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

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BLOOMFIELD, CT

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

There was a regular meeting of the Bloomfield Town Council held on Monday, April 13, 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 Harrington; Councilors Cooper, Merritt & Waterhouse; *and via Zoom:* Deputy Mayor Lloyd; Councilors DeBeatham-Brown, Goodwin, Oliver & Mahon

Councilors absent were: None

Also present were: *In-Person*—Andrew Crumbie, Town Attorney; Annatouchur Kingland, Senior Administrative Assistant; David Melesko, Director of Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services; Warren Plumber, Director of Information Technology & Innovation; India Rodgers, Director of Operations & Communications; Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., Town Manager

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements and Presentations

Seabury 150th Anniversary Celebration and Town Recognition of 1991 Seabury Land Donation

Ms. Heather Cahill and Ms. Tina DuPont of Seabury highlighted Seabury's 150th anniversary, and noted Seabury's 1991 donation of 70 acres of land to the Town of Bloomfield. They requested formal recognition from the Town for the land donation during this anniversary celebration year. Seabury will also donate 150 seedlings to the Town over the next three years in recognition of their anniversary. They highlighted their ongoing partnership with the Town of Bloomfield.

Proclamation - Arbor Day Recognition for David Mann

Mayor Harrington read a proclamation (attached) for an Arbor Day recognition of the late David Mann.

Proclamation – Regular Arbor Day Recognition

Mayor Harrington read a proclamation (attached) recognizing Arbor Day.

Citizen Statements and Petitions

1. **Paula Jones, 5 Bear Ridge Drive**, thanked Seabury for their contributions to the community. She noted the amount of environmentally conscious residents at Seabury, and highlighted the arboretum that they established on the Seabury campus. She thanked the Mayor for both Arbor Day proclamations, and reported that Bloomfield will be recognized on Arbor Day for achieving Tree City USA status for the second year in a row. She thanked the Council and volunteers for their support of Tree City USA, and invited all to the Arbor Day celebration on 4/24 to honor Mr. David Mann.

2. **Dr. James Biffer, 17 Terry Plains Road,** via Zoom, reported that Policy 110, Sections 3c and 4c states that people currently in office cannot be honored. He noted that this is not a measure of

whether Mr. Merritt was worthy, and highlighted that Mr. Merritt had done a lot for the Town. He reported that the naming honor would be appropriate if Mr. Merritt was no longer on the Town Council.

3. **Lucy Hurston, 5 Christine Circle**, via Zoom, stated that she felt the Town Council was untrustworthy and did not follow the Town Charter. She expressed frustration with the hiring of the Town Manager, noting that he does not live in Bloomfield despite the Town Charter requirements, and expressed frustration that he was given a Town-provided car. She reported feeling that the Town Attorney was unqualified, and that he was given contracts that were a conflict of interest. She stated she felt the rules were bent for the Town Manager, and requested that Bloomfield not be compared to Avon or Simsbury. She also suggested taking back the Town-provided cars and using the $4 million allocated to the Town Center towards trash collection.

Report from Council Subcommittees

A. Governance, Policy & Economic Development

Mayor Harrington reported that the subcommittee met in April and discussed the renaming of the Bloomfield Greenway as the Joe Merritt Greenway. He stated that it was verified that the Town Council can move forward in the process. He also reported briefly on Rockwell Park progress, with hopes to begin work this summer.

B. Finance, Budget, Audit & Bonding

Deputy Mayor Lloyd reported on the 3/17 subcommittee meeting, where they discussed the soon to be submitted audit. The audit was submitted by the end of March and the Town has been taken off of the S&P watchlist. The Deputy Mayor expressed her thanks to the finance team. The next meeting is 4/18/26 at 6:00 p.m.

C. Public Health, Safety & Environment

Councilor Cooper stated that there was no report as the subcommittee meeting was cancelled due to budget presentations.

D. Education, Workforce, Youth Development & Community Services

Councilor Oliver noted the passing of the $5,000 in support of the robotics program. He also reported on attending a career day at Bloomfield High School with Mayor Harrington.

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

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lloyd and voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda.

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

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lloyd and voted unanimously to accept the Local Road Safety Committee recommendation to restrict Oversized Vehicles on Gabb Road.

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

It was moved by Councilor Merritt and seconded by Councilor Cooper to adopt the attached resolution regarding Town recognition of 1991 Seabury land donation and approval for entrance signage.

It was noted that Seabury preferred sign option A.

Councilor Oliver & Deputy Mayor Lloyd thanked Seabury for their ongoing community support.

Mayor Harrington read the full resolution, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Councilor Merritt noted that he would recuse himself and inquired if he needed to leave the room. It was stated that he did not have to leave the room.

Mayor Harrington reported that after consulting with the Town Attorney that Town Council can move forward with this item.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd and seconded by Councilor Cooper to schedule a public hearing at the next regularly scheduled Town Council meeting regarding the renaming of the Bloomfield Greenway as the Joe Merritt Greenway.

