

**TOWN OF CROMWELL - TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
41 WEST STREET, CROMWELL, CT 06416
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

Monday, November 13, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor James Demetriades, Julia Aurigemma, Brian Bonneau, Stacy Dabrowski, Jack Henehan, Paula Luna, Al Waters

Also Present: Town Manager Salvatore, Town Engineer Jon Harriman

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Demetriades called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Council stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION made by J. Henehan and **SECONDED** by P. Luna to amend the agenda to include: 1. Resignations, 3. Planning and Zoning Commission, a. John Keithan under resignations and to add the following Board and Commission Appointments after Item J. Appointments.

2. Library Commission

a. Patricia S. Branciforte (D), regular member for a term expiring February 1, 2026

3. Youth Services Advisory Board

a. Barbara Mc Clane (D), regular member for a term expiring November 1, 2024

4. Zoning Board of Appeals

a. Joseph R. Morin (D), alternate member for a term expiring November 1, 2025

All in favor.

D. ORGANIZATION

1. Appoint a Secretary to the Town Council

MOTION made by A. Waters and **SECONDED** by J. Henehan to appoint Amanda Calve as Secretary to the Town Council.

All in favor.

2. Appoint a Deputy Mayor

MOTION made by P. Luna and **SECONDED** by S. Dabrowski to appoint Al Waters as Deputy Mayor.

All in favor.

3. Set meeting dates and times for 2024 Regular Meetings

The Town Council will meet the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. on the following dates:

MOTION made by J. Henehan and **SECONDED** by B. Bonneau to accept the 2024 Town Council meeting dates as January 10, February 14, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11, October 9, November 13, December 11 at 7:00 p.m.

All in favor.

E. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor provided copies of his report to the Town Council members and read it into the record. See Attachment A.

Mayor Demetriades thanked everyone for running, he said he is proud to call them his colleagues and he is excited for all the work they will complete together. He informed the Council that he left Town of Cromwell pins at each of their seats and recalled how excited he was when he received his when he first served on the Council.

Mayor Demetriades stated that the December Town Council meeting will start at 6 p.m. for a Community Forum before the Regular Meeting at 7 p.m.

F. TOWN MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The Town Manager reported:

- He and Planning Director Stuart Popper have been working on Economic Development. The Director has been doing a great job. We have new businesses coming in on Main Street, Route 372, and on Route 3. A tax abatement has been approved for 100 Berlin Road.
- The sidewalk project on West Street will be shutting down for the winter. A fence is going up today on West Street to the right of the Town Hall. This is because a people have driven over the grass, sidewalk, and curb to get to the Town Hall. This fence will deter people from doing that.
- A fence will be installed on top of the newly constructed wall on Allen Road.
- We are going out to bid for the updates in Pierson Park.
- The highway crew is doing a great job. They started leaf pick up. We purchased a second leaf vacuum and we have received great feedback from residents.

The Town Manager directed all members of the Town Council to contact his office if they have any questions or concerns. We will then contact the appropriate staff/department and get the answers to the questions they are looking for.

There was discussion about providing the Council with information on the Pierson Park Upgrades and the Multi-purpose field. Town Engineer Jon Harriman stated that this information is all available for viewing on the Engineering Department page of the Town's website.

G. CITIZEN COMENTS

Ann Grasso, 70 Strand Circle congratulated all newly elected officials, read her comments into the record, and passed out information on the Cromwell Creative District. See Attachment B.

James Rude, 25 High Ridge Road congratulated the members of the Council on their election and/or re-election. He asked the council to be thoughtful and deliberate when considering the agenda items over the coming year and to please be sure to take on any and all matters directly and not to shy away from issues that may be outside of their comfort zones. Additionally, please remember it is okay to agree to disagree. He was happy to see some of the scouts at the meeting this evening. He said youth is the future of America and it is always good to see them involved in citizenship activities.

Brendan Kruh, 586 Main Street thanked all Council members for participating in their civic duty and said they have all earned a spot at this table. He explained that he is a member of the Cromwell Children's Coalition and they love to have involvement from elected officials. He invited the Council to participate in their Toys for Tots toy drive on December 2nd at Cromwell Automotive. The toy drive assists distressed Cromwell families and their children.

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss and approve easement for property located at 44 and 44R Geer Street

Town Engineer Jon Harriman was in attendance to present his memo and answer any questions of the Town Council.

There was discussion about where the easement was located and the history of the property. It was recommended that a fence be put up to keep wandering children on the sidewalk. Town Engineer Harriman said he would bring this suggestion to staff, but reminded the Council that all of this has been already been vetted by staff.

