

## Make the Most of Your Membership in 2022



As a member of the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut, you're a part of a network of 1,600 organizations. Thousands of representatives in the industries of business, finance, healthcare, education, and more, can connect across the region through the chamber; in-person and virtually through our member portal.

As a regional chamber, we offer visitors, prospective employees, developers, startups, and business leaders a gateway to engage in eastern Connecticut.

**Not a member yet?** No problem, our Membership Managers, Jane Davis and Gary Rogers, can help you sign up and begin enjoying a host of benefits and resources. To join the chamber visit [ChamberECT.com](http://ChamberECT.com), call (860) 701-9113, or email [memberships@ChamberECT.com](mailto:memberships@ChamberECT.com)

### Promote, learn, and network in your area

#### Employees are entitled to member benefits.

They can attend events and workshops at Chamber member rates and enjoy member to member discounts. Young Professionals of Eastern CT is a great way to connect newer employees to the region.

#### Login to the member portal.

Member login is on the top menu bar of our website, [ChamberECT.com](http://ChamberECT.com). Here you can share your news, connect on a social network, post jobs, register to attend events, contact fellow members, pay invoices, and update your company information.

#### Use us to promote your business.

Be sure you are sharing the most relevant, up-to-date information about your organization. People reference our business directory, and we receive calls from people looking for services in the area. Advertising opportunities are also a great value.

#### Grow your business by growing your network.

Attend Chamber events to make valuable connections. You will gain perspectives on the region, the business climate, and opportunities to partner with other organizations—working with a nonprofit you can give back and get noticed.

**Share your stories with us.** Working with chamber staff can be your link to the region. We seek venues for events, write profiles on local businesses, refer members to each other, and organize several "Fam Tours" which familiarize hospitality professionals with regional attractions and businesses.

Keep up to date with the Voice, eNews and Chamber blog for updates on regional issues, Chamber events, and member and benefactor news: [ChamberECT.com/publications](http://ChamberECT.com/publications)

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU** | Through their commitment to the Chamber, these companies have demonstrated support for the many smaller businesses we serve.



## NEACCE Hosts Annual Conference at Foxwoods Resort Casino



The Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut was proud to participate in the New England Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (NEACCE) fall conference held at Foxwoods Resort Casino on November 8-9, 2021. Industry associations such as NEACCE are essential to connect with peers and gather ideas for new or improved member services, as well as share our own expertise as a regional leader in business development.

Chamber President/CEO Tony Sheridan moderated the conference's opening discussion featuring Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Chairman Rodney Butler and Foxwoods President/CEO Jason Guyot discussing the Tribe "then, now, and beyond." Mashantucket Pequot Tribal History in this region dates back thousands of years, with Mr. Butler citing an archeological discovery of a fluted arrowhead known to come from Pennsylvania as an example of commerce and trade all those millennia ago. The operations at Foxwoods continue to rebound after the initial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the implementation of sports betting and iGaming at the casino is off to a good start.

Megan Gilbert, Vice President, was featured as a speaker on two program panels. In the first, "Membership & Innovative Ways to Spark New Ideas," she highlighted the Chamber's engagement with its members throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, and our unique relationships with the area's largest employers (known as Regional Benefactors) whose generosity bolsters the Chamber's operations and the member community. Additional panelists shared ideas for beneficial membership and marketing campaigns, which the Chamber is excited to implement in the future.

Mrs. Gilbert also participated in a panel entitled "Tourism on the Rebound", sharing the structure and impact of the Chamber's Administrative Partnership with the Eastern Regional Tourism District (ERTD), also known as Mystic Country. By administering events and marketing campaigns on behalf of the region, ERTD has gained hundreds of thousands of online impressions and provided funding for innovative and collaborative campaigns among local venues.

Jane Davis, Membership Manager, was pleased to attend the conference, and coordinated the Chamber's silent auction participation. Products from several members, including Olde Mistick Village, Holmberg Orchards, Mystic Knotwork, and FarmTrue, were featured in a stunning gift basket, proceeds from which support scholarships for professional development. Said Mrs. Davis, "I was thrilled to be among peers after so many months apart to exchange ideas and build my collegial network. I am already planning ways to put into practice the tips and tricks I gathered at the conference to benefit the Chamber's membership."

