



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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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

April 13, 2026

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. ROLL CALL

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

Town Staff Present: Matthew Reed, Town Administrator; Tiffany Pignataro, Finance Officer/Treasurer; Tom Modzelewski, Director, Perry Dikeman, Mechanic II, *Sam Saunders, Recycling and Refuse Manager, Department of Public Works (DPW); *Sue Phillips, Director, Hall Memorial Library; *Craig Webb, Director of Emergency Medical Services

Emergency Service Agency Representatives Present: Peter Hany, President/Chief, Alisa Smith, Lieutenant/Scheduler, Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps (EVAC); Robert Smith, Chief, Ellington Volunteer Fire Department (EVFD)

Elected Officials Present: Megan Johnson [left at 6:53pm], *Miriam Underwood, Board of Education (BOE); *Peg Busse, Library Board of Trustees

*Attended via Zoom

III. PUBLIC COMMENT [*Shall not exceed 30 minutes unless extended by majority vote of the Board*]:

Tom Palshaw, 120 Pinney Street and a member of the Trails Committee, wanted to highlight an issue that is currently being addressed. Some of the trails are getting harder to deal with, as there are sections that are not Town-owned land which create safety and liability issues. Windermere Trail is currently partly inaccessible. In these situations, written permission by the property owner to use the land is required, which also protects the property owner from liability. Mr. Palshaw just wanted to make sure that the BOS was aware that these issues are present and are being worked through.

Cathy Pinard, 12 East Shore Road, asked for consideration regarding the current budget process. After attending a recent budget meeting, she has reflected on a few points that left her uneasy. She noted that the BOF decided to move forward with the existing proposal after reviewing the list of potential cuts. Her understanding of that decision is that the budget proposal was being used as a starting point to test the public's reaction; her worry is that these actions may inadvertently impact public trust. The

community needs to feel confident that the BOF is working with full integrity to deliver a budget that serves everyone effectively, especially as costs continue to rise and given the impact of the revaluation. As the assessment process has concluded, there is a need to reduce overall spending to ensure that the town remains affordable, focusing on true spending cuts instead of pushing obligations to future years. She asked for consideration of spending that benefits the majority, emphasizing the importance of finding the middle ground and building community consensus.

Joseph Burns, 228 Windsorville Road, lives across from Windermere School, and he has noticed individuals driving small motorcycles and e-bikes recklessly in the area where children are playing around the playground; they don't seem to care that there are children there. If someone gets hurt, it may create issues and become the town's responsibility. He noted that there is no control and that it poses a safety issue; there should be some oversight into this activity. There's a way to let kids have their fun, but it needs to be safe for everyone.

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (THANVANTHRI) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADD TO THE AGENDA, UNDER NEW BUSINESS, ITEM J, BID AWARD – WEBSTER ROAD CULVERT LINING.

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO GO OUT OF AGENDA ORDER AND START NEW BUSINESS WITH ITEM VI. F – PINNEY HOUSE UPDATE.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. March 2, 2026 Budget Meeting

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2, 2026 BUDGET MEETING.

B. March 9, 2026 Public Hearing

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (THANVANTHRI) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 9, 2026 PUBLIC HEARING.

C. March 9, 2026 Town Meeting

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 9, 2026 TOWN MEETING.

D. March 9, 2026 Regular Meeting

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (THANVANTHRI) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 9, 2026 REGULAR MEETING.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was no unfinished business.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

F. Pinney House Update – Friends of the Pinney House

Warren McGrath, 155 Windermere Avenue, shared that he has been a resident for close to 50 years. He noted that Robert Hurd had been out to inspect the property and provided a full report, which was funded through a grant; Mr. McGrath's intention is to keep the BOS informed and get whatever support is possible. Other grant applications are in the works, though it is difficult to anticipate what will be available, especially on the federal level. He noted that any questions could be directed to him, and then turned things over to Megan Johnson, 44 Wapping Wood Road, who shared a presentation [ATTACHED]. With the America 250 celebration coming up, the group hopes to be included in some way. First Selectman Burstein asked what grants are currently being sought; the Historic Restoration

Fund is the major one, with some additional smaller ones also being pursued. Ms. Ward asked what the plans were for the house and what it would be used for if restored. Mrs. Johnson shared that it would act as a community center, which could be used by the scouts, community groups, and book clubs. This could also provide rental income. Mr. Hurd shared some of his background as an architect and commented that he was happy to work on this project. He noted that the numbers have escalated since 2016, and he expressed hope that there is a way to get things moving before this project becomes more unaffordable. He also stated that he was happy to answer any questions.

