



#### **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 Numbers 6 & 7

September and October, 2024

## Good Autumn Morning!

Our sixth newsletter is a combo package, so sixth and seventh. We've had an exciting couple of months (and that deserves an exclamation point)! Plans are generally final (attached to this newsletter). Word is we MAY be receiving some news about the in-water portion of our park's plans. The first rendition of our bike safety clinic is scheduled (flyers attached).

And we've had happenings, too. A group of cyclists visited and stopped at our park as a halfway rest. Thanks to Jean De Smet for sponsoring the "rest" and to Dawn Niles and Barbara McGrath for their hospitality and treats and to Mayor Tom DeVivo for representing the town. ACT students and Eastern students performed service work, sprucing up the grounds. The Farmers Market will continue until the end of October.

Outside of the park, we've had two excellent fundraisers and promotional events, thanks to our dynamo Kristina Locke. She organized a golf tournament in June and a comedy night in September, both wonderfully successful.

We would like to invite everyone to our neighbor across the street, Connecticut East Railroad Museum, for their Track or Treat event on Saturday, October 26, from 1:00 to 4:00; free admission and treats. Community organizations like ours are invited to promote themselves and of course hand out treats

## Getting A Jump On The Winter Holidays

We are not a department store or even a dollar mart, but we do have to prepare for things in advance. In collaboration with CLiCK, we will be selling Christmas (or solstice) trees as, again, a fundraiser and park promotion. Trees will be sold on December 7 and 8, December 14 and 15, and December 21 and 22.

# When Will Construction Begin?

At our recent meeting with architects and developers Barton & Loguidice, an estimated timeline was presented to our board. It is possible that construction could begin in February and be completed by May (before the opening of the Farmers Market). While we will not have a full build-out of the plans, we expect a new parking area, a perimeter walking path, and some clearing of weeds to open the river view.

#### WWP Hosts WDNA October 19

We are co-hosting the next meeting of Willimantic Downtown Neighborhood Association in collaboration with Town of Windham, coffee provided by the Co-op. The meeting will be held in the Windham Room of Windham Senior Center, a great opportunity for the young folks to see this great facility, but more importantly, for us, a chance to share our plans.

### Contact, Join, Or Visit Us

We receive mail at 28 Bridge Street, Willimantic, CT 06226. We receive emails at <a href="willimanticwhitewater@gmail.com">willimanticwhitewater@gmail.com</a>. Our website is www.willimanticwhitewater.org. 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). Not a "joiner"? Our website also has a donate button, and we're always looking for donors to help us with our various initiatives.