MOTION made by J. Henahan and **SECONDED** by P. Luna to create a formal easement from the Town of Cromwell for property located at 44 and 44R Geer Street and make access points official.

All in favor.

2. Discuss and approve proposed fee for electric charging stations

Planning and Development Director Stuart Popper provided the Town Council with a memo detailing his research on the proposed fee. See Attachment C. Town Engineer Jon Harriman was in attendance to answer any questions.

A brief discussion was held. There was discussion about potential costs and if the Town would lose money. The Town Engineer explained that this is the reason we are proposing a fee that is \$.10 - \$.20 more per hour than the anticipated cost incurred by the Town. There were also questions regarding how to set hours of operation for the charging stations. It was suggested to do this by Town ordinance, specifically the parking ordinance. There was further discussion about state statutes prohibiting parking in these spaces if not utilizing the charging stations.

MOTION made by J. Aurigemma and **SECONDED** by A. Waters to set the rate for electric charging stations at the Town's cost plus \$.20 per hour.
All in favor.

I. RESIGNATIONS

1. Board of Finance

a. Julia Aurigemma, alternate member

MOTION made A. Waters and **SECONDED** by J. Henehan to accept the resignation of Julia Aurigemma from the Board of Finance with regret.

In favor: Mayor Demetriades, Brian Bonneau, Stacy Dabrowski, Jack Henehan, Paula Luna, Al Waters

Abstained: Julia Aurigemma

Motion carried.

b. Brian Stermer, regular member

MOTION made A. Waters and **SECONDED** by J. Henehan to accept the resignation of Brian Stermer from the Board of Finance with regret.

All in favor.

2. Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency

a. Stacy Dabrowski

MOTION made A. Waters and **SECONDED** by J. Henehan to accept the resignation of Stacy Dabrowski from Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency with regret.

In favor: Mayor Demetriades, Julia Aurigemma, Brian Bonneau, Jack Henehan, Paula Luna, Al Waters

Abstained: Stacy Dabrowski

Motion carried.

3. Planning and Zoning Commission

a. John Keithan

MOTION made by A. Waters and **SECONDED** by J. Henehan to accept the resignation of John Keithan with regret.

All in favor.

J. APPOINTMENTS

1. The Mayor appointed Town Council members as liaisons to the following Boards and Commissions:

James Demetriades	
*back up to PZC	Committee to Support Individuals with Disabilities
*back up to EDC	Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee
	LGBTQ+ Committee
Julia Aurigemma	
	Board of Assessment Appeals
	Zoning Board of Appeals

	Planning and Zoning Commission (Julia is liaison, James is back-up and should receive copies of all agendas)
Brian Bonneau	
	Fire District Board of Commissioners
	Redevelopment Agency
	Water Pollution Control Authority
Stacy Dabrowski	
	Board of Education
	Charter Revision Commission
	Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency
Jack Henehan	
	Conservation Commission
	Recreation Commission
	Board of Finance
Paula Luna	
*back up to Senior Services Commission	Library Commission
	Youth Advisory Board
Al Waters	
	Senior Services Commission (Al is liaison, Paula is back-up and should receive copies of all agendas)
	Farmland Preservation Committee
	Economic Development Commission (Al is liaison, James is back-up and should receive copies of all agendas)
	Historical Society

MOTION made by P. Luna and **SECONDED** by B. Bonneau to accept the Mayor's liaison appointments.

All in favor.

2. Boards and Commission Appointments

a. Library Commission, Patricia S. Branciforte (D), regular member for a term expiring February 1, 2026 (See Attachment D for application).

MOTION made by P. Luna and **SECONDED** by A. Waters to appoint Patricia S. Branciforte to the Library Commission as a regular member for a term expiring February 1, 2026.

All in favor.

3. Youth Services Advisory Board

a. Barbara Mc Clane (D), regular member for a term expiring November 1, 2024 (See Attachment E for application).

MOTION made by P. Luna and **SECONDED** by A. Waters to appoint Barbara Mc Clane to the Youth Services Advisory Board as a regular member for a term expiring November 1, 2024.
All in favor.

4. Zoning Board of Appeals

a. Joseph R. Morin (D), alternate member for a term expiring November 1, 2025
(See Attachment F for application).

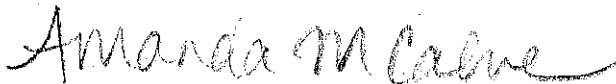
MOTION made by P. Luna and **SECONDED** by A. Waters to appoint Joseph R. Morin to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an alternate member for a term expiring November 1, 2025.
All in favor.

K. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION made P. Luna and **SECONDED** by S. Dabrowski to adjourn.
All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda M. Calve
Secretary



Attachment A

Town of Cromwell Office of the Mayor

MAYOR'S REPORT

Date: November 13, 2023
To: Members of the Town Council
From: James Demetriades, Mayor
Subject: Mayor's Report for 11/13/2023 Town Council Meeting

- Attended Ribbon Cutting for new Cromwell Business; Float 41
- Attended and spoke at the Veterans Day Ceremony at Cromwell Town Hall.
- Working with the Town Manager to set up department meetings with department heads to set up goals and objectives for each department.
- Discussed with the Middle School Building Committee setting up a presentation on the current status of the project for our next meeting.
- Will be meeting with the EDC chairperson next week to discuss a small business survey idea.
- Would like to schedule a special meeting prior to our next meeting as a public forum for community members to give feedback.
- Will be meeting with the Fire District in the coming weeks. Meeting TBD



CROMWELL CREATIVE DISTRICT

Town of Cromwell - Mayor's Office, Attn. Cromwell Creative District
41 West Street, Cromwell, CT 06416
www.cromwellcreativedistrict.org/ cromwellcreativedistrict@gmail.com

November 13, 2023

Good evening, Council Members and Town Manager,

On behalf of Cromwell Creative District (CCD), we wish to congratulate all the newly elected Council members. Katie Daigle, chair of CCD, wishes she could be here this evening but is attending a conference out of town.

For your awareness, CCD's mission statement reads as follows:

Cromwell Creative District, encompassing the area from Riverfront to Downtown Main Street, promotes economic vitality by celebrating our vibrant history, bolstering our current resources and revealing opportunities for future growth through creative programs, tours, and special events.

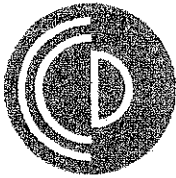
To clarify: Cromwell Creative District and our sister organization Cromwell Arts Alliance are two separate nonprofits, and both organizations have been fully supported since their inception by the Mayors of the Town Council and Council members. As nonprofits, both organizations are nonpartisan. We request and look forward to this Council's continued encouragement of our endeavors.

The previous Council approved a three-year timeframe to raise money for CCD to rehab, on behalf of all Cromwell nonprofits, as well as DEI and LGBTQ committees, the currently vacant garage adjacent to the Police Station. There is a donation of \$350,000.00 offered to help with this project and a year and half remaining on that time frame. These groups work collaboratively for the benefit of Cromwell residents and business and could provide more if there were a place to meet and hold events for up to 100 participants. Plans have already been created. Now, we continue to raise the required funds through grants and fundraising events.

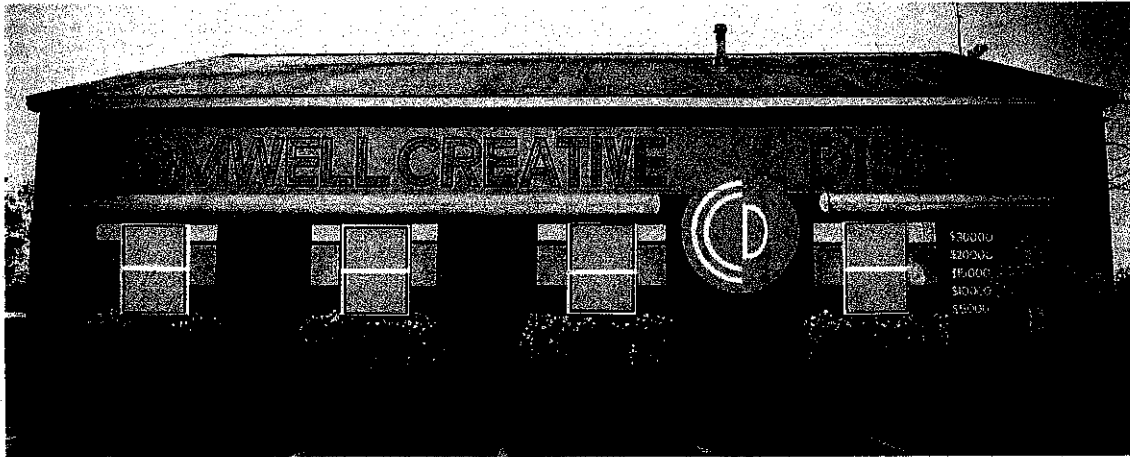
Thank you for your consideration.