A. Tax Refunds/Abatements

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE TAX REFUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$16,134.56 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TAX & REVENUE COLLECTOR AND AS SPECIFIED IN THE REFUNDS/ABATEMENTS STATEMENT DATED APRIL 2026 [ATTACHED].

B. Re-establish Ad Hoc Trails Committee

First Selectman Burstein shared that the work done by this Committee is incredibly impressive; it is a highly motivated and hardworking group that makes a really good team.

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (THANVANTHRI) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RE-ESTABLISH THE AD HOC ELLINGTON TRAILS COMMITTEE FOR ONE YEAR THROUGH APRIL 2027.

C. Fair Housing Month – Policy Statement and Resolution

Mr. Reed shared that April is designated as Fair Housing Month, and historically the Town has reaffirmed its Fair Housing policy and issued a resolution each year; these documents are displayed outside of the Town Clerk's Office. Ms. Ward asked about the affirmative marketing program that is mentioned in the policy. Mr. Reed noted that this could manifest in a number of ways; one requirement is that the Town promotes fair housing, which could be furthered through economic development policies and other actions, as it is a multi-faceted program. Ms. Cardin asked if anyone present would like the documents read into the record; no one requested this, and Ms. Ward noted that the policy and resolution were on the website.

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (THANVANTHRI) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADOPT THE FAIR HOUSING POLICY STATEMENT AND RESOLUTION, AS IT IS THE POLICY OF THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON TO PROMOTE FAIR HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES AND TO ENCOURAGE RACIAL AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN ALL OF ITS PROGRAMS AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.

D. Special Event License – Oakridge Dairy Farm Day

Ms. Ward shared that this is a great event.

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ISSUE A SPECIAL EVENT LICENSE TO OAKRIDGE DAIRY FOR A FARM DAY EVENT TO BE HELD AT 11 JOBS HILL ROAD ON JUNE 27, 2026 FROM 10:00 AM TO 2:00 PM. FURTHER, THAT THE ISSUANCE OF THIS SPECIAL EVENT LICENSE IS CONTINGENT UPON THE APPROVAL OF ALL APPROPRIATE TOWN DEPARTMENTS/AGENCIES AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH TOWN ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS.

E. Crystal Lake Sailing Club – 2026 Sailboat Race Series

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (THANVANTHRI) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE 2026 SAILBOAT RACE SERIES FOR SUNDAY AFTERNOONS BETWEEN JUNE 7 AND SEPTEMBER 13, 2026,

DURING ESTABLISHED QUIET HOURS OF 12:00 PM TO 3:00 PM, AS PLANNED AND PRESENTED BY THE CRYSTAL LAKE SAILING CLUB.

G. Finance Officer Position – Update & Consultation Agreement

Mr. Reed shared that the current Finance Officer has submitted her resignation, effective May 1. Active recruitment for the position is ongoing. Ms. Pignataro has agreed to stay on in a consulting capacity, up to 15 hours a week; Mr. Reed is drawing up a formal agreement.

