CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
7:05 p.m. Wednesday, March 6, 2019

BOARD OF ED SEMINAR ROOM 295 A & B (2ND Fl) 501 Kings Highway East

PLEASE NOTE TIME AND LOCATION

Kevin Gumpfer, Chairman (FM) Catherine O’Donnell, Secretary (FM)
Jennifer Hauhuth, Vice Chairman (FM) Elizabeth Jones (FM) Richard A. D’Amico (FM)
Felicia B. Watson (FM) Charlie Rowan (FM) Milan Bull (A)
Nelson North (A) VACANCY(A)

FM = Full Member A = Alternate Member

CALL TO ORDER

APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES IF NECESSARY

I. CONSERVATION

A. Bills and Communications

1. H. Smith Richardson Conservation Fund - Status


3. Approval of Conservation Commission Regulations Review Committee Minutes of November 1, 2018.


5. Approval of Secretary’s Bill for November 1, 2018, November 28, 2018, and February 6, 2019.

B. Committee Reports:


II. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2019-2020 FY Conservation Budget Request - Status

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Eagle Scout Project of Will Huckins, Boy Scout Troop 199: Lake Mohegan Trail Blazing, Signage and Trail Safety Markers (see attached).

B. Request of Attorney William Fitzpatrick on behalf of Black Rock Realty, LLC, to permit an encroachment into the Conservation Open Space And Public Access Easement within the Metro Center Conservation Area at 219 Ash Creek Boulevard (f/k/a 21 Black Rock Turnpike) (see attached).

C. Plan of Conservation And Development – Discussion of Town-Wide Open Space Program – Power Point Presentation by Brian Carey & Emmeline Harrigan, TPZ.
D. The Greater Fairfield Board of Realtors – Installation of Park Benches – Ash Creek Open Space Area – Shoreham Terrace – see attached.

IV. INFORMATIONAL
   A. Conservation Crew Work Summary

V. OTHER

VI. ADJOURNMENT

PLEASE NOTE!
This agenda does not reflect items received after the date the agenda was compiled. Please check with the Conservation Dept. for additional items which might have been added to a supplemental agenda after the mailing date.

NOTE: All members of the Conservation Commission are requested to notify the Conservation Department (256-3071) if they are unable to be present. A quorum is necessary to transact business, and your call will be appreciated.
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT
MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 28, 2018

The Conservation Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a Meeting on Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fairfield Board of Education Conference Room, 501 Kings Highway East, Fairfield, Connecticut.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin Gumper, Chairman; Jennifer Hauhuth; Elizabeth Jones; Richard D’Amico; Charlie Rowan; Felicia Watson (7:22)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Catherine O’Donnell; Milan Bull

ALTERNATES: Nelson North

ALSO PRESENT: Brian Carey, Conservation Director; Annette Jacobson, Conservation Administrator; Edward Jones, Open Space Manager; members of the public

[N.B.: NUMBERING IN THE MINUTES BELOW CORRESPONDS TO THE MEETING AGENDA, AND REFLECTS THE ORDER IN WHICH ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED.]

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Kevin Gumper called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES IF NECESSARY: Chairman Gumper appointed Nelson North to sit as an alternate member.

I. CONSERVATION

A. Bills and Communications

1. H. Smith Fordson Conservation Fund – The commission acknowledged the status of the Fund.

2. Resignation of Kate Maxham - Mr. Gumper reported that Kate Maxham has resigned from the Commission, as she has been elected the Judge of Probate and is therefore no longer eligible to sit on the Conservation Commission.

3. Approval of Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes of October 17, 2018: Elizabeth Jones moved and Jennifer Hauhuth seconded to approve the Inland Wetlands Meeting Minutes of October 17, 2018. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Secretary’s Bill for October 17, 2018: Nelson North moved and Elizabeth Jones seconded to approve the Recording Secretary’s bill of October 17, 2018. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Approval of Conservation Commission Special Meeting Minutes of November 7, 2018: Jennifer Hauhluth moved and Elizabeth Jones seconded to approve the Inland Wetlands Meeting Minutes of November 7, 2018. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Approval of Secretary’s Bill for November 7 2018: Elizabeth Jones moved and Richard D’Amico seconded to approve the Recording Secretary’s bill of November 7, 2018. Motion passed unanimously.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2019-2020 FY Conservation Budget Request (status) – Ms. Carey gave an overview of the proposed budget request, noting that it is a flat budget with a small increase for seasonal payroll and fuel. He also noted that the Finance Department will supply the payroll data which may have contractual increases.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Conservation Commission – Terms of Members – Upcoming Election of Officers at December Meeting – It was the consensus of the Commission to hold a special or supplemental meeting at the December 5 Inland Wetlands Agency meeting to discuss and vote on this matter.

B. Draft 2019 Conservation Commission & Inland Wetlands Agency Meeting Dates – It was the consensus of the Commission to approve the proposed July 3, 2019 meeting to July 10, 2019.

Nelson North moved, and Richard D’Amico seconded to approve the proposed 2019 meeting calendar schedule drafted with the change of the July meeting date to July 10, 2019. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. INFORMATIONAL

A. Conservation Crew Work Summary – Informational. Mr. Jones noted that the crew has started mowing fields as the weather permits. Mr. Carey noted that some tree work has been contracted out.

B. November 15, 2018 Presentation & Discussion on Microbial Source Tracking, Hosted by The Sasco Brook Pollution Abatement Committee – Informational. Mr. Carey noted that the Weston Health Department had received a grant to do DNA testing in the Sasco Brook Watershed to track sources of fecal coliforms south of the Hunt Club and that a summary of the research to date will be presented at this meeting.

Felicia Watson arrived at this time.
I. CONSERVATION

B. Committee Reports:
   1. Subcommittee to Review Open Space Regulations: Committee Members Milan Bull, Elizabeth Jones, Felicia B. Watson, and Jennifer Hauhuth, and Catherine O’Donnell – Mr. Carey gave a brief update of the previous Subcommittee meetings, noting that the Subcommittee has completed its work and has made a finding that the full Commission should review the proposed off-leash permit program. Mr. Carey noted that he will meet with Ms. O’Donnell to write up the summary recommendation, which will also include a detailed summary of the results of the subcommittee and the public comments. Ms. Watson asked if the summary could include a summary of the survey. The full Commission will then be asked to review these findings and will then decide if they want to move forward with the proposal, modify it, or reject it. Mr. Carey also noted that in order to change any rules and regulations, a public hearing would be required. There is no timeframe for a decision.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Kevin Gumpper recused himself on the following matter and did not participate. Jennifer Hauhuth chaired this item only.

C. Request by Fairfield University to conduct tree and dredging activities within the Conservation/Stewardship Easement Area

Ms. Jacobson gave an overview of the project, noting that Hopkins Pond is within a Conservation and Stewardship Easement. This application will come before the Inland Wetlands Agency as an Inland Wetland Permit Application as well. Conservation Department staff recommended the approval of the proposed activity.

Elizabeth Jones moved and Richard D’Amico seconded to approve the proposed pond dredging activities within the Conservation/Stewardship Easement area. Motion passed unanimously.

V. OTHER

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion to adjourn was made at 7:31 p.m. by Elizabeth Jones, and seconded by Jennifer Hauhuth. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Neafsey
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT
OPEN SPACE REGULATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES OF November 1, 2018

The Open Space Regulations Review Committee of the Conservation Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a Meeting on Thursday, November 1, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fairfield Museum and History Center Meeting Room, 370 Beach Road, Fairfield CT.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Catherine O’Donnell, Committee Chairman; Felicia B. Watson, Committee Secretary; Jennifer Hauhuth; Elizabeth Jones; Milan Buja

MEMBERS ABSENT: none

ALSO PRESENT: Brian Carey, Conservation Director; Erle Jones, Open Space Manager; members of the public

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. O’Donnell called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and set forth the order of meeting proceedings.

I. CONSERVATION

A. Bills and Communications

1. Approval of Draft Conservation Commission and Space Regulations Review Committee Meeting Minutes September 25, 2018: Elizabeth Jones moved and Jennifer Hauhuth seconded to approve the Conservation Commission Open Space Regulations Review Committee Meeting Minutes of September 25, 2018. Motion passed unanimously.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of Previous Meeting Outcomes and Suggestions to Prioritize Items

O’Donnell stated that a draft proposal for an off-leash permit program was discussed at the last meeting and asked if any of the committee members had any questions. The proposed budget was discussed, with Mr. Carey noting that the money for this proposed program would be coming out of the Conservation budget for the fiscal year 2019-20. The goal would be to have the proceeds from the program be able to fund the program and fund more enforcement. Mr. Carey also noted that the revenue is difficult to determine until a program is implemented because there is no way to tell how many people on a daily basis are using the open space areas. It was also noted that by state statute that the money generated from the program is put into the town general fund and not a separate fund. It was noted that this permit program will only be successful if there is increased enforcement. Mr. Carey stated that this is not a problem that is unique to our town, and that by looking at what other towns are doing they have been able to find some middle ground.
Ms. Watson asked for clarification that the proposed off-leash permits would be issued per dog, and not per dog-walker/owner. Mr. Carey stated that with this program, the dog would have a permit tag on the collar, and the permit holder would have a matching permit card that can be transferred to whomever is walking the dog.

Mr. Bull opined that he does not think the Conservation Commission should be involved in permitting off-leash dogs. He also suggested that Brett Woods should be removed as one of the proposed off-leash areas because it is one of the more sensitive open space areas, there is limited parking, and there have already been complaints from the neighboring properties. He also noted that he thinks the Conservation Commission should retain the right to limit the number of permits that are issued based on habitat assessments from the Conservation Department. There was some discussion about this, and Mr. Carey noted that the recommendation should be presented to the full Conservation Commission, who will then work out the details and fee structure. It was also noted that a public hearing would be held before anything is finalized.

Ms. Watson questioned whether another Open Space area would replace Brett Woods if it were to be removed from the proposed permit program. There was some discussion over the number of open space areas that should be included in this program based on usage and enforcement. Mr. Carey noted that these suggestions should be brought to the full commission.

Ms. O’Donnell noted that many families have 2 or more dogs, which may affect the budget of the program since a second dog would require a permit. Mr. Carey stated that this program will help to evaluate how the open space is being used because we don’t know how many residents and non-residents are using the open space.

Ms. O’Donnell suggested that an assessment process should also be included in the recommendation. It was discussed that a way of assessing the program would be to make it a line item on every Conservation Commission agenda, and include a tally of the number of permits, total revenue, and any enforcement or incidents. Mr. Carey noted that this discussion was discussed with Captain Don Smith, who is in agreement with it and hopes that it will put down minor nuisance infractions.


III. Public Comment

Public comment began at 7:38 pm. Ms. O’Donnell asked that the comments be limited to 4 minutes per person. Of the members of the public who were present, 17 spoke to the Commission. Most of the comments made noted that enforcement of the current regulations is the biggest issue at the Open Space areas, and that the lack of enforcement should be addressed before any new regulations are put in place.

Public comment ended at 8:36 pm.
Ms. Jones noted that the committee members have all been doing their due diligence by walking the trails at the Open Space areas and she encouraged people to reach out to them when they see them there.

Ms. O’Donnell noted that they have met with the both the police department and the Animal Control Officer about this program and that although they are aware that enforcement is an issue, they cannot provide more enforcement with the current budget. This program should generate income for the town that would ideally be able to allow more enforcement.

Mr. Carey stated that marking the boundaries between town and residential properties has been a problem throughout the state. Encroachments are resolved when they are found, but they are usually only found by looking at aerial photographs and not by people walking on the trails because the trails are designed to be centrally located.

Ms. O’Donnell noted that the multiple access points to Lake Waramaug may be a challenge for enforcement and should be noted in their report to the Commission.

Ms. O’Donnell recommended that the subcommittee should present to the full Conservation Commission a summary document of all of the deliberations along with their recommendations so that the full Commission can vote on the issue.

Mr. Carey stated that the Conservation Commission created this subcommittee in 2017 to see if restricting off-leash dogs is a viable solution. The subcommittee has met for a year, had multiple public comments, and has put together the framework of a program that has found some middle ground, which will be presented to the full Conservation Commission. The Conservation Commission will look at the proposed permit program, a detailed summary of the results of the subcommittee, and the public comments, and will then decide if they want to move forward with the proposal, modify it, or reject it. In order to change any rules and regulations, a public hearing would be required.

Mr. Carey noted that the interest in the job as the Conservation Director is that he has no way to gauge how many people are using the Open Space properties. Without knowing its usage, it is hard to plan for land management for the open spaces. He has spoken with the police department multiple times about budgeted for more enforcement.

Elizabeth Jones moved and Jennifer Hauhuth seconded that the recommendation of the subcommittee is for the full Conservation Commission to review and implement the draft off-leash permit program. In favor – O’Donnell, Jones, Hauhuth, Bull. Against – Watson. Motion carried 4-1.

IV. Adjournment. There being no further business, Felicia Watson moved and Elizabeth Jones seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Neafsey

DRAFT MINUTES SUBJECT TO REVIEW, CORRECTION, AND APPROVAL BY THE OPEN SPACE REGULATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 6, 2019

The Conservation Commission of the Town of Fairfield, held a Special Meeting on Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 7:05 p.m. in the Fairfield Board of Education Conference Room, 501 Kings Highway East, Fairfield, Connecticut.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jennifer Hauhuth, Vice Chair; Catherine O’Donnell, Secretary; Felicia Watson;

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kevin Gumpper; Charlie Rowan; Elizabeth Jones; Richard D’Amico;

ALTERNATES: Milan Bull; Nelson North

ALSO PRESENT: Brian Carey, Conservation Director; Annette Jacobson, Conservation Administrator; members of the public

[N.B.: NUMBERING IN THE MINUTES BELOW CORRESPONDS TO THE MEETING AGENDA, AND REFLECTS THE ORDER IN WHICH ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED.]

CALL TO ORDER: Vice-Chair Jennifer Hauhuth called the meeting to order at 7:44 p.m.

APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES IF NECESSARY: Vice-Chair Hauhuth appointed Milan Bull and Nelson North to sit as full members.

I. NEW BUSINESS

A. State of CT DEEP Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition program – Award of $82,500.00 in matching funds to the Town of Fairfield for the Preservation and Acquisition of Open Space Property located at 760 Oldfield Road.

Mr. Carey announced that the Town of Fairfield was awarded a grant to purchase the property at 760 Oldfield Road through the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program in December 2018. The property is about 3.6 acres, consisting of about one acre of upland, with the remaining acreage being tidal marsh. A purchase agreement is already in place. The purchase will be funded half by the grant and half from the H. Smith Richardson Trust Fund. Some minor improvements will be made to the property for public access. This purchase will need to be approved by Conservation Commission, Land Acquisition Commission, Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, RTM, Planning and Zoning Commission. It was noted that this is a reimbursement grant, which will be entirely funded out of the H. Smith Richardson Trust Fund, and then the Town will be reimbursed half of the purchase price under the terms of the grant.
Catherine O’Donnell moved and Milan Bull seconded to approve the award of $82,500.00 in matching funds to the Town of Fairfield for the Preservation and Acquisition of Open Space Property located at 760 Oldfield Road. Motion passed unanimously.

II. OTHER

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion to adjourn was made at 7:49 p.m. by Catherine O’Donnell and seconded by Milan Bull. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Neafsey
Overview

At its October 18th, 2017 meeting, the Fairfield Conservation Commission, formed the Open Space Regulations Review Subcommittee in order to review and draft regulations requiring that dogs be on leash at all times in the Town of Fairfield Open Space Areas. The subcommittee was comprised of 5 members of the full Conservation Commission (Cathy O’Donnell, Milan Bull, Felicia Watson, Jennifer Hauhuth, and Elizabeth Jones) and held meetings in accordance with the current Conservation Commission bylaws. The Fairfield Conservation Commission has the authority as granted under Section 10.3 of the Town Charter and Section 35-12 of the Town Code to promulgate rules and regulations, including but not limited to the establishment of reasonable charges for the use of land and easements, for any of its purposes.

Over the course of their deliberations, the subcommittee held 7 meetings with 4 public comments sessions spanning approximately 12 months. Prior to formulating a final recommendation to the full Conservation Commission, the subcommittee performed extensive due-diligence on the matter of leashing dogs on Town owned open space. The subcommittee’s due-diligence on the matter included: the development and review of a public survey regarding existing open space rules and regulations, presentations to the subcommittee by various professionals including the Fairfield Animal Control officer, the review of open space regulations of similar Towns both locally and nationally, and the review of the history, acquisition principles, and current regulations of the Town’s open spaces.

