Minutes not yet approved.

Approval and any edits to be made in succeeding minutes.

RECEIVED
JUN 10 2026
3:12pm
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BLOOMFIELD, CT

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting of the above reference subcommittee held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, via hybrid meeting format with Zoom Webinar virtual platform. The in-person location is in the Town Chamber room at the Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

In-Person Attendance: India Rogers, Director Operations & Communications; Chair Todd Cooper; Chief Willie Jones, Blue Hills Fire Department; Warren Plummer, IT Director; Lou Blumenfeld, Chair- EMS Committee; Mayor Anthony Harrington.

Virtual Attendance: Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., Town Manager; Councilor Shamar Mahon (6:17 p.m.); Councilor Michael Oliver, Councilor Suzette DeBeatham-Brown: , Bloomfield Center Fire Department; Paula Jones, Chair-Conservation, Energy and Environment Committee (CEEC); Lou Blumenfeld, Chair- EMS Committee; Aimee Krauss, Health Director - West Hartford Bloomfield Health District; Stephen Hajdasz, Deputy Chief, Bloomfield Police Department

Absent: Latonia Tabb, Clerk of Council; Chief Paul Hammick, Bloomfield Police Department; Chief Peter Barnard, Bloomfield Center Fire Department

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM

Police Department Update

Deputy Chief Stephen Hajdasz reported that overall crime in April 2026 continued its downward trend. The department recorded six sexual assault cases, all involving past incidents and currently under investigation, along with two burglaries, 22 shoplifting incidents, and several fraud-related larcenies, including a significant investment fraud case being investigated by detectives. One burglary arrest was made at Body of Christ Church, with the incident determined to involve a mental health crisis and a referral made for services.

The department reported six officer vacancies at the end of April, with three recruits currently attending police academies. Patrol officers responded to 45 motor vehicle accidents, conducted 169 traffic stops, made one DUI arrest, and completed 100 traffic enforcement details, with focused enforcement on Brown Street, Woodland Avenue, Maple Avenue, and Burr Road. The Town's mental health clinician handled 24 calls for service, while Bloomfield Volunteer Ambulance enhanced communications, conducted joint

training exercises, provided CPR instruction, and expanded patient resource and support initiatives through a new community partnership.

Fire Department Updates Center Fire District

Lieutenant Mike Arnold, filling in for the Fire Chief, reported that the department responded to 32 calls for service in April, bringing the year-to-date total to 191 calls. Incidents included water and carbon monoxide calls, a hazardous materials response, motor vehicle accidents, open burns, false alarms, medical assists, and electrical emergencies. The department also participated in several mutual aid and dual-response incidents with neighboring departments.

The department continues facility improvements, including updates to fire headquarters, HVAC system upgrades, and infrastructure repairs at Company 2. Community outreach efforts included a birthday drive-by and participation in the Fight for Air Stair Climb, which raised over $4,000. Training activities focused on ladder operations, hydrants and brush fires, search and rescue, and regional task force coordination. One member successfully completed Firefighter I certification, and the department currently maintains a roster of 35 members and approximately six cadets.

Blue Hills Fire District

Chief Willie Jones reported that Blue Hills Fire responded to 37 incidents in March and 33 incidents in April, with no major incidents occurring within the district during either month. Responses included dual-response and mutual aid calls to neighboring jurisdictions, structure fires, motor vehicle accidents, electrical hazards, and numerous unintentional fire alarm activations. Notable incidents included assistance at a house explosion on Bayberry Lane, a kitchen fire on Tunxis Avenue, a structure fire in Windsor, a residential fire on Joy Street, and a dryer fire at Pepperidge Farm that was extinguished by employees before firefighters arrived.

The department continued training activities focused on incident critiques, radio communications, hazardous materials response, departmental procedures, ground ladder operations, hazardous conditions, and a joint Mayday/CPR drill with Bloomfield Volunteer Ambulance. Chief Jones also reported continued success in volunteer recruitment, increased response participation, and additional members completing certifications to operate fire apparatus. Community outreach efforts included a school fire drill, participation in local community and memorial events, and ongoing planning for the fire departments' joint 100th anniversary celebration and Juneteenth activities.

EMS

Mr. Lou Blumenfeld, Chair- EMS Committee, reported that no formal committee meeting had been held since the previous Public Health, Safety, and Environment meeting, though committee members have continued to monitor operations through reports provided by the EMS Coordinator. It was noted that Bloomfield Volunteer Ambulance continues to operate effectively and that the committee is in the process of rescheduling its May meeting.

The representative also expressed appreciation to the Town Council for increasing funding for volunteer incentives, recognizing the exceptional efforts and ongoing contributions of Bloomfield Volunteer Ambulance volunteers.

Conservation, Energy & Environment Committee (CEEC) Updates

Mrs. Paula Jones, Chair-Conservation, Energy and Environment Committee (CEEC), reported on several sustainability initiatives and community engagement efforts during April and early May. The Town's Arbor Day celebration was well attended, featuring the planting of a white oak tree in honor of David Mann and recognition of Bloomfield's designation as a Tree City USA community for the second consecutive year. Bloomfield was also among 14 municipalities invited to participate in a sustainability-focused legislative reception at the State Capitol, highlighting the Town's ongoing environmental and community engagement efforts.