At the same time, the Director of Finance and Operations for Ellington Public Schools has also recently submitted her resignation, effective April 24th, creating a unique opportunity. Mr. Reed shared his belief that the Town could recognize efficiencies in realigning tasks and bringing in a high-level director to oversee both Town and BOE finances. The Town Charter is written in a way that does allow for this; however, a lot would need to align, and significant collaboration will be needed to identify the best path forward. Mr. Reed noted that it may be wise to at least contemplate this since the opportunity has presented itself. Ms. Thanvanthri asked if there was a difference in rules or requirements between the town and school roles; Mr. Reed shared that there are some different certifications on the school side, depending on operations. It was noted that the Town would still be restricted in mandating how the BOE spends its funds. Ms. Cardin liked the shared service concept and asked if the proposal would be brought back before the BOS with more details, which was confirmed. She also asked if the agreement with Ms. Pignataro would be brought before the BOS; Mr. Reed shared his thought that it would be a routine agreement that he is permitted to authorize, but he would be happy to share it with anyone who is interested. Ms. Cardin noted that she would like First Selectman Burstein to review and sign off on it. Mr. Boucher noted that this is the only time to review the possibility of combining the Finance positions and asked about potential cost savings. Mr. Reed noted that other key players will need to be engaged in the process, and that it would likely not be the dollar-for-dollar savings of eliminating one of the salaries. This change would shift responsibility and there are a lot of moving parts. If this was the direction taken, the Town would seek a highly qualified candidate and re-advertise the position as amended and developed. Mr. Reed noted that there are six municipal Finance Officer positions open in the state, acknowledging the challenge of finding qualified candidates. First Selectman Burstein feels strongly that the individual in the position should be a CPA. Mr. Prichard asked if the individual would be a Town employee or a BOE employee; Mr. Reed shared that, according to the Charter, the Town oversees overall finances, so this would be a Town employee. Ms. Ward expressed her understanding that the BOE has a larger scope in terms of departments that it oversees and asked if this would require an examination and possible revision of how the department is structured to make sure the workload is manageable. It was noted that the overall workload would be reviewed and redistributed as appropriate; many factors will need to be reviewed and adjusted to best meet the needs of the Town. Mr. Reed reiterated that this would not happen quickly, adding that many administrative leaders and board members will be involved in the process.

H. 2026-2027 Town Budget

1. Approval of Draft Legal Notice for Annual Budget Meeting

Two options were presented, a town meeting budget vote or a referendum vote. First Selectman Burstein felt strongly that it should go to referendum and called a vote of the members; the BOS unanimously chose to send the budget vote to referendum. Mr. Reed shared that another item included in the legal notice has to do with the way taxes are paid, per state statute. The public hearing

and subsequent budget deliberations will lead to the final budget sum to be included in the final notice.

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (THANVANTHRI) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE DRAFT LEGAL NOTICE FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING [ATTACHED], USING OPTION 2 – IN FAVOR OF A REFERENDUM VOTE - AND TO INCLUDE THE SUM AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE.

I. Opioid Settlement Committee – Proposed Expenditure

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (THANVANTHRI) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE THE HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR TO EXPEND \$159.00 IN FUNDING FROM THE OPIOID SETTLEMENT SPECIAL REVENUE FUND TO PURCHASE MAGNETS TO HAND OUT AT EARTH DAY AND OTHER EVENTS AND LOCATIONS, IN ORDER TO PROMOTE THE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES.

J. Bid Award – Webster Road Culvert Lining

Mr. Modzelewski shared that this project has been in the pipeline for a while, after the bridge was identified as a deficient structure. Annual savings were put away through the capital process, a bid package was put together, and two bids were received. Ms. Cardin asked if the recommended bid award was an amount less than or equivalent to what the project would have cost going through CRCOG; Mr. Modzelewski shared that the CRCOG price was closer to \$211,000. Mr. Modzelewski explained the details of the structure and the work that will be done, as approved by all appropriate agencies.

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AWARD THE BID FOR THE WEBSTER ROAD CULVERT LINING PROJECT TO SAVY & SONS, LLC OF AMSTON, CONNECTICUT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$188,023.19, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS AND THE FINANCE OFFICER/TREASURER.

