

WESTBROOK MAYORS

[The following is a list of Westbrook Mayors; included is a report on our Mayors 1939-1971, done by Philip Spiller]

1891 Leander Valentine (R)
1892 Mahlon H. Webb (D)
1893-94 Albert A. Cordwell (R)
1895-96 William W. Cutter (R)
1897 Francis A. Cloudman (R)
1898-99 King S. Raymond (Cit. '98 & Dem '99)
1900-01 Dr. Jacob L. Horr (R)
1902-04 Joseph A. Warren (R)
1905-06 Rufus K. Jordan (D)
1907-08 Seth C. Morton (D)
1909-10 Harry F.G. Hay (R)
1911-15 Oscar G.K. Robinson (D)
1916 Otis S. Trafton (R)
1917-18 Oscar G.K. Robinson (D)
1919 William B. Bragdon (R)
1920 Willis H. Duran (R)
1921-23 John Lawrensen (R)
1924 Charles S. Tuttle, Jr. (R)
1925 Eugene I. Cummings (D)
1926 John Lawrensen (R)
1927 Eugene I. Cummings (D)
1928 Walter F. Haskell (R)
1929-31 Eugene I. Cummings (D)
1932 King F. Graham (R)
1933-35 Rufus K. Jordan (D)
1936 Carroll M. Richardson (R)
1937-41 Roscoe F. Libby (D)

WESTBROOK MAYORS

1939 – 1971

Compiled and written by Philip D. Spiller

[With listing of some Westbrook changes/improvements during their term in office]

ROSCO LIBBY -1939

- < 1 ½ mile of Brook St. built – 18” base – 2” top
- < Forest St. & Mechanic St. had bituminous macadam treatment (68,112 s.f.)
- < Methodist Rd. under construction – 3500’ of road ready for surface
- < 6.9 miles of gravel road given 1st treatment

- < Rubbish collection in full swing – 8 loads avg. daily collection – dump covered daily
- < Bridge St. bridge replanked (Much work done by WPA)
- < Warren League grounds rebuilt
- < Because work done on city streets & paid by state it was necessary to set up a book keeping system – the first
- < Costs to run Poor Farm \$2,749.20 – milk & wood delivered was greatest cost – new delivery truck cost \$500
- < 623 students registered at WHS

ROSCO LIBBY – 1940

- < WPA building sewers
- < 2 men & 1 truck pick up trash most of the time
- < Brook St. completed with state aid
- < WPA continues work on Methodist Rd.
- < Many lots in Saccarappa Cemetery not cared for – plea for relatives to pay \$40 for perpetual care of 8 grave lots
- < Legion Band started in 1938 – provided enough members so a high school band was formed in 1940
- < Report by Ansel B. Sterling – Art Penmanship Director

ROSCO LIBBY – 1941

- < 1 mile of Methodist Rd remains to be built
- < Most of streets have now been treated with asphalt
- < WPA now working on government work – national defense
- < Teachers resigning were Mrs. Nan Hatch, Mrs. Frances Wight
- < Shortage of trained teachers in Maine
- < Wages of teachers remain the same while costs escalate
- < War Defense Stamps sold in school
- < New band stand built in Riverbank Park
- < Warren League ball grounds under jurisdiction of Parks Dept. –
\$100 appropriated to cover expenses

H. ORDWAY FURBISH – 1942 (R)

- < Due to war effort expenditures kept to a minimum
- < Highland Lake Cemetery turned over to city

- < Defense Stamp sales at schools total \$15,886.57
 - < Miss Fanny B. Cragin resigns from Forest St. School
 - < Austin Alden resigns
 - < Carl Jensen becomes Director of Industrial Arts
 - < John P. Davan joined high school faculty
- H. ORDWAY FURBISH – 1943
- < Street dept. handicapped by labor shortage
 - < Some streets got first application of tar
 - < Foot work on railroad bridge built in 1910 by MCRR & maintained by S.D. Warren until 1942 when responsibility handed to City
 - < Cumberland Mills bridges replanked
 - < Bridges built in 1896 – replacement bridges recommended
 - < Roy Robinson joins WHS faculty
 - < 1943 City Report dedicated to 1320 Westbrook men and women serving their country
 - < Copies of Honor Roll handed out

H. ORDWAY FURBISH – 1944

- < Only road construction was Woodlawn Ave. between Rochester & Haskell St.
- < Duck Pond Rd. completely ditched & resurfaced with tar
- < Margaret Swett joined faculty at Prides Corner School – 1st & 2nd grade
- < Garage collection cost \$300 – compared to \$12,000 – for a city slightly larger

H. ORDWAY FURBISH – 1945

- < St. Hyacinth Church completed
- < 12 inmates at Town Farm
- < Sale of milk greatest source of income
- < Teachers Fred Harlow & Joe Given return from service

EVERETT R. COFFIN – 1946 (R)

- < 23 veterans enrolled in high school

EVERETT O. PORELL – 1947 (D)

