



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN WINDSOR LOCKS

The newsletter of the Economic and Industrial Development Commission of Windsor Locks, Connecticut.

Windsor Locks' Biggest Businesses Respond to COVID-19

Ahlstrom, Collins reconfigure their production lines to produce PPE

Over the past few months, some of Windsor Locks' biggest employers have stepped up to help provide badly-needed personal protective equipment and other medical supplies.

Ahlstrom-Munksjö has been producing medical-grade fabrics at their Windsor Locks plant. These fabrics can be found in a wide variety of applications, including surgical gowns, surgical face masks, and sterile barriers.

Since March, Ahlstrom has tripled its worldwide production to produce over 150 million surgical masks a month, and the Windsor Locks plant is one of their biggest producers, even opening up a long-dormant production line.

Collins Aerospace lent their own expertise in 3D printing to designing and print face shields to protect from COVID-19.

In April, Collins and Raytheon Technologies combined to donate \$3 million worth of KN95 masks, surgical gowns, ICU coveralls, and other PPE's to the state for distribution to hospitals.

Ahlstrom-Munksjö's plant in Windsor Locks originally opened as the Dexter Company in 1767 - when the Locks was still a British Colony.



3D-printed face shields. Photo courtesy of Collins Aerospace.

Windsor Locks Achieves Sustainable CT Certification for the First Time

245 Sustainable CT points earns Bronze Certification

Windsor Locks was one of the 12 Connecticut communities that earned **bronze Sustainable CT certification**, meeting its goal of achieving certification by Fall 2020.

The Sustainable CT program recognizes thriving and resilient Connecticut municipalities. An independently funded, grassroots, municipal effort, Sustainable CT provides a wide-ranging menu of best practices. Municipalities choose Sustainable CT actions, implement them, and earn points toward certification. Sustainable CT is designed to boost local economies, help municipal operations become more efficient, reduce operating costs, and provide additional support to municipalities.



To earn certification, Windsor Locks town employees and residents **completed 16 actions across 10 categories, totaling 245 points**. 200 points were required for certification.



Actions included complete streets work, compiling a business inventory, the Eat Local Win Local contest, promoting the C-PACE clean energy program, open space acquisition efforts, development of Grove Street Garden, municipal official and board member equity training, the Community Needs Survey, Emergency Response Resident Registry updates, and COVID-19 recovery work.

Bronze Certification lasts for three years, during which time the town will work toward Silver Certification.



Views of Grove Street Garden.
Photos by Allison Schoolnick

What We Did This Summer: Reflections from Our Summer Interns

On Interning Remotely, Fighting Invasive Species, Promoting Grove Street Garden and Investigating Accessory Dwellings

Interning in 2020 has been unique, but no matter what we had to adapt to in the past couple of months, Zoom calls included, we made it happen! I was lucky enough to assist Jen with a review of the wetland and zoning regulations for opportunities to encourage native and beneficial trees and plantings and discourage invasive species. I also authored an article highlighting the Grove Street Garden in what's known as the mill village, which was created and is maintained by local Future Farmers of America (FFA) members.



I had the privilege of visiting the garden myself and interviewing community members that help keep it going. Intern Gianna Molinari and I conducted research about accessory dwelling units in towns around the State of Connecticut in order to inform staff and the Planning and Zoning Commission as they consider the community's housing stock. These are just some of the tasks that helped to complete work under the town's Sustainable CT certification. This summer I was able to both get a glimpse of the "big picture" and dig into the various facets of community development.

-- **Allison Schoolnick**

Over the course of the summer, interning for Jen Rodriguez, I've had the opportunity to assist in and learn so much about local town development and the Sustainable CT projects. I conducted a brief Brownfield Inventory, compiling and researching local sites for potential pollution and development barriers. I have also worked on gathering local poultry and hobby farming policies from towns throughout Connecticut, in order to assist Windsor Locks in its own journey as it explores local policy change. Jen and I collaborated on the beginnings of a campaign for fundraising for the construction of a band shell near the Town Hall and Middle School. Along with Allison Schoolnick, we developed and list of nearby town's Accessory Apartment Structure regulations. Finally, I assisted with advertising the Windsor Locks Community Survey to residents. While completing these projects online was certainly a challenge, with the support from Jen and my fellow interns, we had a productive and fruitful summer together.

