Town Council Meeting Agenda

Anthony C. Harrington, Mayor
Cindi A. Lloyd, Deputy Mayor
Darrell Goodwin
Elizabeth A. Waterhouse
Joseph P. Merritt
Michael J. Oliver
Shamar A. Mahon
Suzette DeBeatham-Brown
Todd E. Cooper

Monday, April 13, 2026, 7:00 pm
Town Hall – Council Chambers • 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT 06002

PLEASE NOTE: This meeting of the Town of Bloomfield will be a hybrid meeting. This means that you can attend in person, by using the Zoom link below or viewing the meeting via YouTube

https://bloomfieldct.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UZV9iIXdRD2_iVPT9KNs-g

YouTube:

https://youtube.com/live/hm1QVPPQmvY?feature=share

AGENDA

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Roll Call

III. Announcements and Presentations

A. Presentations:

- Seabury's – Seabury 150th Anniversary Celebration and Town Recognition of 1991 Seabury Land Donation
- Proclamation - Arbor Day Recognition for David Mann
- Proclamation – Regular Arbor Day Recognition

IV. Citizens' Statements and Petitions

Statements by members of the public may be oral or written and shall start with the speaker's name and address and shall continue for no longer than three (3) minutes, unless permitted by the Mayor or councilor presiding.

V. Report from Council Subcommittees

A. Governance, Policy & Economic Development – Mayor Anthony Harrington

B. Finance, Budget, Audit & Bonding – Deputy Mayor Cindi Lloyd

C. Public Health, Safety & Environment – Councilor Todd Cooper

D. Education, Workforce, Youth Development & Community Services - Councilor Michael Oliver

VI. Council Business

Consent Agenda:

A. Approval of Minutes
- March 30, 2026 - Special Meeting
- March 23, 2026 – Special Meeting
- March 18, 2026 – Special Meeting
- March 12, 2026 – Special Meeting
- March 9, 2026 – Special Meeting

B. Consider and Take Action Regarding Tax Refunds

New Business

2026-44: Consider and Take Action Regarding the Addition of Gabb Road to the Town's List of Roads Restricted to Overweight Vehicles

2026-45: Consider and Take Action Regarding Town Recognition of 1991 Seabury Land Donation and Approval for Entrance Signage

2026-46: Consider and Take Action Regarding the Review and Recommendation in the Renaming of the Bloomfield Greenway as the "Joe Merritt" Greenway

VII. Report from the Town Manager

VIII. Report from the Mayor

IX. Council Comments

X. Executive Session

(Per Freedom of Information Commission (FOIC) ruling, Executive Session matters must be itemized on public agendas)

A. Update on Pending Claims and Litigations
   i. Blue Hills Fire Department and Breach of Executive Session Confidentiality Investigation update
   ii. Wendy Taylor v. Town Clerk & Town of Bloomfield – FOIC Hearing
   iii. Rickford Kirton v. Wong, Danielle, Et Al – FOIC Hearing
   iv. Kirton, Rickford Et Al v. Wong Danielle C. Et Al Referendum Appeal

XI. Adjournment

Seabury
CHURCH HOME OF HARTFORD INC.
150 YEARS

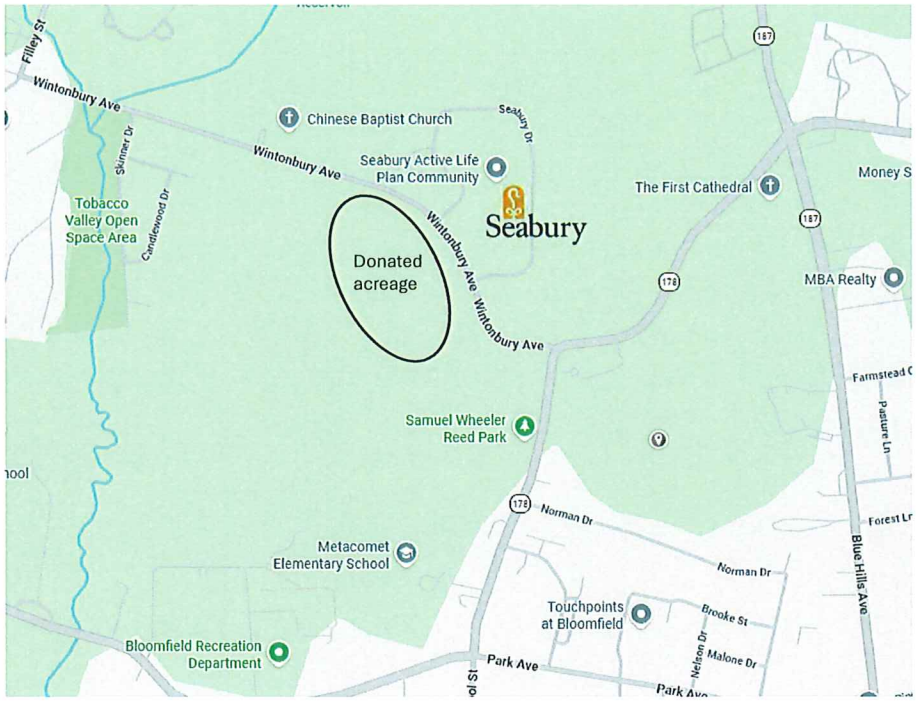
TOWN OF
BLOOMFIELD
CONNECTICUT

1

Seabury

- Throughout 2026 Church Home of Hartford, Inc. d/b/a **Seabury, is celebrating its 150th anniversary** of serving older adults in the greater Hartford community.
- Use milestone to highlight our longstanding **commitment to partnership, service, and environmental stewardship within the Town of Bloomfield** and the broader Hartford region.
- Seabury **deeded approximately 70 acres of land to the Town of Bloomfield in 1991**. This significant transfer was made to support land preservation and public benefit, and it continues to serve as an important open-space resource for residents and visitors alike.
- In recognition of this historic gift and Seabury's ongoing support of the Town, we respectfully request **formal recognition** of the 1991 land donation as part of Seabury's 150th anniversary celebration including the installation of a **recognition sign across from the main entrance to the Seabury campus**, identifying the conserved acreage and honoring Seabury's partnership with the Town.