Rethink How You See Cromwell

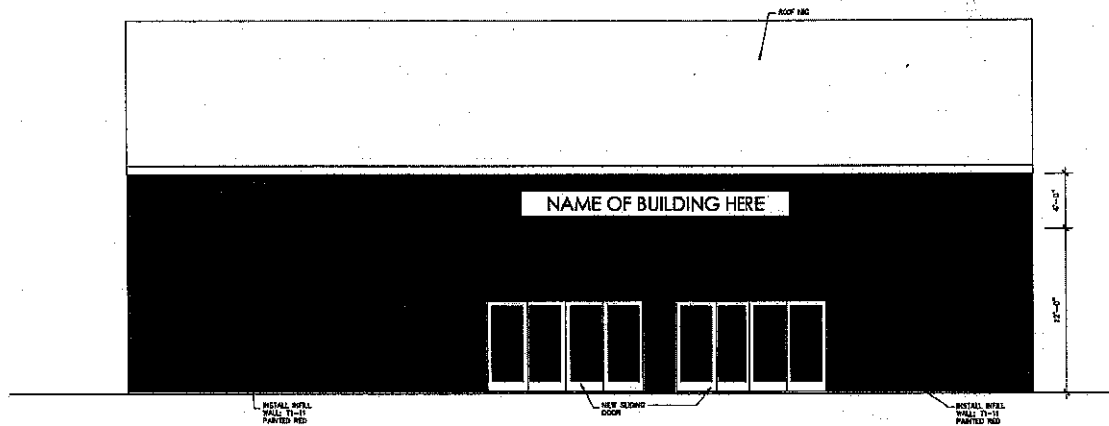
Cromwell Creative District is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization



CROMWELL CREATIVE DISTRICT

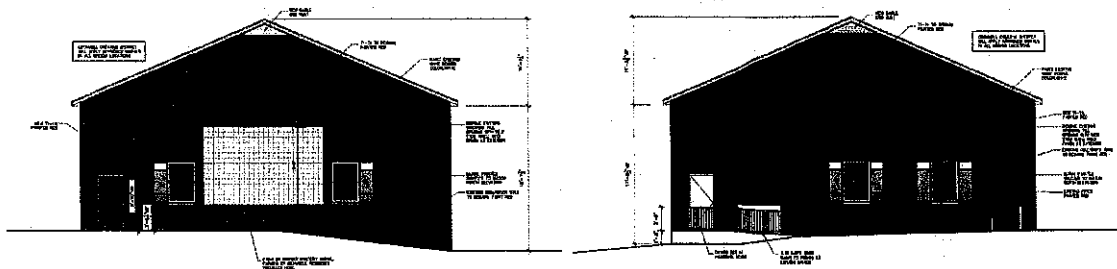


North side existing and to remain



1 SOUTH ELEVATION
A2.1

Proposed south side with two 12 foot sliders



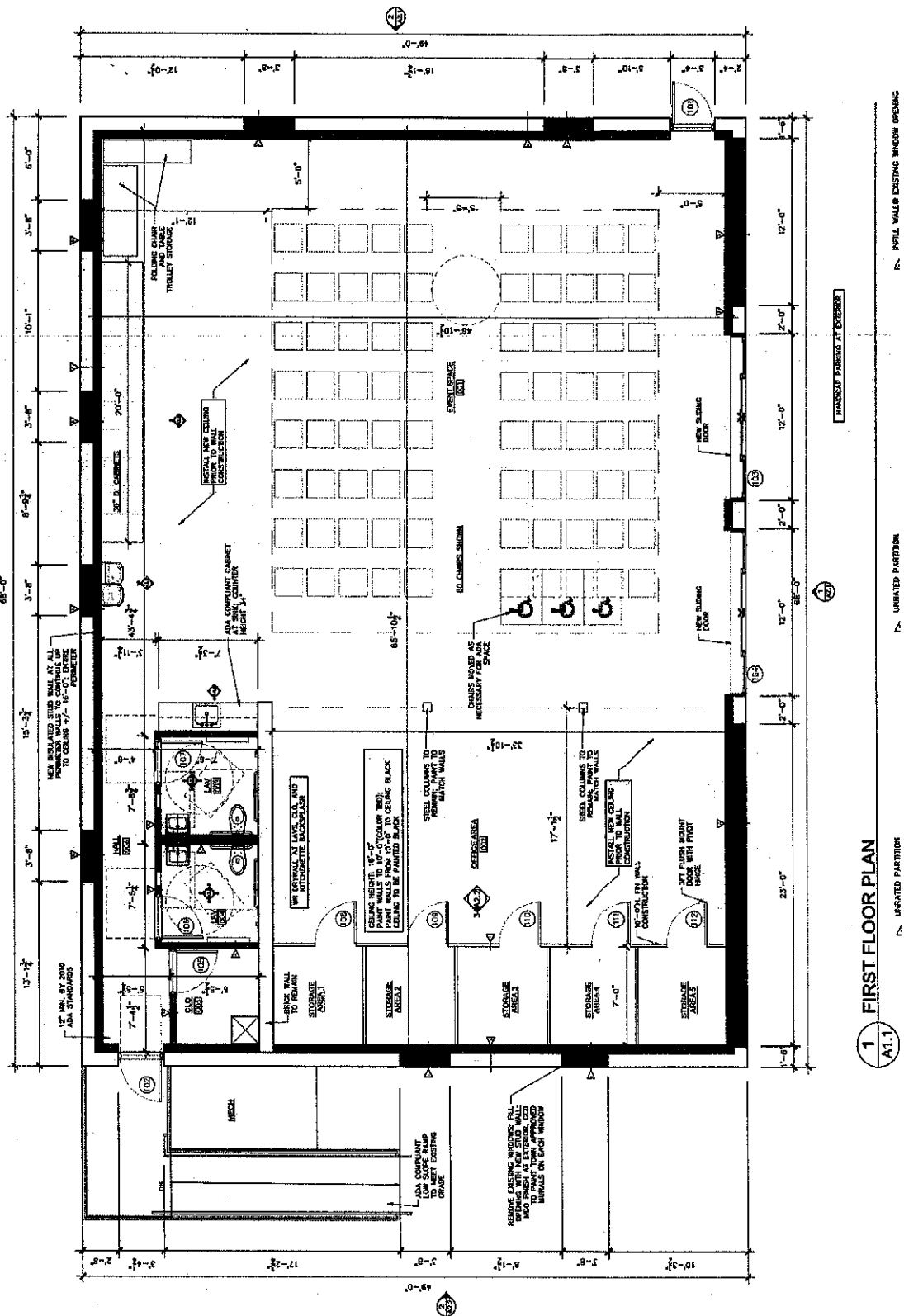
2 EAST ELEVATION
A2.1

2 WEST ELEVATION
A2.1

Proposed east end with mystery mural

Proposed west end with ADA access

turn over for plan view of proposed interior

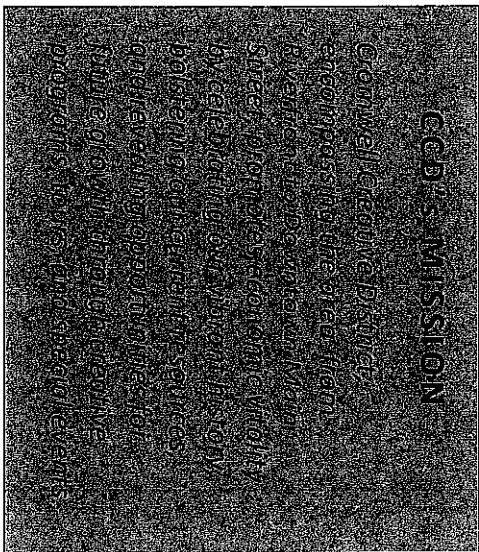


11.13.23 The full set of plans, approved by the previous Council pending funding, is available for presentation. Turn over to see elevations.

RETHINK HOW YOU SEE CROMWELL

WHAT IS A CREATIVE DISTRICT?