Governor Ned Lamont attended the NEACCE awards reception held at Foxwoods' VUE24, and emphasized the importance of connecting the business community with an open and transparent government, and shared congratulations to each of the New England Chambers in attendance who persevered through the COVID-19 pandemic in their respective states.

## Upcoming Events



### 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Gala

Mohegan Sun  
Friday, December 10  
5:30 - 9:00 pm



### Business After Hours at Mystic Aquarium

Wednesday, December 15  
5:00 - 7:00 pm



### SECWAC: Healthcare Policy Insights from Around the Globe

Wednesday, December 15  
6:00 - 7:00 pm  
First Congregational Church of Old Lyme  
or online (Zoom)

Pre-registration is suggested for most events. Call (860) 701-9113 or visit [ChamberECT.com](http://ChamberECT.com) to learn more about any event. Cancellation Policy: Notice must be given at least three business days prior to event. No-shows or those unable to cancel in time will be billed.



## BENEFACITOR NEWS

## Centreville Bank Charitable Foundation Donates \$424,600 to Organizations Throughout Rhode Island, Eastern CT

CEO, Chairman, and bank President, Harold M. Horvat announced this November that the Centreville Bank Charitable Foundation awarded \$424,600 in funding to 17 organizations in Rhode Island and Connecticut.

"Centreville Bank remains committed to helping to improve the quality of life for the people of Rhode Island and Eastern Connecticut," said Horvat. "We embrace this responsibility by supporting organizations that are making a positive impact by addressing such critical issues as food and housing insecurity, literacy and education, and health and well-being. The recipients of our Charitable Foundation third-quarter grants are making a difference where it counts most."

Connecticut organizations include Hale YMCA of Putnam, Horizons of South Windham, Read to Grow of Branford, and TEEG (Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group) of North Grosvenordale.

## Suisman Shapiro Attorneys-at-Law attorney Robert B. Keville was recently recognized by Best Lawyers®

Suisman Shapiro Attorneys-at-Law attorney Robert B. Keville was recently recognized by Best Lawyers® as the 2022 "Lawyer of the Year" for Workers' Compensation Law – Claimants.

Only a single lawyer in each practice area and designated metropolitan area is honored as the "Lawyer of the Year," making this accolade particularly significant. These lawyers are selected based on particularly impressive voting averages received during the peer review assessments.

Receiving this designation reflects the high level of respect a lawyer has earned among other leading lawyers in the same communities and the same practice areas for their abilities, their professionalism, and their integrity.

