



TOWN OF CLINTON
54 East Main Street
Clinton, CT 06413
860-669-9333

Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 05, 2026
Town Hall Green Room

In Attendance: Chairman Hank Teskey, Carrie Allen, Dennis Donovan, Brian Roccapriore, Chris Aniskovich and Chris Passante
Also participated: Michelle Benivegna, Town Manager

H. Teskey called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM. Dennis Donovan led the council in the pledge of allegiance.

VISITORS

Maureen Welman and Barbara Blanco each provided comments regarding the Waterside Lane Bridge Project.

Seth Wolfe spoke about the qualifications required for the Town Manager position.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –AUGUST 05, 2026

B. Roccapriore made a motion, seconded by D. Donovan, to approve the minutes of July 15, 2026. The motion was unanimously approved.

APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

C. Allen made a motion, seconded by B. Roccapriore to appoint Laurie King, Ava Crayton, Mary Jane Engle, Amanda Corconran and Abby Roccapriore to the Human Rights Committee for a term until July 1, 2029. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Allen made a motion, seconded by B. Roccapriore to appoint Amy Handler (D) to the Inland Wetlands Commission from an alternate seat to full seat for a term until June 30, 2029. The motion was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON A REQUEST FROM THE TOWN CLERK TO ADD VITAL DIRECTOR AS AN ADDITIONAL SERVICE

Lisa Balter, Town Clerk, presented to the Council a proposal for a new online service that would allow residents to apply electronically for birth, death, and marriage certificates. The service would verify applicant identity and accept card payments. Currently, these records can only be requested in person or by mail.



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The proposed service would be offered at no cost to the Town, with no annual fee required. A \$5.00 service fee would be charged per transaction and paid by the customer.

C. Aniskovich asked for the approximate number of monthly requests received by the Clerk's office, as well as questions about the language used on the order form. L. Balter stated that she would follow up with the Council and provide answers to those questions.

B. Roccapriore made a motion, seconded by C. Allen to allow the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with Vital Director. The motion was approved with a vote of 4 in favor (Allen, Roccapriore, Donovan and Passante) and 1 opposed (Aniskovich).

LINE ITEM TRANSFER

C. Passante made a motion, seconded by B. Roccapriore, to approve the Public Works line-item transfer request to decrease sidewalk project grant by \$125,000 and increase library metal roof replacement by \$125,000. The motion is unanimously approved.

Todd Hajek, Director of Public Works, submitted a transfer request due to the air conditioning system failure at the police department. D. Donovan made a motion, seconded by B. Roccapriore, to approve the Public Works line-item transfer request to decrease contingency by \$18,000 and increase town building and facilities by \$18,000. The motion was unanimously approved.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

The Town Manager reviewed her written report with the Council. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. M. Benivegna also provided an update on Clinton's America 250 celebration, scheduled for Saturday, August 8th, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Post Office Square.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Strategic Plan

The Council held several workshops and adopted a series of statements, core values, and strategic directives.

C. Passante made a motion, seconded by D. Donovan, to adopt the following Town Council Vision Statement. The motion was unanimously approved.

Town Council Vision Statement

Clinton will be a thriving shoreline community where people of all ages and incomes can live, work, and prosper. Rooted in a strong local economy, environmental stewardship, and the civic character that makes Clinton home.



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B. Roccapiore made a motion, seconded by C. Passante to adopt the following Town Council Mission Statement. The motion was unanimously approved.

Town Council Mission Statement

The Town of Clinton is committed to delivering efficient and effective municipal services that protect the public health and safety, preserve our community's character and history, and provide responsible stewardship of financial, physical, and environmental assets to its residents, businesses, and visitors.

B. Roccapiore made a motion, seconded by D. Donovan to adopt the following Town Council Core Values. The motion was unanimously approved.

Town Council Core Values

Integrity, Respect, Partnership, Honesty, Stewardship, and Accountability

B. Roccapiore made a motion, seconded by C. Passante to adopt the Town Council Code of Conduct as presented. The motion was unanimously approved. There was a brief discussion regarding the potential addition of consequences to the Code of Conduct. The Council agreed to revisit this topic at a future meeting. A copy of the Code of Conduct will be attached to the minutes.

C. Allen made a motion, seconded by C. Passante to adopt five Town of Clinton Strategic Directives. The motion was unanimously approved.

Town Council Major Strategic Directives

Fiscal sustainability, Economic Development, Quality of Life, Housing and Organizational and Governance excellence

The following topics were also discussed:

- C. Passante provided an update on the Town Manager performance review. The council would like to schedule another workshop prior to the next meeting to establish goals for the Town Manager.
- Teskey asked the Town Manager to reach out to local theatre operators to explore options for expanded use of the Town Hall auditorium and report back to the council by September 15th.

TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Chairman Teskey addressed the vacancy on the council due to the resignation of Jerry Dunn. The Republican Town Committee recommended Michael Shove to fill his seat. The council discussed past practice on filling a vacancy for an elected seat.



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C. Aniskovich made a motion, seconded D. Donovan to add to the agenda item #12A the appointment of Michael Shove to the Clinton Town Council. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Passante provided an update on the Park & Recreation Commission.

TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

H. Teskey reported on the Economic Development Commission.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL, PURSUANT TO CGS 1-200 (6) (A)

B. Roccapiore made a motion, seconded by C. Allen to enter executive session at 9:07 AM. The motion was unanimously approved. The council came out of executive session at 9:30 AM.

C. Passante made a motion, seconded by B. Roccapiore, to amend the agenda to include the hiring of a Truck Driver for Public Works Truck. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Roccapiore made a motion, seconded by C. Aniskovich to hire the recommended candidate for the Truck Driver position at Public Works. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Passante made a motion, seconded by C. Allen to hire the recommended candidate for the Economic Development Coordinator position. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Roccapiore made a motion, seconded by C. Aniskovich to accept the Republic Town Committee Candidate Michael Shove as a member of the Clinton Town Council effective immediately upon being sworn in. The motion was unanimously approved.

ADJOURN

D. Donovan made a motion, seconded by C. Passante and unanimously adjourned the meeting at 9:35 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Schettino
Executive Assistant

TOWN OF CLINTON

Memorandum

To: Clinton Town Council
From: Michelle Benivegna, Town Manager
Date: August 5, 2026
Subject: Town Manager Report

Personnel

Department of Public Works Vacancies

The Department of Public Works currently has two (2) Truck Driver positions vacant. Recruitment efforts are ongoing to fill these important positions as quickly as possible to ensure the department can continue providing essential services to our community.

Capital Projects

Waterside Lane Bridge

As discussed previously, I have submitted a formal letter to the Connecticut Department of Transportation requesting that the State consider granting a design exception for the Waterside Lane Bridge project. The Town's request is for a one-lane bridge with two pedestrian sidewalks, which reflects the community's input, the roadway's low average daily traffic, seasonal use, and the absence of anticipated future development that would warrant a two-lane bridge. We will continue to work closely with DOT and provide updates as additional information becomes available.

Route 81 Paving Project

The Route 81 resurfacing project remains on schedule and is anticipated to be completed by August 21, 2026.

Within the Town of Clinton, roadway paving operations have been completed. The remaining work consists of resurfacing the commuter parking lot and applying the final lane and shoulder pavement markings.

Residents should be aware that paving operations continue in the Town of Killingworth for those traveling north along Route 81, and motorists should continue to expect intermittent traffic impacts in that area until the project is complete.

Landfill Closure Project

The Town has received multiple proposals for the professional services necessary to support the permitting and construction phases of the landfill closure project. These services include:

- Review of the stormwater management design by the Town's consulting engineer.
- Road condition assessment and monitoring by the Town's pavement management consultant.
- Owner's representative and construction oversight services provided through the Water Pollution Control Commission's consulting engineer.

The total anticipated cost for these professional services is \$162,645. Funding for these services has already been appropriated within the project budget and no additional funding is being requested at this time.

The Town Attorney is currently reviewing the proposed contract terms and related legal questions and is expected to provide an update to the Town Council at the August 19, 2026 meeting.

At this time, it is anticipated that the Planning & Zoning Commission will continue the public hearing on the landfill closure project until September to allow adequate time to address outstanding questions and complete the necessary review process.



**TOWN OF CLINTON
TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE
54 East Main Street
Clinton, CT 06413**

July 21, 2026

Derick Lessard, P.E.
Division Chief of Bridges
Connecticut Department of Transportation

Re: Waterside Lane Bridge Replacement – Request for Design Exception

Dear Mr. Lessard,

On behalf of the Town of Clinton, I am writing to respectfully request that the Connecticut Department of Transportation approve a design exception for the proposed Waterside Lane Bridge Replacement Project to allow for the construction of a one-lane bridge with sidewalks on both sides.

The Town recognizes the importance of this project and appreciates the Department's continued partnership in advancing the replacement of this aging bridge. We fully acknowledge the public safety, infrastructure, and long-term resiliency benefits that a new bridge will provide to our community. The Town is committed to seeing this project move forward and believes a one-lane bridge design will best balance those benefits with the unique characteristics of this location.