All documents generated and received during the proceedings of the subcommittee including comments from the public were reviewed, cataloged, and uploaded to Conservation Commission’s website for public viewing.

Based on public input, committee member research, and various professional presentations at seven meetings of the subcommittee, the following options were systematically reviewed and discussed by members of the subcommittee as possible recommendations to the Conservation Commission:
• **OPTION 1**: Do nothing except rewrite the existing Open Space Regulations to make them more concise to improve any confusion for enforcement agents.

The wording of the regulations in Section 14 of the existing Parks and Open Space Regulations are unclear and could be updated to be more succinct and straightforward for the Police Department and Animal Control Officers. Option 1 would be to rewrite the existing regulations to simplify the existing enforcement while leaving the current intent of the regulations the same as they currently exist, with the exception of limiting off-leash dogs from three dogs per person to two dogs per person.

The committee also discussed new, more prominent signage on Open Spaces about dog leashing policies. In general, public input favored keeping unleashed dog regulations as is on Fairfield’s Open Spaces, particularly at Lake Mohegan Open Space, which has the largest volume of unleashed dogs.

• **OPTION 2**: Explore the construction of a separate fenced in Dog Park on an existing open space property. Update the regulations to require dogs to be on leash in all existing Town owned open space properties.

This option explored the purpose of creating a separate isolated dog park area within the Town that would be fenced in and would have the singular purpose of allowing off-leashed dogs a place to congregate. Research on other neighboring towns’ dog parks was reviewed as well as issues and enforcement in more restricted areas for dogs. If a dog park was constructed, the Conservation Commission could change the regulations to institute a leash law on all Town owned open space parcels. It is unclear exactly what Town Department would have oversight and the responsibility to manage a designated off-lease dog park. Once jurisdiction over a future dog park was determined, further research on Option 2 would need to be conducted including selection of a dog park location on town-owned property or open space, rules, regulations and enforcement. In general, during the committee’s deliberation, public commentary was not favorable toward the idea of a town dog park.

• **OPTION 3**: Designate the upper portion of the Cascades as a non-lease area while requiring dogs to be on-leash around lower Lake Mohegan.

A proposal from a local resident was submitted and was discussed regarding the segregation of the Lake Mohegan Open Space property into separate on-leash and off-leash areas. The proposal had several reiterations in the plan including having the western half of the lake off lease while the eastern half of the lake would be on-lease. Another option would be separating the Cascades out as an off lease area while leaving the southern half of the lake on-lease. Option 3 did not address off-lease dogs on other Town owned open space properties and therefore is not a comprehensive solution. Furthermore, the difficulty of enforcement was considered and did not appear to simplify the existing enforcement burden.

• **OPTION 4**: Designate specific open space areas as leashed and other areas as unleashed.

Option 4 was discussed and would identify certain open space areas as unleashed while other areas would be leased only. The committee also reviewed and discussed other options like specific times and days of the week for off-lease dogs only on open spaces, which is has been implemented at other towns/cities’ off-lease spaces. (i.e. 5-9 am and 6-9 pm off-lease dogs
Seasonal restrictions was also discussed and limits to off-leash access as needed could also be incorporated based on the need for open space habitat restoration or replenishment.

**OPTION 5: Develop a new “Off-Leash” Permit Program in Fairfield:**

This option would require all dogs’ owners to obtain an “off-leash” permit from the Conservation Department prior to walking their dog(s) off-leash at designated open space parcels in the Town. Leashed dogs would still be allowed on all open space parcels without the benefit of obtaining a permit. This option would help to streamline enforcement for the Animal Control officer since only dogs that were properly licensed and had rabies shots. The permit also requires owners’ written agreement that their dog responds to voice commands while off-leash and that they will abide to all the Town’s rules and regulations for off-leashed dogs. Those in agreement would be issued an annual “off-leash” permit – one for each dog with a visible collar worn during off-leash visits. Several different reiterations of “off-leash” permit programs throughout the nation were researched and discussed by the sub-committee. An “off-leash” permit requirement also would be easy to enforce: either people have their permit with them or they don’t. An “off-leash” permit program will also be revenue generating and could help the town off-set increased Animal Control enforcement throughout the year, which is essential for the success of any off-leash dog policy.

**SUBCOMMITTEE FINAL RECOMMENDATION:**

Based on a review of the above listed options, the subcommittee recommended by of vote of 4 to 1 moving forward with Option 5 and the development of an off-leash permit program that would apply to 4 of the Town’s current open space parcels including; Hoyden’s Hill, Lake Mohegan, Brett Woods, and South Pine Creek. Dog owners would be allowed to walk their dogs’ off-leash once they successfully obtained an off-leash dog permit from the Town’s Conservation Department. All other Town owned open space parcels would require owners to keep their dogs on leashes at all times.

As part of the proceedings, a draft framework for the development of an off-leash permit program was developed to be effective July 1 and the annual permit process would be coordinated with the town’s dog licensing program. Details and enforcement of the new Off-Leash Permit Policy would need to be vetted with Police and Animal Control staff in advance. Also, an effective public communication plan and new signage on these 4 Open Spaces would also need to be implemented. It is presented as part of this recommendation in draft form.

**If the full Conservation Commission should decide to move forward with the implementation of the subcommittee’s recommendation, it is required to hold a properly noticed Public Hearing prior to adopting any changes to the Fairfield Open Space Rules and Regulations.**

Also, while not voted on by the subcommittee, the Conservation Director believes that it is warranted at this time to move forward with an extensive update to the existing Lake Mohegan Open Space Area Multiple Use Management Plan. The Lake Mohegan Open Space Area Multiple Use Management Plan was originally completed in 1990 and does not accurately reflect the current conditions and uses at the site. An update of the management plan will allow the Conservation Commission to better execute its charge of the management of the open space property by providing a more accurate and timely representation of the current conditions of the property.
MEMORANDUM

From: Stanton H. Lesser, Town Attorney
To: Michael C. Tetreau, First Selectman
RE: Authority to Regulate Dog Walking at Lake Mohegan

Date November 21, 2018

You have asked me for an opinion as to what town body has the authority to regulate dog walking activity at Lake Mohegan.

It is my understanding that the area in question is around Lake Mohegan and is maintained by the town as “Open Space”. As such, it is administered and managed by the Conservation Commission, which promulgates rules for its use. The land is used for passive recreation, that is strolling and hiking. Pursuant to regulations promulgated by the Conservation Commission, people (including both residents and non-residents of Fairfield) are permitted to bring their dogs to this area, and further, to allow the dogs to run off-leash.

Town Ordinances Regarding Property Management

In 1999, the RTM adopted Section 35-12 of the Town Code, which deals with the designation of the use of property acquired by the Town, and determining administrative responsibility for such property.

Section 35-12 B. defines “open space”. The definition includes passive recreation, such as "strolling, [and] hiking."

Section 35-13 C. provides that property designated “open space” (or property acquired without designation by the RTM, which would automatically be designated “open space”) shall be administered by the Conservation Commission.

Section 35-12 C. (1) provides that property acquired before June 22, 1998 which carries a designation as to use on the Town Plan and Zoning Commission Map of the Town of Fairfield Public Lands shall continue to have the use designation shown on such map.
Examination of the Map of the Town of Fairfield Public Lands reveals that the area in question was and is designated as “Open Space”. (The beach itself is designated “Park”, so would be under the jurisdiction of Parks and Recreation.)

It is therefore my opinion that the land in question falls under the jurisdiction of the Fairfield Conservation Commission, which has the authority to promulgate rules and regulations for its use, including whether and under what circumstances dogs may be upon said land.

**State Statutes**

There are two state statutes of note dealing with dogs.

The first is General Statutes § 7-148 (c) (7) (D), which gives a municipality the authority to regulate dogs on public property. It provides that a municipality has the authority to:

(D) Animals. (i) Regulate and prohibit the going at large of dogs and other animals in the streets and public places of the municipality and prevent cruelty to animals and all inhuman sports, except that no municipality shall adopt breed-specific dog ordinances; Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 7-148 (c) (7) (D)

Pursuant to this statute, a municipality has the authority to require dogs to be leashed when off private property. This would be accomplished by an ordinance promulgated by the RTM.

The second statute provides:

(a) No owner or keeper of any dog shall allow such dog to roam at large upon the land of another and not under control of the owner or keeper or the agent of the owner or keeper, nor allow such dog to roam at large on any portion of any public highway and not attended or under control of such owner or keeper or his agent, provided nothing in this subsection shall be construed to limit or prohibit the use of hunting dogs during the open hunting or training season. The unauthorized presence of any dog on the land of any person other than the owner or keeper of such dog or on any portion of a public highway when such dog is not attended by or under the control of such owner or keeper, shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of the provisions of this subsection. Violation of any provision of this subsection shall be an infraction. Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 22-364

It is interesting to note that the statute does not require that a dog be on leash, only that it be “under control” of the owner or keeper. Therefore, although the town may permit dogs to run off-leash, an owner who lets his or her dog roam out of sight could be cited for a violation of this statute, if in the opinion of the officer the dog was not “under control” of the owner.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.
(1) All appointed boards and commissions except the Ethics Commission and the Board of Building Appeals shall hold at least 10 regular stated meetings a year and shall give annual notice of such meetings as required by the General Statutes. The Ethics Commission and the Board of Building Appeals shall meet when they have business to transact. Officers of each board and commission shall be elected annually at an organization meeting so noticed by the Town Clerk held in the month of December. No person sitting on a board or commission at the designation of another board or commission may be elected an officer of the board or commission to which he or she has been designated.

(2) Each appointed board and commission shall keep an accurate record of all its official acts, votes, meetings, and proceedings and shall designate one of its members or its clerk to keep such record. The minutes and records of such boards and commissions shall be public records and shall be open for public inspection at the office of the Town Clerk or of the department involved during regular business hours.

(3) All regular meetings of boards and commissions shall be open to the public except for executive sessions permitted by the General Statutes, and all appointed boards, and commissions, and committees shall comply with state freedom of information laws unless otherwise provided by statute.

(4) Robert's Rules of Order shall regulate the conduct of all meetings of boards and commissions unless a particular board or commission otherwise stipulates.

C. Vacancies. A vacancy in the membership of any permanent appointed authority, board, or commission shall be filled in the manner prescribed in Section 3.5 of this Charter.

§ 10.2. Bodies appointed by the First Selectman.

The First Selectman shall appoint the members of the bodies listed in item A(1) of Section 10.1 of this Charter in the numbers and for the terms set forth in Section 10.3 of this Charter.

§ 10.3. Conservation Commission.

A. Members and terms. The Conservation Commission shall consist of seven members, not more than four of whom shall be registered with the same political party, and three alternate members, not more than two of whom shall be registered with the same political party. Both members and alternate members shall be appointed by the First Selectman for a term of five years. Members' terms shall be staggered so that no more than two members' terms expire in one year. Alternate members' terms need not be staggered.
B. Powers and duties (conservation).

(1) The Conservation Commission shall have all of the powers and duties conferred by this Charter, by ordinance, and on conservation commissions generally by § 7-131a of Chapter 97 of the General Statutes.

(2) In order to carry out its powers, the Conservation Commission shall:

(a) Conserve, develop, supervise, and regulate natural resources, including water resources and open space land in the Town;

(b) Conduct investigations into the use and possible use of land in the Town;

(c) Keep an index of all open areas, publicly or privately owned, for the purpose of obtaining information on the proper use of such areas;

(d) Have the ability to recommend to appropriate agencies plans and programs for the development and use of open areas;

(e) Have the ability, as approved by the RTM, to acquire land and easements in the name of the Town and promulgate rules and regulations, including but not limited to the establishment of reasonable charges for the use of land and easements, for any of its purposes; and

(f) Have the ability to coordinate the activities of unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes.

C. Powers and duties (inland wetlands). The Conservation Commission shall have the powers and duties conferred by this Charter, by ordinance, and on inland wetlands and watercourses agencies generally by §§ 22a-42 to 22-44 of Chapter 440 of the General Statutes. In particular, the Commission shall:

(1) Provide for the protection, preservation, maintenance and use of inland wetlands and watercourses, for their conservation, economic, aesthetic, recreational, and other public and private uses and values in order to provide to the citizens of the Town an orderly process to balance the need for the economic growth of the Town and the use of its land with the need to protect the environment and its natural resources;

(2) Adopt, amend and promulgate such regulations as are necessary to protect and define the inland wetlands and watercourses;

(3) Develop a comprehensive program in furtherance of its purposes;
(4) Advise, consult and cooperate with other agencies of the Town, State and Federal governments;

(5) Encourage and conduct studies and investigations and disseminate relevant information; and

(6) Inventory and evaluate the inland wetlands and watercourses in such form as it deems best suited to effect its purposes.

D. Director and other employees or consultants. The Commission shall appoint a Director with the approval of the First Selectman. The Commission shall have the power to engage such employees or consultants as it requires to carry out its duties, including a wetlands administrator and assistants who, subject to the general supervision of the Director, shall enforce all laws, ordinances and regulations relating to matters over which it has jurisdiction and who shall have such other duties as the Commission or the Director may prescribe.

§ 10.4. Permanent bodies appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

The Board of Selectmen shall appoint the members of the bodies listed in items A(2) through (15) of Section 10.1 of this Charter in the numbers and for the terms set forth in Sections 10.5 through 10.18 of this Charter.

§ 10.5. Police Commission and Department.

A. Members and terms. The Police Commission shall consist of seven members appointed by the Board of Selectmen, no more than four of whom shall be registered with the same political party. Each member shall have a term of five years with the terms staggered so that not more than two terms expire in one year.

B. Powers and duties. The Police Commission shall have the powers and duties conferred on police commissions generally by § 7-276 of Chapter 104 of the General Statutes, except as those may be limited by this Charter. In particular, the Police Commission shall:

(1) Have general management supervision of the Police Department of the Town and of all property and equipment used by or in connection with the operation of the department;

(2) Make rules and regulations consistent with the General Statutes and this Charter for the governance of the Police Department and its personnel, and may prescribe penalties for violations of its rules and regulations;
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT
OPEN SPACE REGULATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 1, 2017

The Open Space Regulations Review Committee of the Conservation Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a Meeting on Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. in the First Floor Conference Room of The Honorable John J. Sullivan Independence Hall, 725 Old Post Road, Fairfield, Connecticut.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Elizabeth Jones; Felicia B. Watson; Milan Bull; Catherine O'Donnell; Jennifer Hauhuth

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Brian Carey, Conservation Director; Ed Jones, Open Space Manager

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:34 a.m.

Felicia Watson moved and Jennifer Hauhuth seconded to elect Milan Bull to serve as the chair of this Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

Catherine O'Donnell moved and Jennifer Hauhuth seconded to elect Felicia Watson to serve as secretary of this Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

I. NEW BUSINESS

A. Dog Leash Regulations For Town Open Spaces

Milan Bull suggested that the Committee set up a meeting schedule, meeting once a month for five months. At the end of the five-month period, this Committee will make a recommendation to the Conservation Commission. It was the consensus of the Committee that there should be three public hearings before the recommendation is made to the Conservation Commission.

Felicia Watson brought the focus to the purpose of the committee. Brian Carey stated that everything in the packet given to the committee members is on the website as well to make it publicly available. Jennifer Hauhuth stated that the Committee should review everything it can from all view points, gather information on how the various Town of Fairfield Open Space Areas are used, and to gather input from all members of the town, whether citizens or employees.

Elizabeth Jones recommended that the public hearings be scheduled in the evening so they will be more convenient for most people to attend.

Catherine O'Donnell expressed the importance of finding out why the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area came to be used as it currently is, especially with respect to people and dogs (and compare to other open space areas). It was noted that because there is no monitor on site, it would be difficult to get usage statistics.

Elizabeth Jones stated that Lake Mohegan Open Space Area is identified as a dog park online on Google Earth and the Fairfield County Dog Parks website.

Catherine O'Donnell read the relevant motion from the Conservation Commission regular meeting held October 18, 2017: “draft regulations requiring dogs to be on leash at
all times in Town of Fairfield Open Space areas.” It was agreed that this is the committee’s charge. Before regulations can be drafted, information needs to be gathered.

