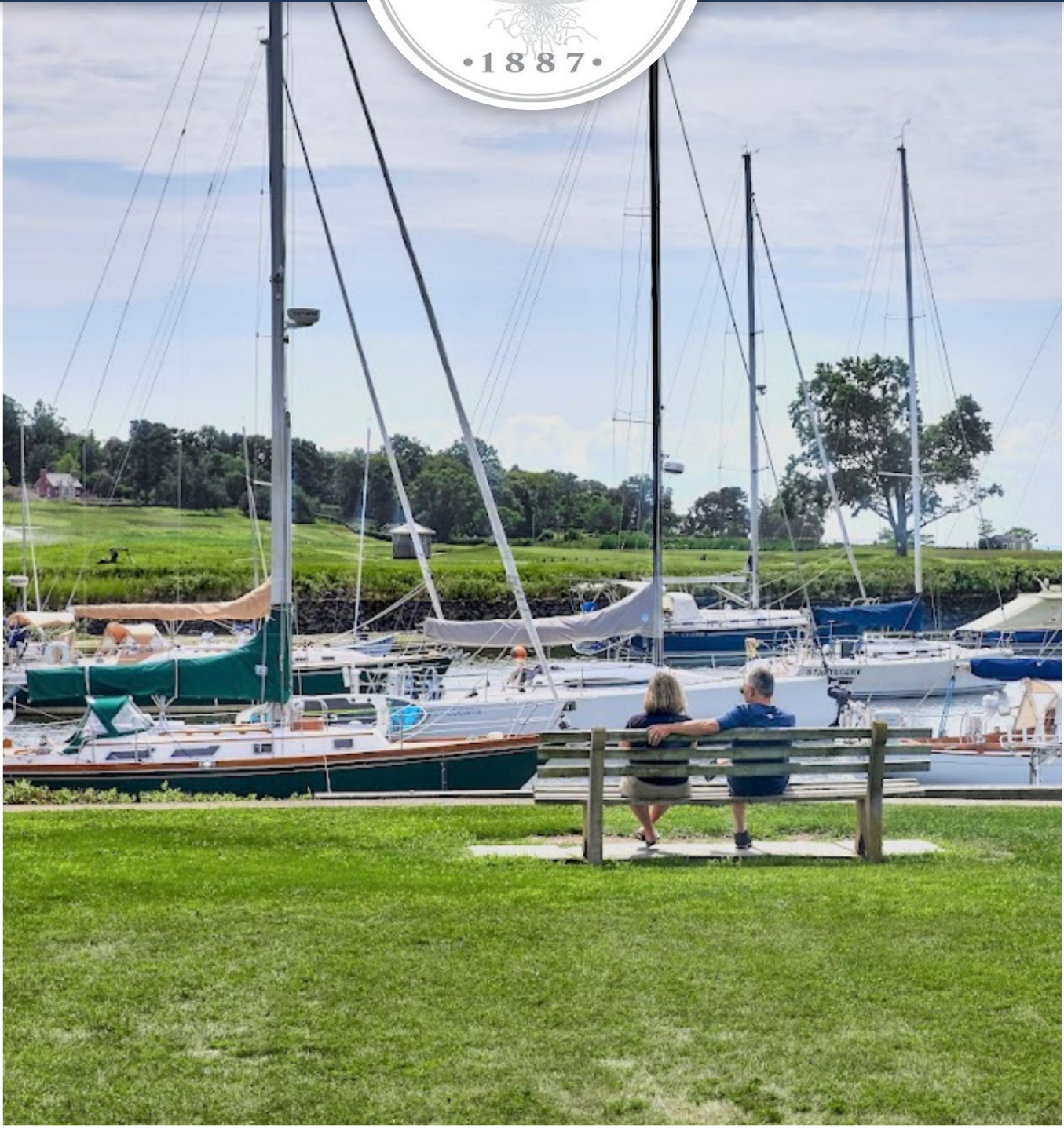


Year in Review



2021–2022





Letter from the President

A rich sense of history, pride in community, and a passion for preservation are what make Southport so magical — and all are the bedrock upon which The Sasquanaug Association was built. Since our early days in the late 1800s, we have been at the forefront of nearly every major public lands victory in Southport. Today, we continue our commitment to our two-fold mission to *promote the historic character and charm of Southport; and contribute to the community's day-to-day enjoyment of village life.*

2022 has been a busy year of “firsts” for the Sasquanaug, kicking off with our official new status as a 501(c)(3) organization, an important development for our organization. We hosted our inaugural Earth Day at Southport Park event, and enjoyed our first Open House Meet + Greet at the ‘Shoe. We continued with some fun traditions like our 3rd annual Summer Block Party, as well as partnering with other community organizations on events throughout the year like the 2022 Christmas Walk in Southport village, 2022 Blessing of the Fleet Parade, and the 4th of July Bike Parade.