There are several factors that support this request:

- **Low Traffic Volumes:** Waterside Lane serves a relatively small number of vehicles, with low average daily traffic that does not justify a two-lane bridge configuration.
- **Seasonal Use:** The roadway experiences increased traffic primarily during the summer months, approximately three to four months each year, when residents and visitors access the Town Beach. For the remainder of the year, traffic volumes remain minimal.
- **No Anticipated Future Development:** There are no planned developments or anticipated changes in land use that would significantly increase traffic demand on Waterside Lane in the foreseeable future. There are a fixed number of parking spaces available at the beach and the site would not accommodate any future expansion of the parking area.
- **Strong Community Input:** Throughout the planning process, the Town has received significant public feedback expressing a preference for maintaining the existing character of Waterside Lane through a one-lane bridge rather than expanding it to two travel lanes. Residents have consistently voiced concerns that a wider bridge could encourage higher vehicle speeds and alter the character of this neighborhood and beach access corridor. The bridge has historically functioned as driveway to the beach. There are no records of vehicle, bicycle, or pedestrian accidents related to the existing one-lane travel way.

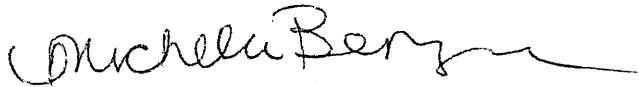
The Town believes that a one-lane bridge with sidewalks on both sides provides an appropriate balance between vehicle access and pedestrian safety. Sidewalks on both sides of the bridge will improve accessibility for pedestrians traveling to and from the Town Beach while preserving the existing roadway character that residents value.

We understand that design standards exist to promote safety and consistency across the state's transportation network. However, we respectfully believe the unique operational characteristics of Waterside Lane warrant consideration of a design exception. Given the roadway's low traffic volumes, seasonal nature, and the overwhelming community support for a one-lane crossing, we hope the Department will find that this request meets the intent of providing a safe, practical, and context-sensitive solution.

The Town of Clinton appreciates the Connecticut Department of Transportation's continued collaboration and consideration of this request. We respectfully ask that the Department approve the proposed design exception so this important infrastructure project can move forward in a manner that best serves both the transportation needs and the character of our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to continuing to work with you toward a successful outcome for this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michelle Benivegna", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Michelle Benivegna
Town Manager
Town of Clinton

CLINTON TOWN COUNCIL

CODE OF CONDUCT

The people of Clinton have placed their trust in this Council. How we conduct ourselves either strengthens that trust or erodes it. We adopt this Code not because rules make good conduct, but because writing down our shared expectations makes it easier to hold ourselves accountable. This Code supplements the Council's Rules of Procedure and the Clinton Town Charter; where they address the same subject, the Charter governs.

1. We treat each other with respect.

We debate ideas, not people. We uphold our core values of respect, integrity, and partnership. We will only speak productively about all members of the Town Government. When we receive feedback, we will assume positive intent.

2. Town Council discussion procedure

When a Council member has a comment, remark, or question, they will request the floor. Once provided, the floor is exclusively theirs until finished. When speaking, we will be concise, direct, and to the point. The Chair is responsible for keeping commenters on point.

3. We show up on time and prepared.

Attendance is a fundamental duty of office. We attend all meetings and notify the Chair when good cause prevents us from attending. We arrive prepared, having read the packet, with an open mind and ready to participate in informed discussion.

4. We give the meeting our full attention.

Phones are silenced and put away during meetings. We do not text, email, browse, or take calls during deliberation, public comment, or vote. A resident speaking at the podium deserves seven attentive faces.

5. We listen to the public with courtesy.

We welcome input directly from the Community. Criticism of the Council comes with the office; we take it professionally.

6. We act as one body.

The Council's authority belongs to the Council as a whole, not to any individual member. No member speaks for the Council unless authorized to, and when speaking publicly we make clear whether we are speaking for ourselves or for the body. We support the integrity of the Council's decisions even when we voted no. We may explain our dissent, but we do not work to undermine an adopted action.

7. We work through the Town Manager.

Consistent with the Charter, we direct all requests for information to the Town Manager. We respect and support the Town Manager and all Town employees, in public and in private, in Town Council meetings and in all other venues. We raise concerns about Town Administration through the Chair.

8. We protect confidential information.

What is discussed in a properly convened executive session stays there. We do not disclose privileged legal advice, personnel matters, negotiations, or other confidential information, and we do not use information gained through office for private benefit.

9. We disclose conflicts and step aside when we have one.

When a matter before the Council affects our personal or financial interests, or those of our family or business associates, we say so on the record and recuse ourselves, consistent with the Charter, the Town's ethics provisions, and state law. When in doubt, we disclose.

10. We extend this conduct to every setting.

These commitments apply in workshops, subcommittees, correspondence, social media, and public appearances. Online, we observe the same civility we owe each other in the Council chamber.

11. We hold ourselves accountable.

This Code is self-enforced first. The Chair may call a member to order during a meeting; any member may respectfully remind the Chair of these commitments; and the Council may take up a sustained or serious breach as a body under its Rules of Procedure. The goal of any such conversation is to maintain a working trust, not punishment.

Adopted and affirmed by the members of the Clinton Town Council on August 5, 2026, each of whom signs below not as a formality, but as a personal commitment to the standards this Code describes.

_____	_____

_____	_____