- < New snow bucket was made for city power shovel
- < Dining hall & tool shed of Town Farm partially burned & torn down
- < Supt. Of Schools Guy V. Sinclair resigned after 30 yrs service to Westbrook schools
- < Anthony Brackett took over as School Supt.
- < Enrollments at Prides Corner & Forest St. schools critical

EVERETT O. PORELL – 1948

- < \$40,000 Memorial Swimming Pool in use
- < Kieckhefer Container Co. built \$1,000,000 plant on Hawkes St.
- < Parking meters a great help on Main St
- < Veteran's Firemen's Hall moved from Mechanic St to corner of W. Pleasant St. &

Quimby Ave

- < Town Farm has 19 cows, 4 heifers, 23 hogs, 24 hens
- < Second floor laid in new fire station in Cumberland Mills
- < 1st year of physical education program at WHS

ERNEST O. PORELL – 1949

- < Citizens Committee defeated vicious form of government known as the

Council-Manager Plan

- < Bought & paid for 20 acres of land on Stroudwater St.
- < 4 acres given to state who bought a \$40,000 vehicle garage
- < "Veteran's Rest" plot set aside at Woodlawn Cemetery
- < City Farm discontinued October 1, 1949

ERNEST O. PORELL – 1950

- < Work started on new Prides Corner School -\$150,000 set for cost
- < New form of Report Cards
- < Kiley Terry died – Warren Saunders became Chairman of School Board

ALAN D. TAYLOR – 1951 (R)

- < 30 acres bought on Stroudwater St. for \$8,000
- < Zoning ordinance adopted November 1951

< Order placed for new Seagrace 65' Junion aerial ladder truck to replace 19 yr old

Ladder Truck No. 1

< Pride's Corner Kiwanis Club graded grounds & provided playground equipment,

costing several thousand dollars

< Westbrook Planning Commission set up February 1951

< Land in Ward 3 to be acquired from Landrys

RICHARD F. LIBBY – 1952 (D)

- < Zoning Board of Appeals set up
- < \$20,000 provided for Camp Dresser & McKee to study old sewer system & storm drains & to plan for future sewerage
- < Traffic Study made – increase use of Spring St. suggested
- < Planning Board recommended to ME Turnpike Authority that an interchange be between Brighton Ave. & Warren Ave.
- < Lester Beal of Portland hired as Architect to draw plans for 8 room elementary school on Alphonse St.
- < Alonzo Harriman, Inc. of Auburn hired to draw sketches of a new high school – 28 classrooms, auditorium, gymnasium & offices estimated to cost \$850,000
- < Heaviest snowfall in 20 yrs

RICHARD F. LIBBY – 1953

- < Camp Dresser & McKee Sewer Study & plans for entire sewer system calls for 20 to 30 yrs of construction to \$9,000,000 – plans accepted by City Council
- < Planning Board studied alternate routes around town or road parallel to Main St. – cost too high – hardships on various businesses & property owners
- < Saccarappa Rd to Saccarappa School built
- < OGK Robinson (1953), Ordway Furbish & Roscoe Libby (1954) died
- < New traffic pattern set up in Vallee Square
- < 2 new bridges under construction on Cumberland St.

RICHARD F. LIBBY – 1954

- < Hurricane “Carol” strikes followed by “Edna”

- < New tank truck put into service November 1954
- < New high school on Stroudwater St. under construction
- < S.D. Warren gave \$100,000 for a gymnasium at high school
- < Elmer Currier was chairman of WHS Building Committee
- < Milton Philbrook retired as Principal of WHS (25 yrs) – elected to faculty in 1922
- < Fred Lucci hired as permanent Assessor clerk

RICHARD F. LIBBY – 1955

- < New dial system set up in telephone building on Ash St.
 - < Traffic rotary plan in Cumberland Mills established
 - < 62 new residences built
 - < City revalued by Cole-Layer-Trumble Co.
 - < Total assessed value \$26,211,645
 - < New Wayne St. sweeper purchased
 - < In October Albert Hume hired as an engineer
 - < New sand spreader used for ice control & tarring of roads
 - < WHS pretty well completed
 - < Elmer Currier retires as WHS Building Committee Chairman
 - < National Honor Society established at WHS
 - < Old WHS used as high school 0730 -1215 & as junior high school 1215 – 1715
- in September 1955
- < New guidance system set up in WHS
 - < Cafeteria set up in old WHS

ELMER CURRIER – 1956 (R)

- < Public Works Dept established – P.D. Spiller 1st Supt.
- < New WHS opened Jan 3, 1956 – students marched to new building in a snow storm
- < New Armory on Stroudwater St. completed
- < Old WHS became Junior High School in Jan 1956
- < 71 new dwelling houses built

ELMER CURRIER – 1957

- < Bridge St. bridge was rebuilt
- < Hydrant installed on Duck Pond Rd. neat Highland Lake dam – installed to guarantee year round water
- < New base station & 9 mobile radio units set up for Fire Dept.
- < Harriet Adams retired from teaching
- < First year to host foreign exchange student
- < WHS, with aid of Rotary Club, built 1st home
- < Hasco Mfg. Co. built new building at Prides Corner
- < Warren Congregational Church built new parish house on Warren Ave.
- < Dana Warp Mill closed in 1957
- < 51 new dwelling houses built
- < Parking lot purchased on Main St.
- < Skating rink built on Stroudwater St.