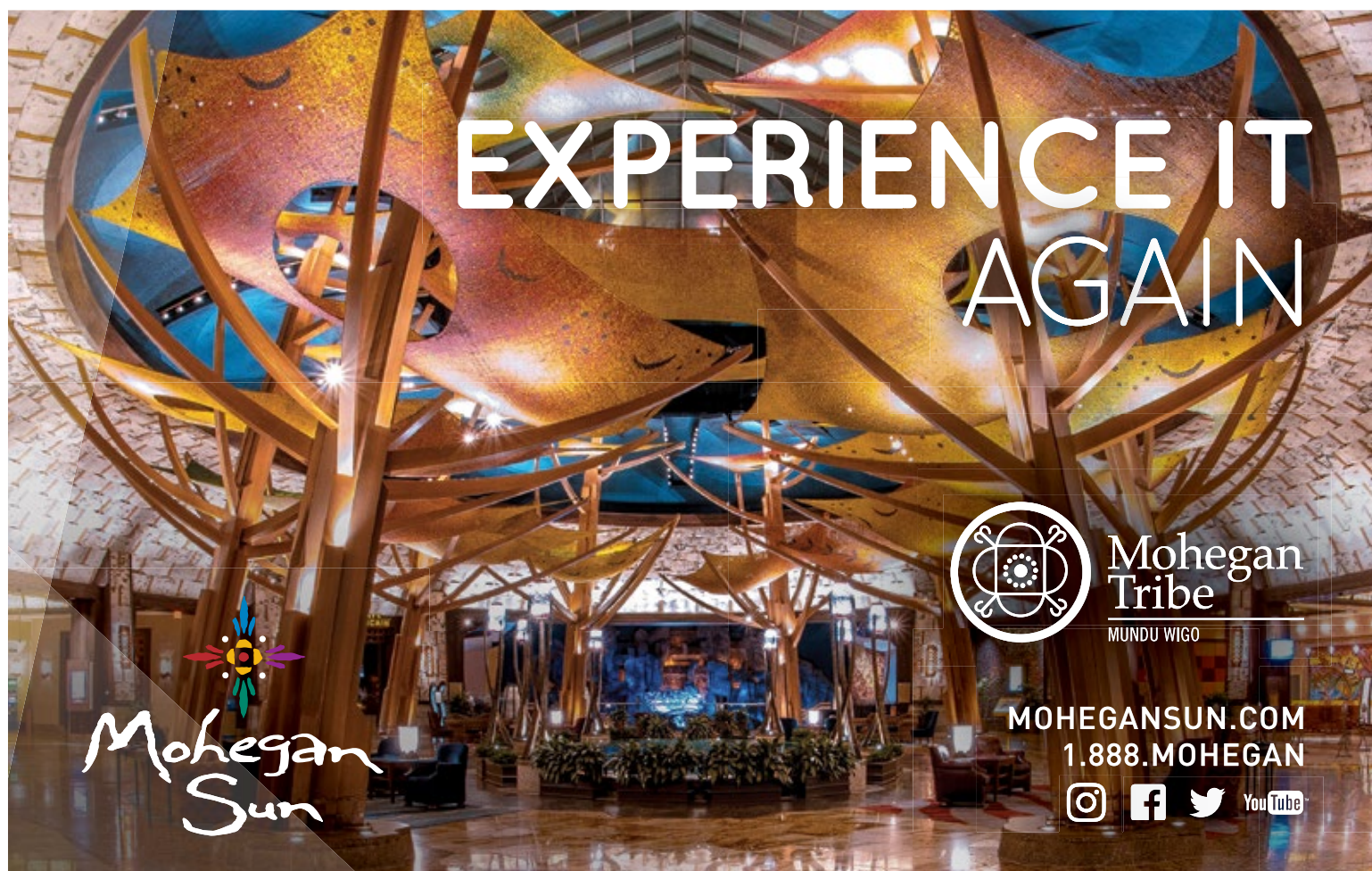
In addition to the "Lawyer of the Year" award, Robert B. Keville was also listed in the 2022 edition of The Best Lawyers in America®.

## Richard Sudol Joins Chelsea Groton Bank as Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer


Richard Sudol recently joined Chelsea Groton Bank as Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer. In addition to oversight of the Bank's financials, Sudol will have management responsibility for the Bank's Technology Department.


Most recently, Sudol served as CFO at Connex Credit Union in North Haven, and previously spent eight years as CFO at Simsbury Bank, with additional leadership responsibility for technology. He spent the early part of his career in finance and accounting in roles of increasing responsibility at Webster Bank. After Webster, he worked for a very large mortgage servicing company, a mid-sized commercial bank and a de novo bank start-up before joining Simsbury.

Sudol's predecessor, Richard Morelli, recently retired after 30 years with Chelsea Groton Bank.







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# ★ HIGH SCHOOL ★ BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

LEDYARD VS. WATERFORD | 6 PM

BRISTOL CENTRAL VS. EAST CATHOLIC | 8 PM

December 20, 2021  
Mohegan Sun Arena

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## Southeast Connecticut World Affairs Council to host winter discussions on current foreign policy issues

Southeast Connecticut World Affairs Council is pleased to provide a sneak peak of its informative winter line-up of discussions on current foreign policy issues and international affairs.

On December 15 at 6pm at the First Congregational Church of Old Lyme (and also offered via Zoom), Gery Barry, Retired Health Care Management Executive will discuss Healthcare Policy Insights from Around the Globe. Gery is a senior advisor specializing in health care management and health insurance. He will discuss the performance issues of our healthcare system and evaluate our system's performance relative to other countries.