Elizabeth Jones will talk to the Fairfield Police Department.

Felicia Watson will talk to the Parks and Recreation Department, get contact information about the dog park at Waveny for Milan Bull, and reach out to the Town of Easton.

Catherine O’Donnell will talk to Fairfield Animal Control.

Milan Bull will talk to the Town of Westport and New Canaan regarding the dog park at Waveny Park.

Jennifer Hauhuth will compile leash law-type regulations from nearby towns and talk to Aspetuck Land Trust.

Committee members will report at the next meeting on their findings.

Milan Bull stated that he spoke to First Selectman Mike Tetreau yesterday who is in favor of having multiple meetings and public hearings. Milan Bull also emphasized the importance of transparency and stated that everything will be put online, including recordings of the meetings.

Next, Milan Bull moved on to the topic of potential options and distributed a list of options.

Milan Bull stated that First Selectman Tetreau suggested setting specific days for off-leash time. Another option is restricting off-leash time to certain times of day or certain times of year. Seasonal leash regulations could also offer protection for certain wildlife. Another option is setting aside a fenced-in area at Lake Mohegan for a formal dog park. Felicia Watson suggested that perhaps Hoyden’s Hill would be a good location for that. Catherine O’Donnell offered that visitor density is probably an issue, too, as well as the narrowness of the paths. Another option would be to first change the regulations to require leashes at all times at all open spaces, and then subsequently find/develop another location as a dog park (either in a Town of Fairfield Open Space Area or at another location). Milan Bull also offered the suggestion of a “Voice and Sight” tag program similar that that in Boulder, Colorado for those who wish to be allowed to have their dog off leash in an open space. Such a program would require the dog and owner to attend training and pass a test to get an off-leash permit tag. The last option would be to make no changes to the current regulations.

Felicia Watson raised the issue of enforcement as a consideration.

Milan Bull stated that open space areas are, by definition, multi-use areas. He opined that the best practice would be to have dogs on-leash so that all can enjoy open space areas. He further stated that the Town of Fairfield currently has no leash ordinance.

It was noted that the RTM would need to be involved if funding is needed.

Another problem Milan Bull highlighted with off-leash dogs at open spaces is that one purpose of open space is to promote biodiversity, and off leash dogs sometimes chase wildlife out of its habitat.
Elizabeth Jones stated that some places require dogs to be over the age of 7 months if they are to be allowed in an off-leash area. Other requirements could include that the animal is spayed/neutered, up to date on vaccinations, and licensed. She further suggested that the committee should revisit the signage, fines, and rules posted at Town Open Space Areas.

Ed Jones stated that enforcement is a current difficulty. The dog warden is responsible for enforcement. Not all Town Open Space Areas have signs. The assumption is that the rules and regulations apply to all open space property.

Jennifer Hauhuth stated that the Aspetuck Land Trust/Trout Brook website says to go to Fairfield if you want to let dog off-leash.

Catherine O’Donnell suggested that the committee do a scan to find out where it is communicated that Lake Mohegan is a dog park. She highlighted the idea that communication is critical for success here.

Milan Bull stated that it is important here to pass a regulation even if enforcement will be difficult.

Catherine O’Donnell noticed that there are many complaints in letters about the narrowness of trails and the difficulty to pass. She stated that perhaps this should be a consideration as to from which locations dogs should be prohibited, as this is a safety issue. It was agreed that existing trails should not be widened to accommodate people walking their dogs.

Milan Bull mentioned that the rule is that dogs and people must stay on trails. It was the consensus of the committee that this is often difficult to do with dogs off leash. It was noted that one person may walk up to three dogs at a time. There was interest expressed in revisiting this rule.

Milan Bull stated that the draft list of options and suggestions will be public available on the website. It was the consensus of the committee that the public should look at this and be heard at a public hearing. He expressed confidence that a reasonable solution can be reached.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 at 6:30 p.m., location to be determined. Public comment will be held at the meeting after the committee members report on their assigned tasks.

The Committee will give updates at Conservation Commission meetings but no public comment will be held at Conservation Commission meetings on the Committee’s updates.

II. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business, Catherine O’Donnell moved and Jennifer Hauhuth seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:19 a.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Fukuyama
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT
OPEN SPACE REGULATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES OF March 27, 2018

The Open Space Regulations Review Committee of the Conservation Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a Meeting on Tuesday, March 27, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in Team Room 292 of Roger Ludlow Middle School, 689 Unquowa Road, Fairfield, Connecticut 06824.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Milan Bull, Committee Chairman; Felicia B. Watson, Committee Secretary; Jennifer Hauhuth; Catherine O’Donnell

MEMBERS ABSENT: Elizabeth Jones

ALSO PRESENT: Brian Carey, Conservation Director; Ed Jones, Open Space Manager; Paul Miller, Animal Control Officer, Don Smith, Fairfield Police Department Captain; members of the public

CALL TO ORDER: Committee Chairman Milan Bull called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. and set forth the order of meeting proceedings.

I. CONSERVATION

A. Bills and Communications


II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Dog Leash Regulations For Town Open Spaces – Committee Discussion

Mr. Bull reminded those present that the charter of the Conservation Commission is to manage, protect, and conserve the natural resources of Fairfield’s open spaces. He stated that the trails within the open spaces are specially designed to avoid sensitive natural resources and to allow passive use of the open spaces and all guests are to stay on the designated trails. In his opinion, the commission cannot fulfill their obligations if they allow unlimited numbers of unleashed dogs to run at will through the sensitive areas that people are required to avoid. He believes it is their duty to require all dogs to be on leashes on all open spaces except in designated areas where there is limited opportunity to negatively affect natural resources. He noted that land trust properties in Fairfield and neighboring towns have a different focus and allow off-leash dogs. It was noted by the other committee members that this was only Mr. Bull’s opinion and not the opinion of the entire committee.
Mr. Miller, Animal Control Officer, and Captain Don Smith were asked to speak. Mr. Miller reported that on 6 days between Feb 22, 2018 and March 3, 2018, they did an enforcement action at Lake Mohegan. During this time period, dog owners were ticketed for various violations, which included dogs that were unleashed outside of the designated area, failure to have dogs registered, and failure to have rabies vaccine. He noted there were no nuisance violations. 31 infractions were issued. Roughly 1/3 of the tickets were for people who lived in Fairfield. Cpt. Smith noted that the enforcement started due to an increase in the number of incidents and complaints in the open spaces areas. It is their intent to continue with periodic enforcements. There was discussion between Mr. Miller, Cpt. Smith, and members of the Committee as to how to best enforce the regulations. Mr. Bull noted that none of these infractions affects the charter of the Conservation Commission. Mr. Carey noted that rewriting the regulations so they were more concise would reduce the ambiguity within the current regulations and allow them to be more enforceable, which would be beneficial to both the police and the citizens. Mr. Miller stated that in the 29 years that he has worked for the Town of Fairfield, he has seen a great increase in the number of people and dogs using the Lake Mohegan Open Space. Mr. Bull noted that the concern of committee is that this growth has a growing impact on the natural resources. Ms. O’Donnell noted that although Lake Mohegan is an open space, it is identified on the internet as a dog park. She also noted that there are people not using this resource because they feel they do not have access to it. The idea of having special off-leash hours was suggested, but it was noted that enforcement is an issue. Mr. Carey stated that the open spaces are managed as a multi-use area and the regulations are written to have the maximum benefit to everyone, and not for any specific user group.

B. Review Draft of Proposed Online Survey

Mr. Carey reviewed the committee decision from the last meeting to gather some background use data from the public regarding the use of Lake Mohegan. He sent a draft of this survey to the committee in January. He would like to get input from the Committee on this draft. The survey would be on the website and collect data for a period of one month. Ms. O’Donnell opined that this is a great idea and they need all the information they can get. There was a short discussion as to how to market the survey. The committee agreed that the survey would be beneficial.

Mr. Carey also noted that he has put together all the emails that have been sent to him, which are available online. He noted that many of the emails he has been getting have been offering solutions. There was a brief discussion on possible solutions, although it was noted that enforcement seems to be a concern.
C. Public Comment

Public comment began at 7:55 pm. Of the members of the public who were present, 9 took the opportunity to comment, both to the commission and to Mr. Miller and Cpt. Smith. Multiple people spoke of the self-policing community that exists at Lake Mohegan and urged the Committee to keep the regulations as they are. A lack of enforcement, not just for dogs, but for other issues including litter, swimming in undesignated areas, and unruly teenagers was mentioned by many. Cpt. Smith reminded people to call the police when they see any infraction. One person spoke in favor of leashes, as she has had multiple occasions of loose dogs causing disturbances in her yard near one of the Brett Woods entrances.

Public Comment closed at 8:57 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday April 25, 2018, location to be determined.

III. Adjournment – There being no further business, Ms. Hauhuth moved and Ms. O’Donnell seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Neafsey
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT
OPEN SPACE REGULATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES OF April 25, 2018

The Open Space Regulations Review Committee of the Conservation Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a Meeting on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in Board of Education Seminar Room 295 A & B, 501 Kings Highway, Fairfield, Connecticut 06824.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Milan Bull, Committee Chairman; Felicia B. Watson, Committee Secretary; Jennifer Hauhuth; Elizabeth Jones; Catherine O’Donnell

MEMBERS ABSENT: none

ALSO PRESENT: Brian Carey, Conservation Director; Ed Jones, Open Space Manager; Anthony Zemba, Certified Ecologist & Soil Scientist at Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc.; members of the public

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. O’Donnell called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and set forth the order of meeting proceedings.

Ms. Watson moved, and Mr. Bull seconded, to make Catherine O’Donnell the new Sub-Committee Chairman. Motion passed unanimously.

I. CONSERVATION

A. Bills and Communications

1. Approval of Draft Conservation Commission Open Space Regulations Review Committee Meeting Minutes March 27, 2018: Ms. Watson moved and Ms. Jones seconded to approve the Conservation Commission Open Space Regulations Review Committee Meeting Minutes of March 27, 2018. Motion passed unanimously.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion by Anthony Zemba from Fitzgerald & Halliday regarding Impacts from Dogs on the Natural Flora and Fauna

Mr. Carey asked Anthony Zemba, an ecologist from Fitzgerald & Halliday, to speak to the Conservation Commission, as his unique knowledge of the area and local flora and fauna are relevant to Fairfield’s open space areas. He noted that Mr. Zemba’s aim is to provide broad background information to the committee, and is not specific to Fairfield’s open spaces.

Mr. Zemba stated that he is a certified ecologist with experience in natural resource management, specializing in environmental impact analysis. He was asked to address the issue of dog use in natural areas. In 2013 he had a similar issue at the Trout Brook Valley Conservation Area, where they were preparing a Conservation Management Plan. He acknowledged that the issue is a complex, emotional and polarizing issue. He noted that the best way to approach the issue is to go to the literature and read all the different types of studies that have been done. He has found that a common thread in these studies is that there are adverse impacts associated with the presence of domestic dogs in natural preserves. He noted that some species are more susceptible to this impact than others.
This impact can become very significant when you are dealing with rare species, those that are endangered, threatened or of special concern. There is also a concern about the improper sanitary conditions that can come from the intense use of natural preserves, such as dog waste that does not get cleaned up.

Mr. Zemba noted that some municipalities have set up dog parks to combat this issue. He recognizes that this is not an easy solution, as the dog park can also concentrate the problems, such as the possibilities of altercations and the concentration of waste.

The Commission spoke at length with Mr. Zemba about the impact of human and domestic dogs on natural resources. It was noted several times that the recurring issue with many of the possible solutions was non-compliance and enforcement.

Ms. O’Donnell inquired about the last time an inventory of receptor species on Lake Mohegan and other open space areas. Mr. Carey noted that the last management plan for Lake Mohegan is from 1990. He believes it would be feasible to go through and do an inventory of the flora and fauna at Lake Mohegan. There was some discussion about the methods that are used to update the management plan, and the best way to do it.

The commission noted that they are trying to find a balance, to protect natural resources while allowing people to enjoy the open spaces. Fencing riparian areas that are sensitive to erosion was discussed briefly.

C. Review Draft of Proposed Online Survey

It was noted that the intent of the survey is to get a sense of the community and their usage of the town’s open space areas. Ms. O’Donnell stated that an introduction should be included, so the public knows why the survey was developed. The committee reviewed the draft questions of the proposed online survey and made some minor changes to direct the focus of the questions. The survey will be go live before the summer begins, and will be available on the town website for about a month. Publicity for the survey was discussed, including a press release, the Q-notify system, and social media. Mr. Carey will send a revised survey to the Commission members before the survey goes up on the town website.

D. Discussion regarding Feasibility of a Dog Park and Potential Locations

Mr. Bull noted that he does not believe that the development of a dog park should be under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission. The Commission members agreed that they can make a recommendation for the town to look into the feasibility of a dog park and it may be a topic that includes multiple town departments. Ms. Hauhuth noted that Weston just voted to put together a dog park.

Ms. O’Donnell noted that the next meeting should include a discussion about the enforcement of regulations. She asked the committee members to research what other communities are doing to aid in the solution of enforcement, including fees, spot checks, and other creative solutions. Ms. Watson recognized that the enforcement issue is also a financial issue.
Mr. Bull asked Mr. Zemba about the ranger program at Trout Brook Valley. Mr. Zemba noted that this program has been successful. The ranger at Trout Brook Valley is part time, and they do not issue fines or tickets for the infractions, but report the incidents to the police.

The next meeting will be scheduled for after the survey has concluded, so the results of the survey can be discussed. The date is to be determined.

B. Dog Leash Regulations For Town Open Spaces – Committee Discussion – no action.

III. Adjournment — There being no further business, Milan Bull moved and Jennifer Hauhuth seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Neafsey
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT
OPEN SPACE REGULATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 18, 2018

The Open Space Regulations Review Committee of the Conservation Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a Meeting on Wednesday, July 18, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fairfield Museum and History Center Meeting Room, 370 Beach Road, Fairfield CT.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Milan Bull, Committee Chairman; Felicia B. Watson, Committee Secretary; Jennifer Hauhuth; Elizabeth Jones; Catherine O’Donnell

MEMBERS ABSENT: none

ALSO PRESENT: Brian Carey, Conservation Director; Ed Jones, Open Space Manager; members of the public

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. O’Donnell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and set forth the order of meeting proceedings.

I. CONSERVATION

   A. Bills and Communications


II. OLD BUSINESS

   A. Review of Online Survey Results and Discussion

Ms. O’Donnell reported that the online survey ran for about 8 weeks. Mr. Carey noted that the survey was closed at the beginning of July and that there were over 1000 respondents. He briefly summarized the results of the survey questions. The subcommittee noted results of interest from the survey, such as the heaviest days and times of usage.

Ms. Jones called attention to the Lake Mohegan Open Space Management Plan, noting that although the plan has a section about fishing at the open space, it does not address dog-walking, yet many fisherman do not use this space anymore because of the presence of dogs. She noted that the Lake Mohegan Open Space Management Plan is what the Conservation Commission should be adhering to. Ms. Jones also noted that she spoke with Paul Miller, Animal Control Officer, prior to the meeting and that there have been no enforcement efforts at Lake Mohegan since April. She stated that she observes many of the rules are not being followed, and that self-policing efforts do not work. She also noted the excessive wear and tear on the trails at Lake Mohegan and suggested that closing off the trails for a period of time may help the land to recover.
B. Review of Previous Meeting Outcomes and Suggestions to Prioritize Options

Ms. O’Donnell distributed a list of recommendations and options that have come forward based on public input, committee research and various professional recommendations that have been presented at the sub-committee meetings. The options that were mentioned included: keeping the existing regulations unchanged, not allowing any dogs on all open space areas, only allowing leashed dogs on open space areas, allowing unleashed dogs at only specific locations within open space areas, allowing dogs at only specific times of day or year, and the development of an off-leash permit program.

Most of the discussion was focused on developing an off-leash permit program. It was mentioned that this program may produce a stream of revenue for the town and would help people to be accountable for their dogs. Concerns for this program included the enforcement of the permits and determining which town department would be in charge of the permits. It was discussed that instead of requiring the dogs to be trained in order to obtain the permit, the permits could be issued to applicants, but would be able to be revoked if issues arise.