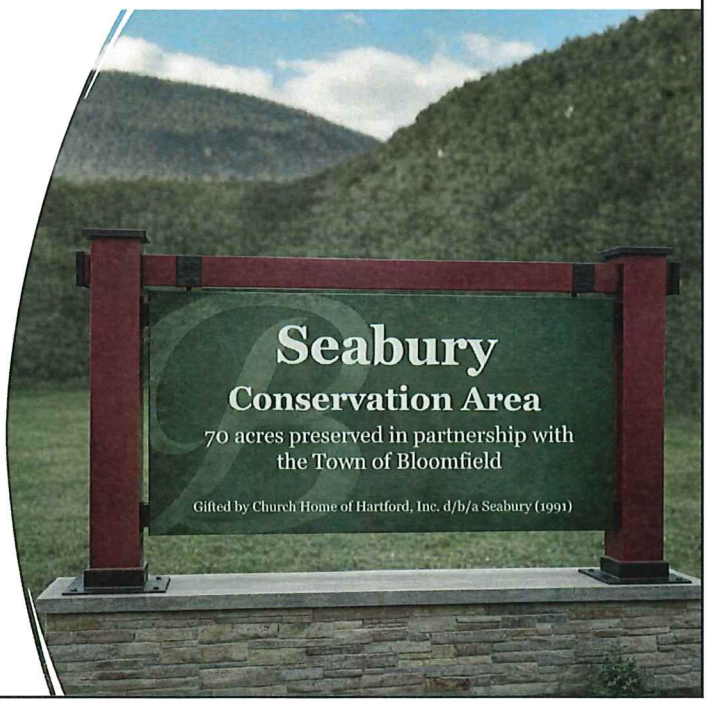
2



3

Proposed Sign Text Option A

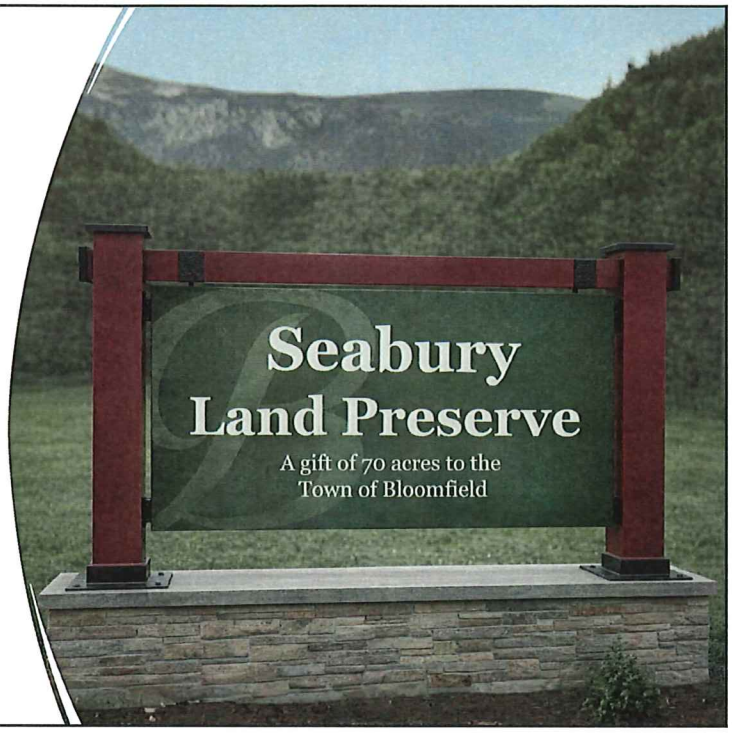
Seabury Conservation Area
70 acres preserved in partnership with the Town of Bloomfield
Gifted by
Church Home of Hartford, Inc. d/b/a Seabury (1991)



4

Proposed Sign Text Option B

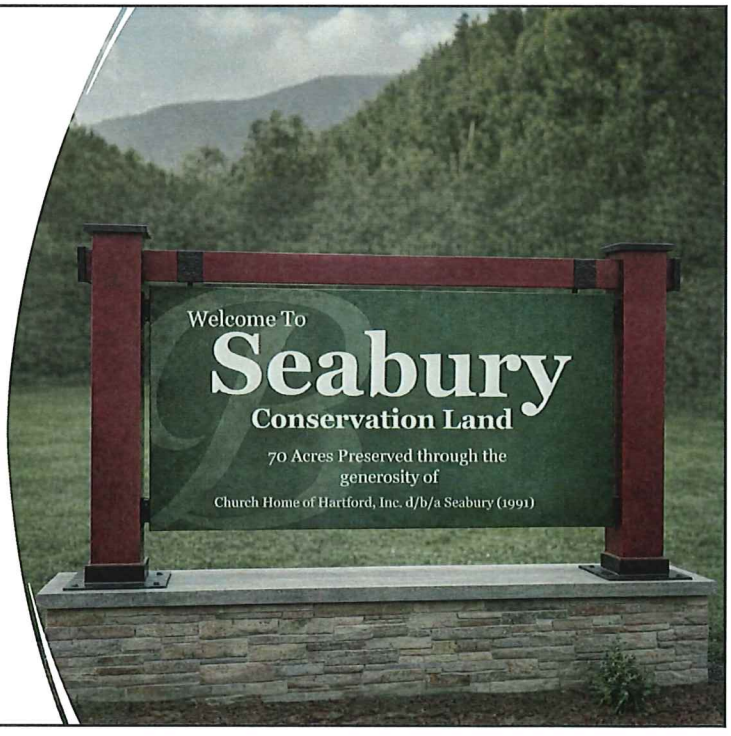
Seabury Land Preserve
A gift of 70 acres to the
Town of Bloomfield - 1991



5

Proposed Sign Text Option C

Welcome to Seabury
Conservation Land
70 Acres Preserved through the
generosity of
Church Home of Hartford, Inc.
d/b/a Seabury (1991)



6

Proclamation

Arbor Day – David M. Mann

WHEREAS, Arbor Day is observed to recognize the vital role trees play in strengthening communities, enhancing the environment, and improving the quality of life for present and future generations, ***and***

WHEREAS, David M. Mann served the Town of Bloomfield with dedication, integrity, and vision as a member of the Town Council for four years, including two years as Deputy Mayor, ***and***

WHEREAS, David M. Mann's commitment to public service extended well beyond elected office through 18 years of service on the Bloomfield Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission, leadership as Chair of the Design Review Board, service as an original member of the Community Awareness Taskforce, and contributions to the Democratic Town Committee, including work to update its bylaws, ***and***

WHEREAS, David M. Mann was a devoted environmental steward who deeply valued trees and green spaces, serving as a Trees for Bloomfield Tree Keeper, planting and caring for trees throughout town, and helping to organize the Bloomfield Arboretum, ***and***

WHEREAS, David M. Mann's legacy is one of thoughtful leadership, civic responsibility, and enduring care for the natural and built environment of Bloomfield,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Anthony C. Harrington, Mayor of the Town of Bloomfield, do hereby proclaim April 24, 2026, as Arbor Day in the Town of Bloomfield, and dedicate this day to honoring the life, service, and environmental legacy of David M. Mann.

Dated at Bloomfield, Connecticut, this 13th Day of April 2026

Anthony C. Harrington, Mayor

Deputy Mayor Cindy Lloyd, Councilor Michael J. Oliver,
Councilor Todd Cooper, Councilor Darrell Goodwin,
Councilor Suzette DeBeatham-Brown, Councilor Joseph P. Merritt,
Councilor Shamar Mahon and Councilor Elizabeth Waterhouse

Proclamation

WHEREAS, in 1872, the Nebraska Board of Agriculture established a special day to be set aside for the planting of trees, ***and***

WHEREAS, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, ***and***

WHEREAS, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, ***and***

WHEREAS, trees can be a solution to combating climate change by reducing the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cutting heating and cooling costs, moderating the temperature, cleaning the air, producing life-giving oxygen, and providing habitat for wildlife, ***and***

WHEREAS, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires, and countless other wood products, ***and***

WHEREAS, trees in our Town increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, ***and***

WHEREAS, trees — wherever they are planted — are a source of joy and spiritual renewal, ***and***

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Anthony C. Harrington, Mayor of the Town of Bloomfield, on behalf of the Bloomfield Town Council, do hereby proclaim April 24, 2026, as ARBOR DAY and urge all citizens to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, celebrate, and to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

Dated at Bloomfield, Connecticut, this 13th Day of April 2026

Anthony C. Harrington, Mayor

Deputy Mayor Cindy Lloyd, Councilor Michael J. Oliver,
Councilor Todd Cooper, Councilor Darrell Goodwin,
Councilor Suzette DeBeatham-Brown, Councilor Joseph P. Merritt,
Councilor Shamar Mahon and Councilor Elizabeth Waterhouse

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes
   - March 30, 2026 – Special Meeting
   - March 23, 2026 - Special Meeting
   - March 18, 2026 – Special Meeting
   - March 12, 2026 – Special Meeting
   - March 9, 2026 – Special Meeting

B. Consider and Take Action Regarding Tax Refunds

TOWN OF
BLOOMFIELD
CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

To: Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., *Town Manager*
Sharron L. Tai-Williams, *Deputy Town Manager*

From: Ashley A. DeJesus, CCMC, CCMO, *Tax Collector*

Through: Darrell V. Hill, *Director of Finance*

Copy: Donna J. Stewart, *Deputy Director of Finance / Controller*
Teresa A. Blesso, CCMC, CCMO, *Deputy Tax Collector*

Re: **April 2026 Tax Refunds**

Date: April 1, 2026

The attached requests for property tax refunds are submitted for your review and approval in accordance with Section 12-129 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Shown below are the reasons for the refunds above $1,000.00:

- CoreLogic is due to duplicate payments.
- JJ Landerman Roofing Inc is due to a duplicate payment.
- Tiffany Rodriguez is due to duplicate payment.