"Few if any policy issues in the US are as rancorous and intractable as those related to healthcare," remarked Mr. Barry. "Every policy maker and policy advisor, and indeed each of us as patients, is aware to some degree of the exceptionally high cost of our healthcare, the inconsistent quality of the care delivered, and the disparities in the level of care received by different demographic groups. Yet, reaching a consensus on how to move from where we are to something better remains as contentious as ever."

"Breaking through this political paralysis starts with an objective, comprehensive

understanding of the performance issues of our healthcare system. To this end it is most helpful to evaluate dispassionately our system's performance relative to other countries, while avoiding the temptation to make political presumptions of the desirability of policy changes which simply mimic them. It also requires a healthy appreciation for why changes in healthcare policy everywhere in the world are intrinsically difficult."

In 2022, SECWAC will kick off the new year in January with Arne Westad, Professor of History and Global Affairs, Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, Yale University. Arne will discuss "A New Cold War between the US and China?" based on his Foreign Affairs article "The Sources of Chinese Conduct," Sept/Oct 2019. In February, Karolin Machtans, Associate Professor of German Studies, Connecticut College will discuss The Representation of Asylum Interviews in Contemporary Literature and Film of Refuge." Then in March, Ada Ferrer, Professor of History and Latin American and Caribbean History will discuss Cuba, based on her new book "Cuba: An American History" (2021).

SECWAC has been providing a forum for

nonpartisan, non-advocacy dialogue with US policymakers and other experts on foreign relations for over 20 years. If you're up for impartial debates and desire to learn more about timely issues that affect America's global interests, SECWAC features at least 10 discussions throughout each season from September – June.

COST: \$35 for young professionals under 35; FREE for students and educators; reach out for prorated membership rates. Attendance at discussions is free for members; \$20 for non-members. Registration is required in advance: [secwac.org](http://secwac.org).



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[secwac.org](http://secwac.org)

860-912-5718 | [info@secwac.org](mailto:info@secwac.org)



Chamber members connect and mingle at the Florence Griswold Museum



UCFS opens their school-based health center at Clark Lane Middle School, Waterford.



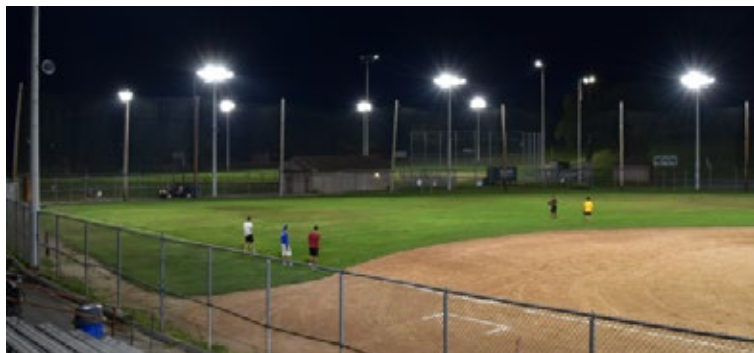
(From left to right) New London Mayor Michael Passero is joined by Mike Dunn from Rent-A-Space and Tony Sheridan, President of the Chamber, at Secor Subaru for Business After Hours in partnership with TVCCA.



Friends and family celebrate the grand opening of Shaking Crab, a seafood restaurant in New London.

## MEMBER NEWS

## Bright Light, Big City of Groton Savings on New LED Lights in Washington Park



When you drive by Washington Park in the City of Groton at night you may notice that the park seems to be lit up as bright as day. This is not your imagination – it is the result of new LED lights having been installed in the park.

Earthlight Solar and Energy Solutions were contracted to upgrade all lighting for the athletics fields at Washington Park in the spring of 2021 and have completed the renovations as of early October. Nearly 100 LED lights and accompanying fixtures were installed on existing poles around fields 1 and 3 (softball and baseball fields). Additional new lighting was installed for the basketball courts, parking lot and flagpole. While the lights are bright, they are appropriately directional and therefore the project is dark sky compliant, avoiding nighttime light pollution.