Mr. Bull noted that fencing off the critically, most environmentally sensitive areas, such as the riparian areas, may help with the overuse of Lake Mohegan, and over time, the areas can be improved. Ms. Jones noted that she would like to restore balance to the use of the open space areas, perhaps closing Lake Mohegan to dogs for a period of time annually. During this closed time, environmentally sensitive areas can be identified and protected. It was noted that the intent for Lake Mohegan is not a dog park. Ms. O’Donnell noted that having only one area, such as Lake Mohegan, where dogs are allowed off-leash, with permits, would make it easier to enforce than allowing off-leash on all of the open space areas.

The sub-committee is in agreement that they will recommend off-lease use at Lake Mohegan, with the development of a permit program, while the other open space areas will be on-lease. A second off-lease area on the other side of town may be considered as well. Mr. Carey stated that he will work on the framework for the permitting process for the next meeting.

Ms. O’Donnell would like to have the recommendation presented to the Conservation Commission at October or November Conservation Committee meeting. The sub-committee will meet again in September, to work on finalizing the recommendation, and public comment should be included at this meeting.

Mr. Bull noted again the protection of critical areas, as Lake Mohegan is a priority for maintenance due to its overuse. It was also mentioned that some off-lease some training programs should be made available.

The idea of dog park was also mentioned briefly, and it was noted that it should be addressed in the recommendation to the Commission that this had been discussed as an option.

C. Discussion Regarding Feasibility of Off Leash Dog Permit Program – discussed above.

D. Recommendations for Follow-Up – Draft of final report to Conservation Commission - discussed above
III. Adjournment – There being no further business, Jennifer Hauhuth moved and Milan Bull seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Neafsey
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT
OPEN SPACE REGULATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES OF September 25, 2018

The Open Space Regulations Review Committee of the Conservation Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a Meeting on Tuesday, Sept 25, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fairfield Museum and History Center Meeting Room, 370 Beach Road, Fairfield CT.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Catherine O’Donnell, Committee Chairman; Felicia B. Watson, Committee Secretary; Jennifer Hauhuth; Elizabeth Jones; Milan Bull

MEMBERS ABSENT: none

ALSO PRESENT: Brian Carey, Conservation Director; Ed Jones, Open Space Manager; members of the public

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. O’Donnell called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and set forth the order of meeting proceedings.

I. CONSERVATION
   A. Bills and Communications

      1. Approval of Draft Conservation Commission Open Space Regulations Review Committee Meeting Minutes July 18, 2018: Jennifer Hauhuth moved and Elizabeth Jones seconded to approve the Conservation Commission Open Space Regulations Review Committee Meeting Minutes of July 18, 2018. Motion passed unanimously.

II. OLD BUSINESS
   A. Review of Previous Meeting Outcomes and Suggestions to Prioritize Options

Ms. O’Donnell noted that in reviewing all of the ideas discussed at previous meetings, the option at the top of the list is the feasibility of an off leash permit program. Mr. Carey stated that he has drafted an off leash permit program, which would be run through the Conservation Department and would be an annual permit program that will allow off-leash dogs in four Open Space areas. He noted that he has reviewed similar programs throughout the United States and has spoken with various town and county governments about their programs. Mr. Carey summarized the proposed program for the Commission, noting that he has already reviewed it with the Town Clerk and Captain Don Smith, and is awaiting comments from Paul Miller, Animal Control Officer. As a part of this program, both the dog and the owner would need to wear a visible permit so that both can be easily identified. The proposed Open Space Off-Leash Dog Permit Program would be run similar to the Town’s Shellfishing program. On-leash dogs would still be allowed at all Open Space areas.

It was noted that Animal Control would continue to do the enforcements, and the violations would be reported to the Police Department and the Conservation Department. Mr. Bull asked if the fees collected would be able to be used to increase enforcement.
Mr. Carey noted that he will need to check the state statutes, because unless it is specified, the fees collected from the permits would go into the Town’s general fund.

Ms. Watson noted that she thinks this proposal is a great compromise for both sides of the issue and was very happy to see four Open Space Areas as part of the program. She thanked Mr. Carey for the work that was put into it.

The Committee reviewed the sections of the program – the rules and regulations, procedures and requirements, violations and penalties, and implementation. Mr. Carey added that the penalties schedule may need RTM approval. The permits will be valid from July 1- June 30 each year, similar to the dog licenses. Most of the permit process should be able to be done through the mail.

Ms. Watson suggested that they may want to consider a grace period for out of town residents who are unaware of the new regulations. It was noted that new signage will need to be put up at all Open Space areas. Social media will be helpful to raise awareness of any new regulations. It was also noted that the websites featuring Lake Mohegan as a dog park should be contacted with any updates to the regulations.

Ms. Jones noted that she would like the Conservation Commission to consider closing Lake Mohegan to dogs for 2-3 months, both so that deferred maintenance can be done to the Open Space and to allow fisherman and other groups use of the Open Space without disruption from dogs. She feels that this property is being used to the exclusion of other groups. It was suggested that line receptacles should be placed for the fishermen as well.

Ms. O’Donnell noted that this idea can be placed in the recommendation to the Commission for discussion. She also mentioned the idea of allowing off-leash dogs on only even or odd days of the week.

Ms. O’Donnell noted that an assessment should be done after the program has been implemented to make sure it is running smoothly. Mr. Bull also noted that some of the areas where the dogs enter the water can be improved, both to benefit the dogs and the natural resources.

Ms. O’Donnell noted the committee will refine this proposal based on their discussion and public comments received at the meeting and online, and present that to the Conservation Commission for a final vote. She also suggested that it would be a good idea to have someone speak to the town Hingham, MA, to see how their similarly run program has fared. Mr. Carey was asked to put together a budget for the program. Ms. O’Donnell would like to have the committee meet one more time before the final recommendation is presented to the full Commission, at either the November or December meeting, so that any new program can be implemented June 2019.

Ms. O’Donnell thanked Mr. Carey for the work that he put into the program.

B. Discussion regarding feasibility Off Leash Dog Permit Program – discussed above

C. Recommendations for Follow-Up – Draft of final report to Conservation Commission – discussed above
III. Public Comment
Public comment began at 7:51 pm. Ms. O’Donnell asked that the comments be limited to 4 minutes per person. Of the members of the public who were present, 10 people spoke to the Commission. Many of the comments were about the self-policing habits of the people at Lake Mohegan and need for the rules to be defined, clearly visible, and enforced. Some comments asked for clarifications of the definitions within the proposed regulations. Many of those that spoke would like to see the regulations remain as is rather than implement a new permitting process.

IV. Adjournment – There being no further business, Elizabeth Jones moved and Jennifer Hauhuth seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Neafsey
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT
OPEN SPACE REGULATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES OF November 1, 2018

The Open Space Regulations Review Committee of the Conservation Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a Meeting on Thursday, November 1, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fairfield Museum and History Center Meeting Room, 370 Beach Road, Fairfield CT.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Catherine O'Donnell, Committee Chairman; Felicia B. Watson, Committee Secretary; Jennifer Hauhuth; Elizabeth Jones; Milan Busst

MEMBERS ABSENT: none

ALSO PRESENT: Brian Carey, Conservation Director; Pat Jones, Open Space Manager; members of the public

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. O'Donnell called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and set forth the order of meeting proceedings.

I. CONSERVATION
   A. Bills and Communications
      1. Approval of Draft Conservation Commission Open Space Regulations Review Committee Meeting Minutes September 25, 2018: Elizabeth Jones moved and Jennifer Hauhuth seconded to approve the Conservation Commission Open Space Regulations Review Committee Meeting Minutes of September 25, 2018. Motion passed unanimously.

II. OLD BUSINESS
   A. Review of Previous Meeting Outcomes and Suggestions to Prioritize Items
      O'Donnell stated that a draft proposal for an off-leash permit program was discussed at the last meeting and asked if any of the committee members had any questions. The proposed budget was discussed, with Mr. Carey noting that the money for this proposed program could be coming out of the Conservation budget for the fiscal year 2019-20. The goal was to have the proceeds from the program be able to fund the program and fund more enforcement. Mr. Carey also noted that the revenue is difficult to determine until a program is implemented because there is no way to tell how many people on a daily basis are using the open space areas. It was also noted that by state statute that the money generated from the program is put into the town general fund and not a separate fund. It was noted that this permit program will only be successful if there is increased enforcement. Mr. Carey stated that this is not a problem that is unique to our town, and that by looking at what other towns are doing they have been able to find some middle ground.

DRAFT MINUTES SUBJECT TO REVIEW, CORRECTION, AND APPROVAL BY THE OPEN SPACE REGULATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
Ms. Watson asked for clarification that the proposed off-leash permits would be issued per dog, and not per dog-walker/owner. Mr. Carey stated that with this program, the dog would have a permit tag on the collar, and the permit holder would have a matching permit card that can be transferred to whomever is walking the dog.

Mr. Bull opined that he does not think the Conservation Commission should be involved in permitting off-leash dogs. He also suggested that Brett Woods should be removed as one of the proposed off-leash areas because it is one of the more sensitive open space areas, there is limited parking, and there have already been complaints from the neighboring properties. He also noted that he thinks the Conservation Commission should retain the right to limit the number of permits that are issued based on habitat assessments from the Conservation Department. There was some discussion about this, and Mr. Carey noted that the recommendation should be presented to the full Conservation Commission, who will then work out the details and fees structure. It was also noted that a public hearing would be held before anything is finalized.

Ms. Watson questioned whether another Open Space area should replace Brett Woods if it were to be removed from the proposed permit program. There was some discussion over the number of open space areas that should be included in this program based on usage and enforcement. Mr. Carey noted that these suggestions should be brought to the full commission.

Ms. O’Donnell noted that many families have two or more dogs, which may affect the budget of the program since a second dog would double the cost per permit. Mr. Carey stated that this program will help to evaluate how the open space is being used because we don’t know how many residents and non-residents are using the open space.

Ms. O’Donnell suggested that an assessment process should also be included in the recommendation. It was discussed that a way of assessing the program would be to make it a line item on every Conservation Commission agenda, and include a tally of the number of permits, total revenue, and any enforcement or incidents. Mr. Carey noted that the question was discussed with Captain Don Smith, who is in agreement with it and hopes that it will work down minor nuisance infractions.


III. Public Comment

Public comment began at 7:38 pm. Ms. O’Donnell asked that the comments be limited to 4 minutes per person. Of the members of the public who were present, 17 spoke to the Commission. Most of the comments made noted that enforcement of the current regulations is the biggest issue at the Open Space areas, and that the lack of enforcement should be addressed before any new regulations are put in place.

Public comment ended at 8:36 pm.
Ms. Jones noted that the committee members have all been doing their due diligence by walking the trails at the Open Space areas and she encouraged people to reach out to them when they see them there.

Ms. O’Donnell noted that they have met with the both the police department and the Animal Control Officer about this program and that although they are aware that enforcement is an issue, they cannot provide more enforcement with the current budget. This program should generate income for the town that would ideally be able to allow more enforcement.

Mr. Carey stated that marking the boundaries between town and residential properties has been a problem throughout the state. Encroachments are resolved when they are found, but they are usually only found by looking at aerial photographs and not by people walking on the trails because the trails are designed to be centrally located.

Ms. O’Donnell noted that the multiple access points to Lake Ashokan may be a challenge for enforcement and should be noted in their report to the Commission.

Ms. O’Donnell recommended that the subcommittee should present to the full Conservation Commission a summary document of all of the deliberations along with their recommendations so that the full Commission can vote on the issue.

Mr. Carey stated that the Conservation Commission created the subcommittee in 2017 to see if restricting off-leash dogs is a viable solution. The subcommittee has met for a year, has multiple public comments, and has put together the framework of a program that has found some middle ground, which will be presented to the full Conservation Commission. The Conservation Commission will look at the proposed permit program, a detailed summary of the results of the subcommittee, and the public comments, and will then decide if they want to move forward with the proposal, modify it, or reject it. In order to change any rules and regulations, a public hearing would be required.

Mr. Carey noted that the biggest thing he has as the Conservation Director is that he has no way to gauge how many people are using the Open Space properties. Without knowing its usage, it is hard to plan for the management for the open spaces. He has spoken with the police department multiple times about the need for more enforcement.

Elizabeth Jones moved and Jennifer Hauhuth seconded that the recommendation of the subcommittee is for the full Conservation Commission to review and implement the draft off-leash permit program. In favor – O’Donnell, Jones, Hauhuth, Bull. Against – Watson. Motion carried 4-1.

IV. Adjournment: There being no further business, Felicia Watson moved and Elizabeth Jones seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Neafsey
TOWN OF FAIRFIELD

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Open Space Off Leash Dog Permit Program

Rules and Regulations
Table of Contents

Section 1: Introduction

Section 2: Definitions

Section 3: Off-Leash Dog Walking Rules and Regulations (Permitted Areas Map)

Section 4: Permitting Procedures and Requirements (Fairfield Open Space Off Leash Permit Program)

Section 5: Violations Table

Section 6: Implementation Plan
Section 1: Introduction

The following Fairfield Open Space Off-Leash Dog Permit Program Rules and Regulations for Fairfield Open Space Areas are being promulgated by the Fairfield Conservation Commission in its capacity as the governing body who holds the responsibility to manage open space land in the Town of Fairfield as defined under the Town Charter in Section 10.3.B.(2)(a).

The rules and regulations were drafted by the Conservation Commission Open Space Regulatory Review Sub Committee and were further reviewed by the the Chief of Police, the Animal Control Officer, Town Clerk, and the Conservation Commission before adoption on [Date Certain].

The draft was modified to include the comments and concerns of members of the public and the Board of Selectmen and to reflect the advice of legal counsel.

The rules and regulations are subject to a twelve (12) month "look-back" by the Conservation Commission to assess among other factors, overall compliance with the rules and regulations, violations of the rules and regulations (including warnings), enforcement issues, administrative issues, environmental concerns and general off-leash usage.

Please note however that the Conservation Commission has the authority at any time to amend, suspend or terminate the Off-Leash Dog Walking Program in its sole discretion.

For all non-emergency reports of violations arising under this program please contact 203-256-4800 (only emergency calls should be directed to 911).
Section 2: Definitions

1) **Attack.** A dog chasing persons or animals (domestic or wild) in an aggressive manner and/or biting or causing injury to a person or animal.

2) **Dog Owner.** The person who files and signs the application for a permit hereunder to the Town Clerk.

3) **Enforcement Officer.** Any of the following: Animal Control Officer, a Fairfield Police Officer and any other designated person appointed by the Chief of Police. Such Enforcement Officer is hereby authorized to enforce these rules and regulations.

4) **Off-Leash Walking Distance.** A Permitted Dog must be within the line of sight of a Responsible Walker and be no more than forty (40) feet away from the Responsible Walker at all times.

5) **Permitted Dog.** A dog that has been registered with the proper licensed in the State of Connecticut and Conservation Department to participate in the Open Space Off-Leash Dog Permit Program as further described in the rules and regulations and on the permit application.

6) **Responsible Walker.** Any person who brings a Permitted Dog into Fairfield Open Space Areas, including but not limited to the Dog Owner, person in charge and/or keeper of the Permitted Dog. All Responsible Walkers agree to abide by the Off-leash Dog Walking Rules and Regulations as set forth in the permit Application.

7) **Unwelcomed Greeting.** Jumping, humping or other un-wanted contact by a dog against a person who has expressed that he/she does not want such contact.

8) **Violation.** A violation of any provision of the rules and regulations adopted hereunder and as more particularly described in the Violations Table.

9) **Voice Control.** A Permitted Dog must be able to return promptly to a Responsible Walker upon command from the Responsible Walker.
Section 3: Off-Leash Dog Walking Rules and Regulations

1.) All dogs shall be walked on-leash in Fairfield Open Space Areas at all times except as provided herein. Permitted Dog(s) and only Permitted Dog(s) may be walked by a Responsible Walker in compliance with the posted restrictions. Permitted Dog(s) must be at all times, (i) within the Off-Leash Walking Distance and (ii) under Voice Control. The following are the only open space areas available for off-leash permitted dogs:

- Lake Mohegan Open Space
  Acreage: 170.4 acres
  Access: beach parking lot; Morehouse Highway and Mohican Hill Road; Morehouse Highway just south of the Merritt Parkway; East Field Circle; Morehouse Highway just south of the beach parking lot

- Hoyden’s Hill Open Space
  Acreage: 58.5 acres
  Access: Hoyden’s Lane by Driving Range entrance or at Driving Range; North Street west of Morehouse Highway

- Brett Woods Conservation Area
  Acreage: 185.7 acres
  Access: west end North Street and Redding Road (just past cul-de-sac); North Street and Gilbert Highway (end of North Street); Fallow Field Road (at Mulberry Hill Road right-of-way); Treasure Road and Gilbert Highway

- Pine Creek Marsh
  Acreage: 77 acres
  Access: north side of Old Dam Road, east of tennis courts

2.) The Responsible Walker must carry a leash for each Permitted Dog at all times while walking a Permitted Dog in any of the designated off leash open space areas.