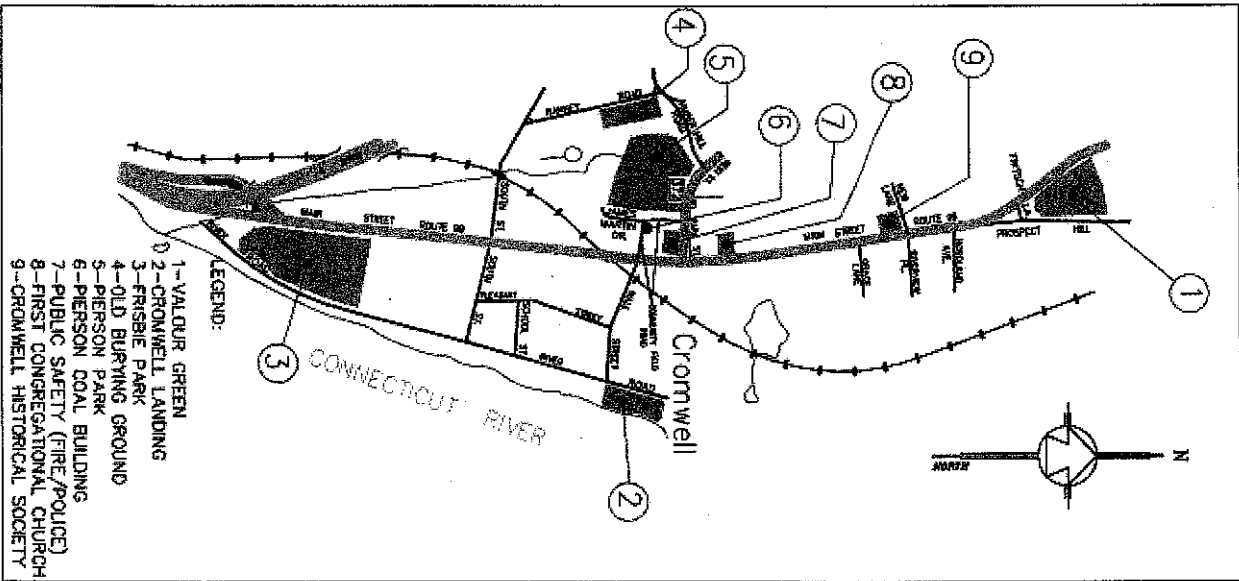
Creative Districts were developed by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in order to renew blighted urban areas and forgotten Main Streets. History has shown that artists and creators bring vitality into areas where they work and live.



GOALS

- ▶ Promote downtown Cromwell and help in the improvement of economic vitality
- ▶ Engage the community through cultural and artistic activities
- ▶ Help beautify the area to attract businesses, visitors, and residents with the eye to improving the community's image
- ▶ Create spaces for all levels of artistic or creative people to come together as a community and create lasting relationships
- ▶ Help artists by connecting them to resources, telling their stories, and promoting their art form
- ▶ Celebrate Cromwell and its rich historical and artistic side

CROMWELL CREATIVE DISTRICT MAP



CCD PROJECTS

MURALS

Local artists and volunteers design and install murals throughout the District.



International Muralist ARCY creates for Main St.



North Side of Pierson Coal Building (Sewer Garage)

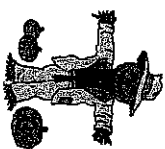
HISTORIC HOUSE AUDIO TOUR

Take a walk down memory lane. Visit Downtown Cromwell and the surrounding area while listening to an audio tour that extolls our rich history and architecture.



COFFEEHOUSE

Local artists and performers of many genres are invited to showcase their work in this annual event.



SCARECROW SEARCH

Businesses #inthedistrict together with CCD create scarecrows to promote their services. Residents and visitors are invited to participate in the search, which includes various creative activities providing fun for families and friends while invigorating awareness.

GET INVOLVED

If you wish to volunteer or become a member, contact us! We meet the 3rd Saturday of each month at 9:00a.m. If you cannot become a member, we also invite you to donate, volunteer, or attend an upcoming event.

Every little bit helps!!

To become a member or sign up for our newsletter, email or visit our website:
cromwellcreativedistrict@gmail.com
www.cromwellcreativedistrict.org

Don't forget to follow us on social media.



Cromwell Creative District

CONTACT INFORMATION

First Name: _____
 Last Name: _____
 Agency/ Org. _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State, Zip: _____
 Phone No. _____
 E-mail: _____

Subscribe to CCD newsletter ☐
 Add me to the Friends list ☐

DONATIONS

All donations are tax-free and no matter the size, will help provide programs and activities for the entire community while improving cultural awareness.

We thank you for your support.

Choosing a level of sponsorship is a great way to increase your business exposure while celebrating Cromwell's creativity.

All proceeds benefit Cromwell.

