

NOANK FIRE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2024 – 2025

The Noank Fire District Executive Committee met in the Fire District building each month during 2024-2025 fiscal year. Prior to each meeting, bills against the District, having been collected and sorted by the District Clerk, were examined by the Executive Committee and, if found correct, were approved to be paid. The Executive Committee also administers the Noank Water Company and the bills of the Water Company were processed in the same manner.

During the monthly meetings, the Executive Committee receives and reviews reports from the Fire Chief, Fire Marshal, NFD Treasurer, Water Company Superintendent, and Zoning Enforcement Officer or their deputies. Also submitting reports on an as needed basis are members of the Noank Park Commission, Noank Zoning Commission, and Noank Historical Society.

With assistance from our Fire Officers and various District commissions the Executive Committee has, in the majority of cases, been able to successfully address issues and concerns of our residents. The Noank residential trash collection program continues to successfully operate on a “one charge per household per year” basis and participation in this program helps to ensure that the Noank Fire District can continue offering these services. CWPM remains our contracted trash collection provider and our Clerk has reported very few residents’ concerns or complaints. Our current agreement term with CWPM expires at the end of June 2029.

The Executive Committee is pleased to entertain civic and private group requests for use of the meeting room and community room at the Noank Firehouse. In the few cases where the District receives minimal donations for use of the Firehouse, those funds are passed on to other civic groups such as the Noank Fire Volunteer Fire Company and the Noank Cemetery Association.

During the past year, the Noank Fire District Clerk maintained regular hours at the Firehouse twice a week and the ability to virtually access the computer located at the firehouse remains integral to keeping operations running outside of regular hours.

Additionally, the Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO) holds office hours on Tuesday evenings.

Noank continues to provide staffing of an EMT/Firefighter in the firehouse seven days a week from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm. This coverage ensures the rapid response to any emergency situation in the Noank Fire District during daytime work hours when other volunteers are not always available. It is Chief Michael Gale and other personnel that provide this coverage.

ASSORTED EVENTS AND ACTIONS

NOANK FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Gale has done an outstanding job and the Executive Committee is grateful for his continued commitment and leadership in this role. The Committee would also like to recognize the men and women volunteers who give of their time and professional expertise to ensure our citizens are kept safe and aided in time of need.

Fire Marshal and Deputy Fire Chief Charles Chaffee continues his diligent efforts to inspect Commercial and residential properties that fall under his jurisdiction. These efforts help to ensure the safety of workers, patrons, and residents.

ZONING

Over the years, issues related to Noank zoning regulations, architectural review, and construction projects occasionally have required the services of attorneys. While it is sometimes difficult to foresee what issues are on the horizon, the Executive Committee makes every effort to anticipate, budget, and manage for these costs to ensure no other Fire District services are impacted.

NOANK PARK COMMITTEE

The Noank Park Committee continues to maintain and improve various aspects of our small community park. The Committee recently replaced benches and continues to update various aspects of the park to enhance safety and overall appearance. The Executive Committee would like to thank those on the Park Committee and other residents and volunteers that continue to make the Noank Park a village asset.

NOANK SCHOOL PROPERTY

The Noank School property remains designated as Town of Groton “open space” and is utilized by citizens throughout the Groton community.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Executive Committee and officers are pleased to note that the Noank Fire District website continues to be well received. We encourage residents to utilize the website (noankfiredistrict.com) as their first stop for information regarding announcements, regulations, the Water Company, Fire Department and Zoning. Additionally, the Clerk continues to send regular email communications and if you are not on the mailing list, please submit your email address to the Clerk to be included in future direct communications.

WATER COMPANY

Water Company Superintendent, Ted Rathjen, and our Assistant Superintendent, Frank Lewis, and Chuck Toal have worked relentlessly to ensure Noank’s water supply system is functioning efficiently and safely. Their work in all weather conditions often goes unnoticed by many, but their efforts are genuinely appreciated by all our residents who rely on them daily. In the coming year, the Water Company will be overseeing installation of new water mains in town and we appreciate neighbors’ cooperation and patience as this necessary work takes place.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

As many of you may know, the planning and organization of the Noank Memorial Day Parade was handed off to a group of dedicated residents who have ensured this long-held tradition remains a part of our close-knit community. Our sincere gratitude is extended to those volunteers. The Executive Committee would like to remind residents that continuation of the parade relies partly on donations and it is never too early to make a contribution to that end.

The Noank Fire District Executive Committee remains grateful to all who volunteer their time and talents to the Noank Fire District. Community groups such as the Noank Historical Society, Noank Cemetery Association, and the Park Committee all serve to make Noank a wonderful community in which to live. The Executive Committee would like to remind residents to let us know should you have a desire to volunteer your services to any of the various boards and committees.

Respectfully submitted.

Noank Fire District Executive Committee

Michael Noel, Katherine Rathbun, and David Steel

May 20, 2025