ELMER CURRIER – 1958

- < 1ST permanent Police of Chief Pierre Harnois
- < Westbrook Sewer District very active

- < Westbrook Parking Authority established
- < Brown St. School burned
- < New pump station gives water to more of Prides Corner
- < 63 new dwellings

ELMER CURRIER – 1959

- < Greater Portland Area Development Council helped get new tenants for Dana Warp Mill
- < Austin St. bridge replaced by huge culverts
- < School Maintenance Division established
- < Wing on new WHS planned
- < Joseph E. Warren died July 21, 1959
- < 63 new dwellings

Dr. LEO C. LEMIEUX – 1960 (D)

- < James F. Murphy new Police Chief
- < New Industrial Arts building added to WHS
- < Heating system of WHS replaced
- < Water mains extended in Prides Corner area & on Cumberland St.
- < Addition to WHS begun
- < 49 new dwellings

Dr. LEO C. LEMIEUX – 1961

- < Industrial Arts building completed
- < 23 room addition to WHS completed
- < New American LaFrance 750 gallon fire engine pumper replaced 21 yr old Engine 1

< 68 new dwellings

< Office of Administrative Assistant to Mayor created

FRANCIS C. ROCHELEAU – 1962 (D)

FRANCIS C. ROCHELEAU – 1963

LEIGH W. FLINT – 1964 (R)

< Sewer pump station for lower Main St. located at Colonial Rd. completed in June

< 50 new dwellings

< Dept. of Public Works obtained sole right to the Johnson Pit in Scarborough

< New fire alarm room & dispatch establish in rear part of Station One

< Sesquicentennial (150 yrs) of Westbrook observed

< Housing Code established

< Sept 11, 1964 Cumberland Mills Branch of Westbrook Trust Co. robbed of \$15,600

< Merle Goff is Administrative Assistant

LEIGH W. FLINT – 1965

< Canal School completed in Sept 1965

< Sewer to serve Rocky Hill School, Lugren, Ennis, Graham, part of E. Bridge Sts.
installed

< Colonial Acres subdivision approved

< Plans under way to design sewage treatment plant to handle above systems

< Ground broken for new Fire Station 3 on Rte 302

< 57 new dwellings

< Saco St. bridge under construction

< Westbrook Sewer District dissolved Dec 31, 1965 & REVERTS BACK TO THE

City of Westbrook

LEIGH W. FLINT – 1966

- < Robert Palmer, Jr. – Admin. Ass'ist.
- < Prides Corner Fire Station completed & dedicated Sept 18, 1966
- < Sewer treatment facilities for Colonial Acres completed
- < Rocky Hill Project sewer completed
- < 59 new dwellings
- < Sewerage Commission established

LEIGH W. FLINT – 1967

- < First use of TV to inspect sewer lines
- < First year all city employees have been eligible to coverage by Health & Accident Insurance
- < Former bank building purchased in 1967 to be used as new City Hall
- < 58 new buildings

DONALD K. SAUNDERS – 1968 (R)

- < Ronald Stewart – Admin. Ass'ist
- < First permanent Fire Chief
- < Established Spring St. Industrial Park
- < Highland Lake dam site acquired from the State
- < City Arborist position started Sept. 1968

DONALD K. SAUNDERS – 1969

- < Westbrook Housing Authority established
- < Participation in Greater Portland Council of Governments (GP COG)
- < Dog Officer Control Ordinance
- < Construction of Saco Street city garage
- < Relocation & reconstruction of Warren Ave.
- < Replacement of burning dump on Spring St. by sanitary landfills on Saco St. &

Methodist Rd

- < Opened Five Star Industrial Park
- < Rebuilt in town section of Spring St.
- < First full year of using leased school buses
- < City purchased a NCR 400 computer
- < Renewal Authority offices set up

DONALD K. SAUNDERS – 1970

- < Mrs. Christine Lowell retired as Librarian after 20 yrs
- < New librarian is Mrs. A. Katharine Dingman
- < Forestry Division removed 704 trees

DONALD K. SAUNDERS – 1971

- < Robert Turcotte – Admin. Ass't
- < Recreation Conservation Commission organized
- < Westbrook Rescue Unit in force
- < 689 diseased or dead elm trees removed

[end of P. Spiller's report]

1972-73 Donald J. Brydon (R)

1974-83 William B. O'Gara (D)

1984-89 Philip D. Spiller (R)

1990-93 Fred C. Wescott (D)

- < Died incumbent; had just been elected for 3rd term

1993-98 Kenneth Lefebvre (D)

1998-2003 Donald Esty (D)

2003-2010 Bruce Chuluda (R)

2010- Colleen Hilton (D) Westbrook's 1st female Mayor