- **Gianna Molinari**



In my time with the Windsor Locks Planning and Development Department I've had the privilege of getting a behind the scenes look at what goes on in the field of planning and economic development, assisted with documenting Complete Streets progress and I have been helping the department reach their goal of becoming Sustainable CT bronze certified. I also assisted Jen with improving the town's business list, a large undertaking, making it easier for the town to maintain relationships with business owners. I've gained a lot of insight and enjoyed my time working with Windsor Locks this summer.

- **Chris Roberts**

Windsor Locks In the News

October's adoption of the **Connecticut Public Market mission statement** generated buzz for the town and was covered in the *Hartford Business Journal*. A collaboration among many residents and local businesses, the statement calls for a creation of a public market that is a "a powerful regional engine for economic, community, and agricultural development."

Next steps for the market include the formation of a Board of Directors and a fundraising campaign.

"Windsor Locks moves forward on downtown marketplace development proposal," *Hartford Business Journal*, October 7, 2020.

In March, *CT Magazine* named Windsor Locks one of the **8 Hottest Connecticut Towns by County**. Of our town, the magazine wrote, "If one town in Connecticut can make a legitimate claim to being the state's transportation hub, it's Windsor Locks. And therein lies its appeal to home buyers." Among Windsor Locks' most desirable qualities: the upcoming downtown Train Station, which will increase transportation access and property values.

Windsor Locks was awarded one of the CT Main Street Center's **2020 Awards of Excellence** for the Montgomery Mill redevelopment, in the category of Redevelopment & Adaptive Reuse. Opened as a textile mill in the 19th century, Montgomery Mill has since been transformed into one- and two-bedroom apartments.

Community Needs Survey Highlights Challenges of COVID-19

In June, the EIDC oversaw a survey of Windsor Locks residents to find out how they had been impacted by COVID-19. Over 440 responses were received by mail, email, social media, and even via phone.

Mental health concerns were high on the list, with many respondents reporting experiencing boredom or loneliness during lockdown. Finances and the ability to get to doctor's visits were also major concerns.

The information will assist the **Long-Term Recovery Committee** as well as the various departments as they create specific action items to respond to the identified needs of the community during this difficult time.

EIDC MEMBERS

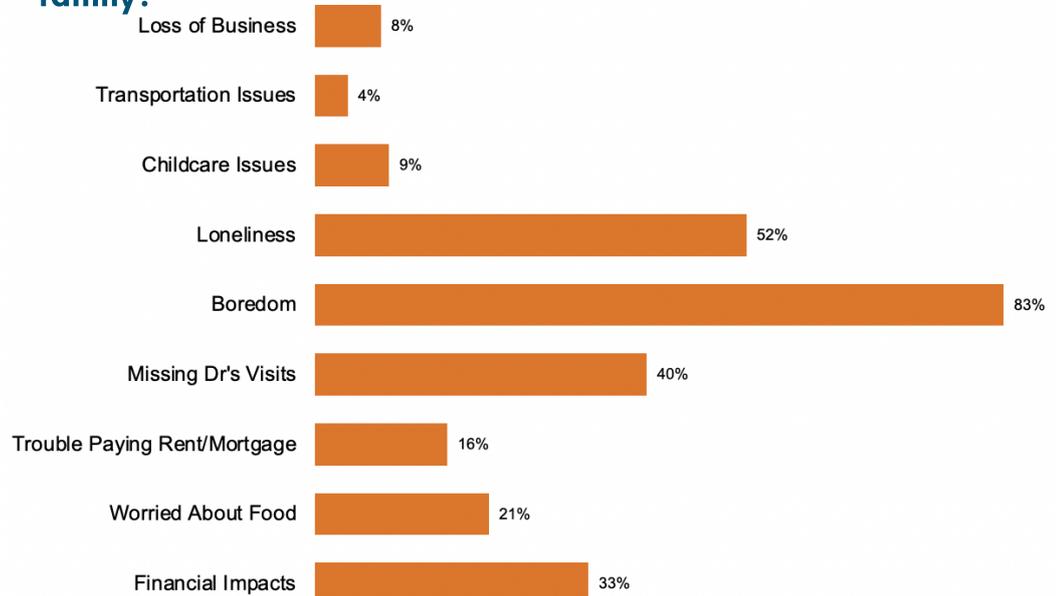
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How has COVID-19 impacted you or your family?



The entire survey results will be available on the town's website.