April 2026 Tax Refunds

Customer Name	List Number	Amount Refunded
CCAP Auto Lease LTD	2024-03-0052881	$408.02
JP Morgan Chase	2024-04-0081014	370.92
CoreLogic	2024-01-0006352	2,230.05
CoreLogic	2024-01-0001379	71.61
CoreLogic	2024-01-0007060	2,973.41
CoreLogic	2024-01-0002702	673.60
CoreLogic	2024-01-0004145	2,831.07
CoreLogic	2024-01-0001765	2,017.99
CoreLogic	2024-01-0000468	3,421.94
CoreLogic	2024-01-0002025	886.28
CoreLogic	2024-01-0003212	3,228.59
CoreLogic	2024-01-0006043	3,683.96
CoreLogic	2024-01-0002639	2,285.56
CoreLogic	2024-01-0002256	3,634.62
CoreLogic	2024-01-0005443	2,020.49
Dextre-Balabarca, Wuilian	2024-03-0054336	175.93
Honda Lease Trust	2024-03-0058095	481.55
JJ Landerman	2024-03-0058821	1,043.53
Kellier, Kingsley	2023-03-0059611	672.24
Rodriguez, Tiffany	2024-01-0006317	2,296.79
Ryder Truck Rental LT	2024-03-0065201	34.57
Toyota Lease Trust	2024-03-0067372	855.65
		$36,298.37

DRAFT

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

There was a special meeting of the Bloomfield Town Council held on Monday, March 30, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in a hybrid meeting style. The in-person meeting location was Bloomfield Town Hall – Council Chambers, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT, and the virtual location was via Zoom.

Councilors present were: *In-Person*—Mayor Anthony Harrington; Councilors Michael Oliver and Elizabeth Waterhouse; and *via Zoom*—Deputy Mayor Cindi Lloyd; Councilors Suzette DeBeatham-Brown, Shamar Mahon, and Joseph Merritt

Councilors absent were: Councilors Todd Cooper & Darrell Goodwin

Also present were: *In-Person*—India Rodgers, Director of Operations & Communications; and *via Zoom*—Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., Town Manager

The meeting was called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Harrington reported that S&P Global Ratings affirmed its AA rating for Bloomfield, and that the Town had been removed from credit watch negative on receipt of FY2024 audit, with a stable outlook.

Old Business

2026-42: Consider and Take Action Regarding Adoption of Resolution (Town Council Initiative – Trades Program/Robotics Program) with MakerspaceCT Program Fund Transfer

Deputy Mayor Lloyd moved adoption of the resolution for the Town Council initiative Trades Program/Robotics Program with MakerspaceCT program fund transfer. It was seconded by Councilor Waterhouse.

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown inquired as to if this was the $5,000 discussed at the previous meeting, and it was acknowledged that it was. She noted this clarity would be beneficial to all. She highlighted that this was being discussed again to get the previous meeting's motion correct.

Mayor Harrington read the full resolution.

Councilor Oliver moved that the Town Council accept the funds to Makerspace through the Board of Education for $5,000, and Deputy Mayor Lloyd seconded.

VOTE: AYE: M. Oliver, J. Merritt, E. Waterhouse, C. Lloyd, S. DeBeatham-Brown, A. Harrington
NAY: S. Mahon
ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed 6-1-0.

Adjournment

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, seconded by Councilor Waterhouse, and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Lynn Weisel, Recording Secretary, based on the Zoom Video Recording.

DRAFT

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

There was a special meeting of the Bloomfield Town Council held on Monday, March 23, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in a hybrid meeting style. The in-person meeting location was Bloomfield Town Hall – Council Chambers, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT, and the virtual location was via Zoom.

Councilors present were: *In-Person*—Mayor Anthony Harrington; Councilors Michael Oliver, Joseph Merritt, and Elizabeth Waterhouse; and *via Zoom*—Deputy Mayor Cindi Lloyd; Councilors Todd Cooper, Suzette DeBeatham-Brown, Darrell Goodwin, and Shamar Mahon (joined at 6:06 p.m.)

Councilors absent were: None

Also present were: *In-Person*—Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., Town Manager; Latonia Tabb, Clerk of Council

The meeting was called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Old Business

2026-41: Consider and Take Action Regarding Adoption of Schedule – FY2027 Budget Meetings (REVISED)

Councilor Merritt moved to adopt the FY2027 Budget Meeting schedule as revised. Councilor Waterhouse seconded.

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown shared her concerns with being out of town and likely not having access to participate in the first day of deliberations. She also shared concern with the shorter budget schedule. She requested information as to if the Town was in compliance with Section 903 of the Town Charter, which requires the Town Manager to present the budget to the Town Council no later than 90 days before the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Schwapp confirmed that the Town is within the guidelines of the Town Charter requirements.

There was a brief discussion regarding whether the video for Councilors attending remotely needed to be turned on when they are speaking.

Councilor Mahon inquired as to the reason the budget was delayed. Mr. Schwapp noted the challenges facing the Town, including finishing the FY24 audit and working on the FY25 audit, in addition to developing the budget. He reiterated that the Town is within the Town Charter, and noted that he wanted to deliver a complete budget. Councilor Mahon highlighted the importance of meeting deadlines. The difference between the Town Manager's Proposed Budget and the Town Council Adopted Budget was briefly discussed.

Councilor Merritt called the question. There was no second.

Councilor Cooper called the question. Deputy Mayor Lloyd seconded.

VOTE: AYE: T. Cooper, M. Oliver, J. Merritt, E. Waterhouse, D. Goodwin, C. Lloyd, A. Harrington

NAY: S. DeBeatham-Brown, S. Mahon
ABSTAIN: None

The motion to call the question passed 7-2-0.

There was some confusion as to what the vote was for, and it was verified that it was to call the question. Councilor DeBeatham-Brown noted that she would like to vote yes to call the question. With this change, the motion to call the question passed 8-1-0.

The original motion, to adopt the FY2027 Budget Meeting schedule as revised, was stated.

VOTE: AYE: T. Cooper, M. Oliver, J. Merritt, E. Waterhouse, C. Lloyd, A. Harrington
NAY: S. DeBeatham-Brown, S. Mahon
ABSTAIN: D. Goodwin

The motion passed 6-2-1.

2026-43: Consider and Take Action Regarding Adoption of Resolution for the Town of Bloomfield's Membership in the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority (CMDA)

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown and seconded by Councilor Oliver to join membership in the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority (CMDA).

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown expressed her appreciation for CMDA staff attending the meeting and answering Councilor comments. She noted that the community will have input in CMDA projects, that the Town will not have to pay anything out of pocket, and that CMDA can help with funding.

Mayor Harrington stated that he felt working with CMDA would be a win-win, and noted that CMDA has $90 million to distribute. He reported briefly on a few other funding opportunities.

Councilor Cooper echoed his support, and thanked Mr. Colman for bringing forward this opportunity.

Councilor Oliver called the question, Councilor Cooper seconded, and the motion to call the question passed unanimously.

The original motion, adoption of resolution for the Town of Bloomfield's membership in the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority, was restated, and a roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Councilor Waterhouse, and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Lynn Weisel, Recording Secretary, based on the YouTube Video Recording.

DRAFT

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

There was a special meeting of the Bloomfield Town Council held on Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in a hybrid meeting style. The in-person meeting location was Bloomfield Town Hall – Council Chambers, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT, and the virtual location was via Zoom.