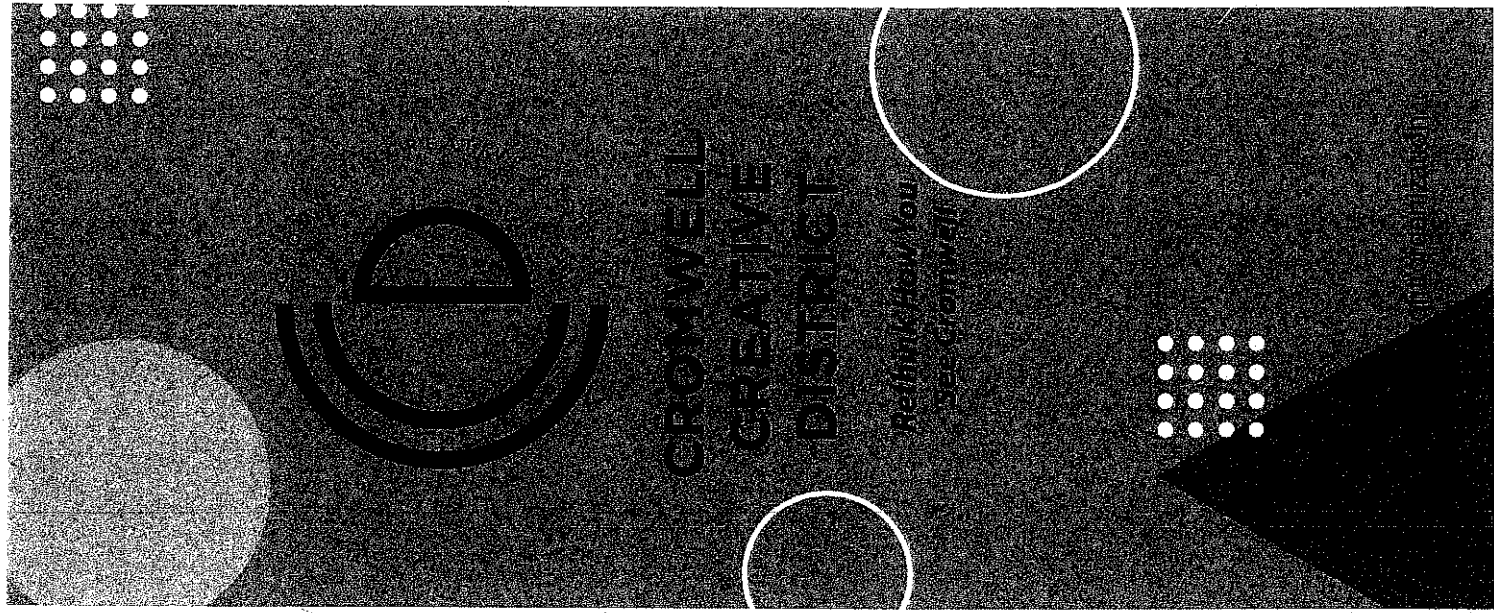
CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION

Check	Description	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/>	Corporate Sponsor	\$5,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	Founding Partner	\$1,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Sponsor	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/>	Patron	\$350
<input type="checkbox"/>	Associate	\$200
<input type="checkbox"/>	Supporter	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustaining Member	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	—

Donations are tax deductible

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Check Payable to Cromwell Creative District
 Town of Cromwell – Mayor's Office
 ATTN: Cromwell Creative District
 41 West Street, Cromwell, CT 06416



Memo

To: Anthony Salvatore, Town Manager
From: Stuart B. Popper, AICP
Director of Planning and Development
Date: November 13, 2023
Re: Electric Chargers Fee Questions and Answers

1. What Resources were used to research. When. Was the resource a website, a phone call, meeting attended.

The research was done during the first week of November 2023. The first phase of my research was a review of the existing charging stations in Connecticut municipalities.

I used an online website called ChargeHub. ChargeHub was launched in 2012 as a special project of Mogile Technologies to help electric car drivers find public charging stations in the United States and in Canada.

2. What communities were benchmarked against?

Using ChargeHub I was able to find which municipalities currently have charging stations, the number of charging stations and the cost for charging. Currently forty-three (43) of Connecticut's one hundred sixty-nine, (169) municipalities have EV charging units.

Twenty-nine (29) of the municipalities do not charge for use of the EV chargers. The costs for three of the municipalities was unknown and nine municipalities charge for the use of the EV chargers.

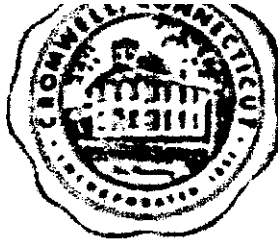
Branford, Deep River, Guilford, Hebron, Mansfield, Meriden, Old Saybrook, Putnam and Waterbury all charge for the use of the EV chargers. These towns charge from \$0.16 cents to \$0.45 cents per kwh, based upon their cost and cover charges.

3. Was usage at other communities also evaluated? What is Cromwell's anticipated usage and based on the 16-20 cents above kw, what are the projected earnings?

Usage at other communities was not evaluated. We have no idea of Cromwell's anticipated usage and projected earnings. Cromwell's estimated cost and cover charges will be \$0.345 per kwh.

4. How often will the rates be reviewed and earnings on such collections be reported out?

Staff recommends that rates and earnings be reviewed quarterly.