3.) An Enforcement Officer may, at any time, determine in his or her sole discretion whether or not a Permitted Dog is within the Off-Leash Walking Distance. Any Permitted Dog outside the Off-Leash Walking Distance may be found by the Enforcement Officer to be in violation of these rules and regulations.

4.) An Enforcement Officer may, at any time, request that a Responsible Walker demonstrate Voice Control and shall have the authority to determine in his or her sole discretion whether or not a Permitted Dog is under Voice Control. Any Permitted Dog that does not conform to Voice Control may be found by the Enforcement Officer to be in violation of these rules and regulations.

5.) A Responsible Walker may walk up to two (2) Permitted Dogs at any one time.

All dogs shall be leashed at all times in the parking areas of all open space areas and within 100-feet of areas leading to the designated park area.

No dogs shall be left unattended in any open space area. Unattended dogs may be picked up by an Enforcement Officer and the owner may be subject to applicable enforcement actions.
The owner of the Permitted Dog and the Responsible Walker are responsible for ensuring that the Permitted Dog's activities in authorized open space areas conform to the Off-Leash Dog Walking Program Rules and Regulations and such individuals shall be jointly and severally liable for any and all damage, injury or violation caused by the Permitted Dog.

The Fairfield Conservation Department is hereby authorized to issue an Open Space Off-Leash Dog Permits ("OLDP Permit") in conformance with all dog licensing requirements of the Town of Fairfield and the off-leash requirements and the permitting procedures and requirements adopted by the Conservation Commission as set forth in the form attached hereto. Only dogs with an OLDP Permit -- Permitted Dogs -- shall be allowed off-leash in authorized areas only and only pursuant to the foregoing rules and regulations.

The Dog Owner and the Responsible Walker of any Permitted Dog found in violation of these rules and regulations and as more particularly set forth in the Violations Table shall, in the judgment of the Enforcement Officer, be subject to one or more fines and penalties as provided in said Violations Table and may be ordered to immediately leash the Permitted Dog to cease any such violation. A violation of any provision of the Permitting Procedures and Requirements shall be considered a violation of these rules and regulations. A record of all such fines and penalties will be maintained by the Chief of Police or his/her designee.
Section 4: Permitting Procedures and Requirements

1) A Fairfield Open Space Off-Leash Dog Permit as issued by the Conservation Department (the “OLDP”) must be obtained by the Dog Owner prior to any off-leash dog walking in approved Fairfield Open Space Areas that allow off leash walking.

2) The Permit shall be clearly displayed at all times on the permitted dog and the Responsible Walker walking the dog off-leash.

3) Each dog must wear a tag on its collar which reflects the OLDP Permit number.

4) Each dog must have its own OLDP Permit.

5) In order to obtain an OLDP Permit, the Dog Owner must supply the following to the Conservation Department:
   a. Dog Owners must submit a completed Fairfield Open Space Off-Leash Dog Permit Application (applicant must be 18 years of age or older to obtain an OLDP Permit).
   b. A copy of the Dog Owner’s driver’s license or other government issued identification.
   c. Proof of a current dog license from the Town of Fairfield or other issuing Jurisdiction must be provided.
   d. If not shown by the current dog license, a current rabies vaccination certification must be provided (a current Town of Fairfield dog license already shows that a rabies vaccination certification has been provided).
   e. A Dog Owner must certify that the dog has not previously been involved in an Attack as defined herein.
   f. A Dog Owner must agree to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Town of Fairfield from liability, injury or damage caused by their off-leash dog.
   g. A Dog Owner must agree to release the Town of Fairfield from liability, injury or damage caused by their off-leash dog and agree to waive any claims or causes of action against the Town arising hereunder.
   h. A Dog Owner must certify that he/she has read the Off-Leash Dog Walking Program rules and regulations and on behalf of himself/herself and any Responsible Walker agrees to abide by the same. Further, a Dog Owner must certify that any Responsible Walker of the owner’s dog will also read the Off-Leash Dog Walking Program rules and regulations and will abide by the same.
   i. Providing false information or certifications on the application shall be grounds for permanent revocation of the OLDP Permit.

6) Retention of OLDP Permit is subject to the requirements of the Violations Table.
7) OLDP Permits are valid as follows:
   a. Fairfield Residents — All dogs licensed by the Town of Fairfield shall, upon proper submittal of
      the required material, be issued an OLDP Permit. Said OLDP Permit shall expire upon the earliest
      to occur of the following:
         i. Expiration of the existing dog license and/or rabies vaccination certification;
         ii. June 30th of every Calendar Year.
   b. Non-Fairfield Residents — All dogs owned by non-Fairfield residents shall, upon proper submittal of
      the required material, be issued an OLDP Permit. Said OLDP Permit shall expire upon the earliest
      to occur of the following:
         i. Expiration of the existing dog license and/or rabies vaccination certification;
         ii. One year from the date of issuance of the OLDP Permit.

8) All OLDP Permits are subject to renewal upon expiration by submitting a completed Fairfield Open
    Space Off-Leash Dog Permit Application to the Town of Fairfield Conservation Department.
Section 5: Violations Table

Category A
1) A dog Attack on a person or animal.
2) Leaving the scene of a dog Attack without providing identifying information including the owner’s and Responsible Walker’s name, address, telephone number and OLDP Permit number to an Enforcement Officer responding to a dog Attack or to an aggrieved person that has suffered from a dog Attack.
3) Refusal to display an Open Space Off Leash Dog Permit (OLDP) to an Enforcement Officer responding to a dog Attack or to an aggrieved person that has suffered from a dog Attack.

Category B
1) Dog giving Unwelcomed Greeting to a person.
2) Dog entering or damaging any Restricted Area(s) as shown on the Permitted Areas Map.

Category C
1) Dog walking off-leash in parking area.
2) Dog walking off-leash without an OLDP Permit or using an OLDP Permit or tag belonging to another Permitted Dog.
3) All other violations of these rules and regulations including all other Fairfield Open Space dog regulations referenced herein.

All local, state and federal laws continue to be in force in all Fairfield Open Space Areas in addition to the above Violations Table

Fines and Penalties
Category A - $250 fine and permanent revocation of OLDP Permit after 1 violation Category B* - $100 fine
Category C** - $50 fine

* Two category B violations will result in permanent revocation of OLDP Permit and One Category B violation coupled with two category C violations will also result in permanent revocation of OLDP Permit.

** Three Category C violations will result in permanent revocation of OLDP Permit

Providing false information or certifications on the application for an OLDP Permit shall also be grounds for permanent revocation of the OLDP Permit.

Violations will be tracked in perpetuity, violations are cumulative and stay with the Permitted Dog throughout the Permitted Dog’s life and are not subject to a reset.
Section 5: Implementation Plan

Approval of Open Space Off-Leash Dog Permit Program rules and regulations is anticipated to occur in Winter of 2018/2019. Upon approval of the rules and regulations, Town staff will undertake the necessary steps to implement the program, including:

- Purchase of necessary material and equipment: Permit cards, dog tags, signage and other necessary material and equipment.
- Development of procedures for permitting
- Personnel Training: Conservation Department, Police Officers, Animal Control Officers
- Creation and distribution of educational material
- Development of online application
- Staff level incident tracking tool - development and training
- On-line complaint and reporting tool for public use

Enactment of off-leash walking rules and regulations is recommended to begin on or near July 1st, 2019
# TOWN OF FAIRFIELD

## OPEN SPACE OFF LEASH DOG PERMIT PROGRAM

**Renewal?** Yes _No

**OWNER'S NAME 1:**

**OWNER'S NAME 2:**

**Email (Required):**

**OWNER'S STREET ADDRESS:**

**CITY/TOWN:** [ ] STATE: [ ] ZIP: [ ]

**DAY PHONE:** [ ] **EVENING PHONE:** [ ]

Resident = $50 per dog (2nd Dog $25)  Non-Resident = $100 per dog (2nd Dog $50)

**VETERINARIAN'S NAME:**

**VETERINARIAN'S PHONE #:**

**DOG NAME 1:** [ ] **PERMIT NUMBER:** [ ]

**CT DOG LICENSE NUMBER:** [ ] **EXPIRATION DATE:** [ ]

[ ] **FEMALE** [ ] **MALE**

**LICENSE NUMBER:** [ ] **EXPIRATION DATE:** [ ]

**DOG NAME 2:** [ ] **PERMIT NUMBER:** [ ]

**BREED:** [ ] **COLOR:** [ ]

[ ] **FEMALE** [ ] **MALE**

**CT DOG LICENSE NUMBER:** [ ] **EXPIRATION DATE:** [ ]

---

Turn over to complete application

---

For office use only:

**Payment:** [ ] **Date:**

**Amount:** [ ] Check #: [ ] Cash: [ ] Receipt #: [ ]

Received and Verified for Accuracy by:
TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
OPEN SPACE OFF LEASH DOG PERMIT PROGRAM

Permit Application (continued)

In consideration for being permitted to use the Town of Fairfield’s open space facilities to exercise my dog off leash, I agree, for myself and/or for any minor children in my care as parent or legal guardian (“my minor children”) who accompany me, to fully and completely release the Town of Fairfield and its officials, employees, boards, departments, agents and affiliated entities from any and all claims, liabilities or actions for any personal injuries or the personal property of any such minor children arising from our/their use of the Town’s facilities or participation in the open space off-leash dog program.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, I agree to indemnify, defend and hold the Town of Fairfield, its employees, agents, officials and authorized volunteers harmless from and against any and all claims, losses, damages, expenses, causes of action and liabilities (including without limitation, attorneys’ fees) arising out of or related to my use of the Town’s open space facilities as a participant in the off-leash dog program, unless such claims arise from the sole negligence of the Town’s, its employees, agents, officials or authorized volunteers. Such obligation to indemnify, defend and hold the Town’s, its employees, agents, officials or authorized volunteers harmless shall survive the expiration of the participation permit.

I attest that I have and will keep current for the duration of the permit, Homeowner’s or Renter’s Insurance as well as current DHLPP (Distemper) and Rabies vaccinations for each Dog on this application. I reviewed the information on the Fairfield Conservation Department website entitled, “Dog Behavior Guide-lines”, found at www.fairfielddct.org on the Open Space Off Leash Dog Program page, and agree to follow all of the rules of the off-leash program included but not limited to the following:

- Owners/ handlers will not walk more than two dogs off-leash.
- Owners/ handlers will carry a leash for each dog.
- Dogs have appropriate permit tags on their collars and dog owner / handlers will have their permit cards.
- Dogs will be within sight and under voice control at all times.
- Dogs will come and stay by the side of their owner immediately when called.
- Dogs will not charge or display aggression towards any person or behaves in a way that any reasonable person finds to be harassing or disturbing.
- Dogs will not chase or display aggression towards other dogs.
- Dogs will not chase harass or disturb wildlife.

________________________________________
PRINT OWNER’S NAME 1:

________________________________________
OWNER’S SIGNATURE 1: _________________________ DATE: __________

________________________________________
PRINT OWNER’S NAME 2:

________________________________________
OWNER’S SIGNATURE 2: _________________________ DATE: __________
## Q1 Address

**Answered:** 1,076  **Skipped:** 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Company</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address 2</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City/Town</td>
<td>99.31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State/Province</td>
<td>98.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZIP/Postal Code</td>
<td>99.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email Address</td>
<td>89.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone Number</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q2 What is your gender?

Answered: 1,076    Skipped: 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>71.56%</td>
<td>770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>28.35%</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0.09%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,076</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q3 What is your age group?

Answered: 1,076  Skipped: 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Choices</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 or younger</td>
<td>0.46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-31</td>
<td>6.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-40</td>
<td>15.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41-50</td>
<td>28.44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51-60</td>
<td>31.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61-70</td>
<td>13.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 or older</td>
<td>4.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q4 About how long have you lived in this neighborhood?

Answered: 1,077  Skipped: 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Years</td>
<td>98.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Months</td>
<td>45.96%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q5 Do you have any children living at home?

Answered: 1,071    Skipped: 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>39.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>47.53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>12.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5+</td>
<td>0.56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q6 In a typical week, how many days do you visit Open Space Areas owned by the Town of Fairfield.

Answered: 1,077  Skipped: 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Once a week</td>
<td>28.88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 4 days a week</td>
<td>34.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 7 days a week</td>
<td>21.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>15.41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q7 Which open space area do you visit the most?

Answered: 1,080, Skipped: 0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Choices</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lake Mohegan</td>
<td>60.83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brett Woods</td>
<td>7.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoydens Hill</td>
<td>1.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace Richardson</td>
<td>0.83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mill River (Perry's Pond)</td>
<td>3.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine Creek Area</td>
<td>8.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ash Creek (Penfield Mills)</td>
<td>7.79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>9.81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q8 While using public open space, what types of activities do you most engage in:

Answered: 1,040 | Skipped: 0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hiking</td>
<td>60.46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biking</td>
<td>3.52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog Walking</td>
<td>70.85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife Viewing</td>
<td>23.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geocaching</td>
<td>1.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>5.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>9.63%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Respondents: 1,080
Q9 Do you own a dog(s)?

Answered: 1,078   Skipped: 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>77.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>22.73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q10 If so, how many dogs do you currently own?

Answered: 842    Skipped: 238

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER</th>
<th>CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>70.31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>28.74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>More than 3</td>
<td>0.96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q11 How often do you walk your dogs at Town owned open space property?

Answered: 891   Skipped: 189

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Choices</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>17.40% 155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 3 days a week</td>
<td>25.25% 225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 to 5 days a week</td>
<td>15.04% 134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than once a week</td>
<td>10.89% 97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>6.96% 62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>9.65% 86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekends Only</td>
<td>6.06% 54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>8.75% 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q12 What time of day do you typically walk your dog at Town owned Open Space?

Answered: 817   Skipped: 283

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time of Day</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early mornings 6 am - 9 am</td>
<td>14.57%</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mornings 9 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>37.82%</td>
<td>309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early afternoon 12 pm - 3 pm</td>
<td>20.93%</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Afternoon 3 pm - 6 pm</td>
<td>20.69%</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evenings after 6 pm (seasonally)</td>
<td>6.00%</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>817</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q13 Have you ever had a positive or negative experience at a Town owned open space area related to encounters with off leash dogs?

Answered: 1,064    Skipped: 16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Choices</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More positive than negative</td>
<td>64.47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More negative than positive</td>
<td>21.52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Opinion</td>
<td>6.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0.38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If other, please brief...</td>
<td>7.61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q14 For Open Space visitors without dogs, what time of day do you typically use Town open space?

Answered: 617  Skipped: 463

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early mornings 6 am - 9 am</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mornings 9 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early afternoon 12 pm - 3 pm</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Afternoon 3 pm - 6 pm</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evenings after 6 pm</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>617</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q15 Town of Fairfield permits unleashed dogs with visitors and has specific regulations for dogs at all Open Space parcels. Does that fact impact your decision to utilize and visit the Town Open Space?

Answered: 1,062  Skipped: 18

ANSWER CHOICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unleashed dogs in open spaces does not impact my use or enjoyment of the Town's Open Space areas</td>
<td>89.21% 735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I do not/will not use Open Space areas that allows unleashed dogs.</td>
<td>23.73% 252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Opinion</td>
<td>7.06% 75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1,062</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q16 Do you feel the Town is effectively enforcing the existing open space regulations on Town owned land?

Answered: 1,057  Skipped: 23

Yes: 63.58%  672
No: 24.79%  262
Please Explain: 11.64%  123

TOTAL: 1,057
Q17 Would you use a park that was fenced and dedicated just to off-leash dogs?

Answered: 1,029  Skipped: 51

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Choices</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>45.77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>26.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If no, please explain your...</td>
<td>27.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q18 What do you like the most about the open space areas that you use?

Answered: 940   Skipped: 140
Q19 What do you like least about the open space areas that you use?

Answered: 853  Skipped: 227
Q20 What options listed below might you be in favor of:

Answered: 1,032  Skipped: 45

Yes

- Keep dog leash policy as is...
- Reduce time allowed in open space...
- Enclosed stand alone dog park
- User and license program...

No

- Keep dog leash policy as is in the Town of Fairfield
- Reduce time allowed in open space for unleashed dogs
- Enclosed stand alone dog park
- User and license program before dogs are allowed off leash on open space

**Number of responses:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>460</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Number of responses:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

20 / 21
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>% Support</th>
<th>Votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Keep dog leash policy as is in the Town of Fairfield</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce time allowed in open space for unleashed dogs</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enclosed stand alone dog park</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>User and license program before dogs are allowed off leash on open space</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>426</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lake Mohegan is a 170 acre public park in Fairfield, Connecticut. It is a deep lake, a former quarry, with distinctive sandy soils along its edges. The uplands surrounding the lake, once dominated by oak, have transitioned to American Beech forest due to deer browse and other factors. The majority of the riparian zones around the lake are subjected to intense human use and show signs of erosion and the loss of terrestrial plant species. The park also contains approximately 3,000 linear feet of the Mill River, and important aquatic resource for fisherman, hikers, and aquatic species. The Mill River empties into the northwest corner of Lake Mohegan, where it has created a small, but rapidly growing, delta.

The Mill River’s Mouth at Lake Mohegan has significantly eroded and filled in, as seen above in 1991, 2013, and 2017. (Image credit: Google Earth, 2018)

Lake Mohegan still operates from an overall master plan completed in 1990 by LR Johnston Associates. Since that time, Park use, especially along the woodland trails, has dramatically increased. Dog walkers, hikers, and fishermen all have discovered this park and it is quickly bringing in greater and greater populations. This increased pressure has led to the erosion of shorelines, river banks, and hillsides. Human and dogs utilize miles of trails through the woods, many of which is unmarked and unplanned. This pressure has also led to limited conflict within the community between and within different use groups.

In response to the aging existing park master plan and increasing public use, the town of Fairfield wishes to develop a supplemental plan that will improve user experiences, protect and restore ecological health of the park, and prioritize specific capital and operational improvements to circulation. This work would require the following tasks:

A. Review of existing master plan. The Lake Mohegan Open Space Area Multiple Use Management Plan was completed in 1990 and contains a significant amount of baseline data and information about the Park. One Nature will review this document in detail and highlight sections which should be updated related to our overall scope of work.
B. Park mapping as needed. After reviewing the existing Park Master Plan, our team will collect updated aerial and topographic imagery using Geospatial Information software (QGIS). This aerial imagery will help us document locations where the most significant ecological disturbances have occurred since 1990 (for example, river morphology, shoreline erosion, or changes to forest canopy structure).

C. Rapid natural resources inventory, focused on shorelines. Our botanist and a field technician will spend a half day at the Park documenting habitat conditions along the river and lake. This site visit will be memorialized in the final report.

D. Concept design and planning for in-stream river restorations. Using existing conditions maps, our planning and design team will develop restoration objectives, a design palette, and suggested next steps.

E. Concept design and planning for trail system. Using the 1990 trail map in the current Master Plan, our planning and design team will develop a design to create trail hierarchy (primary, secondary, and wilderness trail types). We may also develop a trail re-alignment and/or reduction plan if warranted.

F. Concept design and planning for wayfinding and signage. Our design team will suggest locations and types of new signage. We will not design signs as part of this scope.

G. Concept design and planning for re-forestation and riparian plantings. Our design team will evaluate current species, historic species, and likely future tree species for the Park. We will make suggestions on where to focus reforestation efforts.

H. Invasive species management planning and recommendations. Our botanist and a field technician will visit the site for a half day to identify invasive species and make recommendations on their control.

I. Meetings. We will attend up to 4 meetings as part of this scope of work.

J. Table of potential capital projects and costs. We will develop approximate budgets for the different capital projects recommended by our study.

K. Park stewardship plan. We will make suggestions on how the Park can be stewarded more effectively and project new stewardship expenses from our suggestions.

L. Final Report. We will generate a final report to memorialize and present our suggestions for park improvements. We will provide this report digitally (PDF) and as 2 bound printed copies.

Schedule
Tasks A through L can be completed in 90 days form project approval.

Deliverables
Electronic + 1-2 printed copies of final report
3-4 Meetings

Fees
The total fee required for this work is $9,770.
Dear Mr. Ed Jones (Fairfield Town Open Space Manager) and team,
below I have updated the Lake Mohegan Trail Safety Markers & Blazing Eagle Project Scope Summary reflecting our in person Meeting Friday 1-24-19 decisions. Attendees included Ed Jones, Tom Course and Lt John Calandriello, myself Will Huckins and my father Chris Huckins.

During our last meeting we all agreed that an onsite meeting will be needed, to walk that trail section to determine the practicality of Trail Marker Post Spacing ~ every 10th of a mile 528 feet, and if using the town augur tractor will be feasible.

If possible I would like to meet today Friday 2/8/2019 at 2:45PM at the Moore's Highway entrance to the Yellow Trail since the weather will be favorable today. Let me know as soon as possible if this would be possible. If everyone can't attend today can some of us meet and update the others with our recommendations?

Lake Mohegan Trail Safety Markers & Blazes Eagle Project 2-8-2019 Summary - By Will Huckins - Boy Scout from Troop 199
(Sponsored by the Fairfield Recreation Department)


Project Goals (Flexible Mix) and Assumptions:

Trail Safety Locator Markers on the Yellow Lake Mohegan Trail
1. Install 15-20 - 6”x6”x 5-6’ Angled Pressure treated Posts for “Trail Safety Locator Markers“ into cement footings on the Eastern Perimeter “Yellow” Trail away from obvious park landmarks to help speed Emergency Workers to the right location(s) in the park. The Fairfield Town Conservation department will provide the posts and perform all the angled cuts and engraving of the post lettering, and the angled 2 x 8 surface sign blocks to be
screwed into the angled ends of the posts. After I visited the east side Yellow Trail I think that we can keep to Trail Location Posts at regular 10th of Mile or 528 feet increments, except at trail junctions or significant trail turns.

2. **Pressure Treated 6x6 Posts and Cement:** I contacted all of the local lumber yards and none were willing to supply all the cement or all of the 6x6 pressure treated wood. I did get limited Product Vouchers for $25-100 to acquire some minor items from to yards. So it appears we will have to rely on the town of Fairfield to provide the all of the Pressure Treated 6"x6" Posts, Cement and paint. Ed Jones will need to confirm if this is possible.

3. **Post Holes, Placement and GPS Coordinates:** The Fairfield town Conservation department will pre-drill all ~ 2' post holes where we (Conservation department and I) will place agreed upon pre-surveyed marker stakes. Tom Course was very confident that he would be able to get his Auger tractor into all portions of the trail to drill all the holes. The Scout teams will then clear the hole debris with post hole diggers and shovels, place the posts, and place 60lb of cement collars around the base and back fill each hole. Each post must be checked to be vertical and the top angled plate oriented properly towards the trail, to be easily visible to visitors. The GPS location coordinates will then be recorded for each post for later transfer to fire department rescue maps.

4. **Post Preparation by Conservation Crew:** It is assumed that the town Conservation crew will precut all angled post cuts, pre-stain posts, and determine a design, method to engrave location marks, pre-stain and secure 6x6 end cap Sign Boards on top of each angled marker posts. The conservation department and fire department will finalize to the location marker Naming/Numbering scheme based upon best practices. One proposed scheme was LM E00.2M, which translates to Lake Mohogan East Post 00.2 Miles, by extension other markers would be LM N01.1M, S03.5M. This same format could then be used in all other parks going forward.

5. **Pre-deploy Materials. Hand Tools arrangements:** Less than 3 days before the designated weekend scout work weekend(s) the conservation crew will pre-deploy the marker posts, cement bags in plastic bags (protected from rain), and water jugs. The scouts could use their own tools or the towns tools – TBD (to be determined).

6. **Town Approvals:** Ed Jones of the conservation department will manage getting formal approvals, to place these New “Trail Safety Locator Markers” into the park, from town and state officials as needed. It is hoped these will be obtained as early as possible so there will be no surprises.

7. **Project Planning, Expertise, Guidance and Communications:** It is expected there will be many more planning coordination and status meetings, site surveys, planning notes and communications prior and concurrent to any and all work, to ensure project success. It is assumed that the town of Fairfield Conservation Department would supply Guidance, Infrastructure Team, Equipment, and Material Resources as the town allows. The Troop would supply as much manpower, as safety allows. Will Huckins Eagle scout candidate from Troop 199 will manage all project coordination and communication between the town Conservation department and the Boy Scout resources.

Re Mark/Blaze Existing and Replace lost Blazes for the 4 Town Established Trails of the Park. Blazes should be visible from 1 Mark to the next, at Trail heads and intersections, topology and turns. Blaze Marks will be made using the Town's 4 established Oil based paint colors (Yellow, Red, Orange, Blue) as directed by best trail practices and the Town of Fairfield Conservation Manager. Marks will generally be made on Both sides of each tree Blaze so as to be seen when walking from either direction. It is estimated that as many as 40-60 Blazes may be needed. If rough barked trees (Oak, Tulip Poplar, hickory. Avoiding Ash) they will need to be shaved smooth before being painted.
Place Newly created “Park Trail Maps” on the back side of each Entry Kiosk behind plexiglass. New trail maps should prominently advertise the Town’s Trail Maps PDF web URL directory, for hikers to download to their Mobile phones. Note that all town park trail maps use the same trail color designations. Especially highlight that at All Yellow Trails – generally follow the park’s perimeter.

Next Steps after an Initial Beneficiary Project Discussion
Will Huckins will follow the Eagle Scout Project Initialization documentation in order to gain formal Boy Scouts Association – BSA Committee Approval.
- Meeting to Finalize Scope with the Beneficiary – Conservation and Fire Department Participants in order to Formally Document Project Scope

Attached Reference Documents:
2. Eagle Service Project Beneficiary Role 2Pgs1-2019.PDF - 2 Pages
3. Fairfield Town Conservation Photo Trail Map LakeMohegan2009.PDF – 1 Page
4. NYStateParksTrails TechSignageGuidelines 11-16 Pgs2015.PDF
5. Trail Markers Gets First Responders to Trail Rescues Fast LI NY StatePark 5Pgs1-2019.pdf

Scout Contact Information:
Will can be reached on his Cell phone 203 581-1501, H 203 254-2970, willhuckins12@gmail.com, Junior @ Ludlowe High School, Boy Scout Troop 199, Troop Leader: Jim Muschett.

Respectfully,

Will Huckins

95 Orchard Hill Drive
Fairfield, Ct 06824
C 203 581-1503
H 203 254-2970
WillHuckins12@gmail.com
Boy Scout Troop 199
Troop Leader: Jim Muschett
Junior @ Ludlowe High School
Lake Mohegan Trail Safety Markers & Blazes Eagle Project
2-8-2019 Summary - By Will Huckins - Boy Scout from Troop 199
(Sponsored by the Fairfield Recreation Department)


Project Goals (Flexible Mix) and Assumptions:

Trail Safety Locator Markers on the Yellow Lake Mohegan Trail

1. Install 15-20 - 6”x6”x 5-6’ Angled Pressure treated Posts for “Trail Safety Locator Markers” into cement footings on the Eastern Perimeter “Yellow” Trail away from obvious park landmarks to help speed Emergency Workers to the right location(s) in the park. The Fairfield Town Conservation department will provide the posts and perform all the angled cuts and engraving of the post lettering, and the angled 2 x 8 surface sign blocks to be screwed into the angled ends of the posts. After I visited the east side Yellow Trail I think that we can keep to Trail Location Posts at regular 10th of Mile or 528 feet increments, except at trail junctions or significant trail turns.

2. Pressure Treated 6x6 Posts and Cement: I contacted all of the local lumber yards and none were willing to supply all the cement or all of the 6x6 pressure treated wood. I did get limited Product Vouchers for $25-100 to acquire some minor items from to yards. So it appears we will have to rely on the town of Fairfield to provide all of the Pressure Treated 6"x6" Posts, Cement and paint. Ed Jones will need to confirm if this is possible.

3. Post Holes, Placement and GPS Coordinates: The Fairfield town Conservation department will pre-drill all ~ 2’ post holes where we (Conservation department and I) will place agreed upon pre-surveyed marker stakes. Tom Course was very confident that he would be able to get his Auger tractor into all portions of the trail to drill all the holes. The Scout teams will then clear the hole debris with post hole diggers and shovels, place the posts, and place 60lb of cement collars around the base and back fill each hole. Each post must be checked to be vertical and the top angled plate oriented properly towards the trail, to be easily visible to visitors. The GPS location coordinates will then be recorded for each post for later transfer to fire department rescue maps.

4. Post Preparation by Conservation Crew: It is assumed that the town Conservation crew will precut all angled post cuts, pre-stain posts, and determine a design, method to engrave location marks, pre-stain and secure 6x6 end cap Sign Boards on top of each angled marker posts. The conservation department and fire department will finalize to the location marker Naming/Numbering scheme based upon best practices. One proposed scheme was LM E00.2M, which translates to Lake Mohegan East Post 00.2 Miles, by extension other markers would be LM N01.1M, S03.5M. This same format could then be used in all other parks going forward.

5. Pre-deploy Materials. Hand Tools arrangements: Less than 3 days before the designated weekend scout work weekend(s) the conservation crew will pre-deploy the marker posts, cement bags in plastic bags (protected from rain), and water jugs. The scouts could use their own tools or the towns tools – TBD (to be determined).

6. Town Approvals: Ed Jones of the conservation department will manage getting formal approvals, to place these New "Trail Safety Locator Markers" into the park, from town and state officials as needed. It is hoped these will be obtained as early as possible so there will be no surprises.

7. Project Planning, Expertise, Guidance and Communications: It is expected there will be many more planning coordination and status meetings, site surveys, planning notes and
communications prior and concurrent to any and all work, to ensure project success. It is assumed that the town of Fairfield Conservation Department would supply Guidance, Infrastructure Team, Equipment, and Material Resources as the town allows. The Troop would supply as much manpower, as safety allows. Will Huckins Eagle scout candidate from Troop 199 will manage all project coordination and communication between the town Conservation department and the Boy Scout resources.

Re Mark/Blaze Existing and Replace lost Blazes for the 4 Town Established Trails of the Park. Blazes should be visible from 1 Mark to the next, at Trail heads and intersections, topology and turns. Blaze Marks will be made using the Town’s 4 established Oil based paint colors (Yellow, Red, Orange, Blue) as directed by best trail practices and the Town of Fairfield Conservation Manager. Marks will generally be made on Both sides of each tree Blaze so as to be seen when walking from either direction. It is estimated that as many as 40-60 Blazes may be needed. If rough barked trees (Oak, Tulip Poplar, hickory. Avoiding Ash) will need to be shaved smooth before being painted.

Place Newly created “Park Trail Maps” on the back side of each Entry Kiosk behind plexiglass. New trail maps should prominently advertise the Town’s Trail Maps PDF web URL directory, for hikers to download to their Mobile phones. Note that that all town park trail maps use the same trail color designations. Especially highlight that at All Yellow Trails – generally follow the park’s perimeter.

Next Steps after an Initial Beneficiary Project Discussion
Will Huckins will follow the Eagle Scout Project Initialization documentation in order to gain formal Boy Scouts Association – BSA Committee Approval.
- Meeting to Finalize Scope with the Beneficiary – Conservation and Fire Department Participants in order to Formally Document Project Scope

Attached Reference Documents:
2. Eagle Service Project Beneficiary Role 2Pgs1-2019 PDF - 2 Pages
3. Fairfield Town Conservation Photo Trail Map LakeMohegan2009 PDF – 1 Page
4. NYStateParksTrails TechSignageGuidelines 11-16 Pgs2015.PDF
5. Trail Markers Gets First Responders to Trail Rescues Fast LI NY StatePark 5Pgs1-2019.pdf

Scout Contact information:
Will can be reached on his Cell phone 203 581-1501, H 203 254-2970, willhuckins12@gmail.com, Junior @ Ludlowe High School, Boy Scout Troop 199, Troop Leader: Jim Muschett.
Safety

The following are suggested points to include in trailhead kiosk signage and in printed material for public distribution, as appropriate. These may be condensed for use as text on signs. This information will not apply to all trails and should only be posted as necessary in appropriate locations.

- Do not leave anything valuable in your car. If you do experience a break-in, be sure to report it to law enforcement authorities.
- Do not leave food in your car or in a trail shelter. Any food that is left in an unsealed container is an attraction for wildlife. Bears have been known to break into cars if they smell food. Even unopened containers left in trail shelters have been broken into by wildlife. If you must leave food, use a bear-proof canister and secure it out of the reach of bears.
- Do not drink unpurified water from open streams, lakes, or ponds. Bring water from home or use a water purifier.
- Be aware of your surroundings and be prepared to report your location by trail name and distance from significant landmarks or trailheads in the event of an emergency.
- Avoid dehydration by drinking water regularly. You know you are drinking enough if you urinate often and the urine comes out clear.
- Avoid getting lost by staying with your group, staying on the trail, and paying attention to trail markers. If lost, either backtrack or use a cell phone to call for assistance.
- Avoid heat exhaustion and heat stroke, which can be deadly. Stay cool and avoid the sun in the heat of the day. Drink plenty of water. Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing that blocks and reflects the sun.
- Avoid hypothermia by staying dry, wearing appropriate layered clothes (no cotton), avoiding exposure to wind, drinking plenty of water, and eating high-energy food in cold weather to stay warm. Hypothermia usually occurs gradually and hypothermic people are often not aware that they need help. Hypothermia can result in shivering, stumbling, slurred speech, reduced breathing rate, fatigue, and eventually cardiac and respiratory failure and death.
- Avoid insect pests by learning which insects are prevalent in your area at the time you are on the trail, wearing protective clothing, avoiding perfumes, including perfumed hair sprays, shampoos, and soaps, and covering exposed areas of your body with insect repellent.
- Avoid exposed areas when thunderstorms may occur. Take cover in advance of a storm and stay away from tall trees and bodies of water. Take off metal backpacks. Crouch down on dry ground with an insulating object under your feet.
- Avoid poisonous plants by learning to recognize poison ivy, poison oak, and poison sumac. Avoid contact by wearing long pants and sleeves in areas where poisonous plants occur and washing your clothes when you leave the trail.
- Be prepared for inclement weather by checking the weather forecast before you hit the trail. Be aware of signs of worsening weather and prepare to take an alternate route or return to your vehicle. Carry alternate clothing, plenty of food and water, and map and compass if necessary.
- Be prepared for adverse trail conditions, including fallen trees, washouts, landslides, floodwaters, and patches of ice and deep snow.
Sign Design

Signs should be located where they can easily be seen by trail users and should present information in a format that is easy to understand by all users. The text should be limited to what is necessary and should be supplemented by graphics that are universally understood. Design standards and guidelines for OPRHP interpretive signage have not yet been developed; consult with the Interpretation Unit at Peeples Island State Park for design guidance and review, or for design services, for interpretive signs. Detailed design guidelines for various types of signs are listed in the Resources section of this document and may be helpful for additional guidance.

Materials, Graphics, and Techniques

Signs may be constructed using different types of materials, which may vary depending on the type of sign being produced. Sign faces that are constructed from metal or synthetic materials can be painted or colored to match the environment. Factors to consider when choosing materials include budget, aesthetics, durability, maintenance costs, and replacement cost due to vandalism or theft.

- **Wood** is traditionally used for many types of trail signs since it is a natural material, aesthetically pleasing, and readily available. Wood can be used as backing for signs, support for signs, or as the signs themselves. When choosing wood, particular consideration needs to be given to adaptability and resistance to weather conditions. Locust and oak are extremely durable but not easy to work with and subject to splitting and warping. Cedar is weather-resistant and easy to work with but not as vandal-resistant. Wood should be straight-grained, dry, knot-free, and at least two inches thick. Proper sealing and preserving of wood will enhance its durability. Linseed oil is a natural preservative and sealer that provides a natural appearance but it gradually darkens the wood and should be reapplied each year. Wood may not be the most environmentally sustainable material to use when taking into consideration the entire life cycle of the sign, including all required materials and energy, as well as disposal of materials. If wood is used for making signs, consideration should be given to choosing wood that grew locally or that has been certified sustainable by a reputable wood certification system.

- **Plastics, Fiberglass (fiber-reinforced polyester), and Composites** are widely available, easily adaptable, weather-resistant, fairly inexpensive, and a good choice for smaller signs and for signposts. Reflective material may be desirable for sign surfaces for high visibility in the dark. Plastics may not be appropriate in more primitive locations.

- **Aluminum** is widely available, lightweight, durable, and most useful for traffic control signs. However, aluminum is more expensive and may not be appropriate for larger signs, especially where a more natural appearance is desired.

- **Steel** is more affordable and durable, but it weighs more than aluminum and requires special treatment to inhibit rust (stainless or galvanized steel).

- **Stone** is best used for cairns where other methods of marking trails are impractical, and as a decorative base for larger signs that require posts.
An effectively designed sign face is clear, concise, simple, and legible with well-spaced typography and plenty of space in the margin. Text for signs should be left-justified and use both capital and small-case lettering (except for wooden directional signs, which use all capital lettering). Universal symbols should be used when possible. The following fonts are preferred for OPRHP trail signs, with the exception of wooden directional signs and interpretive signs:

Gatineau    Souvenir    Helvetica

The chart below is a guide to determining the minimum letter size based on the desired maximum distance at which a proposed sign is to be viewed. A research ophthalmologist working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers established a viewing distance of 28 feet per inch of letter height for Helvetica Medium font and a visual acuity of 20/40.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Viewing distance (feet)</th>
<th>Capital letter height (inches)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-20</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-27</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28-41</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42-55</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56-83</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84-111</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Standard colors are white lettering on a brown background. Paint should be high-quality (two part epoxy will not fade) and compatible with the surface it is used on, as well as compatible with any preservatives used on wooden surfaces. Reflective paint, which may be desirable for high visibility in the dark, is available in Pantone Matching System (PMS) 1615, a shade of brown that is similar to that used on highway signs. PMS 1615 is suggested as the standard background color for OPRHP signs (PMS 1615 color samples shown below are from various sources and are not exact).

![Color samples]

Signs needing their own support should be installed using one or two 4"x4" posts eight feet long placed approximately 24" into the ground with a theft-resistant anchor bolt. Posts of brown or gray recycled composite material are best for more developed areas (dark brown is suggested as the standard). A single wooden signpost may be used in primitive areas (cedar is best). Postholes should be filled with either concrete or rocks and covered with compressed soil. The sign should be attached to the post using theft-resistant, corrosion-resistant hardware such that the top of the sign is level and even with the tops of the signposts.
Signpost Installation

Compressed soil
Anchor bolt
Rock laid and tamped tight
Hole 500 to 600 mm (20 to 24 in) deep

Logos

The inclusion of a logo is an important way to communicate property ownership and responsible parties. Displaying the NYS OPRHP logo on signage reminds users they are visiting a facility in the New York State Parks system. Any new signage being created for New York State Park facilities, including maps, kiosks, etc., should conform to the most current branding guidelines and display only approved logos where appropriate. (Examples below) For guidance on using logos in NY State Parks, please contact Pamela Sinko in Public Relations at 518-486-2929.

NY Parks Sample Logos:
Symbols
The following recreation symbols should be used on trailhead signs, at trail junctions and road crossings, and on maps to indicate permitted uses of the trail. In addition, trail difficulty rating symbols can be used on mountain bike and cross country ski trails that have been rated for level of difficulty. Except for difficulty rating symbols, colors can be modified to coordinate with trail markings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Hiking" /></td>
<td><strong>Hiking</strong>  (pedestrian)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Snowmobiling" /></td>
<td><strong>Snowmobiling</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Equestrian" /></td>
<td><strong>Equestrian</strong>  (horse trail)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Bicycling" /></td>
<td><strong>Bicycling</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Mountain Biking" /></td>
<td><strong>Mountain Biking</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Cross-Country Skiing" /></td>
<td><strong>Cross-Country Skiing</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Interpretive" /></td>
<td><strong>Interpretive</strong>  (cultural history or nature trail)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Fitness" /></td>
<td><strong>Fitness</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Accessible" /></td>
<td><strong>Accessible</strong>  (must conform to specific standards)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Inline Skating" /></td>
<td><strong>Inline Skating</strong>  (roller blading)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Skateboarding" /></td>
<td><strong>Skateboarding</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Snowshoeing" /></td>
<td><strong>Snowshoeing</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Easiest" /></td>
<td><strong>Easiest</strong>  (green)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="More Difficult" /></td>
<td><strong>More Difficult</strong>  (blue)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Most Difficult" /></td>
<td><strong>Most Difficult</strong>  (black)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Markers and Blazes

The most basic trail signs are those that identify the trail. These signs may provide the name of the trail, mark the route of the trail, or include simple information, such as difficulty rating, mileage point, and symbols that show allowable uses of the trail. Where directional signs are used, identification of the trail is often incorporated into the directional sign.

Waymarks are small, simple signs that mark the route of the trail and reassure trail users that they are on the trail. Trails can be marked in many ways. Blazes can be painted on trees, stakes, or other objects, posts can be set into the ground, markers can be nailed to trees or posts, or cairns (piles of rocks) can be carefully erected. Regardless of the method used or type of trail being marked, each specific trail should be marked clearly and consistently and the marking should conform to a standard color, shape, and size. Where trail conditions prevent the use of the standard marker, an alternative can be used.

The preferred method of marking NY State Park system trails is to use colored plastic or metal markers nailed to trees or posts. Plastic markers are less expensive but may not last as long as metal markers. Markers of various colors, shapes, and sizes are useful for distinguishing between multiple trails and between different types of trails. However, it should be noted that a large number of people are unable to distinguish between different colors; therefore, trail intersections should be well-labeled using different symbols or text (on markers or signs) to signify different trails. Markers with arrows may be used to indicate major changes in direction along a trail.

Distance markers may be used to show the mileage from either end of the trail or from a designated trailhead. These types of markers, typically used along greenway trails, can be very useful in emergency situations and for maintenance purposes. They are often placed every quarter mile, although placement at tenth-mile intervals may be preferable. Use of distance markers is encouraged along all frontcountry trails and should include a unique identifier, such as the trail name. Where distance markers are used, other methods of marking the trail are usually unnecessary. Distance markers are often imbedded in a post that is placed into the ground alongside the trail using vandal-resistant hardware. Alternatively, distance markers can be metal or plastic markers nailed to trees or attached to posts; however, these types of specialized markers are prone to theft. Whichever method is used, the design of distance markers should be consistent along the entire length of the trail on which they are placed.

On long distance trails, it is not cost effective or desirable to use official trail markers as the sole method of marking a trail. Other less costly, less visually obtrusive, and more vandal-resistant methods should be used between widely-spaced markers. The preferred method is to use paint blazes, typically vertical rectangles painted on trees, posts, and other objects along the trail. The typical standard size for trail blazes is 2"x3", although the New York – New Jersey Trail Conference standard is 2"x3" (2"x4" for the Long Path). Acceptable blaze sizes along OPRHP trails are 2"x3", 2"x4", and 2"x6"; however the size of blazes must remain consistent along each particular trail. To maintain continuity along designated long distance trails, such as the Appalachian Trail, follow the marking guidelines approved by the managing agency or trail organization for each specific trail.
Navigating the Eagle Scout Service Project

Information for Project Beneficiaries

Thank You and Congratulations
Congratulations on your selection as an Eagle Scout service project beneficiary, and thank you for the opportunity you are making available to an Eagle Scout candidate. Support from community organizations is important to Scouting—just as important as Scouting’s contributions are to the community. Scouts provide important services, and benefiting organizations such as yours provides a vehicle for personal growth.

The Eagle Scout Rank and the Service Project
Service to others is an important part of the Scout Oath: "... to help other people at all times." Each year tens of thousands of Scouts strive to achieve the coveted Eagle Scout rank by applying character, citizenship, and Scouting values in their daily lives. One of the rank requirements is to plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project helpful to any religious institution, school, or community. Through this requirement, Scouts practice what they have learned and gain valuable project management and leadership experience.

Typical Projects
There are thousands of possible Eagle Scout projects. Some involve building things, and others do not. There have been all kinds: making birdhouses for an arboretum, conducting bicycle safety rodeos, constructing park picnic tables or benches, upgrading hiking trails, planting trees, conducting well-planned blood drives, and on and on. Other than the general limitations noted below, there are no specific requirements for project scope or for how many hours are worked, and there is no requirement that a project have lasting value. What is most important is the impact or benefit the project will provide to your organization. In choosing a project, remember it must be something a group with perhaps limited skills can accomplish under the leadership of your Eagle Scout candidate. In order to fulfill the requirement, the Scout must be the one to lead the project. Therefore, it is important that you work with the Scout and not with the Scout’s parents or leaders.

Project Restrictions and Limitations
- Fundraising is permitted only for facilitating a project. Efforts that primarily collect money, even for worthy charities, are not permitted.
- Routine labor, like a service Scouts may provide as part of their daily lives such as mowing or weeding a church lawn, is not normally appropriate. However, if project scale and impact are sufficient to require planning and leadership, then it may be considered.
- Projects are not to be of a commercial nature or for a business, though some aspects of a business operation provided as a service, such as a community park, may qualify.
- The Scout is not responsible for any maintenance of a project once it is completed.

Approving the Project Proposal and Project Scheduling
Once a potential project is identified, you must approve your Scout's proposal. Regular communications with the Scout can make this quick and easy, but be sure you have both discussed and considered all aspects of the project to ensure your Scout has a clear understanding of your expectations and limitations. Keep in mind the proposal is merely an overview—not a comprehensive project plan.

Some projects may take only a few weeks or months to plan and carry out, while others may take longer. Scouts working toward the Eagle rank are typically busy, so scheduling flexibility may be important. The proposal must also have several approvals, besides yours, before project planning occurs and work begins. Therefore, if a proposed project must be completed by a certain rapidly approaching date, it may be a good idea to consider something different. Remember, too, that all work must be completed before the Scout’s 18th birthday.
Approving Project Plans
After the proposal is approved by the BSA local council, your Scout must develop a plan for implementing the project. Before work begins, you should ask to see the plan. It may come in any format you desire or are willing to accept. It could even be a detailed verbal description. That said, the BSA includes a “Project Plan” form in your Scout’s Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook, and we recommend that you ask your Scout to use it. If in your plan review you have any concerns the project may run into trouble or not produce the results you want, do not hesitate to require improvements before work begins.

Permits, Permissions, and Authorizations
- If the project requires building permits, etc., your Scout needs to know about them for planning purposes. However, your organization must be responsible for all permitting. This is not a duty for the Scout.
- Your organization must sign any contracts.
- If digging is involved, it is your responsibility to locate, mark, and protect underground utilities as necessary.
- If you need approval from a committee, your organization’s management, or a parent organization, etc., be sure to allow additional time and let the Scout know if their help is needed.

Funding the Project
Eagle service projects often require fundraising. Donations of any money, materials, or services must be pre-approved by the BSA unless provided by your organization; by the Scout, the Scout’s parents, or relatives; or by the Scout’s unit or its chartered organization. The Scout must make it clear to donors or fundraising event participants that the money is being raised on the project beneficiary’s behalf, and that the beneficiary will retain any leftover funds. If receipts are needed, your organization must provide them. If your organization is not allowed to retain leftover funds, you should designate a charity to receive them or turn them over to your Scout’s unit.

Supervision
To meet the requirement to “give leadership to others,” your Scout must be given every opportunity to succeed independently without direct supervision. The Scout’s troop must provide adults to assist or keep an eye on things, and your organization should also have someone available. The Scout, however, must provide the leadership necessary for project completion without adult interference.

Safety
Through the proposal and planning process, the Scout will identify potential hazards and risks and outline strategies to prevent and handle injuries or emergencies. Scouts as minors, however, cannot be held responsible for safety. Adults must accept this responsibility. Property owners, for example, are responsible for issues and hazards related to their property or employees and any other individuals or circumstances they would normally be responsible for controlling. If during project execution you have any concerns about health and safety, please share them with the Scout and the unit leaders so action may be taken. If necessary, you may stop work on the project until concerns are resolved.