A discussion ensued. Concerns included naming something after a current elected official, and a procedural question as to if Councilor Merritt voted during the Governance meeting that sent the item to Town Council. Support for the item included believing the renaming not to be in violation of the naming policy, having the Town Attorney's opinion that the item could move forward, and the importance of celebrating people while they are alive.

Councilor Merritt's dedication to the trails and the Greenway was recognized by numerous Council members.

Councilor Mahon called the question.

VOTE: **Yes**: T. Cooper, S. DeBeatham-Brown, D. Goodwin, A. Harrington, C. Lloyd, M. Oliver, S. Mahon, E. Waterhouse
No: None
Abstain: J. Merritt

The motion passed 8-0-1.

Councilor Waterhouse moved that the public hearing be held on April 27. It was seconded by Councilors Cooper and Oliver.

VOTE: **Yes**: T. Cooper, S. DeBeatham-Brown, D. Goodwin, A. Harrington, C. Lloyd, M. Oliver, S. Mahon, E. Waterhouse
No: None
Abstain: J. Merritt

The motion passed 8-0-1.

Report from the Town Manager

Mr. Schwapp reported on a variety of items, including:

- Bloomfield's acceptance into Connecticut Municipal Development Authority (CMDA)
- FY2025 audit is slated to be provided to the auditor around the first week of May 2026
- Community Building Leadership Team (CBLT) will now be known as Community Serving Leadership Team (CSLT)
- Upcoming Events:
  - 4/15/26 – Ribbon-cutting at Ivy Rehab
  - 4/16/26 – Feed the Children Resource Rally at Carmen Arace School
  - 4/24/26 – Arbor Day Celebration in recognition of David Mann
- Budget meetings are underway. He highlighted that the proposed budget is a starting point, and reported his goals of reducing the tax burden and not using any fund balance in creating his proposed budget. 4/14/26, 4/16/26 and 4/20/26 are the next budget meeting dates.
- Congratulations to Seabury for their 150th Anniversary
- Thanks to Councilor Merritt to his decades of service
- Recognition of the late David Mann

Report from the Mayor

Mayor Harrington highlighted a report forthcoming from Goman+York. He noted Councilor Merritt's quiet leadership.

Council Comments

Councilor Cooper congratulated Councilor Merritt. He thanked the Town Manager and Town Staff for their work in obtaining CMDA membership. He stated his anticipation for the upcoming updated Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD). He highlighted that the budget is important to him as a resident in addition to as a Town Councilor.

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown expressed concern with the cutting of programs that impact residents in the proposed Town budget, and frustration that she has not received some of the information that she had requested. She hopes that residents come out and share their opinions on the budget. She stated that she is committed to the most vulnerable, to keeping trash pick-up, and that taxes do not increase to the point of harm. She spoke to the importance of right-sizing. She highlighted the importance of volunteer work and the time served, and how value is attributed. She recognized both Councilor Merritt and David Mann. She spoke to the importance of listening to the community.

Councilor Oliver spoke about the budget, and highlighted that some cuts would need to be made. He highlighted the importance of working as a team and also supporting the Town Manager. He suggested sending a survey to Town residents to see their budget priorities.

Councilor Mahon expressed excitement in seeing residents' engagement with the budget process. He encouraged residents to reach out to others to let them know the budget is their budget, and that they should get involved. He highlighted a petition circulating, and noted that he hopes they can find better places to cut in order to keep certain benefits.

Councilor Merritt shared how honored he was in hearing the comments of his fellow Councilors about his service. He noted that his first term was in 1975 and his efforts to start EMS services in Town. He stated his desire to do good things in Bloomfield, including early learning, golf course, library, and East Coast Greenway. He highlighted the importance of advocacy. He discussed the current path and the value of the Greenway.

Councilor Goodwin thanked all for their love and prayers on behalf of him and his husband for their new daughter. He thanked residents for their thoughts and feedback on the budget, and encouraged them to continue. He encouraged keeping in mind the most vulnerable and those who will be most impacted by the budget changes.

Councilor Waterhouse shared her excitement for the upcoming public hearing for the proposed Joe Merritt Greenway, and noted Councilor Merritt's long record of service, including with the Republican Town Committee.

Deputy Mayor Lloyd congratulated Seabury and thanked Councilor Merritt for his efforts. She noted that she looks forward to working with her colleagues on making a budget that keeps quality of life services for all residents.

Mayor Harrington reported that Councilor Waterhouse will join the Trails Committee as Vice Chair. He spoke on feedback he has received on the budget thus far, and on the budget process. He encouraged residents to continue to reach out.

Executive Session

It was moved by Councilor Cooper, second by Councilor Waterhouse and voted unanimously to move into Executive Session at 8:27 p.m. to discuss pending claims and litigation with the Town Manager, Deputy Town Manager, Town Attorney, Town Council, and Senior Administrative Assistant.

It was moved by Councilor Cooper, seconded by Mayor Harrington and voted unanimously to end executive session at 8:51 p.m.

Adjournment

It was moved by Mayor Harrington, seconded by Councilor Waterhouse, and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

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

The meeting can be viewed in its entirety at youtube.com/live/hm1QVPPQmvY?si=ZWElfQJ5-K_vD1x4

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

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

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 **"Seabury Conservation Area"** (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