Attachment D

Town of Cromwell Board & Commission Application Form

Name: Patricia S. Branciforte

Address: (Home) 8 Diane Drive

Telephone: (860) 635-1577 (cell) (860) 301-4895

E-mail Address: patnmil2913@gmail.com Occupation: Retired

If you are not currently a registered voter in Cromwell, please register in the Town Clerk's office to serve on a board or commission. If you are registered, please check off your party affiliation below. Thank you.

Party affiliation:

☒ Democrat☐ Republican☐ Unaffiliated

Board or Commission of Interest: Library Commission

Briefly explain your reasons for being interested in serving your town in this capacity and note the qualifications you have which you think will be an asset to this Board or Commission

My husband and I are frequent patrons of the library and I would like to see the library grow and flourish. As Director of Member Services for 7 years at the Greater Hartford Assoc. of REALTORS, I know how important it is to provide services and keep, in this case, our patrons happy.

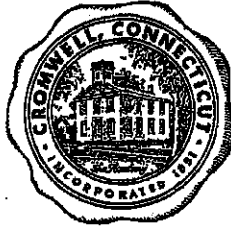
Please include three (3) References with your application.

Name	Address	Phone Number
Kathy Newton	1 Elm Rd, Cromwell	(860) 573-8908 cell
Marie Roberto	101 West St, Cromwell	(860) 4316
Matt Blanchette	27 Meadow Rd, Cromwell	(203) 910-9677

Signature: Patricia S. Branciforte

Date: 10/23/23

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this application. Volunteers play a vital role in the Cromwell government and we appreciate your interest. Upon completing your application please forward to the Mayor's Office, 41 West Street, Cromwell, CT 06416.



Town of Cromwell Board & Commission Application Form

Name: Barbara McClone
 Address: (Home) 17 Hemlock Court, Cromwell, CT 06416
 Telephone: 860 983-0634
 E-mail Address: barbmcclone@gmail.com Occupation: Author, Facilitator (workshop) Professional Photographer

If you are not currently a registered voter in Cromwell, please register in the Town Clerk's office to serve on a board or commission. If you are registered, please check off your party affiliation below. Thank you.

Party affiliation: ☒ Democrat ☐ Republican ☐ Unaffiliated

Board or Commission of Interest: YAB

Briefly explain your reasons for being interested in serving your town in this capacity and note the qualifications you have which you think will be an asset to this Board or Commission.

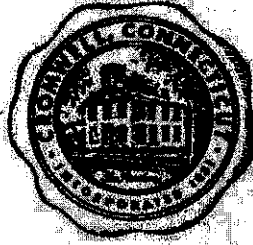
Getting involved in my community with the
Youths has become necessary to help build
and make an impact on their mindset

Please include three (3) References with your application.

Name	Address	Phone Number
NZina Hutchings	22 West View Drive Enfield, CT	860 597-4353
NASIRA Murray	West Haven, CT	203 809-1342
Kelly McClap	17 Hemlock Court	860 846-8154

Signature: Barbara McClone Date: 10/18/23

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this application. Volunteers play a vital role in the Cromwell government and we appreciate your interest. Upon completing your application please forward to the Mayor's Office, 41 West Street, Cromwell, CT 06416.



Town of Cromwell Board & Commission Application Form

Name: Joseph R. Morin

Address: (Home) 8 West St. Terrace

Telephone: 860-965-8581

E-mail Address: Joseph.morin@SBCGLOBAL.NET Occupation: Retired

If you are not currently a registered voter in Cromwell, please register in the Town Clerk's office to serve on a board or commission. If you are registered, please check off your party affiliation below. Thank you.

Party affiliation: ☒ Democrat ☐ Republican ☐ Unaffiliated

Board or Commission of Interest: ZONING BD OF APPEALS - ALT. DEM

Briefly explain your reasons for being interested in serving your town in this capacity and note the qualifications you have which you think will be an asset to this Board or Commission.

LIKE TO FILL ALTERNATE VACANCY SINCE 2021
I have served as former chairman on this board
and several terms as well as Inland WETLAND
and was first chair of Conservation Comm.

Please include three (3) References with your application.

Name	Address	Phone Number
Edwin Maloy		860 558 3049
Jennifer LeRove		860 906 7478
Dan Delisiz		

Signature: Joseph R Morin Date: 11-9-2023

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this application. Volunteers play a vital role in the Cromwell government and we appreciate your interest. Upon completing your application please forward to the Mayor's Office, 41 West Street, Cromwell, CT 06416.