This past year was also a year of enhancing and improving the public spaces we oversee in the 06890, such as twin garbage receptacles for Perry Green and Lower Wharf, a new shared dumpster enclosure for Spic & Span Market and The Driftwood, and gorgeous native plantings at the Park.

For a village that covers under 3 square miles in total, Southport holds such a rich treasure trove, and we are proud to be the stewards for many of them, from Southport Park to Perry Green to The Robinson Cottage to the Sea Lodge. This year, we were humbled to receive official designation for the Sea Lodge on the State Registry of Historic Places — an important and worthy honor. And let’s not forget the lower parking lot on the Old Post Road below Chase Bank — free parking right in the heart of the village!

As always, along with the highlights come real challenges, most notably in treading the delicate balance between preservation and progress while welcoming an influx of new residents to Southport. Our Commissions Committee ably navigated over five potential developments this past year alone, and I’m proud to note that we facilitated productive dialogue between neighbors and developers to assure that any future development projects would be additive to our community.

As we close out another year and begin a new one, my heart is full of gratitude and I’m honored to build upon the efforts of so many before me as we look to a very bright future for The Sasquanaug Association and Southport. A few of our exciting goals for 2023 include breaking ground on a new historic walking trail at Southport Park, addressing safety/traffic concerns, exploring the possibility of a new playground for young families, and finding ways to support the local merchants that make our village so special.

As we begin our 135th season, we’re delighted to carry on the hard work and hustle of our predecessors and to welcome our community to special events like our Sasquanaug Block Party, the springtime Earth Day Celebration, and so much more on tap for 2023 and beyond. Thank you for your generosity, support, and enthusiasm — you have made us who we are today!

With appreciation,

Laura Becker Lawlor
President, Sasquanaug Association Board of Trustees

Our Mission and History

MISSION

To promote the historic character of Southport and to contribute to the community's day-to-day enjoyment of village life.

How We Bring Our Mission to Life:

- We preserve the historic nature of Southport village, including owning and maintaining several historic properties.
- We sponsor events that bring the community together.
- We invest in civic improvements around town (repair of sidewalks, new waste receptacles, etc.).
- We advocate to protect open space and prevent overdevelopment in the village.
- We improve pedestrian & cyclist safety.
- We support the local merchants that make Southport so special.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2021-2022

Laura Becker Lawlor, *President*
 Jake Chang, *Vice President*
 Jack Ijams, *Vice President*
 George Russell, *Treasurer*
 Sharon Klammer, *Assistant Treasurer*
 Peg North, *Secretary*
 Ellen Ringel Boyle, *Assistant Secretary*

Sefra Alexandra	Mike Place
Thomas Dailey	Alloe Stokes
Paul Fattibene	Olivia Stone
Joyce Hergenhan	Tyler Stone
Alane Kelly	Patty Sullivan
Stephen Kinney	Pamela Viglielmo
Joyce Miller	Richard Webb
Jennifer Murphy	

Thank you to our outgoing board members for your years of service to our town! Alane, Mike, Alloe, Patty, Pam, Thomas, and Stephen — we look forward to working together with you in the future in service of our community.

We are excited to welcome Fran Dubicki, Kelly Potter McHale, Amy Pardee, Alanna Griswold, and Ben Gray to join the Sasquanaug Association Board of Trustees for our 2022 - 2023 season.



HISTORY

The Sasquanaug Association for Southport Improvement was founded in 1887 by a group of prominent women seeking to improve and beautify the village of Southport, Connecticut. At the time, Southport was in a period of transition from a bustling shipping town to a more residential enclave. Inspired by similar groups in other towns in Connecticut and Massachusetts, the group raised funds through membership dues, bake sales and lawn parties to fund their endeavors such as the installation and maintenance of bluestone sidewalks and kerosene street lamps throughout the village.

In addition to civic improvement projects, the Association began to acquire properties, including land on Southport Beach purchased in 1901 (future home of the original Sea Lodge bathing pavilion), the historic Robinson Cottage in 1926, and Southport Park, a twelve-acre wildlife preserve, in 1952 — all of which The Sasquanaug Association still owns and maintains today.

To this day, Sasquanaug's Board of Trustees and its membership, comprised today of both men and women, strive to continue the organization's mission.



EARTH DAY AT SOUTHPORT PARK

We held our Annual Earth Day Celebration in April. Friends and neighbors joined us in Southport Park to help plant a new community garden of Southport Globe Onions, pick up litter, enjoy fun crafts for kids, and meet fellow Southporters over coffee and pastries from local restaurant, Gruel Britannia. Be on the lookout for exciting announcements about improvements to our park in 2023!