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 DEBORAH NEWTON FROM THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT ETHAN BIGGS TO THE INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY TO COMPLETE AN UNEXPIRED TERM THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2027, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ELLINGTON REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (CARDIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REAPPOINT DONNA ALLEN, VALERIE AMSEL, DEANNA WAMBOLT-GULICK, CYNTHIA VAN ZELM, LINDA ANDERSON, RYAN BIBEAU, BILL SCHULTZ, TOM PALSHAW, DAN CHAMBERLIN, ROBERT BARONE, ANN HARFORD, STEVEN AUSTIN, STUART LANZ AND LINDSAY NEUBECKER TO THE AD HOC TRAILS COMMITTEE TO SERVE ONE-YEAR TERMS THROUGH APRIL 30, 2027.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REAPPOINT DREW GILBERT AND PAUL GILBERT TO THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY TO SERVE FOUR-YEAR TERMS THROUGH APRIL 30, 2030.

B. Liaison Reports

Ms. Thanvanthri shared that Eugene LeDuc took over from her as ZBA Chairman; Ms. Heminway will continue as Vice Chair.

Ms. Cardin has been attending meetings of the Housing Authority. Member Amos Smith identified that the audit that's done of the Ellington Housing Authority should be reported to the BOS, which hasn't been done in the past, at least not in the last couple of years. That will be happening moving forward.

IX. FIRST SELECTMAN/TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

First Selectman Burstein shared her report [ATTACHED]. She shared that she had called for a meeting with Green Road landowners due to ongoing issues of trespassing and vandalism; the landowners appreciated how quickly these issues were addressed by the police for the safety of the community. She also shared that she, along with East Windsor First Selectman Jason Bowsza, State Representative Jaime Foster, and State Representative Carol Hall hosted Governor Lamont for a solar and agriculture tour to talk about balancing the percentage of solar projects in towns and protecting prime ag land. The tour started in East Windsor and concluded at Earthlight Technologies in Ellington. First Selectman Burstein also continues to visit with various businesses in Town.

Mr. Reed noted that his report had been included in the online packet, but he had a few additional items to share. On March 28, around 300 people assembled outside Hall Memorial Library to participate in the nationwide series of "No Kings" rallies; police stood by, and there were no incidents. It was a busy day at the library as well, but everything went smoothly. The annual Earth Day event will be held on April 25. He, along with First Selectman Burstein and other Town representatives, recently met with property owners from Green Road to discuss ongoing vandalism and trespassing issues. Enforcement efforts were increased, pallets were found which clued officers in regarding a planned party or bonfire, two juveniles were arrested, and an abandoned vehicle was removed. Mr. Reed thanked the police and Eversource for their ongoing work and support. Another unauthorized Green Road event scheduled for this evening was identified, and a warning against it was posted.

He shared a few more details about the *Deed In Lieu of Taxes* item from his report. The identified parcel has been empty for many years after the home burned in a fire, and unpaid taxes have accrued since then. The family has been in touch to discuss a transaction granting the deed of this property to the Town, which is authorized by state statute, and it would sense for the Town to own the parcel.

The budget public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14th; Mr. Reed noted that the proposed budget is very much in line with increases seen in surrounding towns. Budget deliberations begin on Thursday, April 16th.

X. CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER COMMUNICATION FROM THE BOS

No other correspondence or communication was discussed.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (WARD), SECONDED (CARDIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AT 7:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Merriam

Julia Merriam, Recording Secretary

Laurie Burstein

Laurie Burstein, First Selectman

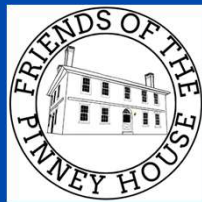
TOWN OF ELLINGTON
TAX AND REVENUE COLLECTOR'S REFUND REPORT
April 2026