Councilors present were: *In-Person*—Mayor Anthony Harrington; Councilor Suzette DeBeatham-Brown; and *via Zoom*—Deputy Mayor Cindi Lloyd; Councilors Michael Oliver, Shamar Mahon, and Todd Cooper

Councilors absent were: Councilors Darrell Goodwin, Joseph Merritt, and Elizabeth Waterhouse

Also present were:

- **Town Staff**: *In-Person*—Jon Colman, Director of Building & Land Use; Warren Plumber, Director of Information Technology & Innovation; Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., Town Manager; Latonia Tabb, Clerk of Council; and *via Zoom*—Sharron Howe, Deputy Town Manager
- **Guests**: *In-Person*—from Connecticut Municipal Development Authority (CMDA): Emily Hultquist and David Kooris

The meeting was called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing – Adoption of Resolution for the Town of Bloomfield's Membership in the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority (CMDA)

Ms. Emily Hultquist, Connecticut Municipal Development Authority (CMDA) Program Manager, provided a brief overview of CMDA, and how they could support Bloomfield should the Town become a CMDA member.

There was an open question and answer time with Town Council:

- Councilor DeBeatham-Brown inquired if areas other than downtown were available for CMDA support. Ms. Hultquist reported that Bloomfield's downtown and half-mile surrounding the downtown would be the development district. Mr. Kooris highlighted CMDA's statutory regulations limiting their focus to downtown.

- It was noted that being a member of CMDA does not preclude Bloomfield from being a member of CRCOG. Mr. Kooris provided additional information about the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA), Bloomfield's status with CRDA and eligibility to work with CMDA.

- Councilor DeBeatham-Brown inquired how CMDA would be able to support the new housing bill requirements. Ms. Hultquist highlighted that CMDA could assist with the development process as a funding partner and through zoning technical assistance. Mr. Kooris reported that CMDA could help with municipal infrastructure and economic constraints.

- Deputy Mayor Lloyd inquired about the cost to the Town. It was noted that CMDA is funded through state bond funding. There is no cost to the municipality for CMDA membership, for additional technical assistance, nor for direct financing support for a development project. If the Town requests an infrastructure grant there will be a negotiated cost share to the municipality.

- Councilor Mahon asked about the process from withdrawing from CMDA membership, if needed. Mr. Kooris reported that there is no downside to opting-in to CMDA, and that CRDA boundaries are defined by the state legislature.

- It was noted that there is no cap to requests, and amounts are assessed on a first-come, first-serve project by project basis. CMDA has been allocated $90 million through June 2027.

- There was a discussion about cost-sharing and the variety of options available, including TIF. It was noted that cost-sharing would only apply if the Town requested a CMDA grant, and would be negotiated based on local conditions.

- Community support was discussed, and Mr. Kooris reported that CMDA only gets involved with projects that have been through the local entitlement process.

- Mr. Kooris clarified the direct role CMDA has with developers.

- Councilor Mahon inquired about project prioritization and criteria. Mr. Koonis highlighted CMDA's statutory purpose to reinforce downtown vibrancy and transit ridership through housing and economic development, and provided some examples.

Public Question & Comment:

- **Wendy Williams, 48 Gabb Road**, asked about the impact of Fastrak stations, and if they would be considered an additional district. Mr. Kooris reported that it is currently a matter of interpretation, that at least one other municipality is also asking about this, and that CMDA will find out. Ms. Williams expressed her support for CMDA membership.

Adjournment

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd, seconded by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Lynn Weisel, Recording Secretary, based on the Zoom and YouTube Video Recordings.

Minutes not yet approved.
Approval and any edits to be made in succeeding minutes.

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

There was a special meeting of the above reference held on Thursday March 12, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in a hybrid meeting format via Zoom webinar virtual platform. The in-person location was Council Chambers, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT

Councilor(s): *In-person*: Mayor Anthony Harrington; Councilor Michael Oliver ***via Zoom:*** Deputy Mayor Cindi Lloyd; Todd Cooper (7:04 p.m.); Elizabeth Waterhouse; Joseph Merritt; Suzette DeBeatham-Brown; Shamar Mahon.

Councilor(s): *Absent*: Darrell Goodwin

Others Absent: Latonia Tabb, Clerk of Council

Others present- *In-person:* Warren Plummer, Director of IT; Annatouchur Kingland, Senior Administrative Assistant, and ***via Zoom:*** Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., Town Manager

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance

It was moved by Councilor Mahon, seconded by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown and voted unanimously to move Citizens' Statements and Petitions before New Business.

Citizens' Statements and Petitions

Statements by members of the public may be oral or written and shall start with the speaker's name and address and shall continue for no longer than three (3) minutes, unless permitted by the Mayor or councilor presiding.

The Clerk of Council opened the floor for citizens' statements and petitions. Residents expressed concerns about various town issues during the council meeting.

1. **Joaner Weidma, Park Ave.,** expressed concern about tractor-trailer trucks repeatedly traveling down School Street despite posted restrictions limiting such traffic to local deliveries. He reported that the heavy trucks are causing road damage and vibrations to his over-100-year-old home, and requested improved signage, possible flashing lights, or increased police enforcement to address the issue.

2. **Robert Berman, 8 Hiram Lane**, stated that two state education grant payments totaling approximately $2.64 million have not appeared in finance reports and expressed concern about the accuracy of financial reporting. He also requested responses to previously

raised issues, questioned the status of a draft audit reportedly submitted to the state, and indicated he would seek access to the document as a public record.

3. **Gail Riley, Maple Ave., (online),** expressed concern about the proposed robotics and trades program transfer, stating that such initiatives should be funded by the Board of Education rather than town taxpayer dollars. She also questioned the sustainability of using limited funds for the program and suggested those resources be prioritized for other municipal needs, such as financial staffing and timely audits.

4. **Erin Barringer, 28 Kenmore Rd, (online),** expressed support for the Makerspace fund transfer to the Trades in Robotics program, stating that partnerships and supplemental funding can enhance educational opportunities without replacing the Board of Education's budget. She noted that the program would provide hands-on learning, workforce development, and STEM-related skills, and encouraged the Town Council to support the initiative as an investment in students' future careers.

Councilors discussed the concerns from residence ensuring their questions are being heard.

Councilor Cooper addressed that during special meetings, changes to the agenda cannot be made.

NEW BUSINESS

2026-42: Consider and Take Action Regarding Adoption of Resolution (Town Council Initiative- Trades Program/Robotics Program) with MakerspaceCT Program Fund Transfer

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown requested clarification on the urgency of the funding transfer, program budgets, and the number of students served, seeking a better understanding of the financial need and timing. Councilor Oliver explained that the $5,000 transfer was a one-time request from the Board of Education to complete funding for the robotics program, noting there is no ongoing Town budget for the initiative and expressing support for the community benefit.

Deputy Mayor Lloyd called the question, and Councilor Waterhouse seconded.

VOTE: **AYE:** T. Cooper, S. DeBeatham-Brown, M. Oliver, J. Merritt, C. Lloyd, E. Waterhouse, A. Harrington

NAY: S. Mahon

ABSTAIN: None

The vote to call the question passed 7-1-0.

No motion was made to adopt the resolution. A subsequent meeting will be required to take action.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, seconded by Councilor Waterhouse, and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Latonia Tabb, Clerk of Council, based on the Zoom Video Recording.

Minutes not yet approved.
Approval and any edits to be made in succeeding minutes.

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

There was a special meeting of the above reference held on Monday March 9, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in a hybrid meeting format via Zoom webinar virtual platform. The in-person location was Council Chambers, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT

Councilor(s): *In-person*: Mayor Anthony Harrington; ***via Zoom;*** Deputy Mayor Cindi Lloyd; Todd Cooper (7:04 p.m.); Darrell Goodwin; Joseph Merritt; Suzette DeBeatham-Brown; Shamar Mahon (7:04 p.m.); Michael Oliver.