BLESSING OF THE FLEET

Every year we are honored to play a small part in one of Southport's greatest traditions, the Blessing of the Fleet. This wonderful event, which takes place each June, includes a parade through the village and a blessing of ships at the entrance to Southport Harbor. This year, Sasquanaug sponsored free ice cream for all at The Lower Wharf from Alene's Ice Cream and led tours of a historic Southport home to educate the community about historic preservation.



3RD ANNUAL SASQUANAUG BLOCK PARTY

We were thrilled to welcome members and the extended Southport and Fairfield community to our 3rd Annual End of Summer Block Party at Pequot Library! We hosted 400+ visitors throughout the afternoon, enjoyed ice cream from Alene's Ice Cream Truck and pizza from Proof Pizza Truck, let kids play soccer with Coach Aldwin, had fun with two bouncy houses, enjoyed pony rides and animal snuggles from Goldi Locks Rescue Farm, and raffled off items donated by community members — all while enjoying music from Hot Club of Black Rock. Your membership helps build and foster community in our town, and we look forward to doing more events like this in the future!



CIVIC IMPROVEMENT

As part of our ongoing mission to improve village life, we continued our work of maintaining all the properties we own and those that have been entrusted to us for preservation. These include: Southport Park, The Robinson Cottage, The Sea Lodge, Town lot for Southport visitors, and Perry Green.

Additionally, our membership support has allowed us to add a waste enclosure by The Driftwood Coffee Shop to help beautify our village center, supply Perry Green visitors with attractive and historically appropriate waste bins, and work with the town to rebuild and repair Perry Green's retaining wall abutting Southport Harbor.



SPRING HAPPY HOUR SOCIAL

We hosted a Spring Happy Hour at the beloved Horseshoe Cafe in the village. We had a great turnout of neighbors who were excited to meet other members of the community over drinks and light bites in a fun, casual setting.



4TH OF JULY BIKE PARADE

Every July 4th, Pequot Library hosts a wonderful bike parade for kids. Dozens of families gather in the center of the village with decorated bicycles, scooters, and wagons. This year, Sasquanaug set up a small table at the start of the parade to hand out free pastries and coffee to all the tired parents in the crowd.





TOWN COMMISSIONS

The Commissions Committee has worked over the past year to provide organizational and financial support to discuss important potential developments in Southport. We worked to convene important conversations between different constituents in the community to find outcomes suitable for the proper development of the town. We are always looking to represent the interests of Southport residents when we attend Fairfield town meetings and encourage you to write to us anytime with questions, comments, or concerns on this subject.

Looking Ahead

We're excited to share dates for upcoming events around Southport in 2023. Please follow our website and social channels throughout the year to find the latest information on these events. We look forward to seeing you there!

[www://](http://www.sasquanaug.org) sasquanaug.org | [@sasquanaug](https://www.instagram.com/sasquanaug)  



SASQUANAUG + PEQUOT LIBRARY MOVIE NIGHT

January 2023



SASQUANAUG EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, April 22, 2023



SASQUANAUG SPRING HAPPY HOUR

Thursday, May 18, 2023



BLESSING OF THE FLEET

June 2023



4TH OF JULY BIKE PARADE

Tuesday, July 4, 2023



SASQUANAUG ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY

Saturday, September 16, 2023



HARVEST FESTIVAL

October 2023



SASQUANAUG ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, November 5, 2023



SOUTHPORT HOLIDAY WEEK

December 4-8, 2023

How to Get Involved



BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Sasquanaug relies on engaged members of the community to volunteer. From planning events to weeding the trails of Southport Park to helping with fundraising, there are plenty of tasks to be done and we are always looking for volunteers.

Specific areas of focus for 2023:

- Marketing and Events
- Civic Improvement
- Traffic Safety
- Merchant Outreach
- Southport Park

Please email sasquanaug@gmail.com if interested!



BECOME A MEMBER

As an active protector of the quality of life in Southport, The Sasquanaug Association needs your support. Becoming a member allows individuals and families who live in Southport to have the biggest impact on our community.

Join us today by visiting our website, sasquanaug.org, or scanning the QR code below. The Sasquanaug Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and all donations and membership dues are tax-deductible.



SASQUANAUG.ORG





Thank You for a Phenomenal 2021-2022 Season!



The Sasquanaug Association 135th Year Celebration

The Sasquanaug Association is a non-profit dedicated to improving day-to-day life in Southport, CT. We are excited to commemorate our 135th Anniversary this year. Spend the year celebrating our Southport community as we work together to preserve our town and foster the community we love.

Join us and learn more:

