

**AGENDA**  
Mansfield Conservation Commission  
Wednesday, December 21, 2011  
Audrey P. Beck Building  
CONFERENCE ROOM B  
7:30 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Opportunity for Public Comment
4. Minutes
  - a. November 16, 2011
5. New Business
  - a. IWA Referrals:
    - o W1489 - Town of Mansfield - Woodland Rd - relocate drainage at Ashford Town Line
    - o W1490 - Eastbrook Mall - 95 Storrs Rd - brook crossing, work in regulated area
    - o W1491 - Cumberland Farms - 643 Middle Turnpike Road & 1660 Storrs Road
  - b. PZC Referrals:
    - o PZC File #1307, Eastbrook Mall, 95 Storrs Road
    - o PZC File #1303-2, Cumberland Farms - 643 Middle Turnpike Road & 1660 Storrs Road
    - o PZC File #1177, Hawthorne Lane, Amendment of Conservation Easement
  - c. Other
6. Continuing Business
  - a. Protecting Dark Skies in the Last Green Valley
  - b. Water Source Study for the Four Corners Area/Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE)
  - c. Swan Lake Discharge Mirror Lake Dredging and other UConn Drainage Issues
  - d. UConn Agronomy Farm Irrigation Project
  - e. Eagleville Brook Impervious Surface TMDL Project
  - f. UConn Hazardous Waste Transfer Station
  - g. Ponde Place Student Housing Project
  - h. CL&P "Interstate Reliability Project"
  - i. Other
7. Communications
  - a. Minutes
    - Open Space (11/15/11) □ PZC (12/5/11) □ IWA (12/5/11)
  - b. Inland Wetlands Agent Monthly Activity Report
  - c. 11/22/11 letter from CT Department of Public Health
  - d. Land Use Academy Fact Sheet for Conservation Commission
  - e. CT Wildlife- November/December 2011
  - f. Other
8. Other
9. Future Agendas
10. Adjournment

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Town of Mansfield  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
Meeting of 16 November 2011  
Conference B, Audrey P. Beck Building  
(draft) MINUTES

*Members present:* Peter Drzewiecki (from 8:05p), Neil Facchinetti, Quentin Kessel, Scott Lehmann, John Silander,. *Members absent:* Aline Booth (Alt.), Joan Buck (Alt.), Robert Dahn, Frank Trainor. *Others present:* Matt Hart (Town Manager), Allison Hilding (resident), Grant Meitzler (Wetlands Agent), Linda Painter (Town Planner).

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:36p by Chair Quentin Kessel and its agenda reordered to accommodate guests.

2. **Public Comment.** Allison Hilding brought to the Commission's attention a CEQ initiative to establish conservation easements on appropriate state-owned land to help achieve the state's announced goals of (1) preserving 2K acres of farmland annually and (2) ultimately protecting 21% of the state's land area as conservation lands. She urged the Commission to nominate state-owned land in Pink Ravine and along Cedar Swamp Brook and the Fenton River for such easements.

3. **Discussion with Town Manager & Town Planner.** Matt Hart & Linda Painter reviewed developments of interest for the Commission:

- Phase 1A of the **Storrs Center** project is well under way: the developer is working on the Dog Lane building, site work on the parking garage has begun, and bids for road work will soon be solicited. The aim is to complete phase 1A by July 2012, at which point old buildings on the site – Storrs Automotive, the Store 24 complex, Phil's – will be demolished to make way for new construction. The Town is developing an open-space plan for the project, so that trails in its conservation area connect with others in Town to the extent possible. Kessel observed that the University should be included in this kind of planning, as there are a number of trails, formal and informal, on its land.
- The bond issue for planning water & sewer connections to **Four Corners** failed for lack of sufficient turnout in the 08 November 2011 election; it will be on the ballot again next November. If approved then, the project could conceivably be completed in 2014, provided the required survey of options is completed – and the best alternative identified – soon. The area will remain an economic dead zone until sewers are available; its poor soils cannot handle leachate from septic systems. Kessel asked if current Town regulations are sufficient to prevent strip development in the area once water and sewer goes in. Painter responded that, in her view, the poor economy gives the Town time to review its regulations and to make any necessary changes.
- Council approval for reactivating the **Economic Development Commission**, moribund since the 1980s, will be sought. It would promote retaining existing businesses and attracting new ones. The "Local First Mansfield" pilot program initiated by the Downtown Partnership to encourage holiday shopping at local businesses is an example of the sort of thing a resurrected Commission could do.
- CL&P's **Interstate Reliability Project** is moving toward consideration by the Connecticut Siting Council; does the Commission wish to make any additional recommendations on this project to the Council? Kessel observed that, inasmuch as

CL&P has rejected suggestions that this electricity 'pipeline' to SW Connecticut be routed along I-90 and I-91 rather than through NE Connecticut, the only opening for recommendations at this point appears to be mitigation (e.g., decreasing the footprint of the new lines by combining them with the old ones on higher towers, rather than clearing more of the right-of-way for a second column of poles). Painter indicated that CL&P had revised its original proposal somewhat to reduce impact; she will make the most recent version available to the Commission.

- A workshop to inform Commissions, Boards, and Committees of their legal duties concerning **Freedom of Information** has been scheduled for Thursday, 01 December 2011. Representatives of the Commission, preferably its Chair & Secretary, should attend.

Kessel then brought up some additional matters:

- In April 2009, the Commission agreed to submit any **comments to outside agencies** to the Town Planner for review at least 24 hours before sending them out. Is this arrangement still acceptable? Painter expressed reservations about the 24-hour period: she will do her best, but reviewing a proposed communication in so short a time may sometimes be impossible. Hart suggested e-mailing the communication to both the Town Planner and the Town Manager to increase the likelihood of a quick review.
- Kessel asked if the letter he has drafted to DPH regarding **Ponde Place's appeal** of its ruling against utilizing monitoring wells as supply wells is acceptable. Hart agreed that it was. With a slight change of wording, the letter was approved; it is attached.
- Jessie Shea has proposed replacing paper meeting packets with **electronic packets** to save time and expense. Kessel indicated that the Commission is OK with this, provided members who want paper packets can continue to get them. He suggested that the electronic packet be book-marked.
- A recent case of tree-cutting along the Willimantic River (item 4, minutes of 17 August 2011) suggests that **River Overlay Zones**, modeled on those proposed for Chaplin, could be useful in protecting streambelts by regulating streamside development. Painter suggested writing a letter to PZC to this effect.

Finally, Silander asked about the status of Mansfield's own 'Road to Nowhere' – the fabled Tech-Park connector between UConn and Rte.44. Hart indicated that this project seems to be moving ahead, now that state bonding has been approved for the Tech Park.

**4. IWA referrals.** The Commission agreed that there was no need to comment on **W1488**, which revises language in the Town's wetlands regulations so as to extend the life of certain wetlands permits, inasmuch as this change is mandated by state statute.

**5. Dark Skies.** William Shakalis has arranged for the Conservation Commissions of Ashford and Willington to co-sponsor a showing of "The City Dark" on 03 February 2012 at E.O. Smith (if its auditorium is available). Kessel hopes the Town will cough up the cost of the film's rental or purchase.

**6. Agronomy Farm.** According to Facchinetti: "At its annual meeting on October 30, 2011, the Storrs Heights neighborhood association recommitted itself to protecting its water supply against inadequate safeguards at the UConn research farm. The association directed its ad hoc Farm Water Committee to continue advocating for safe and sufficient supplies from water resources

we share with the UConn farm.”

7. The draft **minutes of the 19 October 2011 meeting**, with improved spelling of Facchinetti's surname in several places, were approved.

8. **Adjourned at 9:09p.**

Scott Lehmann, Secretary, 18 November 2011.

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Attachment: Letter to DPH regarding Ponde Place

November 16, 2011

Mr. Eric McPhee  
Supervision Environmental Analyst  
Connecticut Department of Public Health  
Drinking Water Section

Re: PURA Docket Number 11-09-14

Dear Mr. McPhee:

The Mansfield Conservation Commission continues to be concerned with the proposed Ponde Place development in Mansfield. In particular, the draw-down of ground water for the development will produce a "cone of depression" that is likely to affect the local residential wells and renew the movement of the chemically contaminated plume from the old University of Connecticut landfill.

We endorse the November 14, 2011, letter from the Eastern Highlands Health District to you, which amplifies many of our concerns. Attached is a portion of the minutes of our April 15, 2009 meeting and we would like Section 3d., W1428 (Ponde Place, Northwood Rd.) entered into the public record. The questions we posed at that time have never been fully answered.

Sincerely yours,

Quentin Kessel, Chair  
Mansfield Conservation Commission

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December 1, 2011

Memorandum:

To: Inland Wetland Agency  
From: Grant Meitzler, Inland Wetland Agent  
Re: New Business for December 5, 2011 meeting

W1489 - Town of Mansfield - Woodland Rd - drainage relocation

	yes	no
	-----	-----
fee paid .....		n.a.
certified receipts .....		In progress, hope to have by Monday's meeting
map dated .....		11.30,2011

This application is for relocation of a drainage pipe installed by Mansfield and Ashford to deal with a large seasonal flooding problem for houses at the Mansfield-Ashford Town Line. The houses with flooded front yards are in Ashford.

Unfortunately the pipe and catch basin installed have resulted in an erosion problem for the downstream owner.

Receipt and referral to the Conservation Commission is appropriate.

W1490 - Eastbrook Mall - Rte 195 - brook crossing, work in regulated areas

	yes	no
	-----	-----
fee paid .....	x	
certified receipts .....	to come in	
map dated .....		12.01.2011

This application is for a 14,528 sq.ft free standing building on the Eastbrook Mall site. A bridge is proposed to cross the Sawmill Brook at the right front of the mall parking lot. Additional amenities are to be located within regulated areas on this same part of the site.

It is appropriate to consider if a hearing is to be held on this application.

Receipt and referral to the Conservation Commission is appropriate.

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APPLICATION FOR PERMIT  
 MANSFIELD INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY  
 4 SOUTH EAGLEVILLE ROAD, STORRS, CT 06268  
 TEL: 860-429-3334 OR 429-3330  
 FAX: 860-429-6863

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY  
 File # 1490  
 W \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fee Paid \$1,060-  
 Official Date of Receipt 12-1-11

Applicants are referred to the Mansfield Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations for complete requirements, and are obligated to follow them. For assistance, please contact Grant Meitzler, Inland Wetlands Agent at the telephone numbers above.

Please print or type or use similar format for computer; attach additional pages as necessary.

Part A - Applicant

Name EASTBROOK F, LLC

Mailing Address 360 Bloomfield Ave

WINDSOR, CT Zip 06095

Telephone-Home \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone-Business 860-683-9000

Title and Brief Description of Project  
ONE 14,528 SF ADDITION TO EXISTING 261,053 SF MALL, AND DEVELOPMENT OF ONE 3,200 SF PARC

Location of Project 95 STORRS RD MANSFIELD, CT

Intended Start Date 3/1/2012

Part B - Property Owner (if applicant is the owner, just write "same")

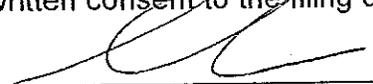
Name SAME

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone-Home \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone-Business \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's written consent to the filing of this application, if owner is not the applicant:

Signature  date 11/30/11

Applicant's interest in the land: (if other than owner) George Lee - Authorized Agent FOR EASTBROOK F LLC



**Part E - Alternatives**

Have you considered any alternatives to your proposal that would meet your needs and might have less impact on the wetland/watercourse? Please list these alternatives.

- SINGLE SPAN CLEAR CROSSING
- PRECAST ARCH
- NO WETLANDS CROSSING

**Part F - Map/Site Plan (all applications)**

1) Attach to the application a map or site plan showing existing conditions and the proposed project in relation to wetland/ watercourses. Scale of map or site plan should be 1" = 40'; if this is not possible, please indicate the scale that you are using. A sketch map may be sufficient for small, minor projects. (See guidelines at end of application - page 6.)

- 2) Applicant's map date and date of last revision 12/1/11
- 3) Zone Classification PB-1
- 4) Is your property in a flood zone?  Yes  No  Don't Know

**Part G - Major Applications Requiring Full Review and a Public Hearing**

See Section 6 of the Mansfield Regulations for additional requirements.

**Part H - Notice to Abutting Property Owners**

1) List the names and addresses of abutting property owners

Name	Address
H-K, LLC	

2) **Written Notice to Abutters** . You must notify abutting property owners by certified mail, return receipt requested, stating that a wetland application is in progress, and that abutters may contact the Mansfield Inland Wetlands Agent for more information. Include a brief description of your project. Postal receipts of your notice to abutters must accompany your application. (This is not needed for exemptions).

**Part I - Additional Notices, if necessary**

- 1) Notice to Windham Water Works is attached. If this application is in the public watershed for the Windham Water Works (WWW), you must notify the WWW of your project within 7 days of sending the application to Mansfield--sending it by certified mail, return receipt requested. Contact the Mansfield Inland Wetlands Agent to find out if you are in this watershed.
- 2) Notice to Adjoining Town. If your property is within 500 feet of an adjoining town, you must also send a copy of the application, on the same day you sent one to Mansfield, to

the Inland Wetlands Agency of the adjoining town, by certified mail, return receipt requested.

- 3) The Statewide Reporting Form (attached) shall be part of the application and specified parts must be completed and returned with this application.

**Part J - Other Impacts To Adjoining Towns, if applicable**

- 1) Will a significant portion of the traffic to the completed project on the site use streets within the adjoining municipality to enter or exit the site? \_\_\_ Yes  No \_\_\_ Don't Know
- 2) Will sewer or water drainage from the project site flow through and impact the sewage or drainage system within the adjoining municipality? \_\_\_ Yes  No \_\_\_ Don't Know
- 3) Will water run-off from the improved site impact streets or other municipal or private property within the adjoining municipality? \_\_\_ Yes  No \_\_\_ Don't Know

**Part K - Additional Information from the Applicant**

Set forth (or attach) any other information which would assist the Agency in evaluating your application. *(Please provide extra copies of any lengthy documents or reports, and extra copies of maps larger than 8.5" x 11", which are not easily copied.)*

**Part L - Filing Fee**

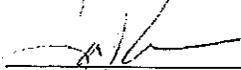
Submit the appropriate filing fee. (Consult Wetlands Agent for the fee schedule available in the Mansfield Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations.)

\_\_\_ \$1,000. \_\_\_ \$750. \_\_\_ \$500. \_\_\_ \$250. \_\_\_ \$125. \_\_\_ \$100. \_\_\_ \$50. \_\_\_ \$25.

\_\_\_ \$60 State DEP Fee

*Note: The Agency may require you to provide additional information about the regulated area which is the subject of the application, or about wetlands or watercourses affected by the regulated activity. If the Agency, upon review of your application, finds the activity proposed may involve a "significant activity" as defined in the Regulations, additional information and/or a public hearing may be required.*

**The undersigned applicant hereby consents to necessary and proper inspections of the above mentioned property by members and agents of the Inland Wetlands Agency, at reasonable times, both before and after the permit in question has been granted by the Agency.**



Applicant's Signature

12/11/11

Date

## APPLICATION FOR PERMIT MANSFIELD INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY

### Part C Response

#### Direct Wetland Impacts

This project consists of a 14,528 square foot addition to the existing Eastbrook Mall and development of one out-parcel on the northeast corner of the property. As part of the out-parcel development a wetland crossing across the Saw Mill Brook is necessary for connectivity to the main mall building. Please refer to attached Figure SK-1 "Sketch Plan -- Wetland Disturbance Area" and note the orange colored area which depicts the wetland crossing area.

The crossing will consist of twin barrels of elliptical, aluminized-steel pipe matching the hydraulic capacity of the main mall entrance downstream. The barrels will be installed with granular fill and brought to grade for traffic. Alternate methods were investigated including single span with abutments at the wetland line. The poor soils, 40+ feet of organic silts made installation of abutments impractical and would require extraordinary means. Precast arches were also evaluated such that no bottom disturbance of the brook would be required. Arches also require footings to support the load and again the poor soils prevent reasonable methods to install proper structural footings for this installation. The use of full bottom bearing aluminized steel pipe will low unit earth pressures and will accommodate significant movement without failure.

Installation of the dual barrel pipe crossing will require filling 2,700 square feet within the wetland boundary. This will include approximately 330 cubic yards of fill net to complete. The pipes will be installed approximately 1 foot below the existing brook bottom and will have soil deposited on the bottom such that a natural earthen bottom will be established.

Installation of the conduits will be from above the brook at the top of bank to set the conduits. Brook excavation will occur one half at a time during low flow periods and the watercourse will be diverted to the unexcavated side to minimize turbidity. Once one barrel is installed the bottom will be soiled and protected with erosion control fabric and cobbles to prevent erosion the flow will then be diverted to the installed conduit and the second conduit will be installed and prepared in the same manner.

#### Indirect Impacts

Light Green Areas Referring to SK-1 note there are three distinct green shaded areas where construction disturbance will occur within the wetland's upland review area. The lightest green area represents areas of existing asphalt that will be removed to provide traffic delineation and water quality features. These new islands will be installed as slight depressions with vegetated surfaces. This will act as vegetated slopes to slow, and cool the runoff from the asphalt just prior to it entering the existing paved leak offs into the wetland. Additionally the vegetation will provide filtration and nutrient removal from the runoff directed to the wetlands. As the soils are silty organics they will not provide a suitable opportunity for infiltration, but some will occur as the 18 plus inches of installed planting material will be a better drained

sandy topsoil that will provide proper aeration to the roots of vegetation that will be subject to consistent saturation. In totality the improvements made within these areas are betterments to the wetland and watercourse.

Dark Green Area The dark green area located as part of the addition and the area in front or to the east of the addition represents areas that are currently improved with pavement, curbs, concrete walkways and parking islands. These are all areas that in the existing condition discharge directly to the wetland through paved leak offs. The majority of this area will remain in the same state with the proposed changes. The only difference will be the treatment of the additions roof discharge. This will be collected separately and infiltrated through underground storage as shown on the drainage drawings. This will increase the recharge to the groundwater beyond the existing conditions. Additionally this infiltration and detention below grade will attenuate the temperature rise of the discharged roof runoff prior to entering the watercourse.

Within this area is one large raised planting bed that covers approximately 5,400 square feet. This existing island is a raised bed and provides only a landscape environment with little runoff treatment benefits. Overall this plan incorporates over 6,500 square feet of landscape islands the majority of which also act as water quality structures improving the water quality of runoff entering the watercourse.

In general the changes within the dark green areas are equal to or betterments in terms of runoff entering the wetlands and watercourse.

Middle Green Areas There are two distinct middle shade of green areas. The first are the areas north and east of the planned addition. These areas are to be improved and in the existing conditions are grassed, shrubbed or wooded areas outside and directly adjacent to the mall. These areas do not provide any additional impacts to the wetlands than the existing conditions.

The second middle green area is the out-parcel located in the northeast corner of the site. This is located on the opposite side of Saw Mill Brook from the main mall structure. Development of this parcel is dependent on direct connection to the mall without entering back onto SR 195. Crossing the wetland for direct connection to the mall site is imperative to development of this properly zoned parcel. This parcel is separated from the wetland and watercourse by a 2-4 foot high berm which exists at the top of slope defined by the wetlands. In both the current and proposed configurations this area drains towards the State Road and enters a constructed, vegetated swale, along the right of way line. This swale enters a 30 inch conduit that discharges directly upstream of the main entrance conduits. Although the proposed development in this area increases impervious by roughly a half acre the drainage pattern is maintained. The majority of the impervious areas runoff runs south along the parking area and discharges along the street trees. These trees are planted on an extremely flat piece of ground and will act as a natural level spreader and vegetated slope. This area will filter, uptake nutrients and cool the impervious runoff. It will then enter the vegetated swale, which will be cleaned and re-established for additional treatment before it enters the 30 inch conduit and makes it to the watercourse. The flat elevations in this area will promote infiltration and will not provide sufficient energy within the runoff to contribute to erosion or sediment transport.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, the proposed development should not have any adverse impacts to the wetland or watercourse during construction and after when compared to the existing conditions. The crossing (direct impact) will be similar to the existing crossing located downstream. The use of BMPs to mitigate runoff entering the wetlands should provide a water quality similar or better than the existing conditions. The stormwater management plan will maintain the runoff rates entering the watercourse.

The existing watercourse and wetlands are obviously a constructed wetland and provide few natural features and little opportunity for wildlife enhancement.

**B**  
**Companies**

ARCHITECTURE  
 ENGINEERING  
 PLANNING  
 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
 LAND SURVEYING  
 ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

325 Research Parkway  
 Hamden, CT 06518  
 (203) 850-1400  
 (203) 850-2815 Fax

**SKETCH PLAN - WETLAND DISTURBANCE AREAS**

EASTBROOK MALL  
 STORRS ROAD ( ROUTE 195 )  
 MANSFIELD, CONNECTICUT

Designed  
 Drawn  
 Appended  
 Scale  
 Project No.  
 Date  
 CAD File

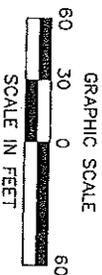
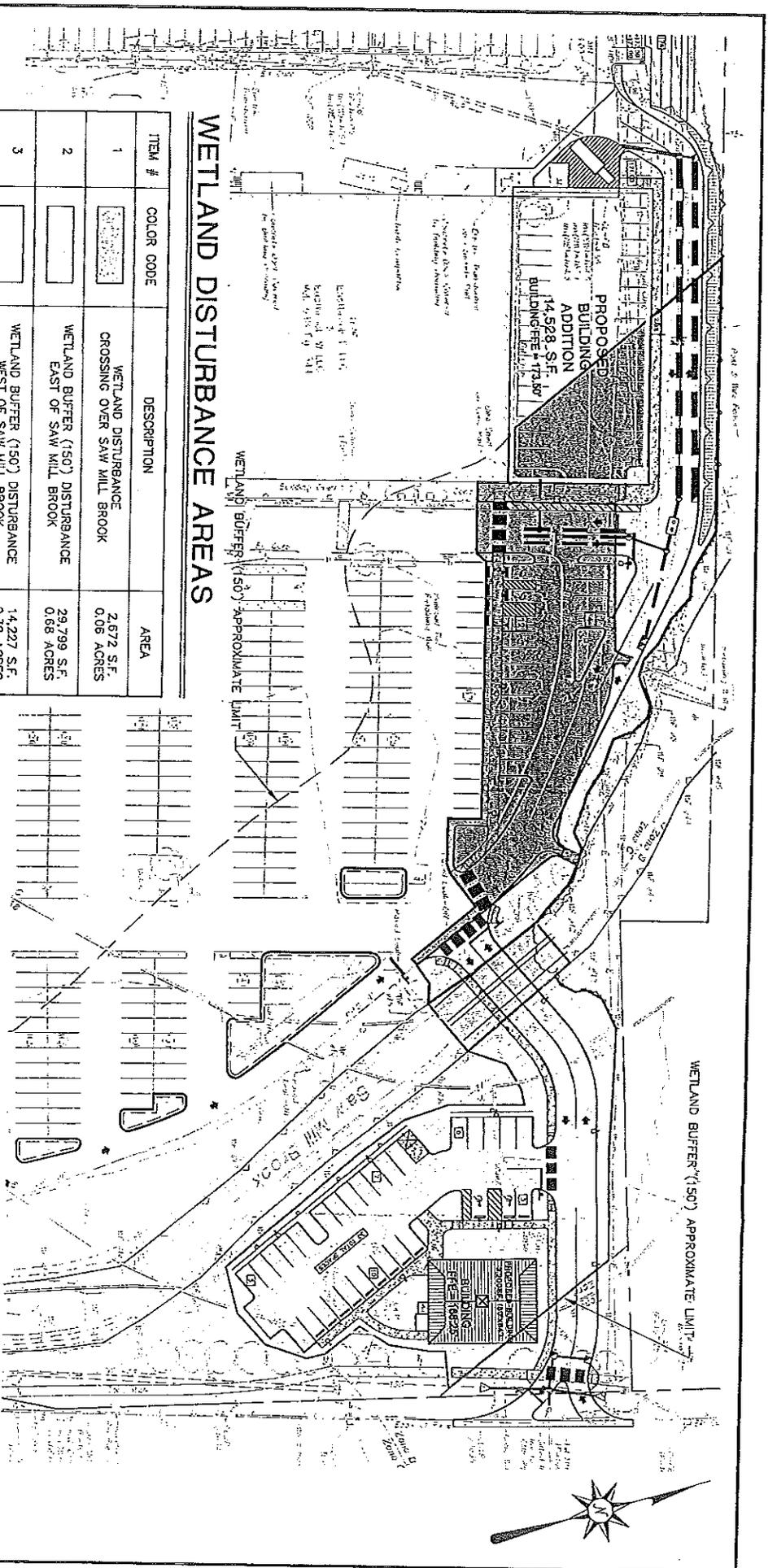
W.E.V.  
 T=60'  
 11C3904  
 11/29/11  
 SK11C390401

XREF (S) : X111C390401 : X211C390401 : X311C390402 : X411C390403--449

**SK-1**

ITEM #	COLOR CODE	DESCRIPTION	AREA
1	[Pattern]	WETLAND DISTURBANCE CROSSING OVER SAW MILL BROOK	2,672 S.F. 0.06 ACRES
2	[Pattern]	WETLAND BUFFER (150') DISTURBANCE EAST OF SAW MILL BROOK	29,799 S.F. 0.68 ACRES
3	[Pattern]	WETLAND BUFFER (150') DISTURBANCE WEST OF SAW MILL BROOK	14,227 S.F. 0.32 ACRES
4	[Pattern]	WETLAND BUFFER (150') DISTURBANCE WEST OF SAW MILL BROOK PREVIOUSLY IMPROVED	22,271 S.F. 0.51 ACRES
5	[Pattern]	WETLAND BUFFER (150') DISTURBANCE WEST OF SAW MILL BROOK PROPOSED DISTURBANCE TO BE CONVERTED TO PAVEMENT SURFACE	4,744 S.F. 0.11 ACRES

**WETLAND DISTURBANCE AREAS**



APPLICATION FOR PERMIT  
 MANSFIELD INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY  
 4 SOUTH EAGLEVILLE ROAD, STORRS, CT 06268  
 TEL: 860-429-3334 OR 429-3330  
 FAX: 860-429-6863

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY  
 File # 1489  
 W \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fee Paid N/A  
 Official Date of Receipt 12-5-11

Applicants are referred to the Mansfield Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations for complete requirements, and are obligated to follow them. For assistance, please contact Grant Meitzler, Inland Wetlands Agent at the telephone numbers above.

Please print or type or use similar format for computer; attach additional pages as necessary.

**Part A - Applicant**

Name Town of Mansfield

Mailing Address 4 S. Eagleville Rd  
Storrs, CT 06268 Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone-Home \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone-Business 429-3334

Title and Brief Description of Project  
Relocation of drainage pipe (180') to  
eliminate downstream erosion

Location of Project Mansfield/Ashford town line on Woodland Rd

Intended Start Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Part B - Property Owner (if applicant is the owner, just write "same")**

Name see attached part B

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone-Home \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone-Business \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's written consent to the filing of this application, if owner is not the applicant:

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's interest in the land: (if other than owner) See attached part B

**Part C - Project Description (attach extra pages, if necessary)**

1) Describe in detail the proposed activity here or on an attached page. (See guidelines at end of application – page 6.)

Please include a description of all activity or construction or disturbance:

- a) in the wetland/watercourse
- b) in the area **adjacent** to (within 150 feet from the edge of) the wetland/watercourse, even if wetland/watercourse is **off** your property

A. NO WORK in Wetlands

B. Upland areas 180' length of pipe with Rip-Rap outlet protection and temporary silt fence at outlet. This drains flooding areas from houses in Ashford that causes down stream erosion to #500 Woodland Rd in Mansfield.

2) Describe the amount or area of disturbance (in square feet or cubic yards or acres):

- a) in the wetland/watercourse
- b) in the area **adjacent** to (within 150 feet from the edge of) the wetland/watercourse, even if wetland/watercourse is **off** your property

A. no disturbance in Wetlands

B In adjacent upland areas 0.11 acres

3) Describe the type of materials you are using for the project:

On site material excavation - 18" pipe, 180' Long (115' in 150' Regulated Area)

- a) include **type** of material used as fill or to be excavated onsite material excavated
- b) include **volume** of material to be filled or excavated and replaced 65 cubic yards sand bedding under pipe 13 cubic yards +/- 3 cubic yards rip rap

4) Describe measures to be taken to minimize or avoid any adverse impacts on the wetlands and regulated areas (silt fence, staked hay bales or other Erosion and Sedimentation control measures).

Silt fence to be installed downh. 150' length at limit of work.

**Part D - Site Description**

Describe the general character of the land. (Hilly? Flat? Wooded? Well drained? etc.)

Gently sloped upland soils. Crosses a farm cart path, 10' at northeastward corner of moore property. remainder is in woods. Wood in Ashford w. 11 occur in yard of 125 Howard Rd.

**Part E - Alternatives**

Have you considered any alternatives to your proposal that would meet your needs and might have less impact on the wetland/watercourse? Please list these alternatives.

This alternative follows earlier installation that  
avoided wetlands and regulated areas but led to  
an erosion problems. J

**Part F - Map/Site Plan (all applications)**

1) Attach to the application a map or site plan showing **existing conditions** and the **proposed project** in relation to wetland/ watercourses. Scale of map or site plan should be 1" = 40'; if this is not possible, please indicate the scale that you are using. A sketch map may be sufficient for small, minor projects. (See guidelines at end of application – page 6.)

- 2) Applicant's map date and date of last revision 11-30-11
- 3) Zone Classification BAR-90
- 4) Is your property in a flood zone?  Yes  No  Don't Know

**Part G - Major Applications Requiring Full Review and a Public Hearing**

See Section 6 of the Mansfield Regulations for additional requirements.

**Part H - Notice to Abutting Property Owners**

- 1) List the names and addresses of abutting property owners
- | Name | Address |
|------|---------|
|------|---------|

Expected at Monday's meeting.

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- 2) **Written Notice to Abutters** . You must notify abutting property owners by certified mail, return receipt requested, stating that a wetland application is in progress, and that abutters may contact the Mansfield Inland Wetlands Agent for more information. Include a brief description of your project. **Postal receipts of your notice to abutters must accompany your application.** (This is not needed for exemptions).

**Part I - Additional Notices, if necessary**

- 1) Notice to Windham Water Works is attached. If this application is in the public watershed for the Windham Water Works (WWW), you must notify the WWW of your project within 7 days of sending the application to Mansfield--sending it by certified mail, return receipt requested. Contact the Mansfield Inland Wetlands Agent to find out if you are in this watershed.

yes

- 2) Notice to Adjoining Town. If your property is within 500 feet of an adjoining town, you must also send a copy of the application, on the same day you sent one to Mansfield, to

yes

the Inland Wetlands Agency of the adjoining town, by certified mail, return receipt requested.

- 3) The Statewide Reporting Form (attached) shall be part of the application and specified parts must be completed and returned with this application.

**Part J - Other Impacts To Adjoining Towns, if applicable**

- 1) Will a significant portion of the traffic to the completed project on the site use streets within the adjoining municipality to enter or exit the site? \_\_\_ Yes  No \_\_\_ Don't Know
- 2) Will sewer or water drainage from the project site flow through and impact the sewage or drainage system within the adjoining municipality?  Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Don't Know  
*Positive impact in Ashford flooding reduction.*
- 3) Will water run-off from the improved site impact streets or other municipal or private property within the adjoining municipality?  Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Don't Know  
*Positive impact in Ashford flooding reduction.*

**Part K - Additional Information from the Applicant**

Set forth (or attach) any other information which would assist the Agency in evaluating your application. (Please provide extra copies of any lengthy documents or reports, and extra copies of maps larger than 8.5" x 11", which are not easily copied.)

*See attached*

**Part L - Filing Fee**

Submit the appropriate filing fee. (Consult Wetlands Agent for the fee schedule available in the Mansfield Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations.)

\_\_\_ \$1,000. \_\_\_ \$750. \_\_\_ \$500. \_\_\_ \$250. \_\_\_ \$125. \_\_\_ \$100. \_\_\_ \$50. \_\_\_ \$25.

\_\_\_ \$60 State DEP Fee *Town Application - fee is waived*

*Note: The Agency may require you to provide additional information about the regulated area which is the subject of the application, or about wetlands or watercourses affected by the regulated activity. If the Agency, upon review of your application, finds the activity proposed may involve a "significant activity" as defined in the Regulations, additional information and/or a public hearing may be required.*

**The undersigned applicant hereby consents to necessary and proper inspections of the above mentioned property by members and agents of the Inland Wetlands Agency, at reasonable times, both before and after the permit in question has been granted by the Agency.**

*Grant Meeker*  
Applicant's Signature

*12-01-11*  
Date

Memorandum:

December 1, 2011

To: Inland Wetland Agency  
From: Grant Meitzler, Inland Wetland Agent  
Re: Attachment for Application Part C

**Part C:**

**Project Description and Additional Information**

This work is a combined project between Ashford and Mansfield to deal with a flooding problem in the front yards of houses in Ashford. Because the downhill flow is into Mansfield and onto Woodland Rd at the town line, a pipe and catch basin were installed to limit the amount of flooding in these yards. This required installing a catch basin in the flooded yard areas and installing a pipe for about 145' from the ponded area and along Woodland Rd. This installation was outside of regulated wetlands areas.

This flooding is not the FEMA designated FLOOD AREA condition that is intended in the questions in the application about inter-town impacts.

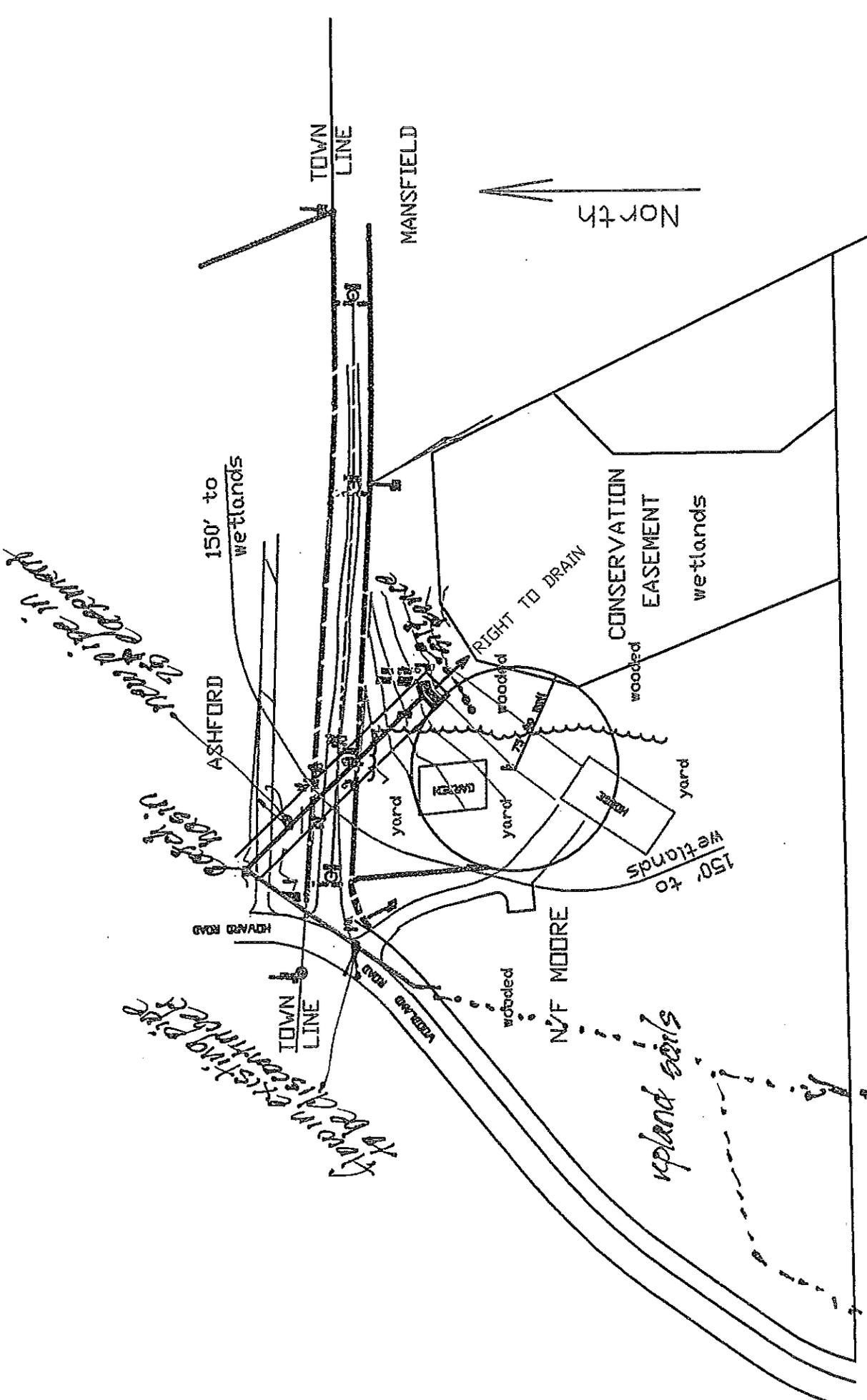
Unfortunately, the outflow from this system impacts the adjacent downhill neighbor in Mansfield by causing erosion and sedimentation issues with developed land and his driveway. This current proposal is to place the pipe outlet to the rear of the property where the elevations direct outflow downhill towards a conservation easement area containing wetlands.

No work is proposed in the wetlands or in the conservation easement area. The closest work to wetlands is approximately 40 feet away from the rip-rap flow dissipator at the end of the proposed pipe. The pipe work has been kept 75' away from the drilled well serving the property at 526 Woodland Rd on which the proposed pipe outlet is located.

We are asking that an approval condition requiring owner's permissions for doing this work be delivered to the Planning Office before any approval becomes effective. We are seeking conditional approval based earlier communications with abutters that approved this work in principal. With the conditional approval we will then contact the property owners again with written Right of Entry agreements showing them plans conforming to the Agency approval.

The delay in submitting the list of abutters (and certified notices) is due to the intermittent hours at the Ashford Town Hall which has required contacting the one Ashford abutter in person to determine their proper mailing address.

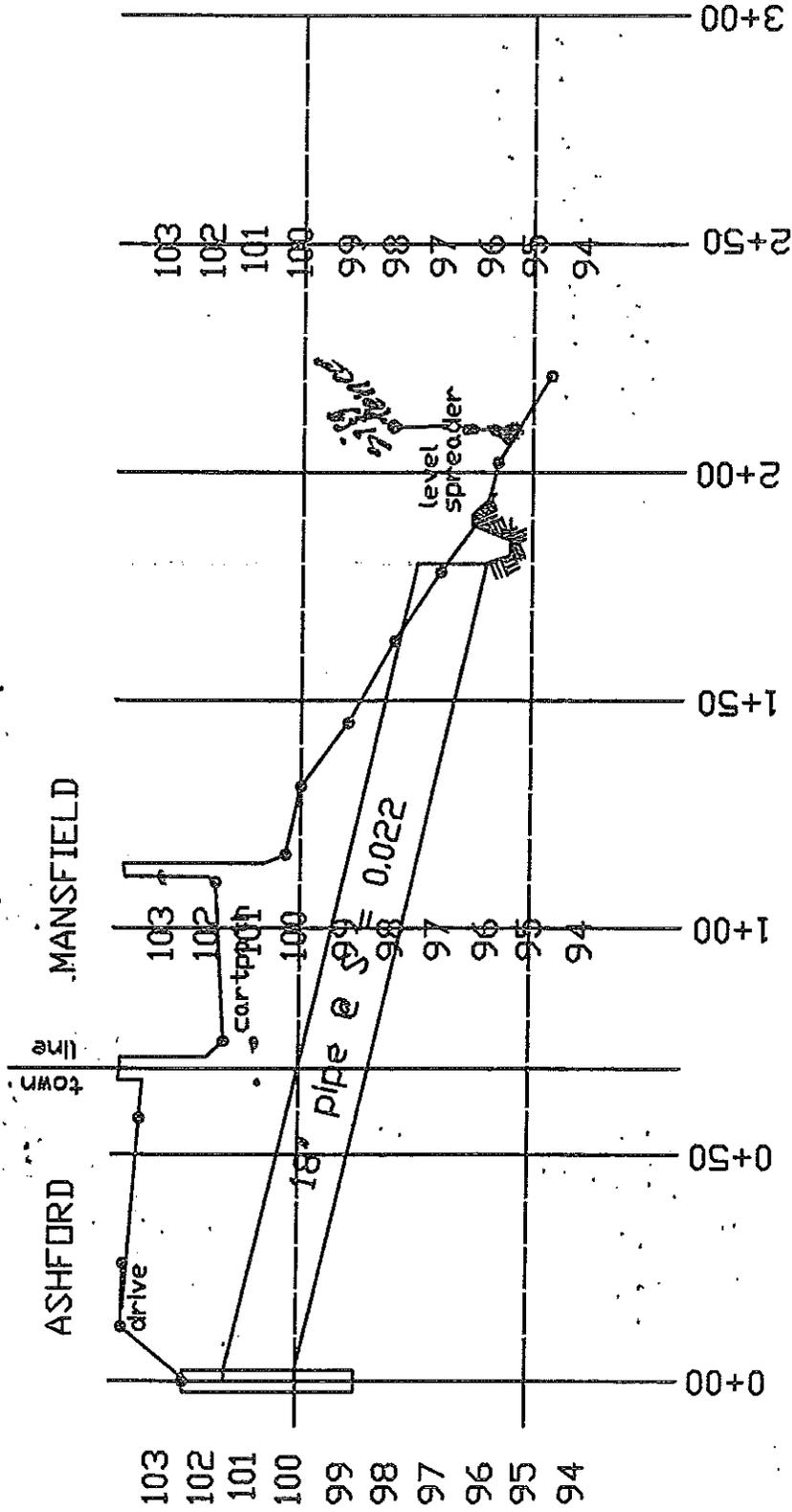
PAGE  
BREAK



W1489-Town of Mansfield  
 WOODLAND RD DRAINAGE  
 1" = 100'  
 11/30/2011  
 KEY MAP

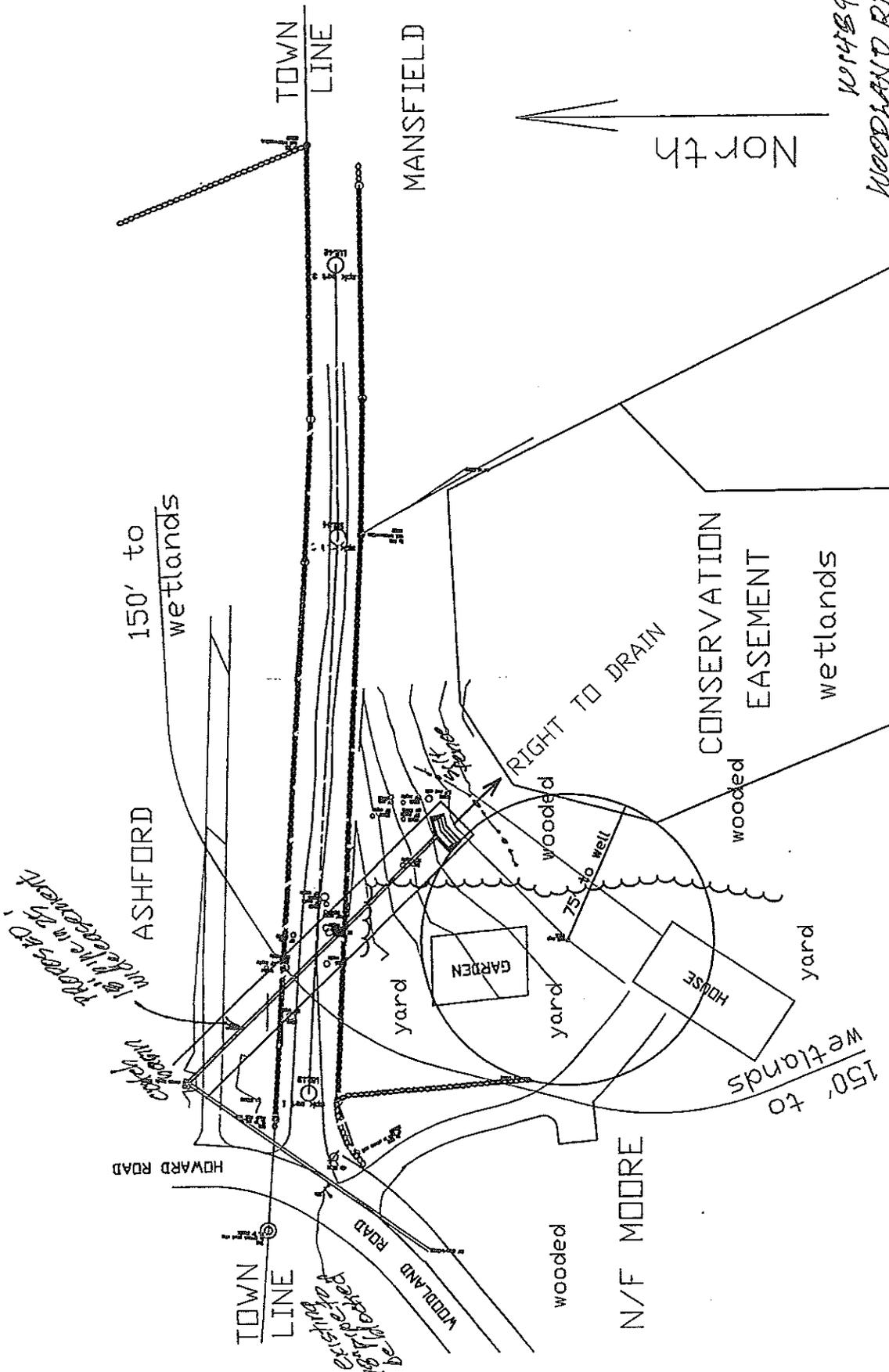
N/F WRUBEL

erosion problems  
 upland soils  
 upland soils



*Woodland Rd Drainage  
 18" Pipe Profile w. Rip-Rap  
 1" = 50' 11/30/11*

station 0+00  
 Is at center  
 of existing  
 CB grate



mp. rap level spreader at pipe outlet,  
 closest work to wetland is mp. rap, 40 away.

## LIST OF ADULTS

Garry Moore & Jeanne Moore  
526 Woodland Rd  
Storrs, Conn. 06268

---

Donna Wreckel  
500 Woodland Rd  
Storrs, Conn. 06268

---

Charles W. Best  
56 Woodland Rd  
Storrs, Conn. 06268

---

Maren & Joseph Sirico  
7 Connally Drive  
Old Saybrook, Conn. 06475

---

Notice to Town of Ashford  
Ashford Town Office Building  
Attn: Barbara Metzger, Town Clerk  
5 Town Hall Rd  
Ashford, Conn. 06278-1530

---

125 Howard Rd  
Ashford, Conn. 06278

---

Windham Waterworks Notice is required.



**SHIPMAN & GOODWIN<sup>LLP</sup>**  
COUNSELORS AT LAW

Joseph P. Williams  
Phone: (860) 251-5127  
Fax: (860) 251-5318  
jwilliams@goodwin.com

December 9, 2011

**VIA HAND DELIVERY**

Ms. Jo Ann Goodwin, Chair  
Inland Wetlands Agency  
Town of Mansfield  
Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building  
4 South Eagleville Road  
Mansfield, CT 06268

RE: Application by Cumberland Farms, Inc. for Permit to Conduct Regulated Activities in connection with constructing a convenience store and gas filling station; 643 Middle Turnpike and 1660 Storrs Road, Mansfield, CT

Dear Ms. Goodwin:

On behalf of our client, Cumberland Farms, Inc., I have enclosed an application to conduct regulated activities at the above-referenced properties. These two parcels contain the former, now abandoned Kathy-Johns restaurant and Republic Oil gas station at the intersection of Routes 44, 195 and 320 in Storrs. Cumberland Farms proposes to redevelop the combined site with a new convenience store and four gas dispensers.

Although no inland wetlands have been identified on the subject site, there are two wetland areas on adjacent parcels, one to the north of the subject site and one to the southeast. Some of the proposed construction will take place within the 150 foot upland review areas for these wetland areas. No work is proposed in or immediately adjacent to the wetlands, and our project engineers have designed a stormwater management system that will avoid any indirect impacts to the wetlands from stormwater discharges. Therefore, we expect that there will be no adverse impacts to wetlands as a result of the proposed activities.

In accordance with the Mansfield Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations and our discussions with staff, we are filing the following: Application for Permit and narrative Statement of Use (original plus four copies); DEP reporting form; and filing fee in the amount of \$310. In support of this application and our zoning application that is being filed simultaneously herewith, we are also filing four sets of full size stamped and signed site plans

Ms. Jo Ann Goodwin, Chair

December 9, 2011

Page 2

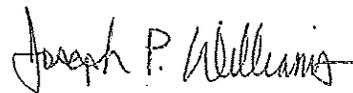
and 15 reduced size (11" x 17") copies of the plan set, along with copies of a Stormwater Management Report and Sanitary Memorandum prepared by CHA. We have sent the required notices of this application to the Connecticut Department of Public Health, Windham Water Works and abutting property owners, and are providing copies of those notices to the Inland Wetlands Agency.

We have checked the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's Natural Diversity Database for the presence of any state-listed species or significant natural communities on the subject property; the Database identified no such resources on this intensely developed site. The applicant is familiar with all the information provided in the application and is aware of the penalties for obtaining a permit through deception or through inaccurate or misleading information.

Finally, we respectfully request that the Agency consider reviewing this wetlands application at its regular meeting in January, rather than scheduling a public hearing. Because of the Agency's monthly meeting schedule and its normal practice for deciding applications, we expect that assigning a public hearing would delay decision until your March meeting. Cumberland Farms has a pressing need, under its contract to purchase the property, to complete the local approval process by the end of February. Moreover, as explained above, there are no wetlands on the subject property, and our engineers have proposed a design that will avoid any indirect adverse impacts to off-site wetlands. As you will recall, the Agency members already held a site visit at the property in connection with our prior application. The overall proposal will of course be heard at a public hearing on our zoning application, and this should satisfy the public interest in holding a hearing. We would greatly appreciate your consideration in this regard.

We look forward to presenting this application to the Agency on its earliest possible agenda. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Very Truly Yours,



Joseph P. Williams

Enclosures

Cc: Ms. Kathleen Sousa  
Mr. John Marth  
Mr. Kevin Thatcher, P.E.

2113636v1

APPLICATION FOR PERMIT  
MANSFIELD INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY  
4 SOUTH EAGLEVILLE ROAD, STORRS, CT 06268  
TEL: 860-429-3334 OR 429-3330  
FAX: 860-429-6863

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

File # 1491  
W  
Fee Paid \$310  
Official Date of Receipt 12-9-11

**Part A – Applicant**

Name Cumberland Farms, Inc.

Mailing Address c/o Joseph P. Williams, Esq., Shipman & Goodwin LLP,

One Constitution Plaza, Hartford, CT Zip 06103-1919

Telephone-Home n/a Telephone-Business 860-251-5127

**Title and Brief Description of Project**

Cumberland Farms gas station and convenience store.

Location of Project 643 Middle Turnpike and 1660 Storrs Road, intersection of  
Routes 44/195/320.

Intended Start Date February 2012

**Part B – Property Owner (if applicant is the owner, just write "same")**

Name See Property Owners of Record attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone-Home \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone-Business \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's written consent to the filing of this application, if owner is not the applicant:

Signature See letters consenting to this application attached hereto as Exhibit B. date \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's interest in the land: (if other than owner) Optionee

**Part C – Project Description (attach extra pages, if necessary)**

- 1) Describe in detail the proposed activity here or on an attached page. (See guidelines at end of application – page 6.)

Please include a description of all activity or construction or disturbance:

- a) in the wetland/watercourse
- b) in the area adjacent to (within 150 feet from the edge of) the wetland/watercourse, even if wetland/watercourse is off your property
- a) No work proposed in wetlands.

b) Wetland A U.R.A. – Construction of small amount of concrete sidewalk but primarily earthwork related to construction of a bioretention area to provide stormwater quality treatment for site stormwater prior to release to Wetland A.

Wetland B U.R.A. – Construction of bituminous concrete parking areas, concrete sidewalks and proposed convenience store building as well as associated utility trenching and installation. Though the extent of proposed disturbance is greater within the Wetland B 150' upland review area, no stormwater from the site is tributary to this wetland.

- 2) Describe the amount or area of disturbance (in square feet or cubic yards or acres):

- a) in the wetland/watercourse
- b) in the area adjacent to (within 150 feet from the edge of) the wetland/watercourse, even if wetland/watercourse is off your property

a) None.

b) Wetland A U.R.A. = 0.1 acre ; Wetland B U.R.A.= 0.7 acre. Please note that a small part of the altered area within the Wetland A U.R.A. and a larger part of the altered area within the Wetland B U.R.A. will be altered by removing existing pavement to replace it with vegetated surfaces.

- 3) Describe the type of materials you are using for the project: Bituminous and Portland cement concrete curbs and pavements, sand, gravel, crushed stone, HDPE and PVC pipe, wood frame building.

- a) include **type** of material used as fill or to be excavated on-site material.
- b) include **volume** of material to be filled or excavated sitework goal is to balance on-site cut and fill.

- 4) Describe measures to be taken to minimize or avoid any adverse impacts on the wetlands and regulated areas (silt fence, staked hay bales or other Erosion and Sedimentation control measures).

Project will utilize temporary erosion control measures such as silt fence, inlet protection, and construction entrances as well as permanent control measures such as riprap and a bioretention area to provide stormwater quality treatment for runoff from the majority of site impervious surfaces.

**Part D – Site Description**

Describe the general character of the land. (Hilly? Flat? Wooded? Well drained? etc.)

The majority of the site adjacent to US 44 and CT 195 is intensely developed with wooded areas surrounding the impervious areas on the northern and eastern boundaries of the site.



the Inland Wetlands Agency of the adjoining town, by certified mail, return receipt requested.

- 3) The Statewide Reporting Form (attached) shall be part of the application and specified parts must be completed and returned with this application.

**Part J – Other Impacts To Adjoining Towns, if applicable**

- 1) Will a significant portion of the traffic to the completed project on the site use streets within the adjoining municipality to enter or exit the site? \_\_\_ Yes X No \_\_\_ Don't Know
- 2) Will sewer or water drainage from the project site flow through and impact the sewage or drainage system within the adjoining municipality? \_\_\_ Yes X No \_\_\_ Don't Know
- 3) Will water run-off from the improved site impact streets or other municipal or private property within the adjoining municipality? \_\_\_ Yes X No \_\_\_ Don't Know

**Part K – Additional Information from the Applicant**

Set forth (or attach) any other information which would assist the Agency in evaluating your application. *(Please provide extra copies of any lengthy documents or reports, and extra copies of maps larger than 8.5" x 11", which are not easily copied.)*

**Part L – Filing Fee**

Submit the appropriate filing fee. (Consult Wetlands Agent for the fee schedule available in the Mansfield Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations.)

\_\_\_ \$1,000. \_\_\_ \$750. \_\_\_ \$500. X \$250. \_\_\_ \$125. \_\_\_ \$100. \_\_\_ \$50. \_\_\_ \$25.

X \$60 State DEP Fee

*Note: The Agency may require you to provide additional information about the regulated area which is the subject of the application, or about wetlands or watercourses affected by the regulated activity. If the Agency, upon review of your application, finds the activity proposed may involve a "significant activity" as defined in the Regulations, additional information and/or a public hearing may be required.*

***The undersigned applicant hereby consents to necessary and proper inspections of the above mentioned property by members and agents of the Inland Wetlands Agency, at reasonable times, both before and after the permit in question has been granted by the Agency.***

Joseph P. Williams

December 9, 2011

**SPECIAL PERMIT APPLICATION**  
(see Article V, Section B of the Zoning Regulations)

Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission

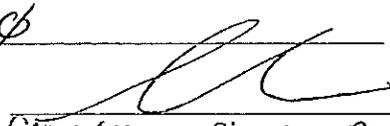
File # 1307  
Date 12-1-11

1. Name of development (where applicable) EAST BROOK MALL  
2. Proposed use of the property is RETAIL  
in accordance with Sec.(s) L of Article VII (Permitted Use provisions) of the Zoning Regulations

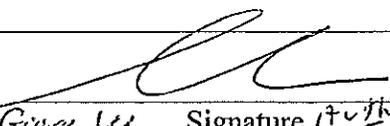
3. Address/location of subject property EAST BROOK F, LLC  
Assessor's Map \_\_\_\_\_ Block \_\_\_\_\_ Lot(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Vol. 648 Page 344

4. Zone of subject property PTB - 1 Acreage of subject property 27.6

5. Acreage of adjacent land in same ownership (if any) Ø

6. APPLICANT EASTBROOK F, LLC  
(please PRINT)   
Street Address 360 Bloomfield Ave Telephone 860-673-9000  
Town WINDSOR, CT Zip Code 06095  
Interest in property: Owner  Optionee \_\_\_\_\_ Lessee \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

(If "Other", please explain) \_\_\_\_\_

7. OWNER OF RECORD: EASTBROOK F, LLC  
(please PRINT)   
(OR attached Purchase Contract \_\_\_\_\_ OR attached letter consenting to application \_\_\_\_\_)  
Street Address 360 Bloomfield Ave Telephone 860-673-9000  
Town WINDSOR, CT Zip Code 06095

8. AGENTS (if any) representing the applicant who may be directly contacted regarding this application:  
Name TBL COMPANIES Telephone 203.630.1406  
Address 355 RESEARCH PKWY, MERIDEN Zip Code 06450  
Involvement (legal, engineering, surveying, etc.) ENGINEERING, WETLANDS DELINEATION, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Involvement (legal, engineering, surveying, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

(over)

9. The following items have been submitted as part of this application:

- Application fee in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Statement of Use further describing the nature and intensity of the proposed use, the extent of proposed site improvements and other important aspects of the proposal. To assist the Commission with its review, applicants are encouraged to be as detailed as possible and to include information justifying the proposed special permit with respect to the approval criteria contained or referenced in Article V, Section B.5.
- Site plan (6 copies) as per Article V, Section B.3.d
- Site plan checklist including any waiver requests
- Sanitation report as per Article V, Section B.3.e
- Acknowledgement that certified notice will be sent to neighboring property-owners, as per the provisions of Article V, Section B.3.c (use Neighborhood Notification Form).
- As applicable for projects within the watershed of the Willimantic Reservoir, acknowledgement that certified notice will be sent to the Windham Water Works, as per the provisions of Article III, Section I.
- As applicable for projects within State designated aquifer protection areas, acknowledgment that the Commissioner of Public Health will be notified as per the provisions of Article III, Section I. The State Department of Public Health's on line form ([www.dph.state.ct.us/BRS/Water/Source\\_Protection/PA0653.htm](http://www.dph.state.ct.us/BRS/Water/Source_Protection/PA0653.htm)) shall be used with a copy of the submittal delivered to the Planning Office.
- Other information (see Article V, Section B.3.g). Please list items submitted (if any):  
ARCHITECTURALS, DRAINAGE REPORTS, TRAFFIC STUDY, O&M DOCUMENT

10. ALL APPLICATIONS, INCLUDING MAPS AND OTHER SUBMISSIONS, MUST COMPLY WITH ALL APPLICABLE SECTIONS OF THE ZONING REGULATIONS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- Art. X, Sec. E, Flood Hazard Areas, Areas Subject to Flooding
- Art. V, Sec. B, Special Permit Requirements (includes procedure, application requirements, approval criteria, additional conditions and safeguards, conditions of approval, violations of approval, and revisions)
- Art. VI, Sec. A, Prohibited Uses
- Art. VI, Sec. B, Performance Standards
- Art. VI, Sec. C, Bonding
- Art. VII, Permitted Uses
- Art. VIII, Dimensional Requirements/Floor Area Requirements
- Art. X, Sec. A, Special Regulations for Designed Development Districts
- Art. X, Sec. C, Signs
- Art. X, Sec. D, Parking and Loading
- Art. X, Sec. H, Regulations regarding filling and removal of materials
- Art. X, Sec. S, Architectural and Design Standards

## APPLICATION FOR PERMIT MANSFIELD PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

### STATEMENT OF USE

This project consists of a 14,528 square foot addition to the existing Eastbrook Mall main structure which is 261,053 square feet and development of one out-parcel on the northeast corner of the property with a 3,200 square foot building. As part of the out-parcel development a wetland crossing across the Saw Mill Brook is necessary for connectivity to the main mall building. The addition to the main building will be located on the northern end. It is planned to accommodate a single retailer. The building will be located in the area of existing parking. To maintain travel the limit of disturbance to the north will be moved approximately 41 feet towards the property line. A gravity retaining wall will be erected to maintain all construction and grading activity on site with no needs for grading easements. The addition will not encroach on the side yard.

The revised building coverage will be 23.8% which is below the allowable of 25%.

Parking with zone PB-1 is ultimately up to the decision of the Commission. According to the regulations and calculations provided on SP-1 for parking, there are a required 1,130 required parking spaces. The plan presented provides 993. Although this is below the requirement field investigation completed on this Black Friday shows that over 250 spaces remained unused at the peak shopping time of noon. It is may be possible to provide the additional parks, but the disturbance to slopes and buffers would not be suitable for parking that is likely to be unneeded. The design team will present options with increased parking that can be incorporated in the approval for future construction if decided to be needed by the Commission. Pictures of the unused parking portions will be presented.

A traffic study has been completed and is included with the documentation provided. No traffic issues or decreases in levels of service are anticipated in the traffic report calculations or narrative.

Stormwater management designed on Sheet GD-1 and analyzed in the drainage report shows no increase in the rate of discharge runoff and an increase in the water quality being produced and discharged into Saw Mill Brook. Infiltration, detention, vegetated slopes and other low impact development practices and BMPs' are used to mitigate stormwater runoff.

The water service and sanitary are all supplied to site so no wells or septic systems are required. These services will be installed according to local authorities and will be compliant with the Public Health Code.

APPLICATION FOR PERMIT MANSFIELD PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

SANITARY REPORT

DOMESTIC WATER AND FIRE SERVICE

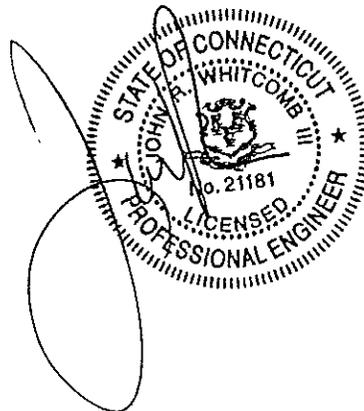
This project consists of a 14,528 square foot addition to the existing Eastbrook Mall and development of one out-parcel on the northeast corner of the property. The addition will be served by the existing water service already located within the structure. The water is all supplied by the local authority. The water for the out-parcel will be connected to the existing main within Storrs Road in accordance with Windham Water Works and the Department of Health Standards.

SANITARY SERVICE

The addition will be connected internally to the existing sanitary laterals for the main mall building in accordance with the building codes, the local sanitarian and department of health, and the local WPCA. The out-parcel will be connected to the existing collector sanitary sewer located within Storrs Road (SR 195). This connection will be made in accordance with the State of Connecticut Public Health Code and the local WPCA requirements.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the proposed development shall comply with local jurisdictions and the Public Health Code for domestic water, fire service and sanitary sewers.



# **Operations and Maintenance Plan**

## **Eastbrook Mall Mansfield, Connecticut**

Prepared For Submission To:  
**Town of Mansfield**

BL Project Number: 11C3904

Prepared For:  
**Eastbrook F LLC.**

Prepared By:  
BL Companies

**355 Research Parkway  
Meriden, Connecticut  
(203) 630-1406 Fax (203) 630-2615**

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## General Overview

The following Operations and Maintenance Plan was prepared specifically for this proposed office building in Mansfield, Connecticut. The Plan was developed to satisfy the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's requirements for the *Stormwater Management Plan for the General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater Associated with Commercial Activity*.

### Purpose & Goals

The purpose of this Manual is to ensure that the office building is operated in accordance with all approvals and permits. The primary goal is to inform all the property managers about how the system operates and what maintenance items are necessary to protect downstream wetlands and watercourses. The secondary goal is to provide a practical, efficient means of maintenance planning and record keeping to verify permit compliance.

### Responsible Parties

Eastbrook F LLC. will be responsible for implementing the Plan on the entire property. The party will retain a management company to oversee the maintenance of the entire facility.

Some utilities located on the site will be owned and maintained by the various utility companies in accordance with their standards. United Services, Inc. may maintain the service connections.

### List of Permits & Special Conditions

The project will receive a number of permits, which may contain special conditions that require compliance by the owners, tenants, and maintenance contractors. These permits may include the following:

- Connecticut Department of Transportation Encroachment Permit
- Connecticut General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater Associated with Construction Activity

### Maintenance Logs and Checklists

The tenants and Eastbrook LLC. within the facility will keep a record of all maintenance procedures performed, date of inspection/ cleanings, etc. Copies of inspection reports and maintenance records shall be kept on site in the particular tenants manager's offices once they are established.

### Forms

The following forms will be developed for annual maintenance. Copies of the forms will be kept on-site as part of the Storm Water Management Plan.

- Annual Checklist
- Quarterly Checklist

- Monthly Checklist

### Employee Training

All tenants that occupy this office building will have an employee-training program, with annual up-dates, to ensure that the employees charged with maintaining the office building do so in accordance with the approved permit conditions. All tenants that have maintenance duties will be adequately informed of their responsibilities. All sub-contractors (Vactor, landscaping, snowplowing, etc.) will be informed of special requirements and responsibilities.

### Spill Control

United Services Inc. will have a spill control program. That program will be updated annually and incorporated into the employee-training program.

## **Storm Water Management**

### System Components

The storm water management system has several components that are shown on the Grading and Drainage Plan (GD-1), and they perform various functions in treating storm water runoff:

Catch Basins are inlets, which trap road sand and floatable debris prior to draining through the storm sewer system. The catch basins (CBs) are equipped with 2' deep sumps, and hoods over the outlet pipes.

### Catch Basins

United Services Inc. is responsible for cleaning the catch basins on the property. A Connecticut Licensed hauler shall clean the sumps, and dispose of removed sand legally. The road sand may be reused for winter sanding, but may not be stored on-site. As part of the hauling contract, the hauler shall notify United Services Inc. in writing where the material is being disposed.

Each catch basin shall be inspected every four months, with one inspection occurring during the month of April. Any debris occurring within one foot from the bottom of each sump shall be removed by truck mounted vacuum ("Vactor") type of maintenance equipment.

During the inspection of each of the catch basin sumps, the hoods (where provided) on each of the outlet pipes shall also be observed. In the event that a hood is damaged or off the hanger, it shall be reset or repaired.

### Underground Infiltration System

The underground infiltration system pipes shall be inspected every six months in the months of April and October. Each of the inspection manholes provided shall be opened and visually

checked from the surface. Observation of grit inside of the detention pipe shall be noted and any deposits found to be 2 inches or more, as measured from the invert of pipe, shall be cleaned and removed. The underground pipes qualify as a Confined Space under OSHA regulations, and any maintenance involving entry into the pipes should comply with OSHA Confined Space Entry Regulations.

After the first year of operation, each hydrodynamic separator shall be inspected as a minimum, three times yearly with one inspection occurring in the month of April in the same manner as described above for the first season of operation. Any accumulations found to be occurring within one foot of the water surface shall be removed from the separator and properly disposed of off-site. Also, any floating material discovered during inspections shall be removed from the structure.

A detailed maintenance logbook shall be kept for each structure. Information is to include, but not be limited to, the date of inspection, record of grit depth, condition of baffles, observation of any floatables, and date of cleaning performed.

#### Swales/Aboveground Infiltration System

Grassed drainage swales/infiltration areas shall be checked for and cleaned of trash, excessive sediment, other debris and erosion on a monthly basis. Maintain the swales/infiltration areas as meadow during growing season. A detailed maintenance logbook shall be kept with information including, but not be limited to, the date of inspection, record of grit depth, condition of vegetation, observation of any floatables, and date of cleaning performed.

### **Site Maintenance**

#### Parking Lots

Parking lots and sidewalks shall be swept as necessary by the management company retained by United Services Inc. to clean trash and other debris. The management company retained by United Services Inc. will sweep parking lots on its property in the spring to remove winter accumulations of road sand.

#### Landscaping

The management company retained by Eastbrook LLC., or tenants, will maintain landscaped areas. Normally the landscaping maintenance will consist of pruning, mulching, planting, mowing lawns, raking leaves, etc. Use of fertilizers and pesticides will be controlled and limited to minimal amounts necessary for healthy landscape maintenance.

Soil tests, possibly by the Connecticut Cooperative Extension Service, will be performed prior to fertilization. Trees will be fertilized no more than once in the Fall season with an organic fertilizer. Shrubs will be fertilized with an organic slow-release fertilizer each spring. Lawns shall receive a minimum of one application of fertilizer in the Fall. Liming of lawn areas to control pH will be done in the spring if testing indicates that it is necessary. The low-maintenance slopes will not be fertilized following initial planting and stabilization.

The lawn areas, once established, will be maintained at a typical height of 3 ½". This will allow the grass to be maintained with minimal impact from weeds and/or pests. The low-maintenance areas will be maintained as a meadow or allowed to revert back to natural conditions.

Due to this site being inside an Aquifer Protection Area, natural pest control methods shall be attempted prior to resorting to pesticides. Pesticides will only be used as a control method when a problem has been clearly identified and the other attempted natural control methods are not successful. The pesticides shall be natural as opposed to chemical whenever possible. All pesticide applications shall be by licensed applicators, to prevent over usage or misuse, where necessary. As outlined in the Town of Mansfield Aquifer Protection Regulations, no storage, mixing or loading of pesticides may take place onsite.

Topsoil, brush, leaves, clippings, woodchips, mulch, equipment, and other material shall be stored off site.

#### Trash Collection

All trash will be contained in litter/recyclable receptacles or dumpster enclosures. All dumpsters will be equipped with covers. All trash will be collected on a regular basis and disposed of legally off-site.

#### Maintaining Native Vegetation

Existing vegetation around the perimeter of the development will be maintained in its native condition. No clearing, grading, stockpiling, storage, or development will occur in these areas.

#### Outdoor Storage

There will be no outdoor storage of hazardous chemicals, de-icing agents, fertilizer, pesticides, or herbicides anywhere around the office building.

Clean wooden pallets and baled cardboard may be stored outside. These items will be removed from the site on a regular schedule.

All tenants within the office building shall conform to all the storage requirements listed above.

#### Deicing and Snow Removal & Storage

The use of salt and/or chemicals for deicing, snow melting and other related winter weather management is strictly prohibited due to the location of this site being inside an Aquifer Protection Area. Clean sand may be used to aid traction. Snow shall be shoveled and plowed from sidewalk and parking areas as soon as practical during and after winter storms. Sand accumulation shall be removed from the site at the end of the winter season or appropriate time when seasonal snow has melted. Alternative deicing methods must be submitted prior to use onsite for review to the Town of Mansfield for approval.

## Utilities

### Sanitary Sewer System

On-Site Collection Sewer: The management company retained by Eastbrook F, LLC. will annually inspect the manholes within the on-site sewer system on the property, and check for debris and blockage. Any low-flow lines with accumulations will be cleaned with water-jetting.

### Water System

The on-site service will be maintained by Eastbrook F, LLC. will be responsible for maintaining the domestic service line to the building, fire hydrant laterals, and hydrant on-site.

### Electric\Telephone System

The electric system will be owned and maintained up to the transformers by Northeast Utilities Service Company. Eastbrook F, LLC. will maintain the secondary lines from the transformers to the buildings. The telephone system will be owned and maintained by AT&T up to the building.

### Site Lighting

Eastbrook F, LLC. is responsible for maintaining the parking lot and building-mounted lights on the property.

PAGE  
BREAK



SHIPMAN & GOODWIN<sup>LLP</sup>  
COUNSELORS AT LAW

Joseph P. Williams  
Phone: (860) 251-5127  
Fax: (860) 251-5318  
jwilliams@goodwin.com

December 9, 2011

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Ms. Jo Ann Goodwin, Chair  
Planning & Zoning Commission  
Town of Mansfield  
Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building  
4 South Eagleville Road  
Mansfield, CT 06268

RE: Applications by Cumberland Farms, Inc. for Special Permit to  
construct a convenience store and gas filling station;  
643 Middle Turnpike and 1660 Storrs Road, Mansfield, CT

Dear Ms. Goodwin:

On behalf of our client, Cumberland Farms, Inc., I am pleased to enclose a Special Permit Application for the two parcels referenced above. These abandoned properties were formerly used as the Kathy-Johns restaurant and Republic Oil gas station at the Four Corners intersection of Routes 44, 195 and 320 in Storrs. Cumberland Farms proposes to redevelop the combined site with a new convenience store and four gas dispensers.

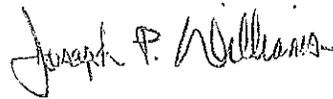
The proposed development will substantially improve the appearance and functionality of the properties at the northeast corner of this key intersection. The proposed site coverage will be reduced by about one-half compared with existing site coverage, and building coverage will be reduced from 6.2 percent to 5.6 percent. The gas operation and canopy will be equipped with state-of-the-art controls and the convenience store has been designed to comply with your recently adopted Four Corners Design Criteria. We have met with Town staff on multiple occasions to discuss the site plan and have revised it to address their comments, and we now look forward to presenting our plan to the Commission.

Ms. Joann Goodwin  
December 9, 2011  
Page 2

In accordance with the Mansfield Zoning Regulations and our discussions with staff, we are filing the following: Special Permit Application (original plus four copies); narrative Statement of Use (original plus four copies); Sanitary Memorandum (original plus four copies); four sets of full size stamped and signed site plans and exterior elevations; 15 reduced size (11" x 17") copies of the plan set; two copies of the Stormwater Management Report prepared by CHA; two copies of the Traffic Study prepared by CHA; and filing fee in the amount of \$1,060. In addition, we are filing today an application with the Mansfield Inland Wetlands Agency for a permit to conduct regulated activities.

We look forward to presenting these applications to the Commission at the earliest available public hearing. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Very Truly Yours,



Joseph P. Williams

Enclosures

Cc: Ms. Kathleen Sousa  
Mr. John Marth  
Mr. Kevin Thatcher, P.E.

2113651v1

**SPECIAL PERMIT APPLICATION**  
(see Article V, Section B of the Zoning Regulations)

Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission

File # 1308  
Date 12-9-11

1. Name of development (where applicable) Cumberland Farms, Inc.

2. Proposed use of the property is Retail and retail sale of automotive fuels.  
in accordance with Sec.(s) N of Article VII (Permitted Use provisions) of the  
Zoning Regulations

3. Address/location of subject property 643 Middle Turnpike and 1660 Storrs Road  
Assessor's Map 2 Block 8 Lot(s) 12 and 13 Vol. 302 Page 442 and Vol. 423 Page 246

4. Zone of subject property Planned Business 3 Acreage of subject property 1.67 and .72 (2.39 total)

5. Acreage of adjacent land in same ownership (if any) None

6. APPLICANT Cumberland Farms, Inc. Joseph P. Williams  
(please PRINT) Signature  
Street Address c/o Joseph P. Williams, Esq., Shipman & Goodwin LLP, One Constitution Plaza  
Town Hartford, CT Zip Code 06103-1919 Telephone 860-251-5127

Interest in property: Owner \_\_\_\_\_ Optionee X Lessee \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

(If "Other", please explain) \_\_\_\_\_

7. OWNER OF RECORD See Exhibit A attached hereto. \_\_\_\_\_  
(please PRINT) Signature

(OR attached Purchase Contract \_\_\_\_\_ OR attached letter consenting to application X)  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Town \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

8. AGENTS (if any) representing the applicant who may be directly contacted regarding this application:

Name Joseph P. Williams, Esq. Telephone 860-251-5127  
Address Shipman & Goodwin LLP, One Constitution Plaza, Hartford, CT Zip Code 06103-1919  
Involvement (legal, engineering, surveying, etc.) Legal

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Involvement (legal, engineering, surveying, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

(over)

9. The following items have been submitted as part of this application:

- Application fee in the amount of \$ 1,560.00
- Statement of Use further describing the nature and intensity of the proposed use, the extent of proposed site improvements and other important aspects of the proposal. To assist the Commission with its review, applicants are encouraged to be as detailed as possible and to include information justifying the proposed special permit with respect to the approval criteria contained or referenced in Article V, Section B.5.
- Site plan (6 copies) as per Article V, Section B.3.d
- Site plan checklist including any waiver requests
- Sanitation report as per Article V, Section B.3.e
- Acknowledgement that certified notice will be sent to neighboring property-owners, as per the provisions of Article V, Section B.3.c (use Neighborhood Notification Form).
- As applicable for projects within the watershed of the Willimantic Reservoir, acknowledgement that certified notice will be sent to the Windham Water Works, as per the provisions of Article III, Section 1.
- As applicable for projects within State designated aquifer protection areas, acknowledgement that the Commissioner of Public Health will be notified as per the provisions of Article III, Section 1. The State Department of Public Health's on line form ([www.dph.state.ct.us/BRS/Water/Source Protection/PA0653.htm](http://www.dph.state.ct.us/BRS/Water/Source%20Protection/PA0653.htm)) shall be used with a copy of the submittal delivered to the Planning Office.
- Other information (see Article V, Section B.3.g). Please list items submitted (if any):  

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**10. ALL APPLICATIONS, INCLUDING MAPS AND OTHER SUBMISSIONS, MUST COMPLY WITH ALL APPLICABLE SECTIONS OF THE ZONING REGULATIONS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:**

- Art. X, Sec. E, Flood Hazard Areas, Areas Subject to Flooding
- Art. V, Sec. B, Special Permit Requirements (includes procedure, application requirements, approval criteria, additional conditions and safeguards, conditions of approval, violations of approval, and revisions) Art. VI, Sec. A, Prohibited Uses
- Art. VI, Sec. B, Performance Standards
- Art. VI, Sec. C, Bonding
- Art. VII, Permitted Uses
- Art. VIII, Dimensional Requirements/Floor Area Requirements Art. X, Sec. A, Special Regulations for Designed Development Districts Art. X, Sec. C, Signs
- Art. X, Sec. D, Parking and Loading
- Art. X, Sec. H, Regulations regarding filling and removal of materials Art. X, Sec. S, Architectural and Design Standards

## STATEMENT OF USE FOR SPECIAL PERMIT APPLICATION

Cumberland Farms, Inc.  
643 Middle Turnpike and 1660 Storrs Road  
(Routes 44/195/320), Mansfield, CT

December 9, 2011

Cumberland Farms, Inc. proposes to merge and redevelop the two parcels located at 643 Middle Turnpike and 1660 Storrs Road (northeast corner of the intersection of Routes 44/195/320) in the Storrs section of Mansfield as a combined site with a new convenience store and four multi-product gasoline dispensers. The combined property totals 2.62 acres and is located in the Planned Business 3 (PB-3) zone. Currently abandoned and dilapidated, the properties formerly were operated as the Kathy-Johns restaurant and Republic Oil gas station.

The proposed use consists of: a 3,634 square foot convenience store building; gasoline filling station with four multi-product dispensers and canopy; parking area with 22 striped spaces; two 20,000-gallon underground storage tanks; exterior garbage collection area; and landscaped buffer along Routes 44 and 195. The proposed use complies with the permitted use provisions of the Mansfield Zoning Regulations, as set forth in Article Seven, Section N.2.a.1 and N.2.h.2; will be less intense than the longstanding prior use of the parcels as a gas station and restaurant; and is compatible with the Mansfield Plan of Conservation and Development (2006).

In 1990, the Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission granted a special permit to Republic Oil Co., Inc. to construct a gasoline service station and convenience store on the 1660 Storrs Road parcel.<sup>1</sup> The Mansfield Zoning Board of Appeals that year granted a variance allowing the gasoline pump canopy to be built 20 feet from the front property line. The parcel at 643 Middle Turnpike for many years was operated as the "Kathy-Johns" restaurant. The existing, combined 2.62-acre site has 1.6 acres of impervious coverage, or 61 percent of the site.

The proposed plan will substantially reduce the total site coverage to 30.7 percent (0.8 acre). The plan removes the two existing restaurant and convenience store buildings and replaces them with a single convenience store, thereby reducing the building coverage from 6.2 percent to 5.6 percent. The front and side yards setbacks to the store building and to the

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<sup>1</sup> If the current special permit application is granted, Cumberland Farms requests that the Commission declare the 1990 special permit void for clarity of the land records.

canopy will increase substantially in the proposed plan.<sup>2</sup> The plan maintains the existing natural vegetation along the northwestern, northern and eastern boundaries of the property, and it adds a generous landscaped buffer at the southwestern corner of the property as well as landscaped islands within the parking area and at the northern edge of the parking area. The paved parking and travel area is also being greatly reduced in the proposed plan; 22 striped parking spaces are provided, consistent with Article Ten, Section D.5.O of the Zoning Regulations.

Access to the site will be better controlled by reducing the multiple existing curb cuts to just two entrance/exit areas, one each at Route 195 and Route 44. CHA is currently preparing a traffic study that will be submitted to the Commission shortly.

Cumberland Farms expects to hire three full time employees and 10 part-time employees for its new convenience store. Among other things, the store will offer items such as fruit, breakfast offerings, pizza, roller grill items, and heated fresh sandwiches upon demand. A selection of hot, cold and frozen beverages will also be provided. The store will be operated on a 24-hour basis.

The proposed facility will use the existing on-site septic system and potable water supply well. We expect the usage of these systems to be much less than the amounts the restaurant used. Stormwater management and renovation are discussed in the plan set and in the drainage report filed herewith. The stormwater system provides for a bio-retention area in the northwestern corner of the site that will be planted with wetlands plants.

There are off-site inland wetlands areas adjacent to the northern and southeastern boundaries of the site. The plan proposes regulated activities within the upland review areas for each of these wetlands. We are therefore filing, simultaneously with the zoning applications, an application for permit to conduct regulated activities with the Mansfield Inland Wetlands Agency.

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<sup>2</sup> Given that the PB-3 zone is a Design Development District, the Commission is empowered, under Article Ten, Section A.4.d of the Zoning Regulations, to determine the setback requirements for buildings and site improvements on this site.

# PROPOSED CONVENIENCE STORE US 44 / CT 195 / CT 320

TOWN OF MANSFIELD (STORRS), TOLLAND COUNTY, CONNECTICUT

SITE DRAWING INDEX	
G-001	CHA COVER SHEET
C-001	CHA EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN
C-101	CHA SITE LAYOUT PLAN
C-201	CHA SITE GRADING PLAN
C-202	CHA EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL PLAN
C-301	CHA SITE UTILITY PLAN
C-501	CHA SITE LANDSCAPING PLAN
C-601	CHA CONSTRUCTION DETAILS
C-602	CHA CONSTRUCTION DETAILS
C-603	CHA CONSTRUCTION DETAILS
A1.1	CFI PROPOSED SIGN PLAN
A3.1	AA PROPOSED CANOPY ELEVATIONS
A3.2	AA FLOOR PLAN & PARTITION TYPES
	AA EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS
	AA EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS
	LSI SITE LIGHTING PLAN

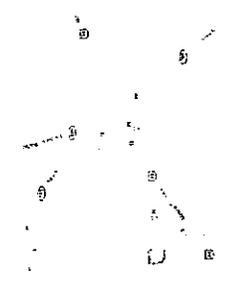
PREPARED FOR

## CUMBERLAND GULF GROUP OF COMPANIES

100 Crossing Boulevard - Framingham, MA 01702

DECEMBER 9, 2011

### SITE LOCATION MAP



ISSUED FOR SITE PLAN REVIEW  
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

PREPARED BY



2139 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 212 • Rocky Hill, CT 06067-2336  
Main: (860) 257-4557 • www.chacompanies.com

CHA Project No. 23016

<p>CUMBERLAND GULF GROUP OF COMPANIES 100 Crossing Boulevard Framingham, MA 01702</p>			<p>PROPOSED CONVENIENCE STORE US 44 / CT 195 / CT 320 MANSFIELD (STORRS), CT COVER SHEET</p>	<p>Project No. 23016 Date: 12/09/11</p>

G-001











DATE	BY	DESCRIPTION



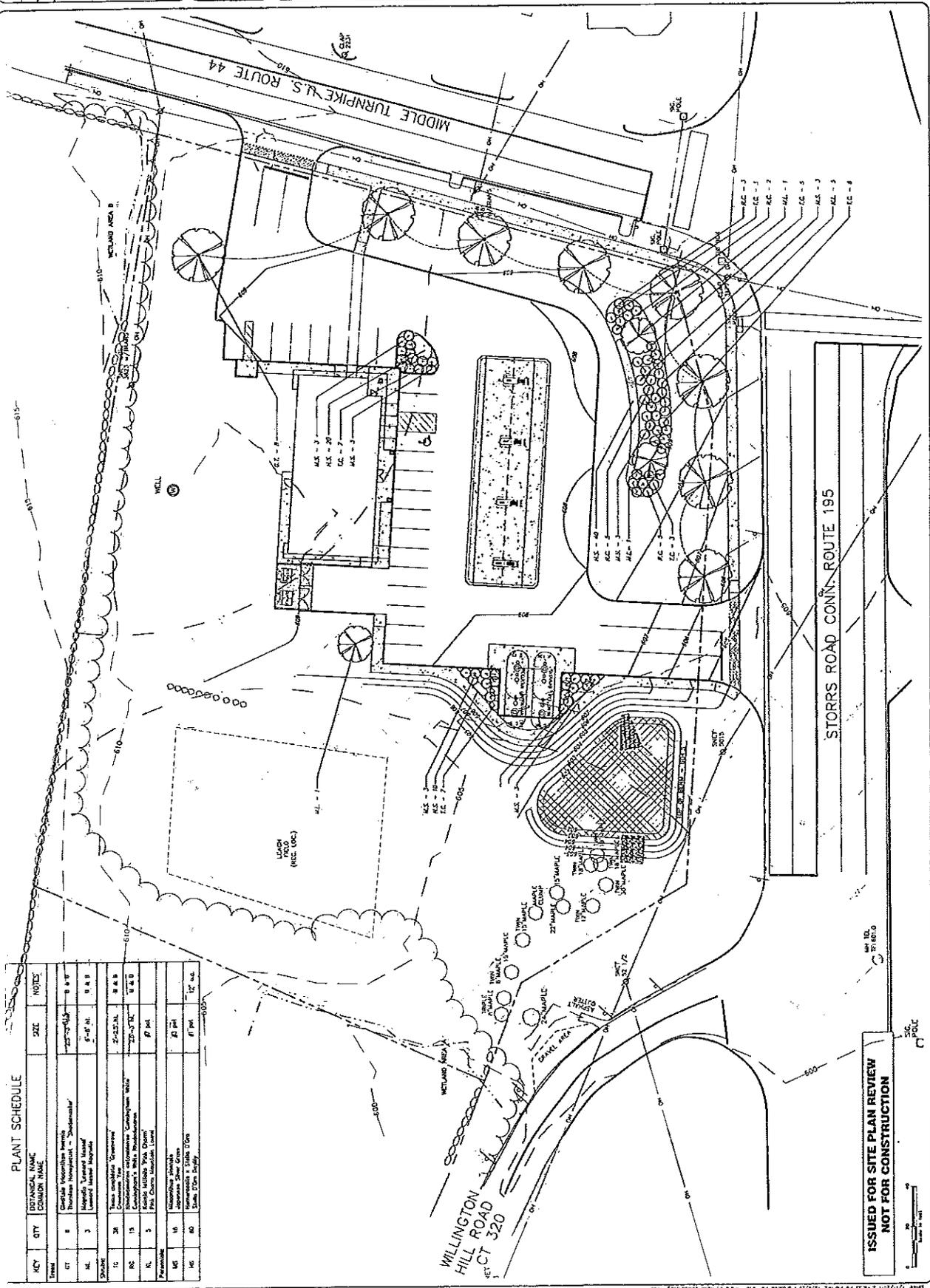
Cumberland  
GROUP OF COMPANIES  
100 Crossing Boulevard  
Framingham, MA 01702



**GHA**  
Gardens & Landscapes  
275 Main Street, Suite 112  
Mansfield, CT 06108  
Phone: 413-267-1111  
Fax: 413-267-1112  
www.gha.com

PROPOSED CONVENIENCE STORE  
US 44 CT 195 CT 320  
MANSFIELD (STORRS), CT  
SITE LANDSCAPING PLAN  
ISSUED FOR SITE PLAN REVIEW  
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

**C-501**



**PLANT SCHEDULE**

QTY	CITY	BOTANICAL NAME COMMON NAME	SIZE	NOTES
07	8	Small tree (various species)	12-15' H	8 x 8'
08	3	Medium tree (various species)	6-8' H	8 x 8'
09	24	Small shrub (various species)	2-3' H	8 x 8'
10	15	Large shrub (various species)	2-3' H	8 x 8'
11	5	Small tree (various species)	2-3' H	8 x 8'
12	18	Small tree (various species)	2-3' H	8 x 8'
13	10	Small tree (various species)	2-3' H	8 x 8'
14	10	Small tree (various species)	2-3' H	8 x 8'
15	10	Small tree (various species)	2-3' H	8 x 8'

ISSUED FOR SITE PLAN REVIEW  
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



THE ARCHITECT/ENGINEER HAS REVIEWED THIS LANDSCAPING PLAN FOR CONFORMANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AND HAS FOUND IT TO BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT. THIS REVIEW IS LIMITED TO THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE PLAN AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A GUARANTEE OF THE ACCURACY OR COMPLETENESS OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED HEREON. THE ARCHITECT/ENGINEER DOES NOT WARRANT THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED HEREON IS FREE FROM ERRORS OR OMISSIONS. THE ARCHITECT/ENGINEER SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY DAMAGE TO PERSONS OR PROPERTY ARISING FROM THE USE OF THIS PLAN.





DATE	NO.	BY	REVISION

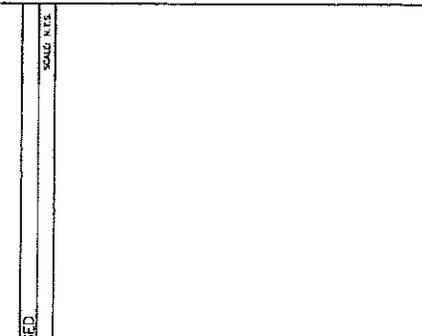
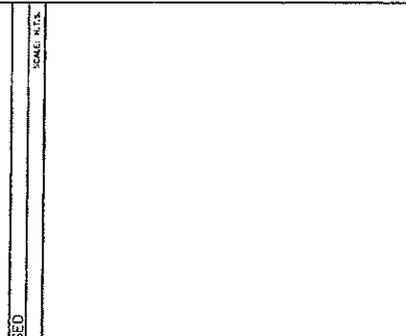
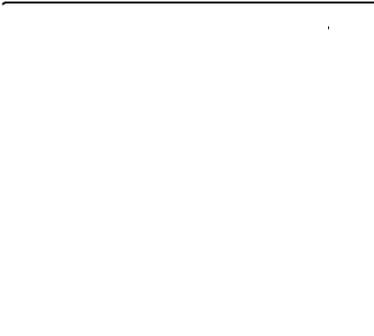
CUMBERLAND  
ENGINEERS & ARCHITECTS  
100 CROSSING ROAD  
FARMINGTON, CT 06032



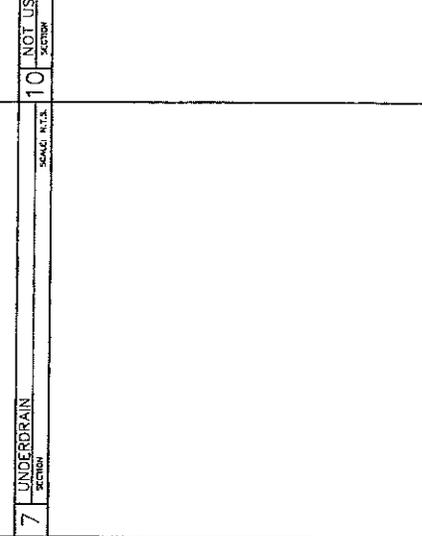
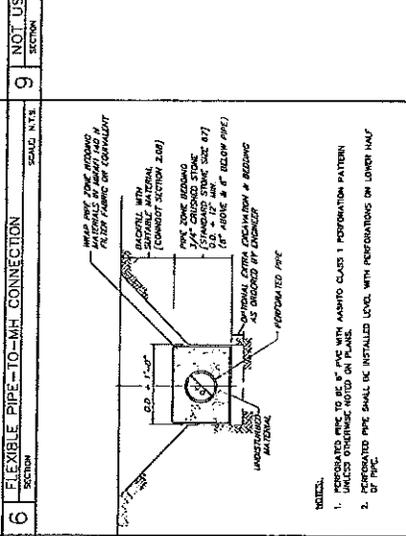
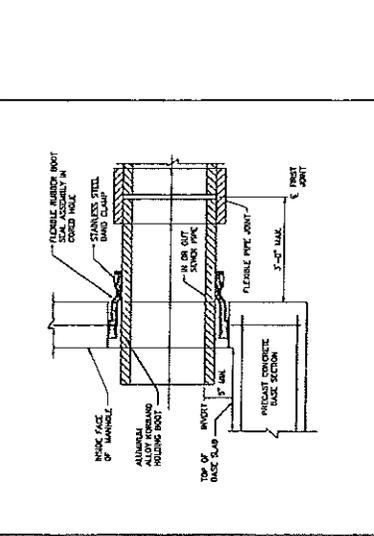
CHIA  
CONSTRUCTION DETAILS  
MANFIELD (STORES), CT  
US 44/CT 195/CT 320

PROPOSED CONVENIENCE STORE  
MANFIELD (STORES), CT  
US 44/CT 195/CT 320  
PROJECT NO. 2318  
SCALE AS NOTED

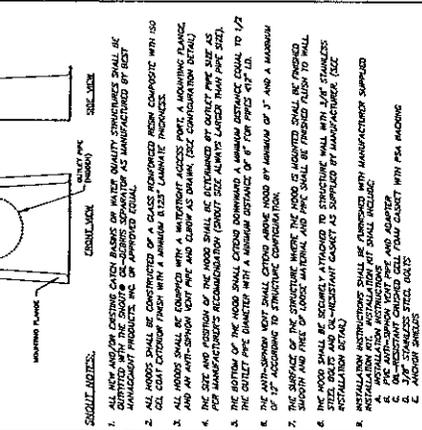
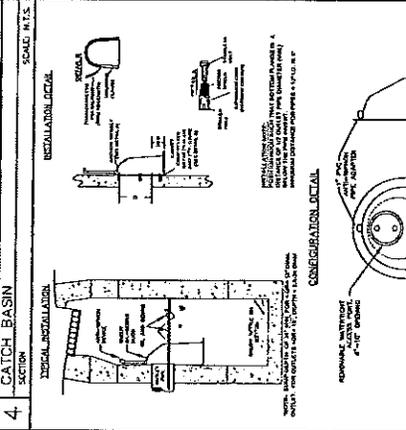
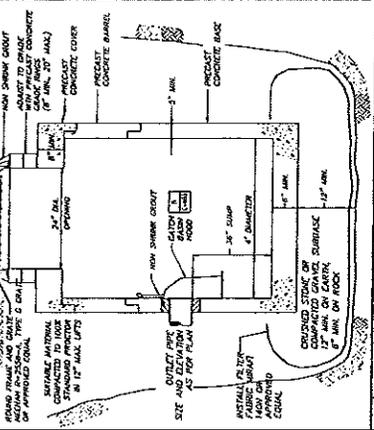
C-603



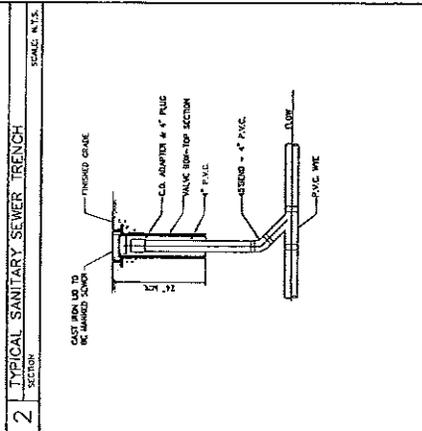
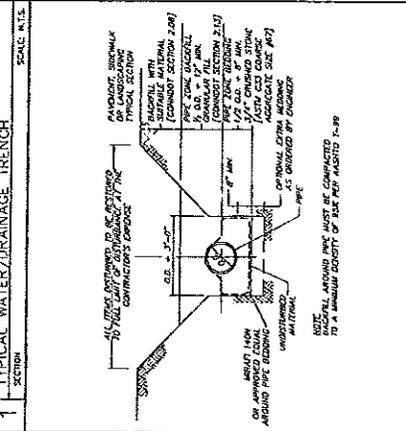
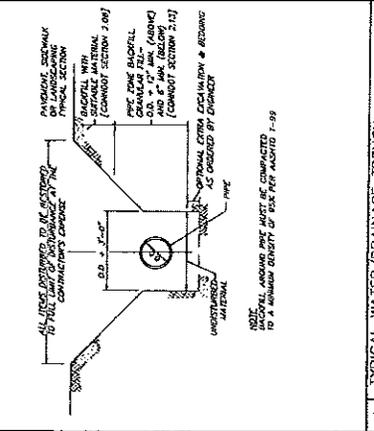
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SECTION  
SCALE: N.T.S.



4 CATCH BASIN  
SECTION  
SCALE: N.T.S.



7 UNDERDRAIN  
SECTION  
SCALE: N.T.S.

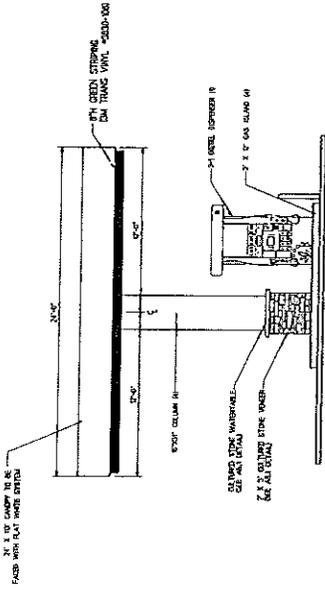


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SECTION  
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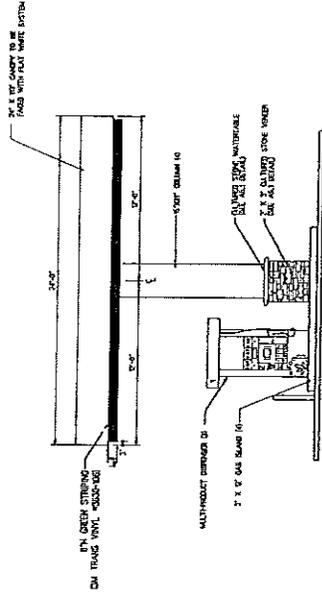




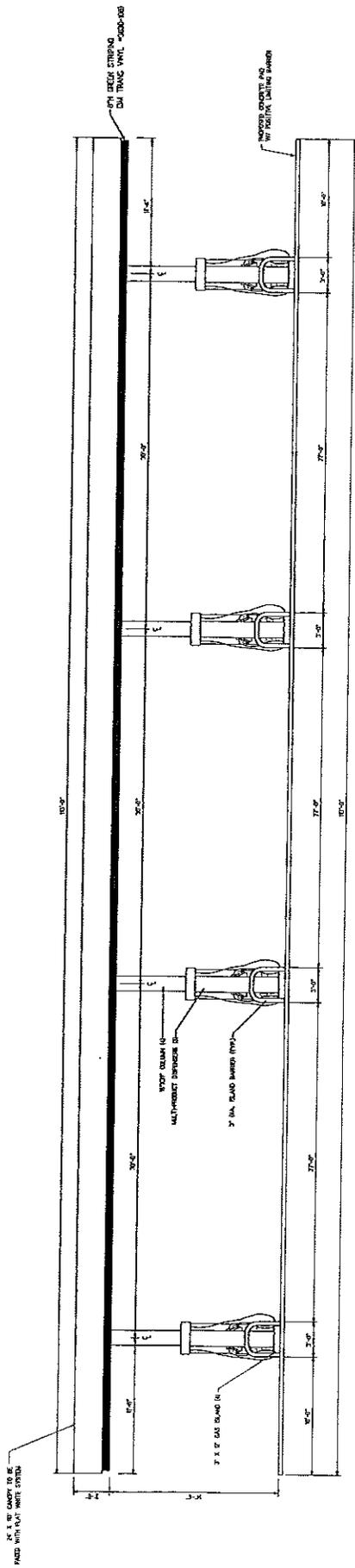




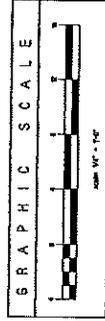
LEFT SIDE ELEVATION



RIGHT SIDE ELEVATION



FRONT ELEVATION



U.S. ROUTE 44, CT. ROUTE 108 MANSFIELD (STORRS), CONNECTICUT		U.S. NEW STATE HIGHWAY	
Cumberland U.S. 44, CT. 108		STANDARD VIEW	
PROPOSED CANDY BAR ELEVATIONS		1 OF 1	
REVISIONS NO. DATE BY DESCRIPTION 1 11/15/00 JLD			
DRAWN BY: JLD CHECKED BY: JLD DATE: 11/15/00 SCALE: AS SHOWN PROJECT NO.: 00-000-000			





**TOWN OF MANSFIELD**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

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LINDA M. PAINTER, AICP, DIRECTOR

**Memo to:** Planning and Zoning Commission  
**From:** Linda M. Painter, AICP, Director of Planning and Development   
**Date:** July 13, 2011  
**Re:** Proposed Overhead Utility Line, Hawthorne Lane Conservation Easement Area  
PZC File #1177

Last year, the Commission reviewed a request from property owners on Hawthorne Lane related to the relocation of the CL&P transmission line right-of-way. The residents requested that the PZC allow an overhead utility line and associated vegetative clearing in a portion of a conservation easement area approved in 2001 in association with the Hawthorne Park Subdivision off of Bassetts Bridge Road. This approval was being sought so that CL&P could incorporate an alternative route for new utility transmission lines associated with the Interstate Reliability Project. The item was tabled in September 2010 as CL&P worked on an update to the municipal consultation filing for the Interstate Reliability Project.

With the filing of a supplemental municipal consultation filing by CL&P late this summer, this request for relocation of the CL&P transmission lines has been resubmitted. The proposed route for the new transmission line to the north of existing lines would necessitate significant tree removal closer to existing homes. The proposed alternative route to the south of existing lines would still require some tree removal but would have less impact for the residents. The proposed new route will not require any structures within the Conservation easement area. A colored map depicting the proposed route is attached. It should be noted that a final decision on the relocation would be made through the siting process itself, and relocation is not guaranteed even if the Town agrees to modify the conservation easement.

Over the last few months, I have been working with the residents and representatives from CL&P to identify the best way to address the restrictions of the existing Conservation Easement. Section II of the subject Conservation Easement prohibits tree cutting in a conservation easement area without prior written approval from the Planning and Zoning Commission. At issue is whether the proposal will "interfere with or have an adverse impact on the natural scenic, ecological and open space values being protected within the Conservation Easement Area". The proposed transmission line relocation will significantly reduce visual and potential noise impacts for neighboring residents off of Hawthorne Lane. This alternative utility line location shifts the location of both the existing and proposed new lines to the south, toward the Hawthorne Lane cul-de-sac and away from the front yards of the homes on the north side of the street. From an environmental impact perspective, the two alternatives will have similar impacts on wetlands. The subject conservation easement area that will need to be crossed and periodically cleared of trees and vegetation that might interfere with the utilities, does contain wetland areas but these wetlands do not appear significant or materially different than wetlands that would

need to be cleared for the northern route. The 2010 letter from the Assistant Town Engineer indicates concurrence with this assessment.

In working with the Hawthorne Lane residents, CL&P representatives, and the Town Attorney, we have determined that the most appropriate way to address conservation easement restrictions would be to amend the conservation easement to remove the area that would be covered by the revised CL&P right-of-way and do a corresponding increase in a conservation easement area located on Lot 1A. This easement currently runs along the west side of Lot 1A; the expansion to the easement would run along the northern property line of Lot 1A, and include areas on Lots 1B and 2 if needed. This expansion would include a small portion of wetlands not currently covered by the existing conservation easement on Lot 1A. A concept map has been prepared by the residents and submitted with an updated request dated December 13, 2011. If the Commission approves of the changes to the conservation easement in concept, the residents will retain professional surveying/engineering services to revise the conservation easement map and legal description. They will also retain legal services to draw up an amendment to the conservation easement for town review.

This issue has been referred to the Conservation Commission, which will be meeting on December 21, 2011, and staff is in the process of sending information to abutters on Bassetts Bridge Road. No action is requested at the December 19, 2011 meeting. A motion will be prepared for the Commission's January 3, 2011 based on feedback received from the Conservation Commission and Bassetts Bridge Road abutters.

December 13, 2011

Attn: Mansfield PZC

To our Planning and Zoning representatives,

We, the residents of Hawthorne Lane, Mansfield Center, are writing to you today regarding the CL&P interstate reliability transmission project as it relates to property impacts in our neighborhood.

You may already be aware that for some time we have been discussing options for the new lines and poles in our neighborhood with CL&P representatives, and that there are currently at least two options for the proposed path of the new lines through the immediate area in the CL&P documents.

Property owners on Hawthorne Lane have together come to an agreement with CL&P on an option which would site the additional lines CL&P is proposing farther from the homes in the subdivision, towards/over the street, and which will not only have less impact on our property values, quality of life, and potentially the health of our families as well, but would also potentially increase the amount of land protected by a nearby conservation easement that the town holds.

This proposal would involve the residents and the Town of Mansfield exchanging two areas of land: a small area of land which is located towards the front of our properties closest to Hawthorne lane that has an existing conservation easement, (see [http://www.mansfieldct.gov/filestorage/1904/1932/2043/20060415\\_final\\_poed.pdf](http://www.mansfieldct.gov/filestorage/1904/1932/2043/20060415_final_poed.pdf), page 96, listing titled "Bassetts Bridge Road (Hawthorne Park subdivision) - 1.47" (acres)), but is in an already developed/landscaped area, for a larger area of land towards the backs of our properties, which we would be willing to give up to the town, and which we believe would be adjacent to a larger contiguous existing wildlife conservation area that extends from the Mansfield Hollow State Park area.

The residents have engaged the firm that originally surveyed the Hawthorne Lane subdivision, Datum Engineering, to map out this new proposed area. This map is not completed yet, but is underway.

The proposed alternative would result in there being no tree removal at all in any Mansfield held conservation easements, as opposed to 10-20 trees that would need to be removed in the existing area, should CL&P accept our option.

The alternative also would remove any existing Town Held conservation easement from involvement in the negotiations between Hawthorne Lane residents and CL&P as to the options that are eventually chosen, reducing administrative overhead for the Town of Mansfield (hearings, considerations, documentation, etc.) during the site selection process for this area, leaving the option we are proposing only contingent on CL&P

agreeing, rather than the three parties of CL&P, Hawthorne Lane residents, and the Town of Mansfield.

CL&P has also indicated that this option would be acceptable and they would consider it seriously as the process moves forward.

We believe this to be the best, least complex approach for all involved, and we would propose that this arrangement would provide the greatest benefit to both the Town of Mansfield and the residents of Hawthorne Lane.

Now that the project is continuing we'd like to revisit these discussions, and find out what we can do to help in making the proposed option work.

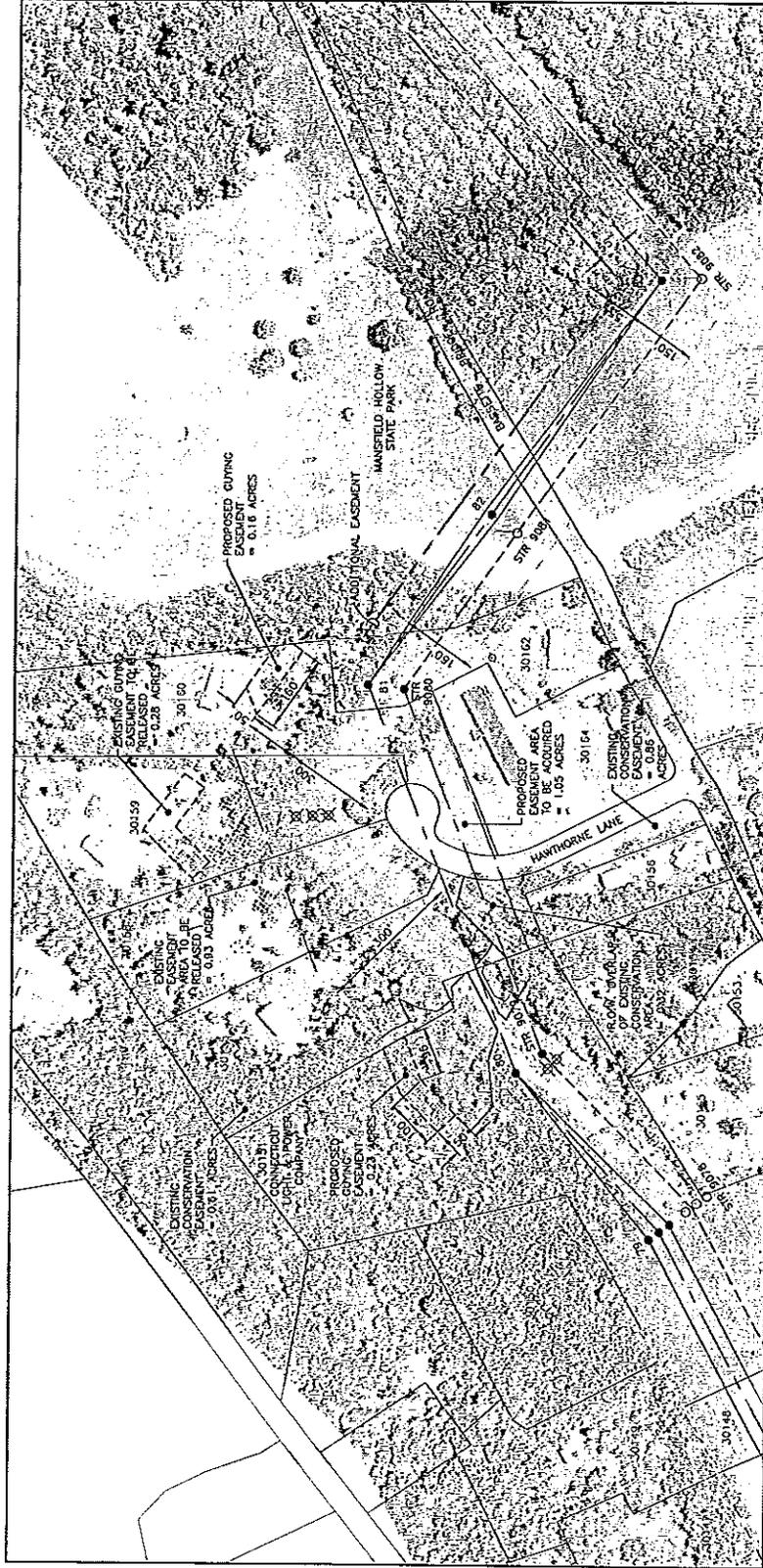
We would be happy to meet in this area with any PZC representative for a site visit to get a better visual idea of what we are proposing.

Please let us know what we can do to assist. Property owners Christopher Duers and Wayne Hawthorne can be contacted directly for questions or concerns.

Regards,

Christopher Duers, 21 Hawthorne Lane: Ph: 860-942-8218

Wayne Hawthorne, 28 Hawthorne Lane: Ph: 860-456-7592



**LEGEND**

- ✕ EXISTING STRUCTURE TO BE REMOVED
- EXISTING STRUCTURE TO REMAIN
- PROPOSED STRUCTURE
- WETLANDS
- VERNAL POOL HABITAT

**PROPERTY LINE**

- EXISTING RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE
- - - PROPOSED RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE
- - - EXISTING 345KV CENTERLINE
- - - PROPOSED 345KV CENTERLINE
- - - PROPOSED 345KV CONDUCTOR
- - - VEGETATION CLEARING LIMITS
- - - TYPICAL PARCEL NUMBER

46197

**Burns & McDonnell**

DESIGNED: S. CASTEEL  
 AUG. 4, 2011  
 D. LAURSEN  
 CHECKED

**Northeast Utilities Service Co.**

FOR CONNECTICUT LIGHT & POWER

**THE INTERSTATE RELIABILITY PROJECT**  
 345-KV LINE SHIFT  
 (HAWTHORNE LANE)

DATE	BY	APP.
08/04/11	D. LAURSEN	
DATE	BY	APP.
08/04/11	D. LAURSEN	
DATE	BY	APP.
08/04/11	D. LAURSEN	
DATE	BY	APP.
08/04/11	D. LAURSEN	

E.C. PROJ. NUMBER: 30159

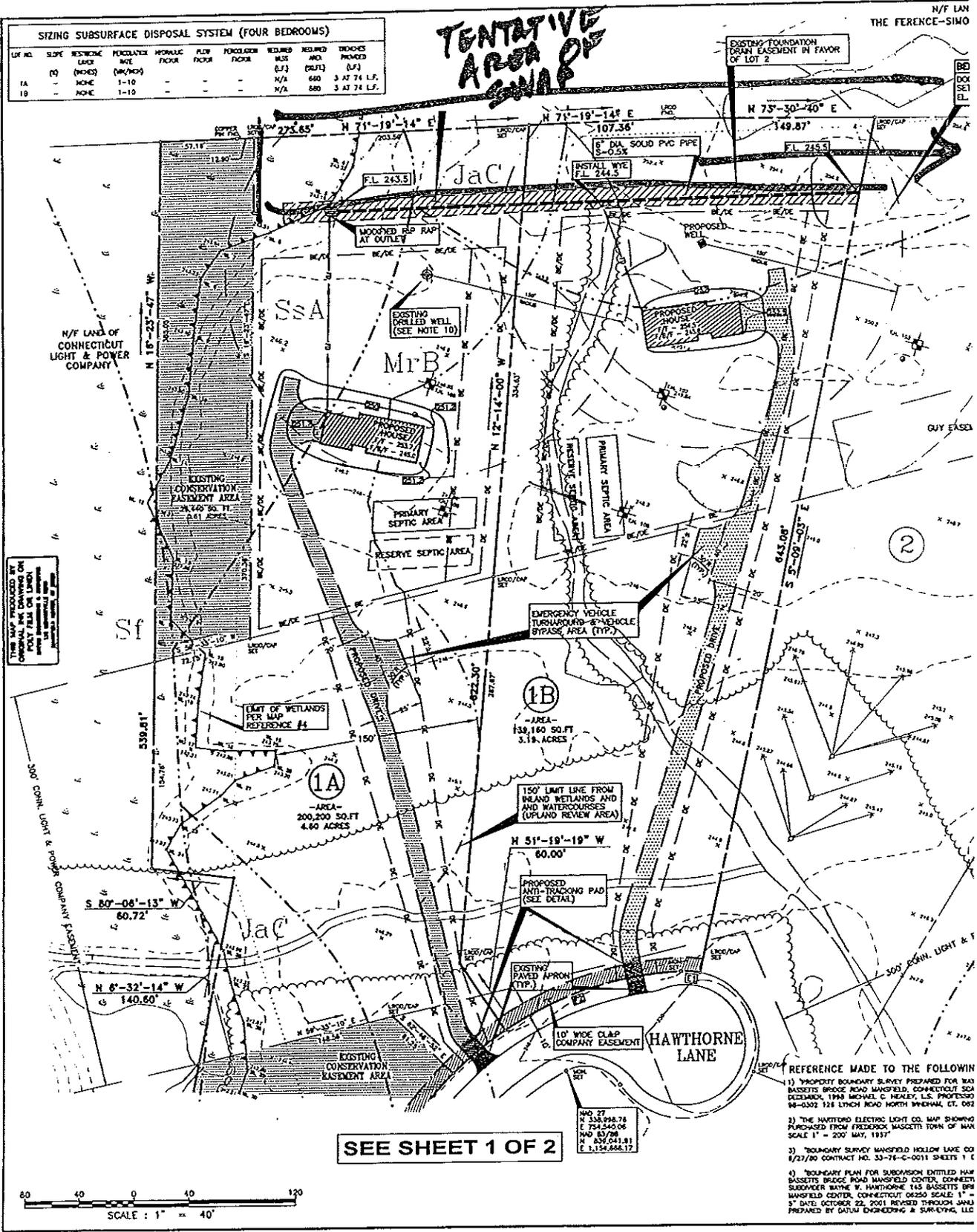
W:\PROJECTS\46197 - INTERSTATE RELIABILITY PROJECT\345KV\HAWTHORNE\_LANE\HAWTHORNE\_LANE\_08042011.dwg (REV: 0 3/4/23) 08-04-2011 13:53 DDL BML/C

**SIZING SUBSURFACE DISPOSAL SYSTEM (FOUR BEDROOMS)**

LOT NO.	SLOPE	RETNOME	FOURLATER	HONABLE	FLOR	FOURLATER	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	UNDOES
	(%)	(INCH)	(IN/100)	FOUR	FOUR	FOUR	(L.F.)	(L.F.)	(L.F.)
1A	-	NONE	1-10	-	-	-	N/A	680	3 AT 74 L.F.
1B	-	NONE	1-10	-	-	-	N/A	680	3 AT 74 L.F.

**TENTATIVE AREA OF SWAP**

N/F LAN THE FERRENCE-SIMO



THIS MAP PRODUCED BY ORIGINAL SURVEYING ORIGINALLY DRAWN BY...

**SEE SHEET 1 OF 2**



- REFERENCE MADE TO THE FOLLOWING
- 1) PROPERTY BOUNDARY SURVEY PREPARED FOR MR B BASSSETTS BRIDGE ROAD MANSFIELD, CONNECTICUT SOA DECEMBER, 1988 MICHAEL C HEALEY, L.S. PROFESSOR 88-0302 128 LYNN ROAD NORTH WINDHAM, CT. 062
  - 2) THE HARTFORD ELECTRIC LIGHT CO. MAP SHOWING PURCHASED FROM FREDERICK BASSETT TOWN OF MAN SCALE 1" = 200' MAY, 1937
  - 3) BOUNDARY SURVEY MANSFIELD HOLLOW LAKE CO 8/27/80 CONTRACT NO. 33-78-C-0011 SHEETS 1 & 2
  - 4) BOUNDARY PLAN FOR SUBDIVISION ENTITLED HAW BASSETTS BRIDGE ROAD MANSFIELD CENTER, CONNECTICUT SUBDIVISION WAYNE W. HARTFORD 143 BASSETTS BR MANSFIELD CENTER, CONNECTICUT 06250 SCALE 1" = 5' DATE: OCTOBER 22, 2001 REVISED THROUGH JANA PREPARED BY DATUM ENGINEERING & SURVEYING, LLC

NO. 27  
N 338,948.78  
E 751,540.06  
MAD 83/78  
N 839,641.81  
1,158,866.17

**Mansfield Open Space Preservation Committee**  
DRAFT Minutes of November 22, 2011 meeting

Members present: Jim Morrow (chair), Vicky Wetherell, Sue Westa, Quentin Kessel, Jennifer Kaufman (staff).

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:30.
2. Vicky was appointed acting secretary.
3. Minutes of the October 25, meeting were approved.

**Old Business**

**4. Executive Session**

The committee went into executive session at 7:40 and came out of executive session at 8:50. The committee's recommendations will be forwarded to the Town Council.

**New Business**

**5. 2012 Meeting Schedule**

The committee decided to meet on fourth Tuesdays from January through June, then on third Tuesdays from July through December.

**6. Natchaug River Compact**

The committee discussed ways to put this compact into action, possibly a presentation to the Town Council, possibly streamside protection measures.

**7. Dorwart Preserve Trail**

The committee discussed options for adding a loop trail to the Preserve. A field trip is scheduled for November 27 at 1:30.

8. Meeting adjourned at 9:10.
9. Next meeting (special meeting) on December 20, 2011.

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**DRAFT MINUTES**  
MANSFIELD PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, December 5, 2011  
Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

Members present: J. Goodwin (Chairman), M. Beal, R. Hall, K. Holt, G. Lewis, P. Plante, B. Pociask,  
K. Rawn, B. Ryan,  
Alternates present: B. Chandy, V. Ward  
Staff Present: Linda M. Painter, Director of Planning and Development  
Curt Hirsch, Zoning Agent

Chairman Goodwin called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Goodwin MOVED, Beal seconded, to add to New Business: PZC representative to the Town Gown Committee. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Minutes:**

November 21, 2011 Special Joint Meeting: Rawn MOVED, Pociask seconded, to approve the 11/21/11 Special Meeting minutes as written. MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Beal, Hall and Ryan who were disqualified.

November 21, 2011 Meeting: Plante MOVED, Pociask seconded, to approve the 11/21/11 minutes as written. MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Beal, Hall and Ryan who were disqualified.

**Old Business:**

a. **Special Permit Application For Wedding Venue (PZC File #1217-2)**  
**552 Bassetts Bridge Road, J. & J. Bell owner/applicant**

Members discussed the application and were concerned that noise generated by wedding events would have a negative effect on neighbors. It was noted that a noise study was conducted by an engineering firm that showed decibel levels to be below those set by the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Goodwin noted that a set decibel level can be listed in an approval motion. Hirsch stated that because it is a Special Permit, this issue can be revisited should any violation or complaint be brought to his attention. Plante volunteered to work with staff on a motion.

b. **Special Permit Application for Building Replacement and Expansion (PZC File #937-5)**  
**173 Storrs Road, Natchaug Hospital owner/applicant**

Noting no issues, Holt volunteered to work with staff on a motion.

c. **Cease and Desist Order-Freedom Green (PZC File #636-4)**

Linda Painter, Director of Planning and Development, read the motion adopted by the PZC at the 11-7-11 meeting. Hirsch stated that the plans submitted by the Beadoins were not signed and sealed by a Licensed Landscape Architect as specified in the PZC's motion. Hirsch also distributed a 12-5-11 letter submitted by T. Weinland, President of the Board of Directors of The Villages of Freedom Green.

After extensive discussion, Holt MOVED, Rawn seconded, that on or before Tuesday, December 13, 2011, the Beadoins shall comply with the original terms of the motion approved at the November 7, 2011, meeting. In addition, the Cease and Desist Order will be reinstated for Building A until such time as the conditions of the November 7, 2011, motion have been met and the plans for addressing the height of Building A have been approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Although the Commission did not consider the plans submitted by the Beadoins on the merits, the

Commission requested that the staff advise the Beaudoins to include both the existing and the proposed contours on their grading plan.

d. **Continued Discussion of By-Laws**

Tabled, awaiting review comments from the Town Attorney.

e. **Interstate Reliability Project - Discussion**

Linda M. Painter, Director of Planning and Development, suggested that a site visit to Hawthorne Lane Subdivision be added to the Field Trip agenda, noting that she anticipates that a modification request will be brought before the Commission regarding the possible relocation of the easement in light of the Interstate Reliability Project. She encouraged members to attend the Open House at the Community Center on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> from 6pm to 8pm. If members cannot attend, they may forward questions to Linda for her to present at the Open House.

f. **Special Permit Application for Fill (PZC File #1306)**

**28 Old Kent Road**

**J. James owner/applicant**

Tabled, pending Public Hearing on 1/3/2012.

**New Business:**

a. **Request for Subdivision Bonding Releases**

**Wild Rose Estates, Files #1113-2 & #1113-3**

Holt MOVED, Ryan seconded, that the Director of Planning and Development be authorized to take appropriate action to release \$5,000 plus accumulated interest that has been held to ensure suitable completion of the Baxter Road Estates Subdivision common driveway and associated improvements for lots 9, 10, and 11. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Baxter Road Estates, File #1229**

Holt MOVED, Ryan seconded, that the Director of Planning and Development be authorized to take appropriate action to release \$10,000 plus accumulated interest that has been held to guarantee for a period of one year all improvements in the Wild Rose Estates Subdivision, Phase I and II. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. **Special Permit Application, Addition to Eastbrook Mall & Freestanding Building (PZC File #1307)**

**95 Storrs Road, New England Design/applicant**

Plante MOVED, Ryan seconded, to receive the Special Permit application (file #1307 ) submitted by East Brook F, LLC, for a building addition and a new free standing building on property located 95 Storrs Road as shown on plans dated 12-1-11, as shown and described in application submissions, and to refer said application to staff and committees for review and comments and to set a Public Hearing for 1-3-12. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. **Town Gown Committee**

Chairman Goodwin noted that at the last meeting, Beal was appointed to continue serving on the Town Gown Committee as the PZC Representative. Since Beal was absent at the meeting, he was unable to communicate that he no longer has the time to serve on that Committee since he is now Chair of Regulatory Review. Rawn volunteered to be the PZC Representative.

**Reports from Officers and Committees:**

Beal noted that the next Regulatory Review Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:15 p.m. in Council Chambers. Goodwin reminded members that Field Trips will now be held on the second Tuesday following the first IWA/PZC meeting of the month at 1:30 p.m., and noted that one has been scheduled for December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at 1:30 p.m.

**Communications and Bills:** Noted.

**Executive Session:**

**Strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claim and litigation, Connecticut General Statutes section 1-200(6)(B).**

Holt MOVED, Beal seconded, at 8:08 p.m. to enter into Executive Session to discuss the pending court case of Bruce and Franca Hussey vs. Town of Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. Members present were Goodwin, Beal, Hall, Holt, Lewis, Plante, Pociask, Rawn, Ryan and alternates Chandy and Ward. Also present was Linda M. Painter, Director of Planning and Development.

Hall MOVED, Beal seconded, at 8:52 p.m. to end the Executive Session. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Adjournment:** Chairman Goodwin adjourned the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Holt, Secretary

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**DRAFT MINUTES**  
MANSFIELD INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY  
Monday, December 5, 2011  
Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

Members present: J. Goodwin (Chairman), M. Beal, R. Hall, K. Holt, G. Lewis, P. Plante,  
B. Pociask K. Rawn, B. Ryan  
Alternates present: B. Chandy, V. Ward  
Staff present: Grant Meitzler (Wetlands Agent)

Chairman Goodwin called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**Minutes:**

11-07-2011 - Regular Meeting- Hall MOVED, Ryan seconded, to approve the 11-07-11 minutes as written. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11-21-2011 - Special Meeting- Pociask MOVED, Rawn seconded, to approve the 11-21-11 minutes of the special meeting as written. MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Beal, Hall and Ryan, who were disqualified.

11-21-2011 - Special Joint PZC & IWA Meeting- Pociask MOVED, Rawn seconded, to approve the 11-21-11 minutes of the special joint PZC & IWA meeting as written. MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Beal, Hall and Ryan, who were disqualified.

**Communications:** The 11-30-11 Wetlands Agent's Monthly Business report was noted.

**Old Business:**

W1488 - DEP Legislation and Regulations Advisory - minor changes to statutes:  
Tabled pending January 3, 2012 Public Hearing.

Review of IWA By-Laws: Tabled

**New Business:**

W1489 - Town of Mansfield - Woodland Rd - relocate drainage at Ashford Town Line

Ryan MOVED, Holt seconded, to receive the application submitted by the Town of Mansfield (File W#1489 ) under the Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Mansfield for the relocation of 180 feet of drainage pipe to eliminate downstream erosion, on property located at the Mansfield/Ashford Town Line on Woodland Road, as shown on a map dated 11-30-11 and as described in application submissions, and to refer said application to staff and Conservation Committee, for review and comments. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

W1490 - Eastbrook Mall - 95 Storrs Rd - brook crossing, work in regulated area

Ryan MOVED, Holt seconded, to receive the application submitted by Eastbrook F, LLC (File W#1490) under the Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Mansfield for a brook crossing and work in regulated areas, on property located at 95 Storrs Road, as shown on a map dated 12-1-11, and as described in application submissions, and to refer said application to staff and Conservation Committee, for review and comments and to set a Public Hearing for 1-3-12. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Field Trip: scheduled for December 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.

**Communications:** Noted.

**Adjournment:** Goodwin declared the meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katherine Holt, Secretary

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November 30, 2011

Memorandum:

To: Inland Wetland Agency  
From: Grant Meitzler, Inland Wetland Agent  
Re: Monthly Business

**W1419 - Chernushek - hearing on Order**

- 3.10.09: The hearing on the Order remains open and should continue until the permit application under consideration is acted upon.  
(The Order was dropped on approval of the application required in the Order.)
- 4.30.09: Former rye grass seeding is beginning to show green. I spoke with Mr. Chernushek this afternoon who indicated health problems that delayed his starting but indicated he will be working this weekend. I will update on this Monday evening.
- 5.26.09: A light cover of grass growth has come in. Mr. Chernushek indicates health problems and two related deaths have delayed his start of work since the permit approval was granted. It appears that some light work has started. He has further indicated that he will start a vacation on June 22, 2009 to finish the work.
- 6.13.09: Work is underway.
- 6.21.09: Bulldozer work has been completed - finish work remains. The additional silt fencing has been placed along the northerly wetlands crossing, and the additional pipe under the southerly crossing has been installed. Remaining work includes finish grading along edges, spreading stockpiled topsoil, and establishing grass growth.
- 7.01.09: I spoke with Mr. Chernushek who indicated he expects work to be completed by September 1, 2009. (Site photo attached).
- 9.03.09: Mr. Chernushek has been working on levelling and grading. The formerly seeded areas have become fairly thick growth surrounding the central wet areas. He has further indicated that with the combination of weather and the slower moving of earth with the payloader compared to the earlier rented bulldozer has led him to contact contractors for earth moving estimates which have not yet been received. The site is not yet finished but has remained quite stable.
- 9.12.09: I met with Mr. Chernushek today and discussed again what his plans are for stabilizing this work site.
- 10.01.09: Mr. Chernushek indicated he has not heard back from the contractor he had spoken with about removing material, and is in progress of contacting others. In discussion is removal of material from the site either within the 100 cubic yard limit or obtaining a permit for such removal.
- 10.28.09: Mr. Chernushek has indicated he has made arrangements with DeSiato Sand & Gravel to remove 750 cubic yards of material. Staff is in the process of clarifying permit requirements.

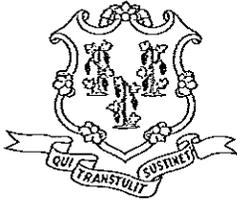
**W1445 - Chernushek - application for gravel removal from site**

- 11.30.09: Packet of information representing submissions by Mr. Chernushek, Mr. DeSiato and myself is in this agenda packet as Mr. Chernusheks's request for modification.
- 12.29.09: Preparation of required information for PZC special permit application is in progress. Tabling any action until the February 1, 2010 meeting is recommended.

- 1.12.10: 65 day extension of time received.
- 2.18.10: No new information has been received.
- 2.25.10: This application has been **withdrawn**.
- 6.30.10: As viewed from the adjacent property, the upstream and downstream areas have grown to a decent protected surface. I did not see indication of sediment movement.
- 10.26.10: A sale of the East portion of the Chernushek property has been in negotiation.
- 12.27.10: The property exchange has been completed. The owner is now the neighboring property owner Bernie Brodin. He has indicated his intention to stabilize the area as weather permits.
- 4.25.11: Mr. Brodin indicates he is starting with grading and spreading hay and seed to stabilize disturbed areas.

**Mansfield Auto Parts - Route 32**

- 10.07.10: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands. Tire removal has been continuing.
- 11.29.10: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands. Owner has been trucking cars for crushing with 6 tires per vehicle. He indicates 3 cars per day or 18 tires per day. The actual number is probably lower than 18.
- 12.23.10: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 1.07.11: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 1.20.11: Vehicle storage areas are snowed in and inaccessible.
- 1.26.11: Snows remain, although some clearing has been done I could not count on being able to get out.
- 2.24.11: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 3.09.11: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 3.22.11: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 4.25.11: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 5.17.11: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands. Mr. Bednarczyk's estimate is that approximately 100 tires per month are being removed from the site.
- 6.14.11: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 7.12.11: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 8.04.11: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 9.13.11: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 11.03.11: Inspection - two vehicles are within 25' of wetlands. Vehicle doors and a camper or trailer are stored in the extreme rear lot not approved by zoning for use.
- 11.30.11: Inspection - two vehicles are within 25' of wetlands. Employees indicate cars will be moved soon. Payloader repair parts are to be there later today and cars will be moved as soon as parts are installed. Owner indicated in earlier discussion that the doors would be moved. Rate of tire removal has increased with a company in Massachusetts removing them by truckload. At time of this discussion (about a week ago) nearly 2,000 tires had been removed from the lot by the railroad tracks.



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

November 22, 2011

Quentin Kessell  
Chairman  
Mansfield Conservation Commission  
Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building  
Four South Eagleville Road  
Mansfield, CT 06268

Dear Mr. Kessell:

The Department of Public Health Drinking Water Section (DWS) is in receipt of your correspondence regarding Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) Docket Number 11-09-14. Your correspondence has been added to the subject Docket and is now part of the public record for this application. You may view all actions and correspondence pertaining to this Docket on the PURA document database website at: <http://www.ct.gov/dpuc/cwp/view.asp?a=3364&q=404706> . Thank you for your correspondence.

Sincerely,

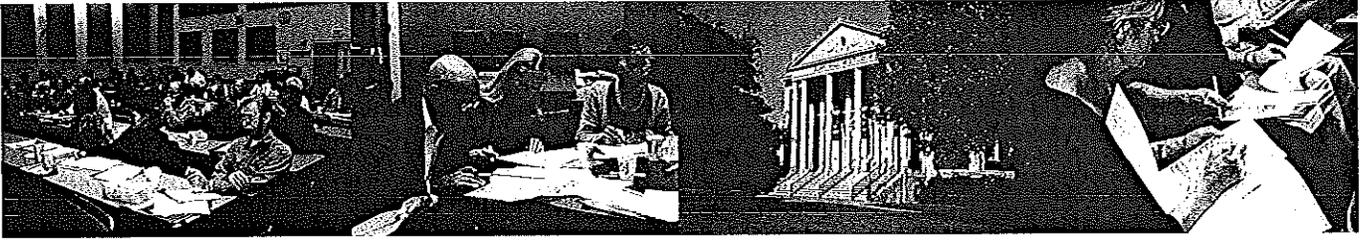
Sandra L. Thorstenson  
Clerk-Typist  
Drinking Water Section



Phone: (860) 509-7333  
Telephone Device for the Deaf (860) 509-7191  
410 Capitol Avenue - MS # 51WAT  
P.O. Box 340308 Hartford, CT 06134  
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# Conservation Commission



Land Use Academy Fact Sheets

[clear.uconn.edu/lua](http://clear.uconn.edu/lua)

## Legal Basis of Authority

The Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) allow municipalities to establish Conservation Commissions, if they so desire, in Chapter 97 Section 7-131a.

Any municipality may establish a Conservation Commission by vote of its legislative body, for the development, conservation, supervision and regulation of natural resources, including water resources, within its territorial limits.

## Membership

The Conservation Commission shall consist of not fewer than 3, nor more than 11 members and not more than 3 alternates. Alternate members, when seated, shall have all the powers and duties of a commission member.

## Appointments and Removal

Members and alternates are appointed by the chief executive officer of the municipality. The chief executive officer may remove any member or alternate only for cause and has the power to fill any vacancy.

## Terms of Office

The legislative body establishing the commission shall designate terms of office.

## Powers and Duties

Conservation Commissions Shall:

1. Conduct research into the utilization and possible utilization of land areas of the municipality;
2. Keep an index of all open areas, publicly or privately owned, including open marshlands, swamps and other wetlands, for the purpose of obtaining information on the proper use of such areas;

3. Keep records of its meetings and activities and make an annual report to the municipality in the manner required of other municipal agencies.

Conservation Commissions May:

1. Make recommendations to Zoning Commissions, Planning Commissions, Inland Wetlands Agencies and other municipal agencies on proposed land use changes;
2. Recommend to the Planning Commission (or if none, to the chief executive officer or the legislative body) plans and programs for the development and use of all open areas;
3. Exchange information with the Commissioner of Environmental Protection and said Commissioner may, on request, assign technical personnel to the commission for assistance in planning its overall program and for coordinating state and local conservation activities;
4. Coordinate the activities of unofficial bodies organized for the purpose of conducting land use research;
5. Advertise, prepare and distribute books, maps, charts, plans and pamphlets necessary for its purposes;
6. Propose a greenways plan for inclusion in the Plan of Conservation and Development prepared by the local Planning Commission;
7. Inventory natural resources;
8. Formulate watershed management plans consistent with water supply management plans prepared under Section 25-32d of the General Statutes ( plans prepared by water companies and submitted to the Commissioner of Health Services);

\*Bracketed numbers reference sections of the Connecticut General Statutes, visit [cga.ct.gov/2009/pub/title7.htm](http://cga.ct.gov/2009/pub/title7.htm)



## Land Use Academy

## Conservation Commission

### Powers and Duties con't.

Conservation Commissions *May*:

9. Formulate drought management plans;
10. With the approval of such legislative body, acquire land and easements in the name of the municipality;
11. Promulgate rules and regulations, such as the establishment of reasonable charges for the use of lands and easements for any of its purposes;
12. Receive gifts on behalf of the municipality for any of its purposes and administer the gifts for those purposes, subject to the terms of the gift;
13. Approve, prior to submission, state grant applications for programs to preserve or restrict the use of open space land to conservation or recreation purposes.
14. Apply, if the municipality so designates, for state grants to preserve or restrict to conservation or recreation purposes, the use of open space;
15. Supervise and manage municipally owned open space or park property when the agency normally responsible for such duties delegates that power;

### CHECK OUT THESE ONLINE TOOLS AND RESOURCES

- *CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetland Commissions* - provides resources for Inland Wetland and Conservation commissioners. Visit [caclwc.org](http://caclwc.org)
- *Online Academy* - provides online resources for those who want a quick refresher or are unable to attend a training. Visit [clear.uconn.edu/lua/online](http://clear.uconn.edu/lua/online)
- *Community Resource Inventory Online* - provides organized maps, tutorials and case examples that assist you in developing a basic inventory of your towns natural and cultural resources.
- *Connecticut's Changing Landscape* - provides data about how CT 's landscape has changed since 1985. Local Land Use officials can use this resource to evaluate the environmental, social and economic impacts of development that guide their decision making.

For more information

Call: 860-345-4511

Email: [clear@uconn.edu](mailto:clear@uconn.edu)

Disclaimer: The materials contained in this fact sheet are a general, lay summary of the roles and responsibilities of local land use commissioners. They should not be relied on as a valid legal opinion or position. As such, these materials should not be used in place of consulting an attorney about the roles and responsibilities of a local land use commissioner.



The Land Use Academy is a program of the Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR). Land, Sea and Space Grant collaborating.

November/December 2011

# Connecticut Wildlife

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
BUREAU OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISIONS OF WILDLIFE, INLAND & MARINE FISHERIES, AND FORESTRY



# From the Director's Desk



"Conservation is the foresighted utilization, preservation and/or renewal of forest, waters, lands and minerals, for the greatest good of the greatest number for the longest time." (Gifford Pinchot, first Chief of the U.S. Forest Service).

*Connecticut's landscape is an ever-changing mosaic shaped by human hands. Through each successive change, wildlife has adapted . . . or lost. Fortunately, there is a network of public and private land managers, both large and small, with the commitment and energy to ensure Gifford Pinchot's sage wisdom is realized. Working with federal biologists, state foresters, land conservationists, farmers, and homeowners, the Department's biologists are exercising the foresight essential to the restoration and conservation of diverse and robust populations of native species throughout their ranges.*

*Whether wetlands restoration, grassland preservation, or young forest regeneration, a wide array of wildlife, including both game and non-game species, and the public benefit from wise stewardship. Emblematic of those benefits is the diversity of young forest species. New England cottontail and American woodcock, for example, have benefitted from the commitment of both private and state lands managers reshaping the state's woodlots to include a diversity of forest stands. By renewal of forest stands, including multiple age structures, we can perpetuate that joy today, tomorrow, and beyond.*

*There is little doubt that change in the landscape is a power force. Our challenge, in this land of steady habits, is recognizing and embracing change based on Gifford Pinchot's edict of 'foresighted utilization, preservation and/or renewal . . . for the greatest good for the greatest number for the longest time.'*

Rick Jacobson, Director, DEEP Wildlife Division

## Cover:

*In late fall and winter, raccoons may "den up" during the coldest periods. However, this is not true hibernation, and the animals will wander during warm spells.*

*Photo courtesy of Paul J. Fusco*

# Connecticut Wildlife

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Commissioner

Daniel C. Esty

Deputy Commissioner

Susan Frechette

Chief, Bureau of Natural Resources

William Hyatt

Director, Wildlife Division

Rick Jacobson

## Magazine Staff

Managing Editor Kathy Herz

Production Editor Paul Fusco

Contributing Editors: Tim Barry (Inland Fisheries)

Penny Howell (Marine Fisheries)

James Parda (Forestry)

Circulation Trish Cemik

## Wildlife Division

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127 (860-424-3011)

Office of the Director, Recreation Management, Technical Assistance, Natural History Survey

Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area

P.O. Box 1550, Burlington, CT 06013 (860-675-8130)

Wildlife Diversity, Birds, Furbearers, Outreach and Education, Habitat Management, Conservation Education/Firearms Safety, Connecticut Wildlife magazine

Franklin Wildlife Management Area

391 Route 32, N. Franklin, CT 06254 (860-642-7239)

Migratory Birds, Deer/Moose, Wild Turkey, Small Game, Wetlands Habitat and Mosquito Management, Conservation Education/Firearms Safety

Eastern District Area Headquarters

209 Hebron Road, Marlborough, CT 06447 (860-295-9523)

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E-mail: [dep.ctwildlife@ct.gov](mailto:dep.ctwildlife@ct.gov) Phone: 860-675-8130



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# Wood Heat: Solar Energy in Solid Form

Written by Bianca Beland, Forestry Summer Intern, and Jerry Milne, DEEP Division of Forestry

**W**ood, the oldest of fuels, is a good option for many Nutmeggers to heat their homes. It is plentiful, renewable, locally produced, can be harvested sustainably, and can be cheaper than fossil fuel alternatives. It is a good feeling to have a wood pile in the backyard to ensure a warm house not subject to power outages or the vagaries of the global economy.

## Environmental Benefits of Wood

When coal or oil are burned, they transfer carbon from deep in the ground into the atmosphere. Burning wood also releases carbon, but this carbon was originally removed from the air. Through photosynthesis, trees, using the power of the sun, remove carbon dioxide from the air, convert it to sugar and, in turn, cellulose, to produce wood. Wood is really solar energy in solid form.

## Measuring Firewood

Connecticut General Statute 43-27 requires that fuelwood be sold by weight (not advisable for stove wood) or by the standard cord or fraction thereof. A cord is defined as 128 cubic feet of compactly piled wood, usually 4' x 4' x 8'. It is illegal to market firewood by the "face cord" or "truckload."

Interestingly, the statute allows towns "to appoint annually, and more often if necessary, two or more of its inhabitants to be measurers of wood offered for sale within the town, who shall be sworn and shall receive such compensation for their services as the town may prescribe." The statute also defines seasoned wood as having been cut and air dried for at least six months. The Connecticut Office of Consumer Protection regulates the selling of firewood and can act on complaints ([www.ct.gov/dcp](http://www.ct.gov/dcp)).

## What Makes the Best Firewood?

Connecticut is fortunate in that our forests are full of hardwood trees, which are a great source of firewood. Ash, oak, maple, beech, birch, and hickory are all excellent to burn when seasoned properly. In fact, according to an old poem, ash can be burned when still green:

*Ash wood wet or ash wood dry,  
A king can warm his slippers by.*

Maybe the ash will burn, but you'll get a lot more heat if you wait six months.

## Sources of Firewood

**Cut and Split:** The wood is usually delivered with a dump truck to your house. It can be green or seasoned, and often the



PHOTO BY J. MILNE

price will vary depending on the time of year.

Green wood in summer will often be cheaper than seasoned wood in the dead of winter, so it pays to plan ahead.

**Log length:** Probably the best bargain for homeowners willing to invest some "sweat equity" is to buy their firewood "log length." The dealer delivers the wood in 20- to 24-foot lengths with a log truck that carries anywhere from 6 to 8 cords of wood, depending on the size of the truck. The cost is usually

about half of cut and split wood.

The Connecticut Professional Timber Producers Association ([www.timproct.org](http://www.timproct.org)) maintains a list of its members who sell firewood. The DEEP Division of Forestry keeps a list of state-certified Forest Products Harvesters that can be used to find a firewood producer in your area ([www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep)).

When purchasing firewood, make sure it comes from Connecticut (or has been properly heat-treated). Invasive insects have been documented in neighboring states, such as the emerald ash borer in New York and the Asian long-horned beetle in Massachusetts. Transporting infested firewood has been shown to be a major factor in the spread of many invasive insects.

## Cut Your Own

If you own a woodlot, a judicious thinning can provide firewood while also improving the overall health and value of the remaining trees. Poor quality trees can be removed while promoting the growth of the more valuable timber. DEEP Division of Forestry Service Foresters can visit your land, at no charge, and recommend which trees to cut and which to keep, and offer advice on how best to manage your forest for the long-term.

The Division of Forestry runs a firewood cutting program for the public on DEEP lands. A lottery is held each winter for a limited number of two-cord permits, which cost \$60. The wood may be standing trees or downed wood left over from a timber harvest. Permittees generally have about a month to cut their allotment. The DEEP requires wood permit holders to wear personal protection equipment when operating a chainsaw, such as hard hat, chainsaw chaps, leather gloves, and leather boots.

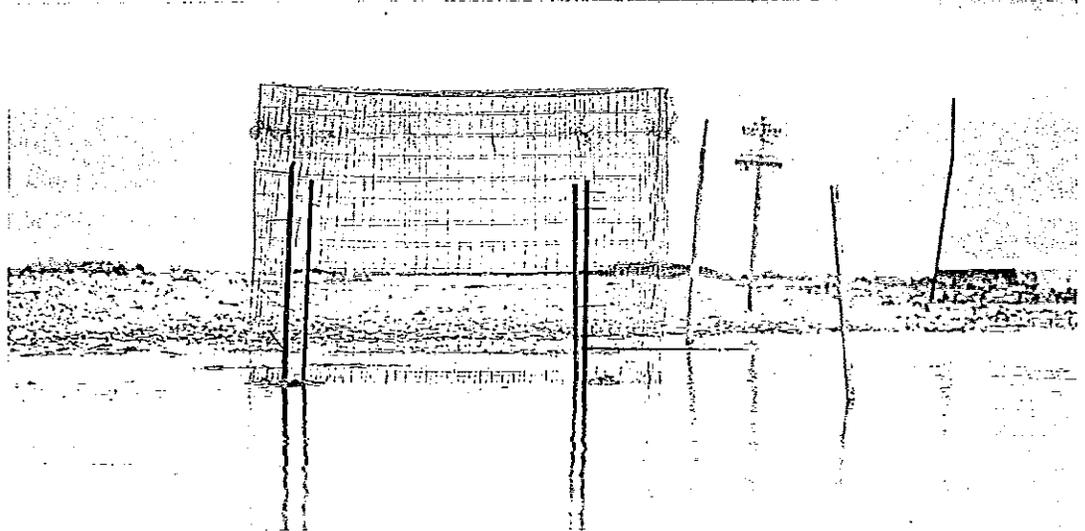
Training is available for individuals who would like to improve their chainsaw skills. One such program is called "The Game of Logging" ([www.gameoflogging.com](http://www.gameoflogging.com)). Programs are geared towards professionals and homeowners.

*continued on page 23*

# Storms and High Tides a Challenge for Plovers and Terns

Written by Rebecca Foster and photography by Paul Fusco; DEEP Wildlife Division

The 2011 piping plover and least tern nesting season in Connecticut was characterized by above average high tides, some shifting in nesting locations, and a higher than usual number of least terns in the state. The 52 pairs of piping plovers that nested along the Connecticut shoreline in 2011 is an increase over the 43 pairs observed in 2010. Yet, due to human disturbance and high tides, only 38 successful nests resulted in 71 chicks fledging, a decrease from 2010.



Piping plover nests were "washed out" by increased wave heights from spring storms.

## High Tides Equal High Numbers of Eggs Lost

Connecticut's piping plovers arrived in late March and began mating and establishing nesting territories by the end of April. Piping plovers typically nest on barrier beaches, between the vegetated dunes and the high tide line. The nest is a simple "dig" or "scrape" in the sand sometimes lined with small bits of shells. Because the nests are merely a shallow depression in the sand, a higher than average tide often results in plover eggs

being washed away.

The first high tide in May coincided with a nor'easter, which brought over two inches of rain and winds of up to 30 miles per hour. The resulting storm surge "washed out" six plover nests statewide. Fortunately, plovers may lay a second clutch if the loss occurs early enough in the season.

A higher-than-average tide phenomenon occurred again in June, when many of the piping plover pairs were re-nesting.

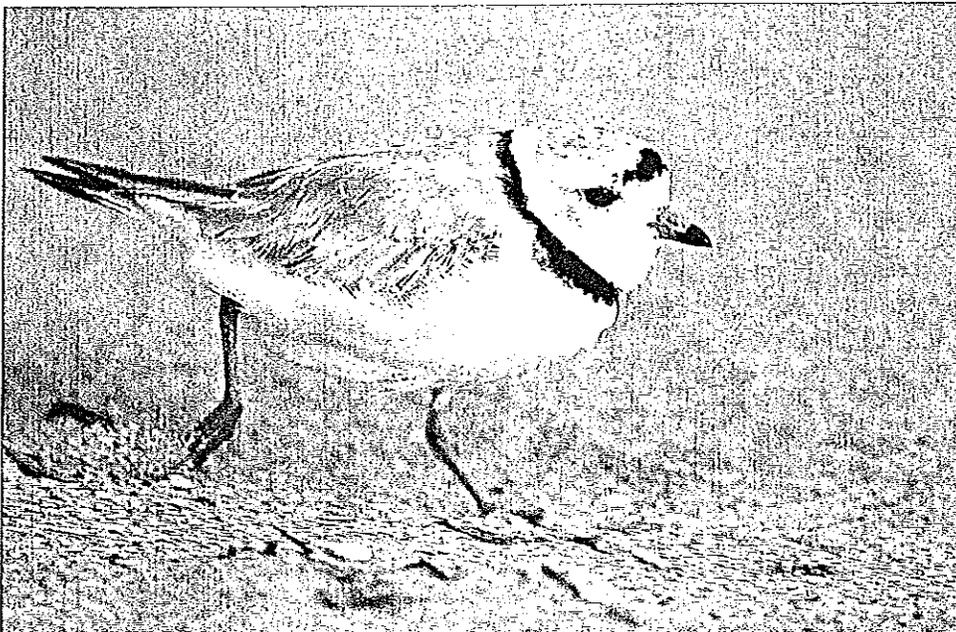
This second storm hit the Connecticut coast during a high tide in June with winds gusts up to 33 miles per hour, washing out at least seven plover nests.

## Plover "Shifts" and New Nesting Locations

Piping plovers will typically return to the same general nesting location in consecutive years if they are successful in hatching and rearing chicks. This year, however, monitors observed plover pairs shifting to new locations following the June storm and subsequent nest wash-outs. After numerous nest wash-outs in Milford, at least two plover pairs shifted to more land-locked sections of beach. In Madison, two pairs of plovers moved their nesting locations from a desolate stretch of beach to a wider, adjacent beach with more human disturbance. It also appears that some larger scale shifts may have occurred in the eastern half of the state as well.

Bluff Point in Groton saw a large increase in nesting plover pairs, from two pairs in 2010 to six in 2011. At the same time, other beaches in eastern Connecticut saw moderate decreases in plover counts. One pair that nested in Old Lyme in 2010 did not return in 2011. Sandy Point in Stonington and Griswold Point in Old Lyme both saw one less pair in 2011 than in 2010.

Monitors located two new plover nesting sites this year. Cedar Island in



An incubating piping plover will leave its nest to "lead" potential predators away from their eggs.



In 2011, 359 pairs of least terns attempted to nest in Connecticut, a significant increase over the 119 pairs in 2010.

Madison hosted two pairs in 2011, and one pair was able to successfully fledge three chicks. A pair of plovers decided to nest at Sherwood Island State Park in Westport, a location that hasn't seen

recent years has caused concern among bird enthusiasts. In 2011, 359 pairs of least terns attempted to nest in Connecticut, a significant increase over the 119 pairs in 2010. Unfortunately, many tern nests were lost to high tide wash-outs, and only 124 least tern chicks fledged this year.

Important tern nesting areas include Sandy Point in West Haven, with over 450 adults in July, and Bluff Point in Groton, with 84 adult least terns. Sandy Point and Bluff Point produced 88 and 17 least tern fledges, respectively.

These beaches provide ideal conditions for both piping plover and least tern nesting. They are long, barrier beaches with sand and pebble substrates, dunes, and flat, open sections suited for colonial nesting. The significant limitation to nesting success at these

sites is human disturbance. Plovers and terns compete for space and resources with recreational beach users, including sunbathers, hikers, dog walkers, kayakers, boaters, equestrians, and educational groups. In addition, fireworks displays in July often bring large crowds and excessive noise and light directly to the nesting areas during the height of the least tern nesting season. Fortunately, no avian mortality was documented as a result of these events this year.

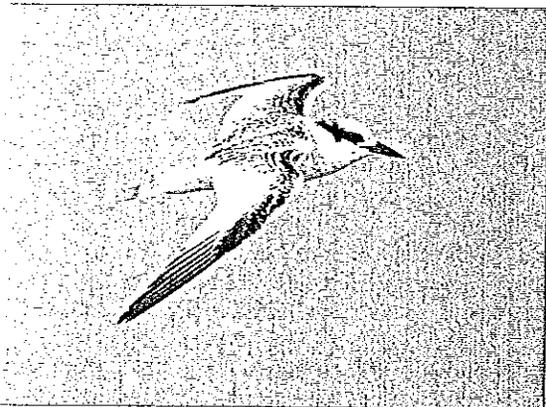
## Human Disturbance Still a Concern

During the breeding season, DEEP staff and volunteer monitors spend countless hours protecting habitat, nests, and chicks to ensure that these state and federally threatened shorebirds continue to call Connecticut home. Stakes and string fencing with bright yellow signs asking people to "Please STAY AWAY from Bird Nesting Areas" is used to protect areas where plovers and terns are known to nest. When a plover nest is located and the four-egg clutch is complete, a large metal cage called an "exclosure" is placed around the nest. The exclosure prevents mammalian predators from reaching the eggs and adult plovers. Common predators include skunks, raccoons, foxes, domestic cats, and dogs. Bird netting is attached to the top of the exclosure to prevent avian predators from reaching nests, including herons, gulls, and crows.

While these fencing measures protect the nests from predators, it is a far greater challenge to protect these birds from human disturbance. Simply walking past a plover nest will usually cause the incubating adult to leave the nest and perform a broken-wing display to "lead" the human further down the beach and away from the nest. This behavior is a natural defense used by many ground-nesting birds to draw a potential threat away from the nest. Unfortunately, this means that the birds are unable to continuously incubate their eggs. This becomes problematic during inclement weather or on unusually hot or cold days because the embryos of unincubated eggs will perish if left exposed to the elements under extreme conditions for more than 15 minutes. Thus, it is imperative that beach users be educated about the importance of avoiding piping plover and least tern nesting areas and minimizing overall wildlife disturbance by not walking dogs through shorebird nesting habitats.

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Funding for this project was provided by Section 6 of the federal Endangered Species Act. Section 6 provides grants to states and territories to support participation in a wide array of conservation projects for federally-listed threatened and endangered species, as well as for species that are candidates or have been proposed for listing.



Many tern nests were lost to high tide wash-outs, and only 124 least tern chicks fledged this year.

a plover pair since the 1990s. Unfortunately, this nest was washed out by the unusually high tide in June.

Human disturbance and changing beach conditions will cause piping plovers and least terns to continually "shift" their movements to find the habitat best suited to their mating and nesting needs.

### Least Tern Count Is High in 2011

A gradual decrease in least tern pairs nesting along the Connecticut shore in

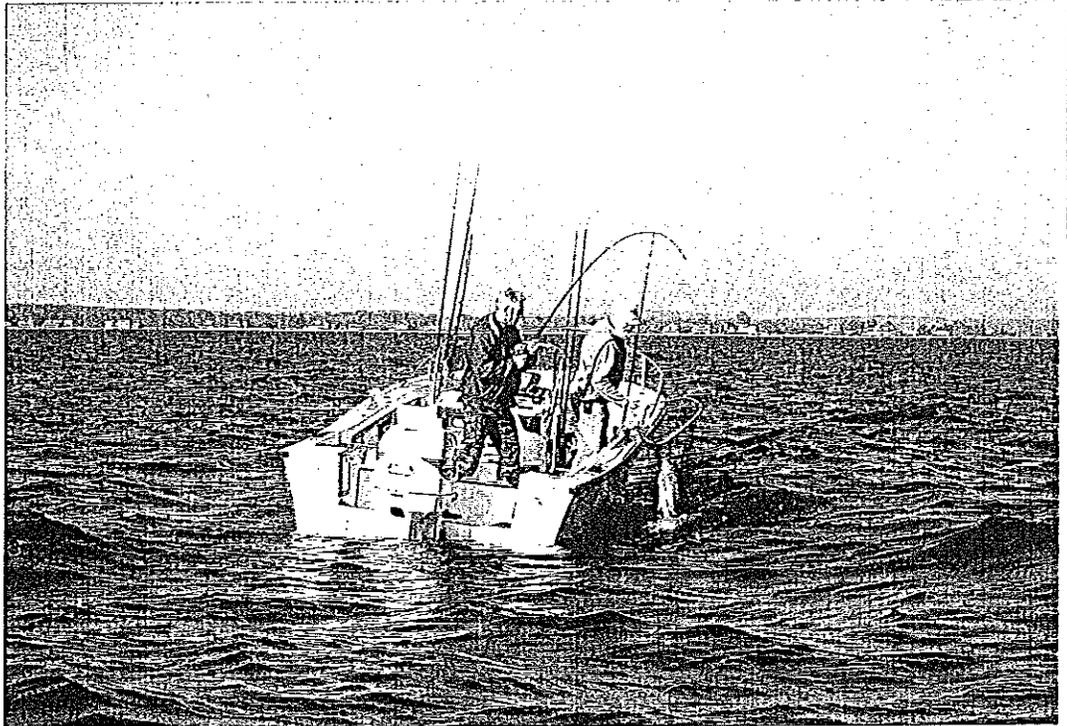
# Fishing for Fun on Long Island Sound

Written by Penny Howell, DEEP Marine Fisheries Division

Estimates of the number of Connecticut citizens who use Long Island Sound in some way run into the tens of millions. Commercial uses, such as shellfish aquaculture, lobstering, and transportation, and military use, must coexist with thousands of recreational users. One of the largest user groups is recreational anglers who enjoy the Sound as a place to match wits with one of the more than 50 game fish species seasonally abundant in its waters. About one in five of Connecticut's 100,000 recreational boats are registered as fishing vessels. In addition to private, and party or charter boat fishing, many other marine anglers surf cast from our beaches or fish from city piers.

The DEEP Marine Fisheries Division has participated in the coastwide Marine Recreational Fishing Statistics Survey since 1987. However, Connecticut's new Marine Waters Fishing License and All Waters License are designed to obtain a better count of the estimated 120,000 anglers who fish in the Sound. The licenses also improve the quality of sport fishing data used in the management of target species.

So, how does requiring everyone to buy a license help the fishery or the science? Usually licenses are all about



Anglers hook a striped bass and prepare to carefully net the fish so that it can be measured for minimum legal length.

generating money, but in this case the state will be spending more money than the program takes in so that a more complete head count can be made and better data gathered. The goal is to improve information about where and when people fish, what they catch, and what they throw back.

Survey data available now show that Connecticut's marine anglers make about one million fishing trips each year. Collectively, they catch about 5.5 million fish annually, keeping about two million. Federal economic surveys, carried out by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in 2009, report that these fishing trips support over 4,000 jobs in Connecticut and generate an estimated \$600 million in annual sales of fishing

gear and related goods and services in the state.

The National Saltwater Angler Registry Program was established in 2010 and requires all marine anglers to register unless the angler is a resident of a state that has a salt water licensing program. (For more information about the Federal Registry, visit [www.countrymyfish.noaa.gov](http://www.countrymyfish.noaa.gov).) Connecticut's salt water licensing program started July 1, 2009. Details about the program are available on the DEEP Web site ([www.ct.gov/deep/fishing](http://www.ct.gov/deep/fishing)), and licenses can be purchased online ([www.ct.gov/deep/sportsmenlicensing](http://www.ct.gov/deep/sportsmenlicensing)) or at your town hall or favorite tackle shop. The goal is to count every sport angler in Connecticut so that everyone's varied interests, needs, and impacts are accurately documented and considered when regulations and restoration programs are created or altered. If everyone who fishes recreationally supplies this information, all aspects of recreational fishing can be documented more accurately than they have been in the past. In this era of the biggest crowd getting the most attention, big fishing numbers translate into better fishing opportunities.



Fishing is family fun at the dock in Fort Trumbull State Park in New London.

DEEP MARINE FISHERIES PROGRAM

DEEP CARE PROGRAM

# Another Successful Connecticut Hunting & Fishing Appreciation Day!

Staff from the DEEP and members of the Friends of Sessions Woods spent the days before this year's Connecticut Hunting & Fishing Appreciation Day checking the weather forecasts and hoping for the best. As final preparations were underway the morning of September 24, everyone was hoping the rain would stop, the skies would clear, and people would start to come. As it turns out, that is exactly what happened! Throughout the day, close to 1,000 people came to the Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area in Burlington to participate in free activities focused on hunting, fishing, wildlife, and the outdoors.

It was quite evident throughout the day that Hunting & Fishing Day is a family-friendly event, as many of the participants included families with kids of all ages. Everyone who attended had a full menu of activities to pick from. Children enjoyed making crafts at the Kid's Area. They also had a chance to get a face painting, see giant tortoises, learn about wildlife identification, and try to catch a "backyard bass." Parents and grandparents were thrilled at the opportunity to get the kids away from their electronic equipment and engaged in outdoor activities, all for free.

Individuals and families also had the opportunity to try target shooting with .22 rifles and bows and arrows, as well as fly casting and bait casting. Field dog demonstrations were held throughout the day and various breeds of hunting dogs were on display. Those interested in learning about specific hunting and fishing topics attended seminars on "Secrets of Fishing for Giant Carp," "Bow Hunting in South Africa," "Fishing for Striped Bass in the Connecticut River," and "Turkey Hunting Techniques," to name a few.

Biologists and staff from the DEEP were on hand to answer questions and interact with visitors. Representatives from various sportsmen and outdoor organizations and outdoor equipment companies set up booths to provide information and some even had free giveaways.

Many of the people who came to the 2011 Hunting & Fishing Day attended last year, but there also were a lot of first time attendees. Volunteers surveyed several participants to gauge whether or not people enjoyed the event this year, if they will come again, and what they would



Cheryl Hubble and Sandy Mazeau of the Friends of Sessions Woods at the Welcome Table during the 2011 Connecticut Hunting & Fishing Appreciation Day.

like to see in the future. All in all, people were well satisfied, they plan to come again, and liked that the event was free and had so much to offer. If you haven't attended Connecticut Hunting & Fishing Appreciation Day, make a point to come to the next one, which will be held on Saturday, September 22, 2012!

The DEEP and the Friends of Sessions Woods would like to thank the fol-

lowing sponsors of the 2011 Connecticut Hunting & Fishing Appreciation Day: the Weatherby Foundation, North Cove Outfitters, Orvis, Eastern Mountain Sports, Northwest CT Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Northwest CT Sportsman's Council, High Rock Shooting Association, Jacklin Rod and Gun Club, Trout Unlimited Naugatuck/Pomperaug Chapter, and the CT Chapter of Safari Club International.



Jason Hawley, with the Wildlife Division's Furbearer Program, instructs a youngster on how biologists use a dart gun to immobilize bears and other large animals for research.

# Highlights of the Junior Naturalist Series at Belding WMA

Written by Jane Seymour, DEEP Wildlife Division

This past summer, the Belding Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Vernon hosted a series of wildlife programs for kids. The Junior Naturalist series consisted of programs about birds, insects, plants, stream life, wildlife signs, and nature photography. Participants engaged in hands-on activities, and learned about adaptations, life cycles, habitats, and how to identify animals and the signs that they leave behind.

With grassy fields, a wildflower meadow, and forested streams, Belding WMA is a great place for finding birds and many kinds of insect, including butterflies, dragonflies, beetles, and bees. Participants of the Junior Naturalist programs found song sparrows, tree swallows, red-winged blackbirds, hummingbird moths, orange-spotted ladybeetles, milkweed bugs and beetles, fritillaries, skippers, monarch butterflies, a viceroy caterpillar

making a chrysalis, bumblebees, honeybees, and an ambush bug with its prey. The kids also found sowbugs, earthworms, and salamanders under rotting logs; mussel shells and a turtle shell by

the stream; crayfish, water striders, and minnows in the stream; owl pellets in the forest; and a wild turkey nest full of eggs.

Maxwell Belding donated the 282-acre Belding WMA to the State of



Participants of the Junior Naturalist series learn to identify birds at the Belding WMA in Vernon.

M. BLUMSTEIN



Using the camera as a way to investigate nature.



A great way to observe insects, such as this grasshopper, is "In the hand."

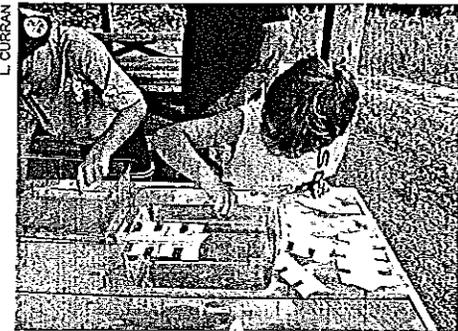
L. CURRAN

L. CURRAN

Connecticut in the 1980s. In 2002, Mr. Belding established a trust fund to help manage a diversity of wildlife habitats on the property and to provide environmental education. These free, educational programs would not have been possible without the generosity of Mr. Belding and his family.



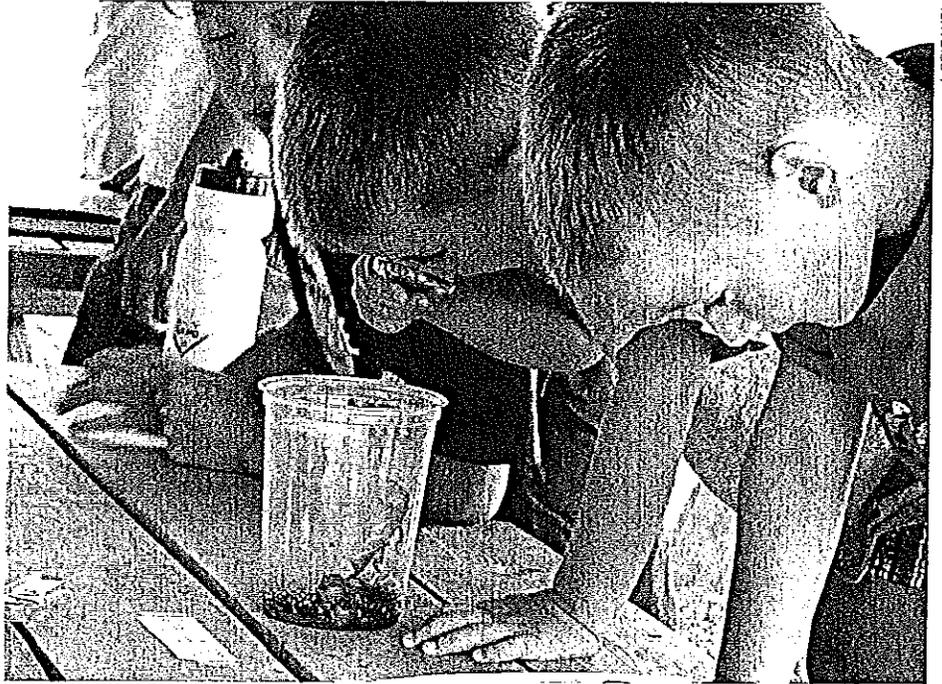
Searching for crayfish, minnows, and other aquatic organisms.



Meeting water striders and investigating the properties of water.



Participants used magnifying lens to get a closer look at insects and plants to help in identification.



Kids looked at a variety of insects up-close, and then went out into the field to find more.



Participants of the Signs of Wildlife program went on a wildlife scavenger hunt . . . and found a turkey nest!

*Programs offered at Belding WMA in Vernon include seasonal walks to learn about the plants and animals that can be found on the property. School groups use the area as an outdoor classroom and to learn about habitats and the species that depend on them. Staff also provide environmental educational programs at area schools and libraries. Several habitat management projects, which focus on special habitats and unique species, are currently in progress at Belding. To learn more about Belding WMA, visit [www.ct.gov/deep/wildlife](http://www.ct.gov/deep/wildlife).*

# “Destination” Angling in Your Own Backyard!

## *Broodstock Atlantic Salmon Fisheries*

Written by Tim Barry, DEEP Inland Fisheries Division

Each year, autumn brings a “song-to-the-heart” for a small but dedicated group of outdoor enthusiasts. No, they’re not “leaf-peepers,” hikers, or even small game, waterfowl, or deer hunters. This is a group that quietly plies their trade in two of New England’s great “comeback” rivers. These avid anglers go fishing for Atlantic salmon right here in Connecticut! For anglers who have dreamed of travelling to some far-off locale to catch the “king of fish,” the DEEP Inland Fisheries Division has provided some close-to-home opportunities of a lifetime! More anglers from Connecticut, and recently from neighboring states, are joining the adventure.

Since 1992, Inland Fisheries Division staff has been annually stocking between 500 and 1,800 large salmon into the Naugatuck River in western Connecticut and Shetucket River in the east. Most of these huge fish are raised at the Division’s Kensington Hatchery. The fish are a bonus derived from participation in the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Restoration project. DEEP is one of several New England agencies that participate in this restoration project.

Unlike Pacific salmon, Atlantic

salmon can survive after spawning. If conditions in the wild are good, they can return to their natal rivers to spawn again. To complement salmon returning from the ocean and to ensure a reliable source of eggs, adult “broodstock” are maintained year-round at the Kensington Hatchery. Select female salmon are carefully handled as they release their eggs. The eggs are fertilized with milt from male salmon, incubated, hatched, and reared. These broodstock salmon produce millions of eggs for the Atlantic salmon restoration effort. Inland Fisheries Division personnel stock resulting fry and fingerlings throughout the best streams and rivers in the Connecticut River drainage basin. It is hoped that they will grow, migrate to the sea, and return as adults to spawn several years later.

Kensington Hatchery staff continually assesses the condition and numbers of age-three salmon for creation of the following year’s broodstock. Those not selected are identified for stocking instead. The cohort (group) of age-four salmon also is examined. Some surplus fish from this group also are destined for mid-October stocking instead of spawning. A new cohort of age-four fish becomes

available each year, making many of the older salmon available for stocking even after they are spawned. All of these fish are large, weighing between three and 30 pounds!

Up through 2006, broodstock Atlantic salmon were only stocked into the Naugatuck River (currently stocked from Route 118 in Harwinton-Litchfield, downstream to the Thomaston Dam and from Prospect Street, in Naugatuck, downstream to Pines Bridge Road, in Beacon Falls) and the Shetucket River (from the Scotland Dam, in Scotland, to the Occum Dam, in Norwich). In 2007, the Shetucket River was so low that some salmon scheduled for that river were stocked into Beach Pond (Voluntown) and Crystal Lake (Ellington) instead. This captured the attention of a whole new group of anglers. The lake stockings became so popular that the Division has continued the practice each year since. This year, there are plans to stock Mount Tom Pond (Morris) and Crystal Lake.

Anglers can legally fish for broodstock salmon on only three rivers: the Shetucket (from the Scotland Dam to the Water Street Bridge in Norwich), Naugatuck (entire river from the confluence of the East and West branches to the Housatonic River), and the Housatonic (downstream of the confluence with the Naugatuck River). The fishing season for broodstock salmon on rivers is open from 6:00 AM on the third Saturday in April through the last day of March. From October 1 through November 30, fishing for salmon is catch-and-release only, and for the rest of the open season, anglers are allowed to keep one salmon per day. Fishing for broodstock salmon on these rivers is limited to the use of a single fly or artificial lure with a single, free-swimming hook. Additional weight may not be added to the line and snagging is strictly prohibited.

The regulations for broodstock Atlantic salmon released into lakes and ponds are different from those pertaining to rivers. Regulations for methods, seasons, and minimum lengths for salmon are the same as for trout in that specific lake or pond. One salmon can be kept per day.

The Kensington Hatchery is an extremely busy place during the October-



Volunteers from the Thames River Chapter of Trout Unlimited assist with broodstock Atlantic salmon stocking each fall on the Shetucket River.

November spawning period. Following spawning, hatchery staff allows the salmon to rest for a short time and recover. Fish culturists and biologists then schedule a second (and usually the largest) stocking of the Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers around Thanksgiving Day. The weekend following Thanksgiving is the most popular time for Atlantic salmon fishing. In fact, the entire autumn season is very popular. Anglers spend

19,000 hours of fishing for these salmon each year! Salmon fishing also generates an economic impact of \$550,000 annually to Connecticut's economy.

So, when you see anglers bundled-up in warm clothing, casting a line into the cold, rushing waters of the Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers on Thanksgiving weekend, you'll understand. Each of them shares high hopes of hooking a huge *Salmo salar*, "the leaper." They

are taking full advantage of a unique opportunity to battle one of these majestic, jumping acrobats without having to travel many hundreds of miles and spend a small fortune in the process. For some, the day will turn into a dream come true. For all, it will generate fantastic stories to be shared while sitting beside a fireplace, warming from the invigorating experience.

## CARE Program Scores High Marks in National Review

### *Town recreation departments and schools benefit from free courses*

*Written by George Babey, DEEP Inland Fisheries Division, retired*

Since 1986, Connecticut Aquatic Resources Education (CARE) volunteers have taught over 1,000 Family Fishing Courses in partnership with municipal park and recreation departments. Another 500 classes have been taught for free through partnerships with schools across the state. The 2011 report, *Effectiveness of Hunting, Shooting, and Fishing Recruitment and Retention Programs*, which is based on a national survey, rated CARE efforts highly. When compared to 13 other programs across the country, which included water, fish, and fishing on their agendas, CARE was in the top five for many categories. After participating in a Family Fishing Course, CARE students:

- Identified themselves as anglers (#1 among 14 programs);
- Had an increased interest in fishing (#3);
- Had an increased likelihood of going fishing (#2);
- Actually increased their fresh and saltwater fishing participation (#1 and #4);
- Said they learned *a lot* about tackle and methods (#1);
- Had confidence in their ability to go fishing again (#1);
- Knew places to go fishing (#2);
- Understood fisheries management (#2); and
- Actually obtained fishing equipment following the course (#1).

Of note is that CARE students gained a significant interest in shooting and hunting, even though they had never hunted and only 10% had ever tried target shoot-

ing before they participated in CARE (lowest percentages of all programs surveyed across the U.S.). This is likely because so many CARE instructors also shoot and hunt. Conversations about great recipes, meals, and hunting experiences during Family Fishing Courses must have sparked student interest.

Observations made by CARE staff over 25 years of continuous operation were also confirmed:

- Most people taught in the classes were truly beginners, with little prior training in water, fish, or fishing;
- Participants spanned the racial, hometown, and age spectrum nicely;
- Many indicated they would be interested in another CARE event; and
- About 50% of respondents said they liked weekend classes, while 40% said they liked weekday classes. The DEEP's new Family Fishing Courses most often convene twice: a classroom session on a week day and a fishing trip on a weekend.

Particularly pleasing was that estimates recorded by CARE staff in November 2008 (it was predicted that 80% of Family Fishing Course students actually go fishing after taking a course) correlated highly with the results of this national survey (90% go fishing after taking a course).

Fishing is uniquely exciting and relaxing at the same time and a wonderful lifetime skill. Fishing also provides fantastic outdoor experiences to be shared among families and friends of all ages and abilities. CARE staff would like to offer free Family Fishing Courses to even

more cities and towns across Connecticut, as well as Family Ice Fishing courses in winter – including a chance to compete in our annual Family Ice Fishing Derby! Those interested in becoming certified CARE instructors are encouraged to register for free training programs. Town recreation department staff or teachers who wish to pursue courses for people in their communities may visit the CARE Web page for more information ([www.ct.gov/deep/fishing](http://www.ct.gov/deep/fishing)).



*Save the Date! The 3rd Connecticut Hunting & Fishing Appreciation Day will be held on Saturday, September 22, 2012, at the Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area in Burlington. Stay tuned to Connecticut Wildlife and the DEEP Web site ([www.ct.gov/deep/wildlife](http://www.ct.gov/deep/wildlife)) for updates.*

# A Wood Borer's Worst Enemy - The Hairy Woodpecker

Article and photography by Paul Fusco, DEEP Wildlife Division

In graceful undulating flight, a boldly patterned bird smoothly sweeps up between forest trees, landing on a large bare tree limb. It starts tattooing the dead branch with its strong, pointed bill, creating a loud drumming sound that resonates through the forest. Once done with that tree, the bird quickly moves on to the next, calling loudly as it goes. This reclusive

bird is a hairy woodpecker, a typically shy, but active and noisy bird of the mature forest.

## Description

The hairy is a medium-sized woodpecker with strongly marked black-and-white plumage. Its black wings have white spots, giving it a checkerboard appearance. The markings of the hairy are virtually identical to its smaller relative, the more common downy woodpecker. Both species have a white back and flanks. The hairy has a proportionately longer and heavier bill. The outer tail feathers are unmarked and white on the hairy, while the downy has black spots on its white outer tail feathers. Males of both species have a red patch on the nape.

Woodpeckers have strong, zygodactyl feet – two toes are pointed forward, one backward and one laterally to the side. Their strong, stiff tail feathers provide support when the birds cling to the side of a tree.

The hairy woodpecker gets its name from the somewhat shaggy appearance of its plumage.

## Range and Habitat

Hairy woodpeckers are widely distributed across North America. In Connecticut, their distribution is also widespread, but patchy. They are most common in the mature forested areas of the northwestern part of the state, and less common in the southern and eastern portions. They favor mature forest, forested wetlands, streamside woodlands, and sometimes orchards. They are less common in urban woodlots and rarely found in developed areas.

Hairy woodpeckers are permanent residents in Connecticut. They are non-migratory, although in winter they will range more widely, sometimes coming into backyards and towns to search for food along the trunks and main branches of large trees. They also will visit backyard bird feeders that offer suet, peanuts, or sunflower seeds.

## Behavior

The typical call of the hairy woodpecker is a sharp, strong, metallic "peek." Their rattle call, somewhat similar to a kingfisher, is a loud and high-pitched series of rapid notes on one pitch. The rattle call of the downy



Males show a bright red patch on the back of the head. Note the heavy, pointed bill.

woodpecker differs in that it descends in pitch. During the mating season the hairy uses another call, a rapid, high-pitched “kuweek, kuweek, kuweek” that is emphatically repeated over and over. The drumming is loud, fast, and long, and is repeated less frequently than the drumming of the downy woodpecker. Woodpeckers announce their presence and claim territory by drumming.

The hairy woodpecker’s diet primarily consists of wood-boring insects and their larvae, along with ants. Caterpillars, spiders, seeds, and wild fruit make up smaller portions of the diet. In winter, hard mast, such as acorns and beech nuts, are an important food source.

Woodpeckers have a long extendible tongue with a barbed and bristled end. When coated with saliva, the tongue becomes sticky, making it easier for the bird to catch food. The tongue is supported by a strong, cartilaginous horny structure that extends around the skull. This specialized anatomy allows the bird to reach food that may be deep in tunnels within a tree.

Hairy woodpeckers use their chisel-like bills to excavate a nest cavity, which is typically in a living tree 5 to 60 feet above the ground. They lay 3 to 6 white eggs in the soft wood chips at the base of the nest cavity. The eggs hatch in 13 to 15 days, and young fledge in about 28 days. They raise 1 brood per year.

### Conservation

Hairy woodpeckers are invaluable in their protection of the forest by consuming large amounts of harmful insects. This protection also extends to shade trees and orchards. Studies have shown that 75% of the woodpecker’s diet is made up of injurious insects, mainly wood-boring beetles and their larvae, which are eaten throughout the year. Even though hairy woodpeckers will eat wild fruit, their consumption of cultivated fruit is deemed to be insignificant.

Dead and dying trees, known as snags, are an essential part of the forest ecosystem. Many species depend on snags for finding food, refuge, and a place to nest or den. The hairy woodpecker is an example of one species that is heavily dependant on snags for survival. A healthy forest ecosystem contains a good number of snags to benefit wildlife.

Hairy woodpeckers are considered to be fairly common in Connecticut, but are not common in all parts of the state. In fact, the bird is listed as a declining species by the National Audubon Society (NAS) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in our state. While some population data are inconsistent, the general conclusion seems to be that hairy woodpeckers in Connecticut have been experiencing a downward trend since at least the early 1970s. This is based on NAS Christmas Bird Counts and USGS breeding bird survey data.

One would think that a bird which depends on mature forests in Connecticut would be doing well due to forest maturation over the past century. But, the bird could be impacted by a variety of



Hairy woodpeckers are checked and spotted with black and white markings. Their backs are pure white, and their outer tail feathers are unmarked white.

factors, such as forest fragmentation, competition with the invasive European starling and house sparrow for nest cavities, or excessive removal of dead and dying trees. Competition also may be occurring from other woodpecker species, including the red-bellied, which has been expanding its range northward. The reasons for the apparent decline remain unclear.

Like most woodpeckers, the hairy can become a nuisance problem for homeowners. It is best to address such problems by considering all preventive measures that are available. For information about dealing with woodpecker problems, visit the Wildlife Division’s Web page at [www.ct.gov/deep/wildlife](http://www.ct.gov/deep/wildlife) and select the “Nuisance and Distressed Wildlife” tab.

### What You Can Do

Property owners that want to enhance habitat for woodpeckers on their land can:

- Girdle trees to create snags
- Leave some patches of trees unmanaged, especially along stream sides and other water bodies
- Leave dead trees standing in areas where it is safe to do so



# A Perspective on Hunting in an Increasingly Urban Environment

Written by Min T. Huang, DEEP Wildlife Division

Hunters and the hunting tradition contribute in many positive ways to the fabric of our country. What would the state of our natural world be without the historic and current financial and political contributions of hunters? Would a land ethic exist in this country if it weren't for hunters and the hunting tradition? Hunters lobbied for and were granted an excise tax on hunting equipment in 1937. This legislation, the Pittman-Robertson Act (or Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program), has resulted in a dedicated, stable source of funding for wildlife and habitat conservation that is unparalleled in the world. The hunting community requested this legislation because it realized that without it, the cherished natural resources of this country were going to disappear. This dedication and willingness to sacrifice (financially, in this case) are testament to the overall ethic of hunters and the hunting tradition. Unfortunately, however, a very small number of 'hunters' is increasingly responsible for casting a pall upon the rest of the hunting community.

As urbanization increases in Connecticut, the future of our hunting tradition may very well rely upon the behavior of the hunting community. As our state becomes more congested, the places where one can enjoy the hunting tradition become fewer and fewer. One new house can turn what was once a great hunting spot into a marginal or non-hunting spot. No more evident is this trend than with our coastal waterfowl hunters. Housing development along the coast continues at a rapid pace, turning once secluded, safe

hunting areas into hunting areas that are in full view of the public. In other cases, development results in the outright loss of hunting areas.

Increasing development also implies decreasing public awareness of the hunting tradition, culture, and benefits that are derived from hunting and a conservation ethic. As such, the behavior that hunters exhibit while in the field is coming under more scrutiny. All it may take is one high-profile incident involving hunters and the non-hunting public to result in severe restrictions to hunting privileges.

For example, Connecticut hunters currently enjoy productive waterfowl areas adjacent to urban centers. Our coastal topography, with its many peninsulas and near shore islands, provides many hunting sites that are highly visible to the public. As such, hunters need to not only exercise the highest standards when hunting these areas, they also need to be mindful of the other people who enjoy our natural resources as well.

Just because it is legal to hunt in a particular area doesn't mean it should be hunted during all seasons. This is a common sense issue. For example, the early Canada goose season occurs during September when the weather is typically pleasant and many other people are enjoying the outdoors. On a beautiful Saturday during the early goose season, should a hunter set up in full view of the public on a rock pile just offshore from a public park where people are picnicking and children are playing on the swingset? That hunter is certainly well within the law to hunt that given area, but might

it be more advisable to hunt there on a weekday instead or on a day when few people are using the park? That hunter, for that particular day, should hunt somewhere else.

If we want to maintain hunting opportunity, it is imperative that we constantly remind ourselves to regard hunting as a privilege, not a right. Too often, we forget that hunting is indeed a privilege, in need of prudent stewardship. Similar to the responsibility of wildlife biologists to be stewards' of the wildlife resource, it is the responsibility of hunters to be good stewards of the hunting tradition.

Hunters are under intense scrutiny while in the field, and they need to be aware of that scrutiny. Shooting a goose from the side of the road, although it may be safe and legal, is not the kind of image hunters should be portraying to the general public. Inadvertently raining shotgun pellets on a house or arrogant and abrasive interactions with the non-hunting public while in the field will not maintain hunting traditions and privileges.

Is it advisable for hunters to jump out of a vehicle, quickly load a gun, and shoot a pheasant that they see on the side of the road? Even though it is in direct conflict with the principles of fair chase, it happens. These folks may be legal in their actions, but what image and what type of hunting ethic do those actions portray? Is it ethical hunting behavior to wait for the stocking truck to arrive, so that birds can be shot as soon as they are released? Unfortunately, such a scenario does occur during the small game season on certain properties.

It seems like common sense to avoid these types of incidents; however, these issues do occur. Evidently, there is a small number of hunters who don't feel the need to act responsibly while in the field. It is increasingly important that the vast majority of ethical and responsible hunters police their own ranks to ensure that an ethical hunting tradition is being conveyed and passed on to the next generation of hunters.

If you witness irresponsible and illegal behavior in the field, call the Turn in Poachers (TIP) hotline at 800-842-4357. Furthermore, if you witness behavior that is legal, but in poor judgment, a word of

## Submit Artwork for the CT Junior Duck Stamp Contest

Young Connecticut artists have an opportunity to submit their artwork of a waterfowl species in the Connecticut Junior Duck Stamp competition sponsored by the Connecticut Waterfowlers Association (CWA). Students are judged in four groups according to grade level. Three first, second, and third place entries are selected for each group. A "Best of Show" is selected by the judges from the 12 first-place winners. The "Best of Show" is then entered into the national Junior Duck Stamp Contest. The first place design from the national contest is used to create a Junior Duck Stamp for the following year. Junior Duck Stamps are sold by the U.S. Postal Service for \$5 each. Proceeds support conservation education and provide awards and scholarships for the students, teachers, and schools that participate in the program.

The deadline for submitting artwork for the 2012 competition is March 15, 2012. Artwork should be sent to Chris Samor, 29 Bower Hill Rd., Oxford, CT 06478. More information about the Junior Duck Stamp Program is on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Web site at [www.fws.gov/juniorduck](http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck). To learn more about the Connecticut Waterfowlers Association, visit the organization's Web site at [www.ctwaterfowlers.org](http://www.ctwaterfowlers.org).



Over 77% of Americans favor legal hunting. However, the image that some hunters portray can negatively influence the public's perception, and even support, of hunting in general.

Although legal, the situation portrayed in this photograph does not shed a positive light on hunters and hunting. Ethical sportsmen use better judgement when choosing a location to hunt. Hunting along a road makes sportsmen more visible to joggers, walkers, and other passersby, who may scrutinize their hunting methods and ethics. In addition, the hunter pointing his gun should be wearing more fluorescent orange to increase his visibility to other hunters and to meet Connecticut's fluorescent orange clothing requirements, which specify that a total of 400 square inches be worn above the waist and be visible from all sides from September 1 through the last day in February.

advice might be in order. You would be surprised at how positive peer pressure can change poor behavior. It is incumbent upon us all to ensure that the image of the hunter and our tradition remains a positive one to the general public.

As hunting becomes less of a mainstream activity, we need to ensure that situations are not created where those on the fence with regard to hunting are pushed, through our actions in the field, to the side of non-tolerance. There is a take home message the hunting community needs to embrace — "We live in an increasingly urban state. Many do not share the hunter's appreciation of hunting or the outdoors. Think before you hunt, think while you are hunting, and think before you shoot." The typical hunter will have countless opportunities over the course of his or her hunting career to take game. Hunting, however, is not just about

the taking of wildlife. Most, if not all, of the incidents described herein arise from extremely poor judgment. That type of behavior will destroy hunting for all of us. If a situation seems chancy, or uncomfortable, pass on the opportunity. Those who continue to take chances while in the field — 'push the envelope' so to speak — will be responsible for eliminating the opportunity to hunt for all hunters. It would be a tragedy of untold proportions if hunters were to lose their relevance, opportunity, and privilege to hunt because of the "bad" behavior of a few.

*Conservation Education/Firearms Safety courses are offered year-round. Check the DEEP Web site ([www.ct.gov/deep/hunting](http://www.ct.gov/deep/hunting)) for class times and locations or call the Franklin Wildlife (860-642-7239) or Sessions Woods (860-675-8130) offices during business hours.*



The Wildlife & Sportfish Restoration Program is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2012. Future articles in *Connecticut Wildlife* and a special web page on the DEEP Web site (to be launched in 2012) will highlight the accomplishments of this extremely successful program. You also can visit [www.wsfr75.com](http://www.wsfr75.com) for more information throughout the year.

# Dead Sea Turtle Recovered through a Team Effort

Written by Dean Macris, Coastal Environmental Services

In August 2010, the Sea Research Foundation at the Mystic Aquarium received a call from a dive team that had discovered a large, entangled, and dead leatherback sea turtle. The Sea Research Foundation has a partnership with Coastal Environmental Services, the firm that operates pump-out boats on the Mystic and Thames Rivers, where Coastal Environmental Services makes its research vessel *Maverick* available for marine animal rescue, release, and recovery.

Coastal Environmental Services was contacted after Sea Research received the call about the leatherback. A team was assembled immediately and underway within a few hours. The turtle was located south of a point between Block Island (Rhode Island) and Montauk Point (New York). Upon arrival at the station, the divers out of Point Judith, Rhode Island, prepared to recover the turtle.

The divers knew the sea turtle was large, but they had no idea how difficult it would be to handle and bring to the surface. The team eventually lifted the turtle onto *Maverick's* swim platform, even though it was estimated to weigh more than 500 pounds.

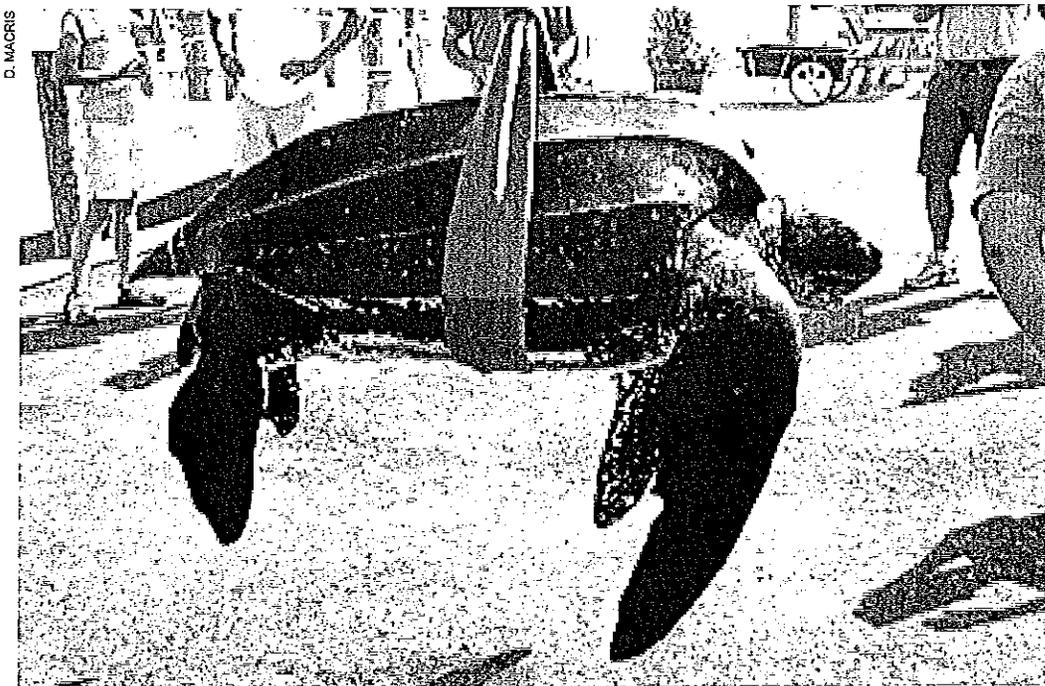
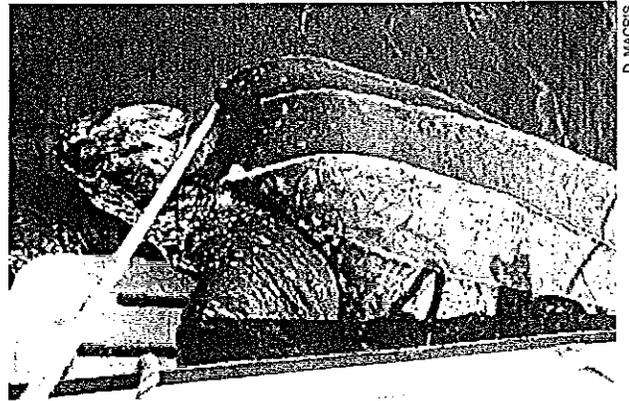
Initially, the Sea Research Foundation Marine Biologist/Stranding Coordinator began collecting data, thinking it would be best to just take tissue samples. However, considering the good condition of the turtle, the team realized that the turtle could be lashed to *Maverick* and brought back to Mystic so that the Sea Research Foundation could conduct a more extensive necropsy and gain further understanding of these endangered creatures.

Once in Mystic, Coastal Environmental Services contacted Mystic Shipyard where a forklift truck was ready to hoist the turtle in a sling from *Maverick* onto a Sea Research Foundation truck.

This recovery of the leatherback sea turtle was truly a team effort. It was successful because of the intact recovery in open ocean waters and the research that followed. Thanks are extended to Mike Mason of the dive team for taking the underwater photographs.



(Top) Recovery of the leatherback sea turtle underwater. (Below) Turtle strapped to the *Maverick's* swim platform.



This leatherback sea turtle, which weighed more than 500 pounds, became entangled in abandoned gear and died. It was recovered between Block Island, Rhode Island, and Montauk Point, New York, and brought to Mystic Aquarium in Connecticut for a necropsy.

To learn about Coastal Environmental Services (CES) and see more photos of the sea turtle recovery, go to [www.cespumpout.com/conservation/ces-and-srf-turtle-recovery](http://www.cespumpout.com/conservation/ces-and-srf-turtle-recovery). CES of Southeastern Connecticut is a non-profit public charity dedicated to keeping local waters clean. Pumpout boats are located on the Mystic River, Thames River, and all points in between. By bringing pumpout boats directly to vessels and keeping pumpouts free-of-charge, CES provides boaters an easy and convenient way to protect our waters from pollution. CES operates thanks to federal, state, and local grants and the generous donations of businesses and boaters.

*Sea turtles can become entangled in discarded fishing line and other gear, preventing them from reaching the surface to breathe.*

# Sea Turtles

Have you ever wondered if there are sea turtles in Long Island Sound? Although these marine creatures are better known for breeding and nesting in the tropics, sea turtles frequent the waters of the northeastern United States. Of the eight species of sea turtles in the world, four have been documented in Connecticut waters in Long Island Sound. Sea turtles arrive in the Sound in late June as water temperatures rise, and migrate south in search of warmer waters by mid-November. All sea turtles in U.S. waters are listed as either endangered or threatened, and are protected under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973. The ESA also provides for the conservation of important ecosystems that sea turtles depend on, and makes it illegal to "take," import, sell, or transport sea turtles, live or dead, or their products, throughout the U.S. or through foreign marketing. The four sea turtles found in Connecticut waters also are on the state's Threatened and Endangered Species List. Two are threatened – green and loggerhead – and two are endangered – Kemp's ridley and leatherback.

## Natural History

Just like other turtles, sea turtles breathe air. They frequently come to the surface to breathe when active, but can remain underwater for several hours while resting. Sea turtles do not have teeth; instead, they use their powerful jaws to tear and crush their food. Each species prefers certain food items, such as crustaceans, shellfish, jellyfish, seaweed, snails, algae, and small fish.

Sea turtles rarely interact with each other outside of courtship and mating. They remain in the sea for their entire lives, except for nesting adult females and newly hatched young. Therefore, little is known about their natural history and distribution. However, the nesting habits of sea turtles along beaches in the southern Atlantic Coast are well-documented. The nesting season occurs at different times around the world, but in the U.S., it occurs from April through October. Sea turtles make a remarkable migration of hundreds of miles from their feeding grounds to their nesting beaches. Most adult females return to the same beaches where they hatched to lay their eggs. They leave the water, usually during night, and crawl above the high tide line. They excavate pits using their flippers and then dig egg chambers in moist sand. Females lay from 50 to 160 white eggs, about the size of ping-pong balls, cover them with sand, and return to the water.

The eggs incubate in the sand for about 50 to 70 days. At hatching, the young turtles break open the egg shells by using a temporary egg-tooth, and then dig their way out of the nest as a group. The hatchlings leave the nest, usually at night, and head toward the light along the horizon or light reflected off the surface of the ocean. However, if artificial lights are on or near the beach, the hatchlings may become disoriented, travel in the wrong direction, and possibly never make it to the water. The hatchlings must get to the ocean quickly before dying from dehydration or predation. Once in the water, the young turtles swim out to sea and move with the ocean currents.

It is not known how long young sea turtles remain in the open ocean, or where they may go. It is theorized that they spend their earliest, most vulnerable years floating around the ocean in giant masses of seaweed. These areas are rich in food and provide hiding places that conceal juvenile turtles from predators. The young turtles drift there for a year or more until they reach a certain size or age at which time they return to nearshore waters.

Sea turtles grow slowly, taking between 15 and 50 years to reach reproductive maturity, depending on the species. The creatures are long-lived, possibly up to 100 years, although scientists

are uncertain exactly how long they live because there is no known way to determine their age.

## Leatherback Sea Turtle – Endangered

The leatherback is the most ancient species of living sea turtle, as well as the largest turtle in the world. Adults can weigh anywhere between 700 and 2,000 pounds and measure from 4 to 8 feet long. The flipper span is enormous, about 9 feet on a 7-foot turtle. The leatherback is the only sea turtle that lacks a hard shell. Its shell is composed of a mosaic of small bones covered by firm, rubbery skin. The carapace (top shell) is mostly black with varying degrees of pale spotting, while the plastron (bottom shell) is whitish to black.

The paddle-like, clawless limbs are black with white margins and pale spotting. The turtle has a well-defined projection on each side of the upper jaw that is used to hold and cut soft-bodied prey, mainly jellyfish.

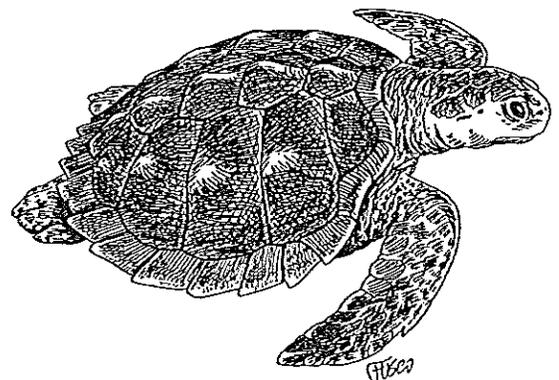
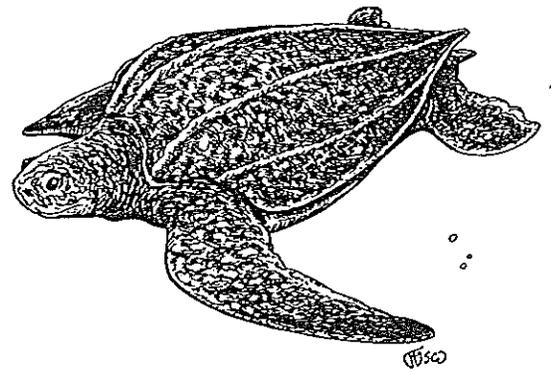
The leatherback has the extraordinary ability to maintain a warm body temperature in colder waters. It is the most pelagic (live in open ocean) of all sea turtles. Its large front flippers, body proportions, and streamlined shape are advantageous for long distance swimming.

The leatherback has the largest range of any reptile and is found around the world, except for the Arctic and Antarctic. In the U.S., this turtle nests mainly along the Florida coast. It may occur in concentrated numbers in the Northeast. Leatherbacks are frequently observed off Stonington and in Block Island Sound during summer.

The greatest threat to leatherbacks is from incidental take in commercial fisheries and marine pollution (such as balloons and plastic bags floating in the water, which are mistaken for jellyfish).

## Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle – Endangered

The Kemp's ridley, the rarest and most endangered of all sea turtles, is also the smallest, with adults reaching 20 to 28 inches long and weighing between 80 and 100 pounds. It



can be identified by a yellow plastron and broad, gray carapace, which is keeled and may be heart-shaped. The triangular gray head has a hooked beak. This turtle feeds on spider crabs, other hard-shelled sea animals (shrimp, snails), fish, jellyfish, squid, and occasionally marine plants.

Unlike most other sea turtle species, the Kemp's ridley nests primarily during the daytime. It only nests on a single stretch of protected beach in Rancho Nuevo, Mexico. Nesting adults are usually concentrated in the Gulf of Mexico, while juvenile turtles may extend along the Atlantic Coast of the U.S. Uncontrolled egg collection, predation, beach erosion, and drowning in shrimp trawler nets are the major causes of this species' decline.

### *Green Sea Turtle - Threatened*

The green turtle lives in shallow ocean waters inside reefs and in bays and inlets throughout the tropical and subtropical Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian oceans. Individuals can reach 4 feet long and weigh up to 400 pounds, although the average size is about 3 feet long and more than 250 pounds. Hatchling green turtles eat a variety of plants and animals, but adults feed almost exclusively on seagrass and algae. Though mostly brownish in color, this turtle gets its name from the color of its body fat, which is green from the algae and grasses it eats. A popular food source in some cultures, populations of this once abundant sea turtle have drastically declined.

A green turtle has never been found on the Connecticut shoreline to date. However, the species may occasionally migrate through Connecticut waters during the warmer months. Major nesting grounds are in Mexico, Costa Rica, Guyana, Suriname and Ares Island off Dominica, in the West Indies. In the U.S., small nesting populations occur on the eastern coast of Florida.

### *Loggerhead Sea Turtle - Threatened*

Even though the loggerhead is the most abundant sea turtle species in New England waters, it is not commonly seen or documented in Connecticut waters. Adult loggerheads are 2.5 to 3.5 feet long and weigh 150 to 400 pounds. The turtle is readily identified by its reddish-brown carapace,

yellowish-brown plastron, and conspicuously large, block-like head. The skull is broad and massive, providing an anchor for the strong jaw muscles that are needed to crush shellfish, such as clams, and mussels. The turtle also eats jellyfish, sponges, shrimp, squid, barnacles, sea urchins, and occasionally seaweed. Loggerheads regularly nest on the U.S. Atlantic Coast, primarily in Florida. Although protected in the U.S., loggerhead turtles and eggs are hunted extensively in many parts of the world.

### Threats to Sea Turtles

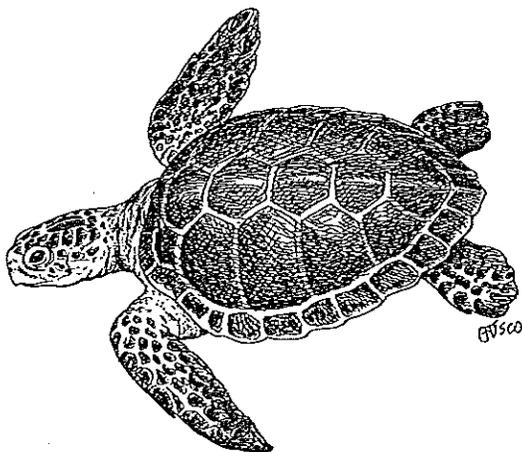
The decline in sea turtle populations throughout the world is attributed to a number of factors, including loss of nesting habitats; destruction of nests by predators and poachers; harvest of turtle eggs, meat, leather, and tortoise shell; and accidental killing by commercial fishing operations. Other threats that sea turtles face throughout their range, including New England waters and Long Island Sound, include:

- **Trash:** Discarded plastic bags, wrappers, helium balloons, styrofoam, and other plastic garbage that end up in the ocean can be deadly to sea turtles and other marine animals. These items, when floating in water, resemble food (such as jellyfish). When turtles mistakenly eat the plastic or balloons, their digestive systems become blocked and the turtles eventually die.
- **Fishing Equipment:** Turtles can become entangled in discarded monofilament fishing line and other gear, preventing them from reaching the surface to breathe or cutting into the animal and causing infection or possible loss of limbs.
- **Vessel Strikes:** Boat propellers, which often inflict serious wounds on sea turtles, have been responsible for many turtle deaths.
- **Pollution:** When pollution, such as oil spills and run-off of chemicals and fertilizers, kills aquatic plants and animals, it also reduces the amount of food that is available to sea turtles. Pollution also can cause the turtles to develop diseases.

### What You Can Do to Help

- Properly dispose of or recycle plastic garbage, especially plastic bags.
- Never release helium balloons. It is against the law in Connecticut to release 10 or more balloons in a 24-hour period.
- Do not purchase illegal turtle products, such as leather and tortoise shell items.
- Properly dispose of fishing line and other fishing equipment. Monofilament fishing line recycling receptacles have been placed at several inland and coastal fishing locations, thanks to support from Connecticut's Endangered Species/Wildlife Income Tax Check-off Fund. Visit the DEEP Web site ([www.ct.gov/dep/whatdoidowith](http://www.ct.gov/dep/whatdoidowith)) to obtain a list of recycling receptacle locations.
- If you locate a live, dead, or entangled sea turtle, contact Mystic Aquarium's 24-hour rescue hotline (860-572-5955 x107). Never attempt to rescue a live sea turtle on your own. If you notice an entangled sea turtle, please try to stay with it for as long as possible so Mystic Aquarium's rescue team can better locate it. (See article on page 16.)

You can learn about sea turtles and other native Connecticut turtles by visiting the Wildlife Division's "Year of the Turtle" Web page at [www.ct.gov/dep/yearofturtle](http://www.ct.gov/dep/yearofturtle). To learn more about Mystic Aquarium's Animal Rescue Program, go to <http://mysticaquarium.org/animals-and-exhibits/animal-rescue-program>. Other good Web sites that provide information about sea turtles are: [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov) (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), [www.conserveturtles.org](http://www.conserveturtles.org) (Sea Turtle Conservancy), and [www.seaturtle.org](http://www.seaturtle.org).



# Herpetologist Dr. Michael Klemens Encourages Citizen Action on Behalf of Turtles and their Habitat

Throughout the 2011 Year of the Turtle awareness campaign, the Wildlife Division has been reaching out to Connecticut residents to better inform them about the plight of our native turtles and what people can do to help. One person who firmly believes that all citizens should take action in their own communities to conserve wildlife and their habitats is herpetologist and scientist Dr. Michael W. Klemens. Dr. Klemens received his doctorate in conservation biology and ecology at the University of Kent UK and has been on the staff of the American Museum of Natural History since 1979. He is the past director of the IUCN-World Conservation Union Global Turtle Recovery Program.

Dr. Klemens' career is founded on over three decades of herpetological research in the United States and Africa. This research has led him to the conclusion that in order to bring about tangible conservation results, scientific research cannot be conducted in a vacuum. Based on this conclusion, Dr. Klemens founded the Metropolitan Conservation Alliance (MCA) in 1997 to bridge the gap between conservation science and land use planning processes. Through MCA, he has translated biological data and conservation concepts into planning tools that achieve better conservation at local and regional scales. His efforts to integrate complex ecological data into the local land use decision-making process were recognized by the Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association in 2007. Dr. Klemens also has authored numerous publications pertaining to the distribution and conservation of herpetofauna, including *Amphibians & Reptiles of Connecticut & Adjacent Regions* (CT Natural History Survey Bulletin No. 112) in 1993. He strongly advocates that scientists have a responsibility to actively engage in conservation efforts. In this regard, he is currently serving as Chair of the Salisbury Planning and Zoning Commission; he previously served as Chair of the Planning Commission in Rye, New York, and continues to serve on numerous local, regional, and national steering committees and technical advisory boards.

Recently retired Wildlife Division biologist Julie Victoria, who knows Dr. Klemens both professionally and personally, asked him several questions related

to the Year of the Turtle.

**Victoria:** During the Year of the Turtle, *Connecticut Wildlife* readers have learned about many issues facing turtles, such as road mortality, illegal collection, and the introduction of non-native species. What do you see as the biggest issues facing Connecticut's turtles?

**Klemens:** Without a doubt, habitat fragmentation is the largest problem in Connecticut for all turtles. While this is a message of concern, it is also one of hope because there is a lot that can be done at the local level to reduce habitat fragmentation and help turtles on the landscape. This will be very important in the future as climate change forces species to readjust where they are living, based on the changing climate.

**Victoria:** What can people do?

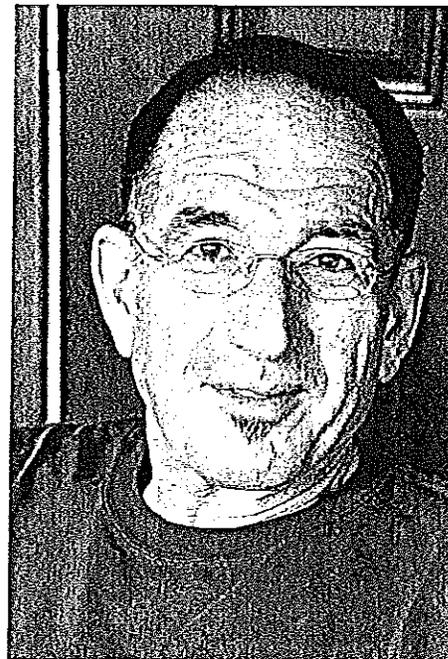
**Klemens:** Get involved with what is happening to the land at the local level. Join the Planning and Zoning Commission, Conservation Commission, or Wetland Commission in town.

**Victoria:** What if someone isn't up to that challenge?

**Klemens:** Then they should go to some of the meetings of these Commissions and advocate for the intelligent application of development of the land. I don't mean saying "No" to all development, but many Connecticut towns use an old model of spreading development over large acres of land without considering clustering development.

People can discuss land use planning and assist with the conservation of Connecticut's biodiversity. They can advocate for a better Commission, a more informed Commission. There are a lot of resources out there, but Connecticut has outdated standards. For example, the Town of Barkhamsted redid its regulations to favor compact development and leaving landscapes together without fragmentation.

Did you know that each town has to update its plan of conservation and development every 10 years? This is a wonderful opportunity for someone to ask, "Are we managing the land to face the challenges of today and if not, what can we do?" The mission statements in many of these plans are great but there isn't a road map to show the town how to get there. Small changes can have big impacts. For example, in Barkhamsted,



clustering (an ecologically preferable development technique) was available within the town only by an extra level of permitting. As part of an overall study of watershed protection funded by the DEEP, the town recognized that it was discouraging smart development by this extra level of permitting and re-wrote regulations so that cluster development did not require more permitting hurdles than traditional development. So, I urge people to become a voice for smarter development and make it known that they are concerned about how land use decisions affect wildlife and the ecosystems that support all species.

Current regulations are not dealing with habitat. Every voice is important to create change and, if Commissions and elected officials hear large numbers of people saying the same thing, there can be a groundswell of difference. We hold the key in many communities for the survival of many species and we must encourage prudent decisions to be made for turtles and other wildlife as well. In the past, wildlife researchers have always approached conservation by studying the species, but that is not dealing with development pressure. That pressure can only be managed by modifying human behaviors and demands. Traditionally, Wetland Commissions were considered to be the only commission that could regulate

*continued next page*

wildlife. Recent court decisions have been quite clear that the authority of Wetland Commissions is quite limited in terms of wetland-dependent wildlife. However, Planning and Zoning Commissions have broad authority to address wildlife issues, provided that they assume that authority within their regulations. Towns, such as Salisbury, now have language in their planning and zoning regulations to consider wildlife, state-listed species, biotic corridors, and vernal pools in the decision-making process. The 2006 guidebook MCA Technical Paper Series No. 10, *From Planning to Action: Biodiversity Conservation in Connecticut Towns* has a 10-step Biodiversity Conservation Checklist and explains how Planning and Zoning Commissions have broad authority to look at these conservation issues but must adopt this authority.

**Victoria:** What else needs to be done?

**Klemens:** We need to manage landscapes to encourage biodiversity. Road mortality, which is a huge issue facing turtles, can be mitigated. It is a complex process, but when laying out new roads,

we need to understand the movement patterns of turtles and avoid severing those biotic corridors. This means that we need detailed information about species use before developments are designed. Also, there are opportunities to redevelop some areas to connect habitats.

We must challenge our officials to make better decisions, decisions that are informed by good data on wildlife. More funds need to be allocated for research on how to integrate the needs of species and their management on a landscape scale. There also needs to be follow-up monitoring of mitigation projects to see what the outcomes of mitigation were, specifically how well they worked. We are losing landscape integrity for many species. Again, people need to ask for that change and to know that there are resources available. There are 169 towns in Connecticut and it is very difficult to bring all the towns to the table, each town may have a different culture. As I said before, I don't mean saying "No" to development, but rather "How." We need to prioritize and compromise.

**Victoria:** What is the future for turtles in Connecticut?

**Klemens:** There are areas in the State with exemplary turtle populations that have huge value over the long-term. For instance, the future of turtles is going to rely on large, unfragmented areas that are a mosaic of protected areas and privately-owned lands. Priority conservation areas could be identified in regions of the State where turtle populations are robust, or one could take a species approach and identify the top five areas in the State essential for the survival of a key turtle species. Once priorities have been established, work intensively with those towns, as well as with citizen groups, schools, nature centers, and private property owners, to develop a stewardship plan. At the end of the Year of Turtle, are Connecticut turtles any better off? While the campaign may have built good will for turtles, we should be focusing on the proactive steps to take to ensure the survival of the five at-risk species (as well as sea turtles) in Connecticut. These are the spotted, bog, wood, and eastern box turtles, as well as the diamondback terrapin. I would encourage everyone to roll up their sleeves and make time for turtles.

## Busy Mosquito Season in 2011

Written by Roger Wolfe, DEEP Wildlife Division

As the summer of 2011 waned, mosquito abundance and activity was at its peak. Mosquito populations and public health are monitored for the prevalence of mosquito-borne diseases like West Nile virus (WNV) and Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) by Connecticut's Mosquito Management Program, a collaboration of the DEEP, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES), and the Department of Public Health (DPH), in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Pathobiology and Veterinary Science at UConn. The Program also provides technical assistance to municipalities, businesses, and residents on how to abate mosquitoes.

With the wet season experienced in New England this year, mosquito activity had been higher than normal. West Nile virus isolations had built steadily throughout the summer, and by the end of August the CAES had reported 132 WNV isolations in mosquitoes. Then Tropical Storm Irene hit just before Labor Day, with high winds and heavy rain that lasted several days.

This weather event temporarily broke the cycle because WNV isolations dropped off dramatically for several weeks after the storm. Although the storm may have tempered West Nile activity for a time, the resulting rain, combined with warm, humid conditions, created the perfect mosquito incubator. Areas, many of which are not normally flooded, produced a hatch of mosquitoes that Connecticut had not seen in many years.

By the end of October, the CAES lab had trapped and tested a record-shattering 332,000 mosquitoes, including a single trap with over 11,000 mosquitoes in one night! As expected, the majority of these mosquitoes were "flood water species," including high numbers of *Aedes vexans*, *Ochlerotatus trivittatus*, *Ochlerotatus canadensis*, and *Psorophora ferox*. Furthermore, with another month and a half of mosquito season left, WNV isolations started to climb again. By the end of the season, 163 isolations of WNV had been identified, mainly in lower Fairfield and New Haven Counties. Additionally, three

mosquito isolations of EEE were detected late in the summer. The DPH also reported nine human cases of WNV from mid-August to mid-September and a horse death in the town of Suffield.

Businesses, municipalities, and homeowners can prepare for next year's mosquito season by emptying or removing sources of stagnant water (containers, discarded tires, water in dumpsters) on their properties to eliminate mosquito breeding sites (mosquito larvae need a minimum of 5-7 days of standing water to develop). Products are available (containing the bacterium "Bti") that can be purchased in the spring and placed in wetlands and standing water areas around the home that cannot be eliminated. There also are a number of certified private applicators who are licensed to perform mosquito control. Refer to the Connecticut Mosquito Management Program Web site ([www.ct.gov/mosquito](http://www.ct.gov/mosquito)) for weekly surveillance updates, mosquito ecology and control methods, a current list of certified applicators, and other helpful links.

# 2011 Spring Turkey Harvest & Hunter Survey

Written by Michael Gregonis, DEEP Wildlife Division

The spring wild turkey season continues to be very popular. Many sportsmen look forward to the opportunity and challenge of harvesting a wild turkey during spring. Connecticut's 2011 spring turkey season was open statewide and ran from April 27 to May 28. A total of 6,001 permits were issued and 1,424 birds were harvested. Eight hundred-and-seventy-one hunters harvested at least one turkey for a 14.5% statewide success rate. In addition, 286 hunters harvested two birds, 103 hunters harvested three birds, 15 hunters took four birds, and four hunters reported five birds. The harvest consisted of 790 adult males, 626 juvenile males, and eight bearded hens. Harvest increased by 17% from 2010; however permit issuance decreased by nearly 19%.

At least one turkey was harvested from 145 of Connecticut's 169 towns. Lebanon and Woodstock reported the highest harvest at 44 birds, followed by Pomfret (30 birds). State land hunters reported the highest harvest from Natchaug State Forest (29 birds), Cockaponset State Forest (20 birds), and Pachaug State Forest (12 birds). On a regional basis, the highest harvests were reported in wild turkey management zones 5 (257 birds), 1 (129 birds), and 2 (121 birds).

In general, the highest harvest occurs on opening day and Saturdays. The 2011 spring season was no exception as 17% (245 birds) of the total harvest occurred on the first day of the season and 25% (361 birds) occurred during the five Saturdays. It is expected that the majority of hunters had time off on these days, allowing them to enjoy recreational activities.

To provide a quality wild turkey hunting experience for Connecticut's junior hunters (ages 12 through 15), two Junior Turkey Hunter Training Days were held on April 16 and April 23. Youths harvested 52 turkeys during the two training days. The youth turkey hunter days have been well received by participants and mentors, as evidenced by the many positive comments on hunter surveys. The junior hunter training days are proving to be a great way to introduce youth hunters to spring wild turkey hunting.

## Wild Turkey Hunter Survey

The spring wild turkey hunter survey is used to obtain a variety of information



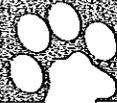
P. J. FUSCO

Connecticut's spring wild turkey season continues to be popular with sportsmen. During the 2011 season, 6,001 permits were issued and 1,424 turkeys were harvested.

from hunters to better manage Connecticut's wild turkey resource. Several questions were included in the 2011 hunter survey regarding hunter interference, extension of hunting hours, opening a coyote season during the spring turkey season, and junior hunter training days. Fifteen percent of the respondents indicated that they encountered hunter interference during the season and, of these hunters, over 70% of the incidents occurred on state land. Eighty-two percent of respondents would favor extending daily hunting hours, 16% were opposed, and two percent had no opinion. The majority of hunters (84%) would like to be allowed to harvest coyotes during the spring turkey season, 14% were opposed, and two percent had no opinion. During the 2011 season, 1.2% of the survey respondents participated as junior hunters and 6.2% participated as mentors. Although these percentages may seem small, the junior hunter training days assist in recruiting new hunters and provide for a quality hunting experience.

Connecticut had experienced a declining turkey population from approximately 2005 to 2009. However, the turkey population has responded to good spring and summer weather conditions during 2010 and 2011. Brood indices for 2010 (3.6 poults/hen) and 2011 (2.8 poults/hen) were higher than the five-year average (2.4 poults/hen), indicating higher productivity for the past two years. The reported spring harvest in 2011 also indicated higher turkey productivity. The percentage of juvenile birds in the spring harvest is a good reference for turkey productivity. For example, during 2011, 44% of the total spring harvest consisted of juvenile birds, whereas only 27% and 18% of the total spring harvest were juvenile birds in 2009 and 2010, respectively. Based on the most recent brood index and the 2011 spring harvest, hunters should see good numbers of juvenile and more two-year-old birds during the 2012 season than they have seen in the past several years.

*The 2009-2010 Turkey Program Summary is available on the DEEP Web site ([www.ct.gov/dep/wildlife](http://www.ct.gov/dep/wildlife)). It summarizes wild turkey information, including harvest statistics for the spring (2010) and fall (2009) hunting seasons. The 2010-2011 Turkey Program Summary will be published next year.*



## New Contributing Editor for Inland Fisheries Division

Starting with the January/February 2011 issue of *Connecticut Wildlife*, George Babey, from the DEEP Inland Fisheries Division, took on the role of Contributing Editor for the magazine. After 25 years with the Division's Connecticut Aquatic Resources Education Program, George retired from state service this past October. The magazine staff would like to thank George for his input and assistance in expanding the content of *Connecticut Wildlife* and we wish him well in his retirement. The staff would also like to welcome the new Contributing Editor from the Inland Fisheries Division, Fisheries Biologist Tim Barry, who is based at the DEEP's Western District Headquarters in Harwinton. Tim wrote an article about the Atlantic salmon fishery for this issue (see page 10) and George submitted an article about the CARE Program (see page 11).

## Great Backyard Bird Count Perfect for New Birders

The 15th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) takes place on February 17-20, 2012. The event is hosted by Audubon, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Canadian partner Bird Studies Canada. The results provide a snapshot of the whereabouts of more than 600 bird species.



PHOTO BY P. J. FUSCO

Anyone can participate in this free event and no registration is needed. All you have to do is watch and count birds for at least 15 minutes on any day of the count, during February 17-20, 2012. Enter your results at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org), where you can watch as the tallies grow across the continent. The four-day count typically records more than 10 million observations.

When thousands of people provide information about what birds they are seeing, researchers can detect patterns in how birds are faring from year to year. The 2011 GBBC brought in more than 92,000 bird checklists submitted by participants from across the U.S. and Canada. Altogether, bird watchers identified 596 species with 11.4 million bird observations. Connecticut participants submitted 1,677 checklists, reporting 116,074 birds of 136 different species.

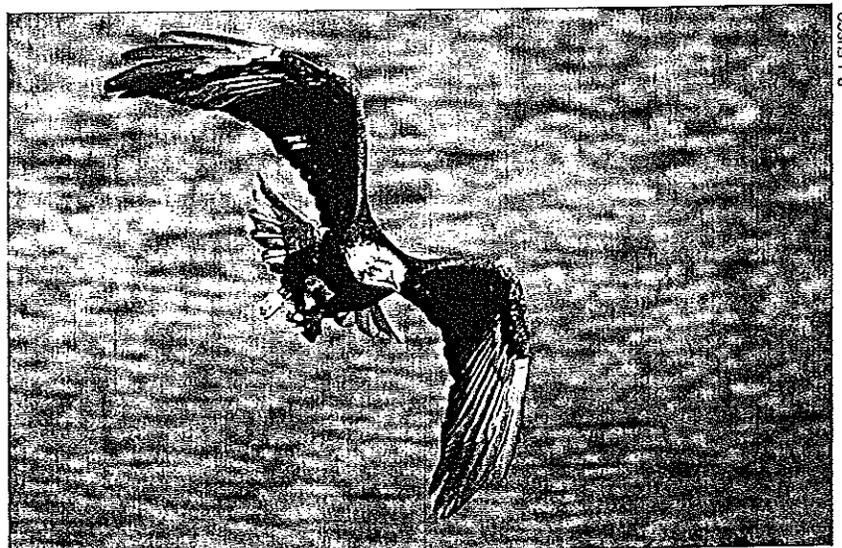
Although it's called the Great "Backyard" Bird Count, the count extends well beyond backyards. Lots of participants choose to head to national and state parks, nature centers, urban parks, nature trails, or nearby sanctuaries. For more information, including bird-ID tips, instructions, and past results, visit [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). The count also includes a photo contest and a prize drawing for participants who enter their bird checklists online.

*The Great Backyard Bird Count is made possible, in part, by sponsor Wild Birds Unlimited.*

## 2011 Midwinter Eagle Survey -- Volunteers Needed for 2012 Survey

The 2011 Midwinter Eagle Survey, which was held right after a snowstorm on January, yielded 104 bald eagles – four eagles shy of the 108 bald eagles counted in the 2010 survey. Some areas usually included in the survey, like Candlewood Lake, were completely frozen and, as a result, not surveyed. Other areas, like the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers, saw an increase in the number of volunteers from The Last Green Valley and 14 eagles were counted from these two rivers. The Connecticut River is still the location that attracts the most eagles, with 33 eagles counted, followed by the Housatonic River with 20 bald eagles seen.

The 2012 Midwinter Eagle Survey is scheduled for the four hour window of 7:00 AM–11:00 AM on Saturday, January 14. Coverage is always needed for Lake Waramaug, Bantam Lake, Laurel Reservoir, Ball Pond, Shenipsit Lake, Pocotopaug Lake, Mount Tom Pond, Williams Pond, Middle Bolton Lake, and Gorton Pond. Anyone interested in covering these areas or waterbodies near their home should send an E-mail to the Wildlife Division at [dep.ctwildlife@ct.gov](mailto:dep.ctwildlife@ct.gov) (put "Eagle Survey" in the subject line).



P. J. FUSCO

You can usually identify what state a banded eagle originates from by the color and number/letter sequence of the band. This red-banded bald eagle, photographed in Connecticut, was likely banded in Maine. Connecticut uses black leg bands.

# Calendar of Events

## Programs at the Sessions Woods Conservation Education Center

Programs are a cooperative venture between the Wildlife Division and the Friends of Sessions Woods. Please pre-register by calling 860-675-8130 (Mon.-Fri., 8:30 AM-4:30 PM). Programs are free unless noted. An adult must accompany children under 12 years old. No pets allowed! Sessions Woods is located at 341 Millford St. (Route 69) in Burlington.

- Jan. 22..... **Turkey Tails & Horsehooves**, starting at 1:30 PM. Join Master Wildlife Conservationist Jack Nelson for an exploration into the world of bracket fungi. Following an introduction indoors, Jack will lead participants on an outside tour to view and identify the interesting woody fungi found on the trees along the trails at Sessions Woods. The program will begin in the large meeting room inside the Conservation Education Center. The exhibit area will be open for viewing prior to the program.
- Feb. 22..... **Wildlife Tracks & Sign for Kids**, starting at 10:00 AM. Wildlife may not be readily seen in winter, but with good observation skills, evidence of their presence can be found. Learn about wildlife tracks indoors with Natural Resource Educator Laura Rogers-Castro and then head outside for a short walk to look for animal signs. Children also will make a wildlife track to take home. An adult must accompany all children.
- Feb. 26..... **Bluebirds with Master Wildlife Conservationist Fred Lowman**, starting at 1:30 PM. MWC Fred Lowman has been monitoring bluebird nest boxes on his property for several years. This indoor program will provide an informative discussion on bluebirds as Fred shares his success stories. He also will provide tips for getting bluebirds to nest in your backyard.

## Shepaug Bald Eagle Observation Area to Open on December 28

The Shepaug Bald Eagle Observation Area, in Southbury, opens for its 27th season on December 28, 2011. The Observation Area is run by FirstLight Power Resources, a GDF SUEZ Energy North America company, which owns and operates several hydroelectric facilities along the Housatonic River. Observation times are Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays between 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM from Wednesday, December 28, 2011, through Wednesday, March 14, 2012. The Observation Area will be closed on New Year's Day. Although admission is free-of-charge, advance reservations are required and will be taken beginning on Tuesday, December 6. To make reservations for individuals, families, and groups, call toll-free at 1-800-368-8954 between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM on Tuesdays through Fridays.

The Shepaug Observation Area is one of the top eagle viewing areas in New England. It is a popular spot for eagles in winter when the turbulence below the dam keeps the water from freezing, and the fish below the dam provide a ready food source. Specialists will be on site with high-powered telescopes to help visitors see the eagles in action and to answer questions. Visitors are encouraged to dress warmly because the observation area is unheated and to bring binoculars, if possible, given the limited number of on-site telescopes.

## Wood Heat

continued from page 3

### Selecting a Wood Stove

Wood smoke can be a source of air pollution, so it is best to use a wood stove that has been certified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). An EPA-certified stove has been independently tested by an accredited laboratory

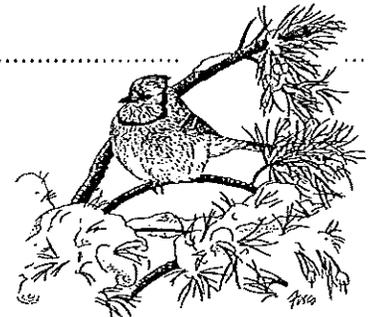
to meet particulate emission standards. Compared to pre-1990 stoves, EPA-certified models burn one-third less wood for the same amount of heat and produce 70% less particulate pollution. For more information, go to [www.epa.gov/burn-wise/woodstoves.html](http://www.epa.gov/burn-wise/woodstoves.html).

There's an old saw (bad pun) that burning wood heats you twice; once when you cut it, and once when you

burn it. That is true, but it's also true that when wood is harvested and seasoned properly, and burned in an efficient and safe heating unit, it is an economical fuel from a renewable resource. Plus, burning wood helps Connecticut be more energy independent.

For more information about Division of Forestry programs, go to [www.ct.gov/deep/forestry](http://www.ct.gov/deep/forestry).

# Connecticut Wildlife



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Bald eagles can frequently be found along Connecticut's major rivers in the winter months.

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