The project was done in cooperation with the City of Groton Parks and Recreation Department and Groton Utilities Key Accounts division, with Energy Engineer Hollis McKee taking the lead of planning the project and acquiring the funding.

“The lights in Washington Park needed to be replaced because they were 30 years old, and some of them were no longer operating,” said McKee, “Because they were HID (High-Intensity Discharge) model light bulbs they consumed a ton of electricity. HID’s over time give out less light as well, making them less effective. So new lights are better and will save the city a lot of money on their electric bill.”

## An Evening of Remembrance hosted by Sound Community Services

An Evening of Remembrance event, hosted by Sound Community Services, happened on Friday, November 5th in downtown New London.

This evening of remembrance brought support to the many who are struggling, lost a loved one, and those that may be grieving and seeking a sign of support from the community. Sound Community Services also provided candles for each participant to hold and light during the event.

Errol Maurice, Senior Director of Residential and Community Programs, states “People are suffering in silence, are unaware of community resources and do not know where to go for help...It is a day where we recognize, despite our diverse differences, that we are all the same. There is power in unity!”

Guest speakers included Gino DeMaio, CEO of Sound Community Services; Michael Passero, Mayor of the City of New London; Debbie Phillips, Community Member; Jen Muggeo, representative for Ledge Light Health District; Pastor Jesse Morales, Thames River Church; and Rabbi Marc Ekstrand, Co-Chair of the New London Clergy Association.

## Sofia Sees Hope Rebrands with New Name, Same Mission: Hope in Focus Reflects NPO’s Global Impact



Sofia Sees Hope, a nonprofit that has been raising research funding and awareness around Leber congenital amaurosis (LCA) and other rare inherited retinal diseases (IRDs) since 2014, unveiled a new name and logo. The

rebrand was designed to reflect the organization’s growing global impact.

“When we started Sofia Sees Hope in 2014, we named the organization in honor of our daughter, Sofia, who was born with Leber congenital amaurosis (LCA),” said Laura Manfre, co-founder and Board president of Hope in Focus. “The truth is, however, that we have been working on behalf of all the Sofias in the world: children and adults living with LCA, as well as other inherited retinal diseases (IRDs). Over the last 7 years, Sofia Sees Hope has transformed into a robust, international organization, which is why we’ve taken the exciting step of evolving our name.”

The mission remains the same and stronger than ever: to generate awareness, raise funds for research, and provide outreach, support, and education to those affected by LCA and other IRDs.

## RDSI Receives 2021 HIRE Vets Medallion Award from US Department of Labor

US Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh recognized Research and Development Solutions, Inc., as one of the 849 recipients of the 2021 HIRE Vets Medallion Award during an award ceremony at the US Department of Labor. RDSI earned the Gold Award after applying earlier this year. The Honoring Investments in Recruiting and Employing American Military Veterans Act (HIRE Vets Act) Medallion Program is the only federal award program that recognizes job creators who successfully recruit, hire, and retain veterans.

“RDSI has been a trusted partner for our nation’s veterans from the founding of the company,” says John Evans, President of RDSI. “Our veterans on staff are an integral part of our team, bringing invaluable skills and passion to their roles strengthening our mission to provide leading engineering and programmatic solutions to the defense industry. We are honored to be recognized by the Department of Labor with this award, and we remain dedicated to being an exemplary veteran employer moving forward.”

In earning the award, RDSI joins 849 companies from 49 states, plus the District of Columbia, in demonstrating their patriotism and commitment to the veteran community by ensuring veterans have long-term career and growth plans that build on the diverse skills they acquired through their military service. RDSI is a preferred employer in the region with more than an 83% retention rate among veterans.

The HIRE Vets Medallion Award is based on several criteria, ranging from veteran hiring and retention to providing veteran-specific resources, leadership programming, dedicated human resources, and compensation and tuition assistance programs – with requirements varying for large, medium, and small employers.

### We want your news.

Share your press releases, flyers, and announcements with eastern CT’s business community. Get started by logging onto **ChamberECT.com** under ‘member login.’

Call (860) 701-9113 or email [communications@ChamberECT.com](mailto:communications@ChamberECT.com) for help.