Councilor(s): *Absent*: Elizabeth Waterhouse

Others present- *In-person:* Latonia Tabb, Clerk of Council; India Rogers, Director of Operations & Communications; Darrell Hill, Chief Financial Officer/Director of Finance; Warren Plummer, Director of IT; Jon Colman, Director Building & Land Use; Camilla Hilliman, Director Bloomfield Social and Youth Services; Annatouchur Kingland, Senior Administrative Andrew Crumbie, Town Attorney, Crumbie Law Group, LLC; Denise Robidoux and Dave Driver, Goman + York: ***via Zoom:*** From Goman + York, Mike Goman and June LaFoutain.

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance

ANNOUNCEMENTS and PRESENTATIONS

A. Announcement:

Appointment of Sub-registrar Michael Weinstein of Weinstein Mortuary made in Accordance with CGS 7-65

Mayor Anthony C. Harrington expressed appreciation to Bloomfield High School for its upcoming choir presentation. He formally announced the appointment of Michael Weinstein as Sub-Registrar for the Town of Bloomfield in accordance with CGS 7-65.

B. Presentations:

Bloomfield Junior Warhawk

Mr. Trevor Ford, President of the Bloomfield Junior Warhawks, along with Founder Mr. James Jenkins and Vice President Mr. Quentin McDonald, addressed the Council to express appreciation for municipal support, highlighting the program's growth over five years and its

positive impact on youth through football and cheer. They noted significant achievements, including regional championships, national rankings, and expansion to multiple teams, attributing success to community partnerships and Town resources. Mayor Harrington commended the organization's accomplishments, noted strong community participation, and indicated that a formal citation recognizing their success would be forthcoming.

Proclamation Recognizing Black History Month

Mayor Harrington read a proclamation recognizing February 2026 as Black History Month in the Town of Bloomfield, honoring the history, achievements, and contributions of Black Americans locally and nationally. The proclamation acknowledged the impact of Black residents on the town's civic, cultural, educational, and economic development, while reaffirming a commitment to equity, inclusion, and addressing ongoing inequities. Residents were encouraged to continue participating in activities that celebrate and recognize these contributions beyond the month of February.

Black History Presentation

Mayor Harrington introduced the Bloomfield High School choir, noting their recent performance and inviting them to present under the direction of Ms. Lisa Clayton. The choir performed **"**Lift Every Voice and Sing**"** in recognition of Black History Month, followed by **"**The Star-Spangled Banner.**"**

Ms. Tiffany Wright, Assistant Youth Services Coordinator, introduced a group of youth from Project 330 and other Youth Services programs, who performed a Black History skit titled *"A World Without Black People."* The skit illustrated the significant contributions of Black inventors and leaders by depicting a world lacking essential everyday innovations, emphasizing the profound impact of Black history on modern life.

Following the performances, Mayor Harrington and Council members commended the students for their outstanding presentation and expressed appreciation for their participation.

Goman & York Updates on Town Plans

Ms. Denise Robidoux, Executive VP and COO, and Mr. Dave Driver, Senior VP of Business Development of Goman + York, provided an update on Bloomfield's economic development efforts, highlighting the Town Center Plan, community engagement, and ongoing initiatives to attract and support housing and business growth. They emphasized business retention as a priority, citing successful expansions by Cigna, Trader Joe's, and Pepperidge Farm, while also supporting small businesses and connecting them with state resources to promote job creation and tax revenue for the town.

Citizens' Statements and Petitions

Statements by members of the public may be oral or written and shall start with the speaker's name and address and shall continue for no longer than three (3) minutes, unless permitted by the Mayor or councilor presiding.

The Clerk of Council opened the floor for citizens' statements and petitions. Residents expressed

concerns about various town issues during the council meeting.

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown requested that the Town Council take a moment of thought and prayers to the house explosion on Banbury Lane and to the affected family and residents, noting ongoing hardships such as power outages in the area. The Town Council observed a moment of reflection in support of the community.

There were no public comments from in-person or online during this session.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Governance, Policy & Economic Development- Mayor Anthony C. Harrington

Mayor Harrington reported that the draft Boards and Commissions SOP, originally discussed in February, will be presented at the next regular Council meeting. He also noted updates from Mr. Coleman on business development, highlighting increased economic activity and multiple ongoing projects with developers working through the Planning Department.

B. Finance, Budget, Audit & Bonding- Deputy Mayor Cindi A. Lloyd

Deputy Mayor Lloyd provided the monthly and year-to-date fiscal update, noting that the 2024 audit is in its final review stages with an expected clearance by the end of March, which would remove the town from the state watch list. She also reported that departmental budget preparations for 2025 are underway, and a Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for March 16 to provide further updates on the audits and active budget.

C. Public Health, Safety & Environment- Councilor Todd E. Cooper

Councilor Cooper provided an update on the recent Public Safety and Health Committee meeting from February, highlighting updates from the Police Department on local incidents, including larcenies and a non-fatal shooting, as well as Fire Department activity, training, and their upcoming 100th anniversary. Updates were also provided on the town's Conservation, Energy, and Environment initiatives, including the Tree City application and sustainability programs, and the West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District's public health efforts, such as vaccination monitoring, infectious disease tracking, and community wellness programs. The upcoming meeting is Wednesday March 11 at 6:00 p.m.

D. Education, Workforce, Youth Development & Community Services- Councilor Michael J. Oliver

Councilor Oliver reported that 330 Park discussed various ongoing town programs, including a robotics initiative in collaboration with the Town Council and Board of Education. She also noted an upcoming Workforce Education Development meeting scheduled for 6:00 p.m. March 10.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA

A. **Approval of Minutes**
   - February 2, 2026- Special Meeting
   - February 9, 2026- Special Meeting

B. **Consider and Take Action Regarding Tax Refunds**
   - February 2026
   - March 2026

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd, seconded by Councilor Goodwin, and voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

2026-41: Consider and Take Action Regarding Adoption of Schedule- FY 2027 Budget Meetings

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd, seconded by Councilor Goodwin, and voted unanimously to adopt the schedule-FY 2027 Budget Meetings.

2026-42: Consider and Take Action Regarding Adoption of Resolution (Town Council Initiative-Trades Program/Robotics Program) with MakerspaceCT Program Fund Transfer

It was moved by Councilor Oliver, seconded by Councilor Mahon, and voted unanimously to table this discussion for more clarification of the item.

2026:43: Consider and Take Action Regarding Adoption of Resolution for the Town of Bloomfield's Membership in the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority (CMDA)

Mr. Jon Colman, Director of Building & Land Use, presented a resolution for the Town of Bloomfield to join the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority (CMDA), explaining that the authority provides technical and funding assistance to support economic development and town center revitalization. Councilors discussed the process for public input, with some advocating for a formal public hearing and others supporting a presentation with a question-and-answer session to allow residents to ask questions.

It was moved by Councilor Mahon, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lloyd, and voted unanimously to schedule a public hearing for Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. for comment. Once completed, the Town Council will act on the adoption of resolution for the Town of Bloomfield's Membership in the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority (CMDA).