Additional outreach included participation in the Simsbury Sustainability Fair, which attracted more than 1,200 attendees and provided opportunities for networking, partnership development, and environmental education. Jones also announced that the Town's Shred Day and Small Electronics Recycling Event was rescheduled to May 30 and noted plans for a fall partnership with the Bloomfield Public Library to host a screening of *The Story of Plastic* and a community discussion focused on reducing waste and promoting environmental stewardship.

West Hartford Bloomfield Health Updates

Ms. Aimee Krauss, Health Director - West Hartford Bloomfield Health District reported on public health initiatives, services, and upcoming events:

Vaccinations and Health Services:

- The Health District continues to provide health education and preventive health services to residents.
- Staff were selected by the Connecticut Department of Public Health to assist with promoting a skin cancer awareness and prevention initiative.
- The installation of sunscreen dispensers in partnership with Leisure Services, as well as the distribution of educational materials on skin cancer prevention and sun safety.

Ongoing Community Outreach:

- The Health District continues to offer Healthy Lifestyle Workshops and naloxone (Narcan) training sessions for community members.
- Staff participated in the Bloomfield Youth Summit, providing health education materials and resources.
- Ongoing public health education efforts remain focused on prevention, wellness, and community engagement.

April Highlights and Past Events:

- April 6: A Healthy Lifestyle Workshop
- April 8: Naloxone training sessions were conducted at both the Bloomfield Public

Library and the Health District office, including participation in Save a Life Day

- The Health District collaborated with community partners and expanded outreach opportunities through state-supported public health initiatives.

April infectious disease trends:

- The Health District and Connecticut Department of Public Health continue to monitor reports related to the recent hantavirus outbreak associated with a cruise ship.
- Officials reported that the risk to Connecticut residents remains extremely low, and no known Connecticut residents have been identified as having been exposed to the outbreak.
- Information was provided regarding hantavirus transmission, symptoms, and prevention, with emphasis on avoiding exposure to rodent droppings, urine, saliva, and nesting materials.
- Residents were encouraged to take preventative measures to reduce rodent activity around homes and properties and to contact the Health District for additional information or resources.

Upcoming Initiatives:

- Additional Healthy Lifestyle Workshops and a Bone and Postural Health Workshop led by a physical therapist are planned.
- The Health District will launch its new skin cancer awareness initiative in partnership with the Connecticut Department of Public Health and Bloomfield Leisure Services.
- Educational materials and sunscreen dispensers will be made available at community locations to promote sun safety and cancer prevention.

OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS

Councilor Cooper provided an update on the Maple Avenue traffic calming project, reporting that proposed measures include raised intersections and traffic islands designed to reduce vehicle speeds. The project contract and bid documents have been submitted for legal review, with final plans expected to be completed in May, followed by the bidding process and anticipated construction later this season.

Councilor Cooper emphasized the committee's commitment to providing regular public updates on the project to ensure residents have a centralized and transparent source of information regarding its progress.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Laurie Julian, 43 Maple Ave. - expressed appreciation for the commitment to providing monthly updates on the Maple Avenue traffic calming project and inquired about whether the anticipated departure of a key staff member could impact on the project's timeline. She also raised ongoing concerns about traffic safety throughout town, particularly the volume of commercial truck traffic on residential collector roads and advocated for the creation of a

community-based traffic safety task force or committee. Ms. Julian suggested exploring lower-cost traffic safety measures, such as additional stop signs, crosswalks, and speed humps, and emphasized the importance of resident involvement in developing solutions to address speeding, truck traffic, and pedestrian safety concerns.

2. Joaner Wideman, 247 Park Ave. - expressed ongoing concerns regarding heavy truck traffic on School Street, stating that despite existing restrictions on tractor-trailer traffic, large vehicles continue to use the road regularly. She described the resulting impacts on residents, including vibrations affecting homes, concerns about property damage, deteriorating road conditions, and safety risks for pedestrians, particularly elderly residents. Ms. Wideman voiced frustration with the lack of progress since concerns were first raised in 2022 and urged the Town to move beyond updates and report toward implementing concrete traffic safety improvements and enforcement measures.

3. Anthony Gray, 118 School Street- expressed concerns about speeding, stop sign violations, and traffic congestion on School Street, particularly between West Eggleston Street and Park Avenue. He reported frequent instances of motorists failing to stop at intersections, passing stopped vehicles, and using the area as a cut-through route, creating safety concerns for residents and difficulties entering and exiting driveways. Mr. Gray requested increased traffic enforcement and consideration of additional traffic management measures, including improvements to traffic signal operations to reduce congestion. In response, Deputy Chief Hajdasz reported that police had conducted 30 traffic enforcement details and 30 motor vehicle stops on School Street so far this year, though Mr. Gray maintained that traffic safety issues in the area remain a significant concern.

4.(online) Barbara Huttinger, 41 Maple Ave.- raised concerns regarding enforcement of weight and truck restrictions on Maple Avenue, Burr Road, and Brown Road, noting ongoing issues with tractor-trailers and overweight vehicles despite posted signage. She requested clarification on enforcement data and the process for evaluating and establishing weight restrictions on additional streets.

Councilor Cooper and Deputy Chief Hajdasz responded that enforcement actions are taken when prohibited vehicles are observed but noted that some vehicles (such as certain dump trucks) are not subject to current restrictions. They also indicated that traffic and engineering staff review concerns through established channels, including coordination with police and the traffic calming process, and committed to following up with additional information on enforcement data and the review process for potential restrictions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilor Mahon, seconded by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown and voted unanimously to approve the minutes from March 11, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor Mahon, second by Councilor Oliver, and voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:43 p.m.