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### ACME Lightning Rod, LLC

Certified by the State of Connecticut, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Federal Government, ACME Lightning Rod dedicated to bringing competitively priced lightning protection to New England and New York.

*Simsbury | (860) 462-7658 | acmelightning.com*

### Connecticut Foodshare

By uniting Connecticut Food Bank and Foodshare, CT Foodshare has become the organization the state's residents deserve. With our combined resources, compassionate volunteers, and the greatest reach possible, they work diligently and with great passion to overcome food insecurity within our community.

*2 Research Parkway, Wallingford | (203) 469-5000 | ctfoodshare.org*

### Goodspeed Musicals

Goodspeed mounts both new and newly revived musicals each year on their main stage at the Opera House and on their second stage in Chester – a total of more than 400 performances during the April to December season attracting 130,000 patrons to the Connecticut River Valley.

*6 Main Street, East Haddam | (860) 873-8664 | goodspeed.org*

### Hope in Focus

Hope in Focus is a nonprofit patient advocacy organization dedicated to transforming the lives of those affected by blindness caused by rare inherited retinal diseases.

*Ledyard | (860) 266-6062 | hopeinfocus.org*

### Marjorie and Neal

From hiring and onboarding staff to marketing and daily operational procedures, Marjorie and Neal are here to help make your business run smoothly.

*Mystic | (860) 961-0567 | marjorieandneal.com*

### Northeast Lightning Protection, LLC

Northeast Lightning Protection, LLC is a family business that has been providing commercial lightning protection systems and residential lightning protection systems.

*10 Peters Road, Bloomfield | (860) 243-0010 | northeastlightning.com*

### Pro Endo: Professional Endodontics LLC

Professional Endodontics is a dental practice dedicated exclusively to endodontic, or "root canal," treatment. Dr. Milos R. Janicek is a specialist in the field of endodontics and endodontic microsurgery.

*114 Cross Road, Waterford | (860) 447-2572 | pro-endo.com*

### Recovery Twelve Solutions, Inc

We are a non profit business assisting the New London County community members with mental health and addiction services. We provide help with housing, food, therapy and case management.

*151 Montauk Ave New London | (860) 940-4027*

*recovery12solutions.org*

### Robert Boris Ventures

With many years of experience in computer system design and information technology, Robert Boris Ventures provides computer software services and support.

*404 Thames Street, Groton | (310) 779-0282*

### Shaking Crab Restaurant

Shaking Crab is a local seafood restaurant for dine-in, take-out and delivery specializing in Cajun seafood boils.

*305 North Frontage Road, New London | (860) 574-0931*

*shakingcrab.com/newlondonct*

### Shoreline Menus

Shoreline Menus is a restaurant delivery service with the mission of giving control and power back to the small businesses. Their goal is to create a thriving and cooperative restaurant and business community along the shoreline while offering high quality and cost-effective delivery.

*Old Saybrook | (203) 206-0382 | shorelinemenus.com*

### Sirena Medical Aesthetics

Sirena Medical Aesthetics is a plastic surgeon founded and privately woman-owned boutique medical spa. They value customer relationships, with a focus on educating patients and building lasting partnerships.

*914 Hartford Turnpike, Suite 201 & 202, Waterford | (860) 333-9177*

*sirenamedspact.com*

### The Barn, LLC

The Barn is the new headquarters of the New England Hemp Farm. Originally founded in 2019 by two lifelong friends, New England Hemp Farm is a family-owned and operated, ethically sourced CBD Company.

*13 Fort Hill Road, Groton | (203) 451-5292 | newenglandhempfarm.com*

### Tracy Ann, Psychic Medium, LLC

Tracy Ann is a psychic medium based out of Groton. She provides in-person and remote phone readings, as well as group readings.

*1057 Poquonnock Road, Groton | (860) 218-5040 | tracytimbro.com*

### Whale Tail Driftwood

Whale Tail Driftwood is a home and interior design service located in Stonington, specializing in finding and creating customized driftwood pieces for your home, office, or business.

*107 Wilcox Rd, Stonington | (860) 460-7101*



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