REPORT FROM TOWN MANAGER

On behalf of Mr. Alvin D. Schwapp Jr., Town Manager, Mr. Darrell Hill, Chief Finance Officer/Director of Finance reported highlighted several town updates recognizing the Bloomfield Public Library's Prosser project for receiving the 2026 Build Connecticut Award, with special acknowledgment to Library Director Ms. Elizabeth Lane and Library Building Committee Chair Mr. Mark Wiseman for their leadership and dedication. He also noted the upcoming Employee of the Year recognition for 2025, honoring the four quarterly winners. Director Hill highlighted recent community events, including Read Across America at Laurel Literacy Academy—attended by Mayor Harrington, Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, Town Manager Schwab, and Ms. Elizabeth Lane—and the She Leads GOV Virtual Summit, with special recognition to Ms. India Rogers, Director of Operations and Communications, for her coordination. Additionally, he shared information on the upcoming Feed the Children resource rally on April 16th, led by Mrs. Camilla Hillian, Director of Social and Youth Services, and provided an update on the Fiscal Year 2024 audit, now in its final stages

REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Harrington reported on a visit to Bloomfield High School with the Governor and Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, noting a Q&A session with students, musical performances, and a luncheon where he discussed high special education fees and support for lower-grade students impacted by COVID. He mentioned ongoing discussions about downtown development and potential CIF assistance, affordable housing, and highlighted a new development at 620 Cottage Grove Road, expected to create over 100 jobs, generate substantial tax revenue, and preserve 40% of the land, with a public reception scheduled for March 12th. He also noted The First Cathedral's three-phase affordable housing project, ongoing developments, and progress on the 164-unit building on Blue Hills Avenue, awaiting identification of a compliance officer.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Todd Cooper offered thoughts and prayers for the family affected by the recent house explosion, wishing for everyone's safety and hoping for a story of resilience to emerge.

Councilor Suzette DeBeatham-Brown thanked the Town Manager, his staff, the Council, and the Town Attorney for a thoughtful gift supporting her recovery. She also reflected on a recent Education Committee public hearing regarding the education cost share, expressing disappointment that more Bloomfield residents and leaders did not attend, and emphasized the importance of proactively providing information to prevent misinformation from filling any void.

Councilor Shamar Mahon expressed sympathy for the family affected by the Banbury Lane explosion, noting personal familiarity with those involved. He extended prayers for their safety and well-being, acknowledged the wider impact on nearby residents, including power outages on his street, and wished everyone safety and a good evening.

Councilor Michael Oliver expressed sympathy for the community affected by the Banbury Lane explosion, acknowledging the difficulty of the situation and hoping for a safe and positive

outcome for all involved.

Councilor Joseph Merritt reflected on recent visits to historical sites and expressed concern about efforts to distort or minimize the history of slavery. He emphasized the continued importance of Black History Month to preserve accurate historical understanding.

Councilor Elizabeth Waterhouse Absent

Councilor Darrell Goodwin acknowledged and celebrated the talents of the young people during Black History Month presentations, offered thoughts and prayers for residents affected by recent events, and highlighted the *In God's Backyard* initiative, noting support of faith-based partnerships to advance affordable housing in Bloomfield.

Deputy Mayor Cindi Lloyd expressed symphony and lifted the family and their loved ones in prayer.

Mayor Anthony Harrington expressed concern and prayers for the neighbor affected by the recent incident, thanked Lisa Clayton and the Bloomfield High School choir for performing both the Black National Anthem and the National Anthem, and highlighted ongoing town development efforts, including engagement with CMDA and upcoming projects such as the Cottage Grove Road development. He also invited residents to attend the developer's public meeting at 330 Park on Thursday to learn more and share questions or concerns.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Mayor Harrington, seconded by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown and voted unanimously to move into Executive Session at 8:53 p.m. Item – Pending Claims and Litigation. It was moved by Councilor Oliver, seconded by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown and voted unanimously to end executive session at 9:38 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, seconded by Councilor Merritt, and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 p.m.

TO: Town Councilors

FROM: Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., Town Manager

DATE: April 9, 2026

RE: FY2026-44: ADOPTION OF GABB ROAD TO THE TOWN'S LIST OF ROADS RESTRICTED TO OVERWEIGHT VEHICLES

Please review the attached memorandum dated October 8, 2025, from the Chief of Police, Paul Hammick, regarding the proposed restriction of oversized vehicles on Gabb Road.

The memorandum provides the Town Council with detailed information regarding the request to restrict oversized vehicles from using Gabb Road.

Should Council wish to move forward, the following motion will be in order:

> Move to accept the Local Road Safety Committee recommendation to restrict Oversized Vehicles on Gabb Road.

BLOOMFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
785 Park Avenue; Bloomfield, Connecticut 06002-244
Routine (860) 242-5501 Admin (860) 242-6060 Fax (860) 242-9316
www.bloomfieldct.org

MEMORANDUM

To: Alvin D Schwapp Jr.
Town Manager

From: Paul B Hammick
Chief of Police

Date: October 8, 2025

Re: **Gabb Rd Restriction of Oversized Vehicles**

As the Legal Traffic Authority for the Town of Bloomfield, I concur with the recommendation of the Town of Bloomfield Local Road Safety Committee.

Gabb Rd Restriction of Oversized Vehicles:

Based on a review of Chapter 19, Article VI of the Bloomfield Code of Ordinances, The Local Road Safety Committee recommends the restriction of oversized vehicles on Gabb Road based on the following reasons:

- The residential nature and land use of adjacent properties.
- The narrow width of pavement and lack of side walks along Gabb Road.
- The availability of Mountain Avenue (State Route 178) and Bloomfield Avenue (State Route 189) as easily accessible alternative routes.
- The sightline at the northwest end of Gabb Road turning onto Mountain Avenue (State Route 178) is restricted due to the severe angle of the intersection.
- Gabb Road was the subject of a traffic calming application where residents complained of excessive speeds, high volumes, truck traffic and pedestrian safety at a public information session.

TO: Town Councilors

FROM: Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., Town Manager ADS

DATE: April 9, 2026

RE: FY2026-45: TOWN RECOGNITION OF 1991 SEABURY LAND DONATION AND APPROVAL FOR ENTRANCE SIGNAGE

Please review the attached documentation from Seabury, dated December 31, 2025. Seabury has informed the Town of Bloomfield that they are celebrating their 150th anniversary of serving older adults in the Greater Hartford community. As part of this milestone, Seabury is requesting that the Bloomfield Town Council recognize their longstanding partnership, service, and commitment to environmental stewardship with the Town of Bloomfield.

In 1991, Seabury deeded approximately 70 acres of land to the Town of Bloomfield. In recognition of their 150th anniversary, Seabury is requesting that the Town Council consider the following:

1. Formal recognition of the 1991 land donation as part of Seabury's 150th anniversary celebration
2. Approval to collaborate with the Town on the installation of a recognition sign across from the main entrance to the Seabury campus, identifying the conserved acreage and honoring Seabury's partnership with the Town. Seabury has indicated that it will cover the cost of the sign and installation.

Should Council wish to move forward, the following motion will be in order:

Move to adopt the attached resolution:

TITLE:
Resolution Recognizing the 150th Anniversary of Church Home of Hartford, Inc.d/b/a Seabury and Designating the Donated Open Space in Honor of Seabury's Conservation Legacy

WHEREAS, Church Home of Hartford, Inc. d/b/a Seabury ("Seabury") is celebrating its 150th anniversary of mission-driven service to older adults and to the greater Hartford community; and

WHEREAS, Seabury has maintained a longstanding partnership with the Town of Bloomfield, advancing shared values of community service, environmental stewardship, and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, Seabury deeded approximately seventy (70) acres ofland to the Town of Bloomfield in 1991 for conservation and public benefit; and

WHEREAS, this contribution has preserved vital natural resources, wildlife habitat, and open space for the enjoyment and benefit of present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, Seabury has further expressed its intent, in connection with its 150th anniversary, to continue its commitment to environmental stewardship through the donation of native tree seedlings for planting within the Town; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the Town of Bloomfield to formally recognize this significant land donation and Seabury's continued conservation leadership;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Bloomfield that:

1. *Recognition of Land Donation*
   The Town of Bloomfield formally recognizes and expresses its gratitude to Church Home of Hartford, Inc. d/b/a Seabury for its longstanding partnership and for the conveyance of approximately seventy (70) acres of conserved land in 1991.

2. *Designation of Conserved Land*
   The conserved acreage is hereby designated as the [choose one: "Seabury Conservation Area" / "Seabury Land Preserve" / "Seabury Open Space"] (the "Property").

