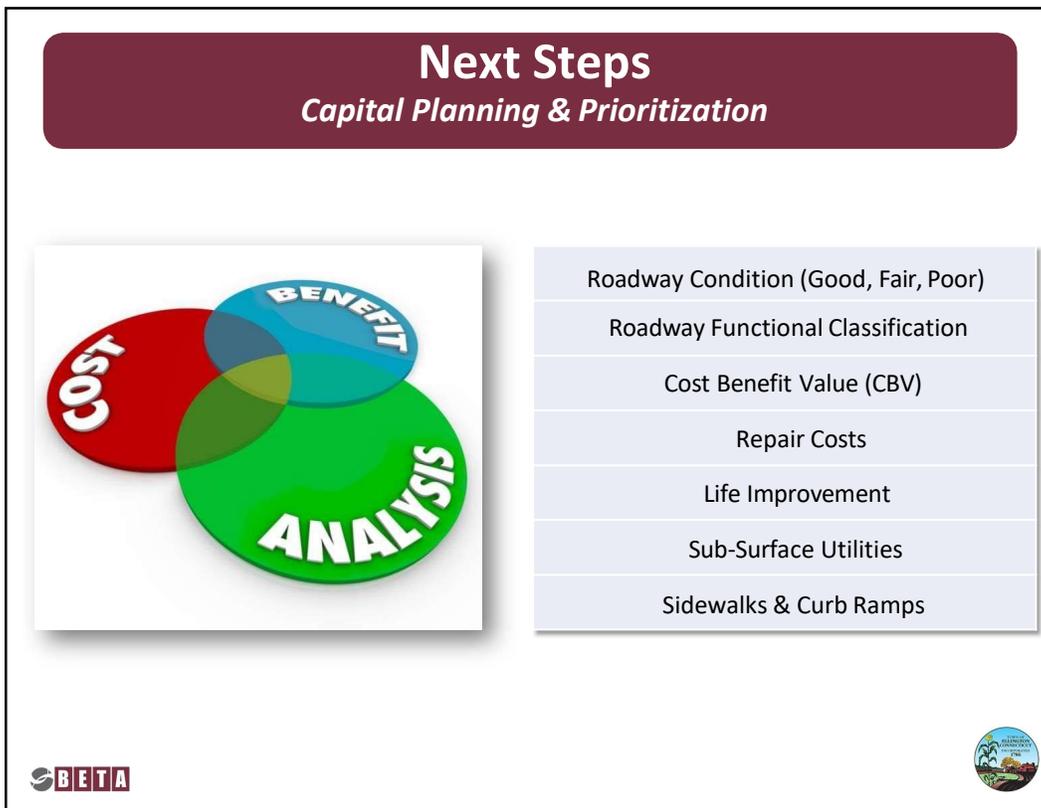
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## Concluding Remarks

1. **Comprehensive Inventory** has been created for Town maintained roads, their condition, and the most effective way to prioritize maintenance and repairs.
2. **Designed** to better manage limited dollars allocated to road work in Town
3. **Capable** of assessing the different types of repair strategies necessary to maximize the lifecycle of the roads



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# Town of Ellington, CT

## *Pavement Management Program*

*Thank You*

Monday  
January 12, 2026



*Burbank Rd*

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