

# Willimantic Whitewater Partnership Newsletter

Volume 2 Number 1

January, 2025

## Happy New Year – To Us and To You

Exciting news to share as we begin 2025: WWP has been approved provisionally for a major grant from Pageau Trust, and we thank the trustees of that organization for their commitment to our community project and downtown open space.

Once construction of the initial phase is complete, we will contact Pageau Trustees to follow up – and of course, we'll need to figure out what we'd want to do with the grant, so more community outreach is in our plans.

Another promising update: We have received some news about the in-water portion of our park's plans.

## Other Fun(d) News

We were aggressive about outreach and fundraising in 2024, and that will continue in 2025, with our fundraising committee of one, Kristina Locke, roaring along!

Speaking of roaring, comedy nights roar with laughter and jocularity, those are one of our on-going fundraisers. As I write, with wind chills and sub-freezing temperatures predicted for the next two weeks, that's a perfect time to mention that our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Golf Tournament will be held.

Finally for the moment on this, we will be selling personalized bricks; the flyer will show up to your inbox in the near future.

## Membership Renewal

Our year begins on January 1, so we'll begin the renewal push any day, like, NOW. We feel it is important to share that we are doing our part to fight inflation, as our annual dues remain the same as they have been for the past decade.

A membership flyer is included in this newsletter.

We receive mail at 28 Bridge Street, Willimantic, CT 06226. We receive emails at [willimanticwhitewater@gmail.com](mailto:willimanticwhitewater@gmail.com). Our website is [www.willimanticwhitewater.org](http://www.willimanticwhitewater.org).

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

## **WWP Hosted WDNA October 19**

WWP co-hosted the October meeting of Willimantic Downtown Neighborhood Association in collaboration with Town of Windham, with coffee provided by the Food Co-op. Held in the Windham Room of Windham Senior Center, which was a great opportunity for the young folks to see this great facility, we shared our plans to a positive and supportive audience.

## **Construction To Begin In Late Winter**

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.

Once construction begins, we will again be contacting legislators and others for additional funding, as our plans are comprehensive; we plan performance spaces and exercise equipment and picnic tables and benches.

## **Ahead To Spring**

We will again celebrate trails on Celebrate Trail Day April 26, 2025.

Bicycle safety clinics, which were scheduled for October, will be rolled into community fairs in April.

Our annual meeting will be held in May, to coincide with the planned grand opening of the park (the presentation of the initial phase).

## **Newsletter Update**

In closing for this month: Not that many people notice – but I do. Our newsletter is moving to quarterly instead of monthly. Also, the “I” mentioned throughout is Peter Leeds, president of WWP.