3. *Authorization and Implementation*
   The Town Manager, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed to:

   a. *Collaborate with Seabury to finalize the official name of the Property;*
   b. *Coordinate the installation of a recognition sign across from the main entrance to the Seabury campus, acknowledging the 1991land donation and Seabury's conservation legacy;*
   c. *Update Town records, maps, and public communications to reflect the designation of the Property;*
   d. *Organize, in partnership with Seabury, a public dedication or recognition event; and*

e. *Coordinate with Seabury regarding the donation and planting of up to one-hundred and fifty (150) native tree seedlings over the coming years, which may include White Oak (Quercus alba), Red Oak (Quercus rubra), Sugar Maple (Acer saccharum), Red Maple (Acer rubrum), American Beech (Fagus grandifolia), and Eastern Redbud (Cercis canadensis), or other native species as approved by the Town, in support of Bloomfield's conservation, land management, and sustainability goals.*

4. *Recordkeeping*

   The Town Clerk shall enter this Resolution into the official records of the Town of Bloomfield and transmit a certified copy to Church Home of Hartford, Inc. d/b/a Seabury.

December 31, 2025

Town Council
Town of Bloomfield
Attn: Alvin Schwapp
800 Bloomfield Avenue
Bloomfield, CT 06002

Subject: Request for Town Recognition of 1991 Seabury Land Donation and Approval for Entrance Signage

Dear Members of the Bloomfield Town Council,

On behalf of Church Home of Hartford, Inc. d/b/a Seabury, I am pleased to share that in 2026 Seabury is celebrating its **150th anniversary of serving older adults in the greater Hartford community**. This milestone highlights our longstanding commitment to partnership, service, and environmental stewardship within the Town of Bloomfield and the broader Hartford region.

As part of that commitment, Seabury **deeded approximately 70 acres of land to the Town of Bloomfield in 1991**. This significant transfer was made to support land preservation and public benefit, and it continues to serve as an important open-space resource for residents and visitors alike.

In recognition of this historic gift and Seabury's ongoing support of the Town, we respectfully request the Town Council's consideration of the following:

1. **Formal recognition** of the 1991 land donation as part of Seabury's 150th anniversary celebration; and

2. **Approval to collaborate with the Town** on the installation of a recognition sign across from the main entrance to the Seabury campus, identifying the conserved acreage and honoring Seabury's partnership with the Town. Seabury would cover the cost of sign and installation.

Proposed naming options for the conserved land include:

- Seabury Conservation Area
- Seabury Land Preserve
- Seabury Open Space

200 SEABURY DRIVE, BLOOMFIELD, CT 06002 PHONE (860) 286-0243 FAX (860) 242-4552
WEBSITE WWW.SEABURYCARES.ORG EMAIL SCF@SEABURYLIFE.ORG

In addition, as part of our anniversary commitment to environmental stewardship, **Seabury would be pleased to donate up to one-hundred and fifty (150) native trees (seedlings)** to be planted on the conserved land or at other appropriate locations within the Town of Bloomfield **over the next several years**, in coordination with Town staff and consistent with local conservation goals.

We would be pleased to work closely with Town leadership to confirm the naming, design, placement of the sign, and the timing and location of the tree plantings so that each aligns with municipal standards and reflects the significance of this shared legacy.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request and for your continued partnership with Seabury as we commemorate 150 years of mission-driven service. We look forward to collaborating on this meaningful recognition.

Sincerely,



Renee J. Bernasconi, MBA, LNHA
President & CEO
Church Home of Hartford, Inc. d/b/a Seabury
reneebernasconi@seaburylife.org/860-243-6023

Proposed Final Sign Text

Option A

Seabury Conservation Area
70 acres preserved in partnership with the Town of Bloomfield

Gifted by
Church Home of Hartford, Inc. d/b/a Seabury (1991)

Option B

Seabury Land Preserve

A gift of 70 acres to the

Town of Bloomfield - 1991

Option C

Seabury Conservation Land - 70 Acres

Preserved through the generosity of

Church Home of Hartford, Inc. d/b/a Seabury (1991)

Town of Bloomfield

Town Council Resolution

TITLE:
Resolution Recognizing the 150th Anniversary of Church Home of Hartford, Inc. d/b/a Seabury and Designating the Donated Open Space in Honor of Seabury's Conservation Legacy

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WHEREAS, Church Home of Hartford, Inc. d/b/a Seabury ("Seabury") is celebrating its **150th anniversary of mission-driven service** to older adults and to the greater Hartford community; and

WHEREAS, Seabury has maintained a longstanding partnership with the Town of Bloomfield, advancing shared values of community service, environmental stewardship, and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, Seabury deeded approximately **seventy (70) acres of land to the Town of Bloomfield in 1991** for conservation and public benefit; and

WHEREAS, this contribution has preserved vital natural resources, wildlife habitat, and open space for the enjoyment and benefit of present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, Seabury has further expressed its intent, in connection with its 150th anniversary, to continue its commitment to environmental stewardship through the donation of native tree seedlings for planting within the Town; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the Town of Bloomfield to formally recognize this significant land donation and Seabury's continued conservation leadership;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Bloomfield that:

1. **Recognition of Land Donation**
   The Town of Bloomfield formally recognizes and expresses its gratitude to Church Home of Hartford, Inc. d/b/a Seabury for its longstanding partnership and for the conveyance of approximately seventy (70) acres of conserved land in 1991.

2. **Designation of Conserved Land**
   The conserved acreage is hereby designated as the **[choose one: "Seabury Conservation Area" / "Seabury Land Preserve" / "Seabury Open Space"]** (the "Property").

3. **Authorization and Implementation**
   The Town Manager, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed to:

   a. Collaborate with Seabury to finalize the official name of the Property;

   b. Coordinate the installation of a recognition sign **across from the main entrance to the Seabury campus**, acknowledging the 1991 land donation and Seabury's conservation legacy;

   c. Update Town records, maps, and public communications to reflect the designation of the Property;

   d. Organize, in partnership with Seabury, a public dedication or recognition event; and

   e. Coordinate with Seabury regarding the **donation and planting of up to one-hundred and fifty (150) native tree seedlings over the coming years**, which may include **White Oak (*Quercus alba*), Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*), Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*), Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*), American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), and Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)**, or other native species as approved by the Town, in support of Bloomfield's conservation, land management, and sustainability goals.

4. **Recordkeeping**
   The Town Clerk shall enter this Resolution into the official records of the Town of Bloomfield and transmit a certified copy to Church Home of Hartford, Inc. d/b/a Seabury.

Adopted by the Bloomfield Town Council this ___ day of _____, 2026.

Chair, Town Council

ATTEST: _____
Town Clerk

TO: Town Councilors

FROM: Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., Town Manager ADS

DATE: April 9, 2026

RE: FY2026-46: REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION IN THE RENAMING OF THE BLOOMFIELD GREENWAY AS THE "JOE MERRITT" GREENWAY

At the April 6, 2026, Governance, Policy, and Economic Subcommittee meeting, a motion was made by Councilor Cooper, seconded by Mayor Anthony Harrington, to forward this item to the next Town Council Meeting for consideration. The motion passed unanimously.

The attached memorandum and supporting documents from the Director of Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services, Dave Melesko, provide additional details regarding the review and recommendation to rename the Bloomfield Greenway as the "Joe Merritt" Greenway.

Should Council wish to move forward, the following motion will be in order:

> Move to schedule a public hearing at the next regularly scheduled Town Council meeting.

