



Willimantic Whitewater Partnership, Inc.
28 Bridge Street, Willimantic, CT 06226
www.willimanticwhitewater.org

Board of Directors

Peter Leeds
President

Barbara McGrath
Vice President

Jean de Smet
Secretary

Mark Granville
Treasurer

Kristina Locke

Dan Mullins

Jana Roberson

Steve Sladyk

Willimantic Whitewater Partnership Newsletter

Volume 1 Number 3

June 2024

Good Morning!

As I write this, our third newsletter, I realize that the voice of this message has been unnamed and unacknowledged, and so I introduce myself. The writer of this plain little monthly newsletter is the Whitewater Partnership president, Peter Leeds. One of my initiatives when I was first elected as president (even though I was the newest board member – or maybe because I was the newest board member) in April, 2023, was to communicate more, reach out more. Yes, this newsletter is a little plain, but it still serves the purpose of sharing with members and non-members alike just what is happening at our little downtown park. Correction: At your park!

Annual Meeting Summary + Next Step In Park Planning

On Wednesday, May 22, Landscape Architects Barton & Loguidice presented two renditions of plans for the park. The invited public and our members then had time and space to comment on, commend, or criticize each plan (or both). Those comments plus others in further outreach sessions are then compiled and shared back to our architects, who will then create another (perhaps final draft) (with price tags applied). We're excited to have reached this stage of developing our downtown park, and we look forward to sharing the "final" draft and seeking your further input.

We also reviewed our year just passed, which included many steps forward, such as increasing membership, promoting public visibility, pursuing fundraising goals (our first-ever golf tournament!), and re-configuring our website.

Finally, the annual election was held, and the following board was elected (or re-elected).

President: Peter Leeds

Vice President: Barbara McGrath

Treasurer: Mark Granville

Secretary: Jean de Smet

Board Members: Steve Sladyk, Dan Mullins, Kristina Locke, Jana Roberson

Contact, Join, Or Visit Us

We receive mail at 28 Bridge Street, Willimantic, CT 06226. We receive emails at willimanticwhitewater@gmail.com. Our website is www.willimanticwhitewater.org.



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Monthly Meetings

Our board meets monthly, the 4th Wednesday of each month, at Windham Senior Center, 6:30 to 7:50 p.m. Our small group meetings are open to the public, but please send an email if you plan to attend, as we do have the occasional moved meeting or even cancelled meeting.

Busy Months Just Passed – And Expected

Our park has been bustling. Our board members have been, too.

Our first-ever Annual WWP Golf Tournament was held at Windham Golf Club on May 4. We netted a profit! Thank you, Kristine Locke, for your diligence in putting this single-handedly together.

Our man of the water, founding member Dan Mullins, has been working on DEEP grants and moving the water portion of the park in a positive and optimistic direction. Our other man of the water Steve Sladyk has been kayaking the Willimantic and providing pictures and updates on the river upstream from us.

Another founding member, Barbara McGrath, has been in contact with important people about various important things. And our other founding member Jana Roberson continues to take the lead with park planning and implementation of the state grant.

We are applying for grants for a youth bike rodeo and tee shirts, but sadly, “Yoga in The Park” won’t happen in our park this year, though yoga in our park could, and a poetry reading / slam and some live music (Hosmer Mountain Boys, Dan?) are still possible.

And of course, the Farmers Market is a weekly event at our park until mid to late October. Food, crafts, music, and more. And speaking of events, plans are in the works for poetry readings, yoga, tai chi, walks, moving mulch, and more.

Membership Renewal

Please join us as we build our funds and implement our plans. Visit our website and pay through credit card or PayPal. Or of course, mail a check (as our membership form is online).