V.I.A

Amount	Name	Tax	GL Year	Requesting Dept.	Reason
\$ 2,404.56	DDR ENTERPRISES LLC	RE	2024	TAX	OVERPAYMENT
\$ 186.62	EDS AUTOMOTIVE	PP	2024	ASSESSOR	AUDIT
\$ 637.20	EDS AUTOMOTIVE	PP	2023	ASSESSOR	AUDIT
\$ 533.03	EDS AUTOMOTIVE	PP	2022	ASSESSOR	AUDIT
\$ 774.17	HONDA LEASE TRUST	MV	2024	ASSESSOR	TOTAL LOSS 3/24
\$ 2,678.25	HONG KYUNG UK	RE	2024	TAX	OVERPAYMENT
\$ 342.88	INTEGRITY MARKETING GROUP LLC	PP	2024	TAX	OVERPAYMENT
\$ 279.00	JOFFRAY KALINA	MV	2024	ASSESSOR	REG IN MA 5/25
\$ 12.00	JOHNSON PAUL + WHITON NANCY +	RE	2024	TAX	OVERPAYMENT
\$ 10.00	LAPLANTE DOUGLAS + HEIDI	MV	2024	TAX	OVERPAYMENT
\$ 35.98	MACGILLIS EUGENE + CRISTINA BOISVERT	RE	2024	TAX	OVERPAYMENT
\$ 9.00	MARQUES GEORGE	MV	2024	TAX	OVERPAYMENT
\$ 3,593.51	MCPMAHON MARK + CAROLANNE	RE	2024	TAX	OVERPAYMENT
\$ 316.23	NISSAN MOTOR ACCEPTANCE CORP	MV	2024	ASSESSOR	REG OUT OF STATE 6/25
\$ 31.15	NVGT LLC	PP	2024	TAX	OVERPAYMENT
\$ 76.22	RASEY HAROLD	MV	2024	ASSESSOR	SOLD 1/25
\$ 3,789.21	REUTTER DARLA + DEREK	RE	2024	TAX	OVERPAYMENT
\$ 425.55	TOYOTA LEASE TRUST	MV	2024	ASSESSOR	SOLD 9/24
\$ 16,134.56	REFUND TOTAL FOR APRIL 2026				

A REVOLUTIONARY
LEGACY

The Eleazer Pinney House



1



Revolutionary Significance

The Eleazer Pinney House symbolizes Ellington's deep-rooted connection to the American Revolution and our nation's founding ideals.

Community Heritage

Eleazer Pinney's legacy continues to inspire civic responsibility and leadership within the Ellington community across generations.

Exploring Two Key Ideas

2



Who Was Eleazer Pinney?

A Revolutionary War Hero and Leader

Eleazer Pinney played a pivotal role in shaping Ellington's history during the American Revolution.

- He was 23 years old at the start of the war
- He served as a sergeant in the Connecticut Militia
- He fought at Stillwater and Saratoga, stormed Burgoyne's camp, and witnessed his surrender, a pivotal moment during the Revolution.

3

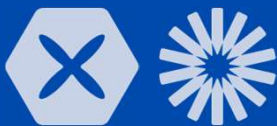
From Soldier to Town Father

Founding Leader of Ellington

In 1786, Eleazer Pinney was elected as **Ellington's first First Selectman**, setting the foundation for the town's governance and community involvement.

Administrator General of Estates

Pinney's role as "**Administrator General**" because of the town's people who trusted him to manage estates and trusts, ensuring the well-being of his community and supporting local families throughout his lifetime.



4



The Pinney House

A Historic Landmark of Ellington

The Pinney House, built between 1775-1778, is a **symbol of revolutionary heritage** and community pride in Ellington.

5

The House Itself

Essential Gathering Point in History

The Eleazer Pinney House served as a **vital gathering point** for the militia during the Revolution.

An Architectural Marvel

Built in **1778**, this impressive brick colonial home featured five large fireplaces and was considered one of the most magnificent houses, symbolizing Ellington's patriotic spirit.

6



A Multi-Generational Legacy

Continuing the Pinney Family Tradition of Service

The Pinney family's commitment to civic duty persisted through generations, exemplified by William Pinney's leadership and dedication to Ellington, representing Ellington in the State Assembly in the early 1900s.

7



Honoring History

The Pinney House symbolizes **Ellington's commitment** to preserving its historical roots and celebrating American heritage.

Local Identity

Including the Pinney House in the celebration reinforces **community pride** and highlights Ellington's unique contributions to American history.

Why Include the Pinney House?

8

Preservation Efforts

Community Restoration of a Historic Landmark

Volunteers from the Friends of the Pinney House are dedicated to restoring this historic landmark, ensuring its legacy endures.