Background Memorandum

To: Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., Town Manager
Cc: Sharron L. Tai-Williams, Deputy Town Manager
From: David Melesko, Director of Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services
Date: March 31, 2026
Subject: Naming of the Bloomfield Greenway the "Joe Merritt Greenway"

Purpose

This background memorandum is submitted in accordance with Town of Bloomfield Policy 110.01 (Naming/Renaming Policy for Town Facilities, adopted February 10, 2014 and amended February 14, 2022). It provides supporting information for the naming of the Bloomfield Greenway (the multi-use trail section of the East Coast Greenway located within the Town of Bloomfield, including the in-design segment from Tyler Street to Blue Hills Avenue) as the "Joe Merritt Greenway."

Pursuant to Section II of Policy 110.01, the request is respectfully recommended to be referred to the Governance, Policy & Economic Development Subcommittee for evaluation and recommendation prior to consideration by the Town Council. A public hearing will be required prior to final Town Council action.

Background

The Bloomfield Greenway is a developing multi-use trail that forms part of the East Coast Greenway, a 3,000-mile regional network connecting communities from Florida to Maine. Bloomfield has already completed initial segments (with state grant support completed in 2019) and continues active planning and construction for additional sections, including the Tyler Street to Blue Hills Avenue segment. The Greenway provides safe, accessible recreational and transportation opportunities for walking, biking, and community connectivity; promotes environmental stewardship; supports public health; and enhances the Town's quality of life. It is town-owned public land and a recreational facility under the authority of the Town Council.

The naming of the Bloomfield Greenway the "Joe Merritt Greenway" was brought forth and recommended by residents Sharon Mann, 1 Adams Road, Bloomfield, CT, Ruthanne Marchette, 669 Bloomfield Avenue, and Elizabeth A. Merrow, Seabury Retirement Community in written format dated March 12, 2026 and was supported by the Bloomfield Conservation, Energy & Environment Committee (CEEC) at the March 12, 2026 meeting

with the following motion:

> *It was moved by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Ms. Gwardyak, and voted unanimously for CEEC to support efforts to rename the Bloomfield segment of the East Coast Greenway in honor of Joseph Merritt.*

Contributions of Councilor Joseph Merritt
In addition to his decades long service of being a Town Councilor for the Town of Bloomfield, Councilor Joseph Merritt has demonstrated extraordinary, long-term leadership in the planning, advocacy, and development of trails and greenways in Bloomfield. His contributions include:

- As early as 2005, personally surveying and documenting the potential route of the East Coast Greenway through Bloomfield, laying critical groundwork for what has become a key local and regional asset.
- Serving as Chair of the Town Council's Trails Committee, where he has provided consistent, visionary leadership in advancing trail development and greenway planning.
- Championing the trail connection through Bloomfield for many years, including efforts to secure funding, coordinate with regional partners (such as the Capitol Region Council of Governments), and drive public support for the project.
- Receiving the Connecticut Greenways Council Special Achievement Award in 2015 in recognition of his statewide contributions to greenway initiatives.

Councilor Merritt's work reflects core community values of connectivity, stewardship of the land, and commitment to future generations. His efforts have directly advanced the success of the Bloomfield Greenway and enhanced the Town's recreational infrastructure and heritage.

Alignment with Policy 110.01 Naming/Renaming Town Facilities and Honorary Street Name Designation

- **Positive Impact (Section III.A):** Councilor Merritt has made a significant, positive impact on the history, tradition, and success of the Town of Bloomfield through his decades of dedicated public service focused on trails and greenways.
- **Parks, Town-Owned Buildings, and Recreational Facilities (Section IV.A):** The proposed name honors a local figure whose work is tied to the geographic and recreational features of the community. It is appropriate, reflects Bloomfield's commitment to active transportation and open space, and is compatible with community interests.
- **Avoidance of Controversial Names (Section II):** The name presents no negative image and is fully consistent with the Town's mission and values.

- **New Facility Naming:** The Greenway is a developing recreational facility; naming it at this stage is consistent with the policy's intent to begin naming early in development (Section IV.A.1).

Recommendation
It is recommended that the Governance, Policy & Economic Development Subcommittee review this background memorandum accompanied by recommendation letter by Sharon Mann, Ruthanne Marchette, and Elizabeth A. Marrow and supported by the CEEC, to evaluate the request in accordance with Policy 110.01, and forward a positive recommendation to the Town Council. Upon approval, the Town Council should schedule the required public hearing to receive community input prior to final action.

This naming would serve as a lasting and fitting tribute to Councilor Merritt's vision, persistence, and extraordinary service to the Town of Bloomfield.

ENCLOSURE

Dear Town Manager Schwapp, March 12, 2026

I along with Ruthanne Marchetti and Libbie Merrow are writing in accordance with Bloomfield's Naming Policy (#110.01) to formally recommend that the Town of Bloomfield designate its bike trail—part of the national East Coast Greenway—as the **"Joe Merritt Greenway,"** in honor of Councilor Joseph P. Merritt and his extraordinary contributions to our community.

As noted in Section IV.A.6 of the naming policy, commemorative names honoring individuals should be based on whether that individual has:

a. made lasting and significant contributions to the protection of natural or cultural resources of the Town of Bloomfield;
c. made substantial contributions to the advancement of commensurate types of recreational opportunities within the Town of Bloomfield; and
f. had a positive impact on the lives of Bloomfield's residents.

Councilor Merritt clearly meets and exceeds these criteria.

For more than twenty years, Councilor Merritt has been the leading advocate for establishing Bloomfield's section of the East Coast Greenway. Beginning with the earliest feasibility work and route planning, he has tirelessly worked to ensure that Bloomfield became part of this nationally significant trail system. He collaborated with local and regional partners—including the Conservation, Energy and Environment Committee (CEEC), the Town of Bloomfield, the Capitol Region Council of Governments, and the Connecticut Department of Transportation—to move the project forward.

His dedication has already produced tangible results. Today, Bloomfield has trail on the ground connecting our community to Tariffville, with plans underway to complete connections to Hartford and Windsor. Most recently, Councilor Merritt has continued this work as Chair of the Town Council's Trails Committee, ensuring that planning, funding, and construction continue to advance.

Bloomfield's greenway already provides numerous benefits to residents. It offers safe recreational opportunities for cyclists, walkers, and families. As the trail network grows, it will allow residents to travel between neighborhoods, schools, and community destinations without relying on automobiles, creating healthier transportation options for our children and residents. In addition, as part of the state and national trail system, the greenway will attract visitors and tourism, helping support Bloomfield's local economy—particularly as our town center continues to redevelop.

Councilor Merritt's leadership in this effort is consistent with a lifetime of service to the Town of Bloomfield. He has served on the Town Council for more than 37 years—the longest tenure in the town's history. During that time, he has contributed to numerous important initiatives, including leadership roles on the Police Building Committee, the Library Renovation Building Committee, and the West Hartford–Bloomfield Health District, where he served as Chairman from 2004 to 2008.

Beyond local government, his background reflects a lifetime of leadership and service. He is a graduate of Dartmouth College with a degree in Government and earned a master's degree from the Sloan School of Management at MIT. He served as a Lieutenant in the United States Navy in Special Operations. Professionally, he founded and managed Merritt Machine Company in Bloomfield and later served residents for many years as an Enrolled Agent tax preparer.

His dedication to trails and greenways has also been recognized statewide. In 2015, he received the **Connecticut Greenways Council Special Achievement Award** for his work advancing the East Coast Greenway and related trail initiatives.

Councilor Merritt has truly been the driving force behind establishing, funding, and building Bloomfield's greenway. It already has a positive impact on residents' lives and will have an even greater impact as the trail network is completed in the coming years. Naming this important community asset, the **Joe Merritt Greenway** would be a fitting and lasting recognition of his vision, persistence, and decades of service to the Town of Bloomfield.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Sharon

Sharon Mann
1 Adams Road
Bloomfield, CT 06002
(860) 803-5454
designsofmann@comcast.net

Ruthanne Marchetti
669 Bloomfield Avenue
Bloomfield, CT 06002

Elizabeth A. Merrow
Seabury
Bloomfield, CT 06002