9

Preservation Plans

Architectural Restoration for the Pinney House

The architectural plans depict essential restoration efforts, showcasing a commitment to preserving the historical integrity of the Pinney House.



10

Why Pinney House Should be Included

Honoring a Revolutionary War Sergeant

Including the Pinney House in the celebration **recognizes** Eleazer Pinney’s significant role in shaping Ellington and the nation, honoring his legacy as a Revolutionary War hero.

Raise Awareness and Support

Featuring the house will raise community awareness and support for its preservation, fostering a renewed interest in local history and pride among residents of all ages.

11



Local Landmark of Historical Significance

The Eleazer Pinney House is a **cherished local landmark** that embodies Ellington’s rich history and connection to the American Revolution, serving as a symbol of the town’s heritage.

Educational Focal Point for All Ages

Incorporating the Pinney House in the USA 250th celebration will provide a **unique educational resource**, fostering community engagement and teaching future generations about the town’s revolutionary past.

12

First Selectman's Report for April

The Senior Center had a very nice St Patrick's Day Celebration and had a packed house with over 138 attendees enjoying corn beef dinner with First State Troubadour Tom Callanan providing fun entertainment.

The Penguin Plunge at Crystal Lake was well attended with participants jumping into the freezing waters. Thank you to our Ellington Police and Ellington Residents Troopers for hosting this event with Special Olympics. We also appreciate our Emergency Services on hand to make sure things are safe.

We had one of the largest turnouts for Business Networking hosted by Skips and thanks to Andrew for the great conversations, sharing ideas. As a former business owner, it was great to see the businesses connected and can be used as a resource for those who uses certain payroll companies, insurance companies or offers 401 etc.

I attended a Planning and Zoning Meeting, Economic Development Meeting (went over the POCD), and the Ellington 250 Meeting as we continue to plan for our October event.

I continued my stops at local businesses, visiting Rice Packaging, Bill provided me with great tour of the facility. I was amazed at the attention to detail at with the high-quality custom packaging. Rice Packaging has been in successful business in Ellington for over 50 years and still retains original customers.

I also visited Greenwood Holistic Farms and was very impressed with Tina and Dan who are first generation farmers who focus on clean humanly raised and chemical free food. They are also part of Connecticut Trust Farmland Preservation.

East Windsor First Selectman Jason Bowsza, State Rep Jaime Foster, State Rep Carol Hall and I hosted Governor Lamont with a Solar and Ag tour to talk about balancing the percentages in towns and protecting the Prime Ag land. The tour started in East Windsor and ended at Earthlight in Ellington. I appreciated John Hoffman speaking on behalf of Oakridge Dairy as well as Earthlight's Sam Schneider's presentation to the Governor's team. We hope to have the Governor's support going forward on house bills. I've written testimony on several bills that can support our town.

We are hoping the Governor will support HS 5551, specifically Sec. 9. In deciding whether to issue a certificate for a solar photovoltaic facility that has a generating capacity greater than one megawatt of electricity that is proposed to be located in a municipality in which a solar photovoltaic facility that has a generating capacity greater than one hundred megawatts is located, or in any municipality abutting such existing facility, the council shall

be bound by the approval, disapproval or conditions concerning such proposed facility that the chief executive officer or legislative body of the municipality in which such facility is proposed to be located or such abutting municipality submits to the council, provided the chief executive officer or legislative body submits notice of such approval, disapproval or conditions to the council not later than thirty days after such municipality is served a copy of the application for such certificate.

This morning I interviewed Dianne Trueb and Sam Sauders to give an overview of our upcoming for Ellington's Annual Earth Day on April 25, 10am-2pm

Sam is such a passionate advocate for Ellington's Recycling Center and does such a tremendous job that I decided to have him back on the show in the coming months to deep dive into Ellington's investment in our environment.

We hope to see a big turnout.

Lastly, we hope to see many residents at the Budget Hearing tomorrow night. It is a great opportunity to hear from our community. I posted a video last week explaining the reassessments, mill rates, departments that stayed flat and where our increases are coming from.