Project Execution and Approval
After the project has been carried out, your Scout will ask for your approval on their project report. The report will be used in the final review of the Scout’s qualifications for the Eagle Scout rank. If the Scout has met your reasonable expectations, you should approve the project; if not, you should ask for corrections. This is not the time, however, to request changes or additions beyond what was originally agreed.

The Eagle Scout service project is an accomplishment a Scout will always remember. Your reward will be a helpful project and, more important, the knowledge you have contributed to a young Scout’s growth.

Navigating the Eagle Scout Service Project is also available for download at: http://www.scouting.org/advancement.
Together with Explorer for ArcGIS, New Trail Markers Make It Easier to Find Hikers

If someone falls and hurts themselves or gets sick on a 1.14-mile hiking trail in Cold Spring Harbor State Park on Long Island, New York, local police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) come to the rescue.

But for many years, it was difficult to find someone who was injured or sick on the hilly, wooded trail in the midst of the 40-acre park in the Town of Huntington, a community of 200,000 people that includes the hamlet of Cold Spring Harbor. People who called 911 to report these kinds of medical emergencies often were unable to pinpoint their exact location in the woods.
They just report being on the trail," said James Garside, a Suffolk County police officer who patrols the area. "There was no point of reference. It did leave us with a guessing game."

But thanks to a new system of numbered trail markers erected in the park and a companion map that shows the coordinates of each marker, locating someone who is injured or ill is much easier than in the past. Emergency callers from the trail can now report the number of the trail marker closest to them. And first responders can consult a digital trail map on an Explorer for ArcGIS app to obtain the marker's geographic coordinates and additional information that will aid in the rescue.

The information the map provides to first responders shaved about 10 to 15 minutes off the response time to a medical emergency that occurred on the trail, said Garside, who spearheaded the effort to install the trail markers.

On October 15, 2017, a 47-year-old man suffered a heart attack on the trail, according to Garside. The man collapsed at marker 108, one of 15 small signs placed less than one-tenth of a mile apart from each other along the rugged trail, which is surrounded by oak, red maple, American beech, and other trees. The heart attack victim's wife called Suffolk County's Enhanced 911 system on her cell phone and reported the trail marker number, posted on a tree that her husband sat slumped under.

Garside and first responders from the Cold Spring Harbor Fire Department sprang into action. Besides being the officer who patrols the area, Garside is trained as an advanced emergency medical technician (AEMT). He consulted the trail marker map, which is available to him on both the Town of Huntington's ArcGIS for Explorer app and on a data terminal in his patrol car.

On the map, Garside could see the details important to coordinate a quick response plan: the latitude and longitude for trail marker 108, the best access point to get to that site, and suggestions as to the types of vehicles and apparatuses to use to bring the patient out.

In 2015, Garside had approached the New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYS OPRHP) with the idea of installing the trail markers in Cold Spring Harbor State Park. NYS OPRHP assigned a GIS team to map the trail and gather each sign's coordinates.

The Cold Spring Harbor Fire Department then sent a team in to walk the trail and create its own response determinates. These included descriptions of the best places to access the trail to get to each marker location (e.g., the south or north end of the trail or a specific residence "near the barn"), the types of equipment suited to the terrain at that site, and the best extrication point. That information was then added to the trail marker map.

In the case of the heart attack victim, the best access point to reach him was through private property on the 200 block of Harbor Road/New York State Highway 25A. When Garside arrived at the house carrying his medical equipment—a Physio-Control LifePak 12 portable cardiac monitor—the property owner was helpful.
"He was pointing me in the right direction toward the trail," Garside said.

Garside reached the heart attack victim’s side in five minutes. The typical response time without the accurate trail marker information might have been about 15 minutes.

The Cold Spring Harbor Fire Department used a Mule litter wheel to bring out the heart attack victim—the recommended equipment listed on the Town of Huntington’s Explorer for ArcGIS app.

But prior to that, Garside obtained an EKG reading from the man and sent the readout to a nearby hospital emergency room. The staff there studied it and called in a cardiac care team, so the physicians and nurses could be in place and ready when the patient arrived at the hospital.

The trail signs, the information available via Explorer for ArcGIS, the rescue equipment, and the mobile medical technology—along with the first responders, of course—all helped provide a happy ending to the story.

"It’s a blend of old technology, with signs, mixed together with new technology. It worked well," Garside said. "It did save that man’s life."

NYS OPRHP’s map of the trail that displays markers 101 through 115, along with each sign’s coordinates, was posted at a kiosk in Cold Spring Harbor State Park. Visitors can add the trail marker coordinates to their smartphones by scanning a QR Code on the map.

The spatial data from that project, together with the information from the Cold Spring Harbor Fire Department, was shared with the Town of Huntington. The town’s GIS manager, Dave Genaway, said he was alerted to the data by Huntington chief fire marshal Terry McNally.

Genaway said the trail marker data was added as a feature layer to the Huntington Fire Preplan app hosted in its ArcGIS Online organization. The Huntington Fire Preplan contains information about local buildings—including roof materials, known hazards, and floor plans—that help firefighters plan their response to fires or other emergencies. That planning and trail marker information also is available to local firefighters and first responders via Explorer for ArcGIS.
When users click on one of the trail markers on the map using Explorer for ArcGIS (or ArcGIS Online), the latitude and longitude for that marker appears.

"It also shows which access point they can use to get to that trail marker in [the most] efficient way," Genaway said.

Garside hopes that the trail marker system could be duplicated in other parts of the state in the future. But for now, the police officer is pleased that Cold Spring Harbor State Park will be a little safer for hikers and runners. He said that he came up with the idea for the trail marker system after a man who was walking on the trail with his wife one day in 2015 had a close call.

"It was National Trail's Day, the first weekend in June," Garside recalled. "That [incident] was the straw that broke the camel's back."

The man fainted on the trail due to a heart condition. His wife called 911 but had no idea exactly where on the trail they were located.

"When you are on the trail, to the right or left you see woods," Garside said, adding that the steep hills and trees make it hard to stay well oriented.

Garside said it took about 10 or 15 minutes to find the ill man on the trail, which is basically a footpath and not accessible by ambulance.

Other hikers on the trail tried their best to help but were unable to give first responders a good estimate of how far down the trail the man and his wife were located, according to Garside.

And what about his inspiration for how the trail markers would work? Garside modeled them after the signs on the interstate highways in New York that include exit numbers.

"I just thought, 'There's got to be a better way [that] would take the guesswork out of it,'" Garside said. "These trail markers provide that."

**MORE:**
- emergency response
- hiking
- mapping
- recreation
- trail mapping
To: Conservation Commission
From: Brian Carey, Conservation Director
Date: February 27, 2019
Re: Request for Modification to Conservation Easement Boundary Line Adjustment

To all,

As part of the pending Inland Wetland Permit Application 2018-19-09, Black Rock Realty, LLC. has submitted a request to the Conservation Commission to review and approve a proposed adjustment to the boundary line of the existing conservation easement. The request is seeking permission to allow a portion of the proposed access drive to the building site to be constructed within the current limits of the existing conservation easement boundary.

The conservation easement for the site that is filed on the Fairfield Land Records Vol. 4096, Pg. 065, states, “This Conservation, Open Space and Public Access Easement shall preclude the grantor and its successors and assigns at any time in the future, including during construction of the contemplated improvements under Inland Wetland Permit No. 2003-08, from disturbing the land or its vegetation or constructing buildings or other improvements on the land described below without the approval of the Fairfield Conservation Commission or its successor agency; etc.”

The easement language gives the Conservation Commission sole discretion and authority to be able to change or modify the easement if it deems necessary or appropriate. In the past, the Conservation Commission has granted modifications to existing conservation easements if there was an acceptable quid pro quo exchange of conservation easement land vs. non-protected land so that there was no net loss of conservation easement land on the subject site. Regardless of the Commission’s decision pertaining to this request, it should be stated that any action sets no precedent regarding future requests to either modify, accept or abolish existing conservation easements.

A copy of the existing conservation easement for the property and an example of previous conservation easement boundary line adjustment agreement has been attached for the Commission’s review.

Best regards,

Brian Carey
Conservation Director
Town of Fairfield
CONSERVATION OPEN SPACE
AND PUBLIC ACCESS EASEMENT

TO ALL PEOPLE TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

GREETINGS:

KNOW YE THAT BLACKROCK REALTY, LLC, a limited
liability company having a principal place of business in the Town of
Westport, acting herein by Kurt Wittek, its manager duly authorized,
being record owner of the Property, hereinafter described, does hereby give
and grant, in consideration for approval of Fairfield Inland Wetland and
Watercourses Permit No. 2003-08, a perpetual conservation, open space, and
public access easement to the Town of Fairfield for property located at 21
Black Rock Turnpike in the Town of Fairfield as shown and depicted as an
area consisting of 475,931 sq. ft. (10.925 acres) designated as “Conservation
Easement” on a Map entitled “Easement Disposition Map” dated 6/26/07,
prepared by Westcott & Mapes, Inc., which map is on file with the Fairfield
Town Clerk as Map No. 731. This Conservation, Open Space and Public
Access Easement shall preclude the grantor and its successors and assigns at
any time in the future, including during construction of the contemplated
improvements under Inland Wetland Permit No. 2003-08, from disturbing
the land or its vegetation or constructing buildings or other improvements on
the land described below without the approval of the Fairfield Conservation
Commission or its successor agency; provided, however, that this easement
shall not preclude the grantor, its successors and assigns, otherwise acting in
accordance with the terms and conditions of the Fairfield Conservation
Commission’s Inland Wetland Permit No. 2003-08, with the open space
rules that shall regulate the use of the easement, and a long term wetland mitigation management plan and its related easement. This the perpetual Conservation and Open Space Public Access Easement was required under Inland Wetland Permit No. 2003-08 in conditions *2a through *2d inclusive.

The intent of this Conservation and Open Space Public Access Easement is to maintain the easement area, in perpetuity, in its natural, undisturbed and undeveloped condition and to manage the easement area under the Fairfield Conservation Commission’s open space regulations in conjunction with a long term Conservation Area Management Plan and Stewardship Easement which shall be recorded on the land records of the Town of Fairfield for the following uses and purposes;

1. To serve to protect the structural integrity of the underlying Brownfield remediation project’s membrane cap in order to permanently protect the environment and visitors to the easement area;

2. To serve to provide a permanent requirement to protect the easement area for its contribution to the conservation of a coastal ecosystem and related open space purposes;

3. Serve to provide the general public with access to the protected conservation easement area whose permissible and prohibited uses and activities are compatible with the Fairfield Conservation Commission’s Open Space Regulations; and

4. To serve to provide permanent funding for addressing the long term management needs of this protected easement area as required in the inland wetland permit no. 2003-08 “mitigation package”.

The Grantor herein further grants to said Town of Fairfield the right to enter upon said parcel of land for the purpose of inspecting the land described herein to ascertain whether such land is properly maintained and managed by the Grantor, its heirs, successors and assigns, in accordance
with the intention of this easement to promote conservation, open space, and public shoreline access in accordance with the provision of the open space regulations of the Conservation Commission and a Long Term Conservation Area Management Plan established for Blackrock Realty LLC/Fairfield Metro Center with regard to the permittee’s property at 21 Black Rock Turnpike regulated under Inland Wetland permit No. 2003-08.

In the event that the Grantor, its heirs, successors and assigns, shall fail to properly maintain said area, the Town of Fairfield shall have the further right, without the obligation, to enter upon said premises to remedy any defect in proper maintenance and to lien the Grantor’s inland wetland permit property at 21 Black Rock Turnpike and recover from the Grantor, its heirs, successors and assigns, the reasonable cost thereof, including related administrative expenses, court costs and attorney’s fees.

The Town of Fairfield agrees to defend and hold the Grantor, its heirs, successors and assigns harmless from any personal injury and property damage claims made by members of the public who enter upon said public access area/conservation easement unless directly caused by the negligence of the Grantor, its heirs, successors and assigns. Upon complaint by the Grantor, its heirs, successors, and assigns, or other interested parties, to the Grantee, and after the Grantee’s due diligence in investigating the conditions, circumstances, and parties related to the complaint, the Grantee may enforce this easement for the limited uses for which this easement has been granted.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the foregoing easement unto the Town of Fairfield and its successors and assigns forever, to its own proper use and benefit.
No additions, deletions or modifications shall be made to this document without the approval of the Conservation Commission and its successor or successors.

Notice of the volume and page of this easement shall be clearly referenced in all future deeds of conveyance concerning the lot.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, BLACKROCK REALTY, LLC has caused these presents to be signed by Kurt W. Hall its Manager, duly authorized, being record owner of the property, this 7th day of February, A.D. 2008.

BLACKROCK REALTY LLC

BY: [Signature]

Kurt W. Hall

John F. Falle

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  )

COUNTY OF FAIRFIELD  ) ss. Fairfield

Personally appeared Kurt W. Hall, Manager of Blackrock Realty, LLC signer and sealer of the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged the same to be his free act and deed before me.

[Signature]

Commissioner of the Superior Court/Notary Public
APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT
FAIRFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

BY:

STANTON H. LESHER,
CHAIRMAN
DATE:

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
FEB 12, 2008 AT 10:02 AM

ATTEST: [Signature]
TOWN CLERK
CONSERVATION EASEMENT BOUNDARY LINE ADJUSTMENT AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT is made as of June ______, 2016 by and between Neelam Narang and Rakesh Narang of 1869 Burr Street, Fairfield, Connecticut 06824 (the “Narangs”) and the Conservation Commission of the Town of Fairfield, Connecticut of 725 Old Post Road, Fairfield, Connecticut 06824 (the “Commission”).

WHEREAS, the Narangs are the owners of all that certain piece or parcel of land, together with all the improvements thereon, known as 1869 Burr Street, Fairfield, Connecticut which premises are more particularly described in a Warranty Deed from John Wellner, as Grantor, to the Narangs, as Grantees, dated June 1, 1988 and recorded in Volume 837 at Page 805 of the Fairfield Land Records, which is incorporated herein by reference (the “Narang Property”); and

WHEREAS, the Narang Property contains certain Regulated Areas including a Watercourse and on site Wetlands all as defined in the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Fairfield (the “Regulations”) and subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission in its capacity as the Wetlands Agency pursuant to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act, Chapter 440 of the Connecticut General Statutes (Connecticut General Statutes Sections 22a-36, et seq.); and

WHEREAS, the Narang Property is, among other properties, subject to a Conservation Easement executed by John Wellner, as Grantor, in favor of the Town of Fairfield, as Grantee, dated November 8, 1985 and recorded in Volume 756 at Page 978 of the Fairfield Land Records, which is incorporated herein by reference (the “Conservation Easement”); and

WHEREAS, the Conservation Easement precludes the conduct of certain activities upon portions of the Narang Property consisting of on-site Wetlands, as defined in the Regulations, without the approval of the Commission; and

WHEREAS, a dispute has arisen between the Narangs and the Commission regarding the nature, extent and present location of certain structures and improvements constructed upon the Narang Property that allegedly encroach upon a portion of the Narang Property that is subject to the Conservation Easement and on-site Wetlands, as defined in the Regulations and whether or not the construction of the structures and improvements were permitted activities; and

WHEREAS, the Narangs and the Commission each desire to resolve the various issues between them.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is mutually agreed by the Narangs and the Commission as follows:
1. That the portion of the Narang Property that shall be subject to the Conservation Easement shall be revised as depicted on an Easement Map entitled “Easement Map, Revised Conservation Easement, Prepared for Rakesh & Neelam Narang, # 1869 Burr Street, Fairfield, Connecticut” dated 5-9-16 and revised on 6-23-16 prepared by The Huntington Company, LLC, Consulting Engineers & Surveyors, a copy of which is incorporated herein and attached hereto as Exhibit “A” and which Easement Map shall be recorded in the Fairfield Land Records; and

2. All other terms and provisions of the Conservation Easement not herein revised are hereby reaffirmed by the parties hereto.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have hereunto set their hands and seals this ___ day of June, 2016.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of:

Joel Z. Green

Rakesh Narang

Joel Z. Green

Neelam Narang

The Conservation Commission of the Town of Fairfield, Connecticut

BY

Kevin J. Gumpper, Its Chairman
Duly authorized
STATE OF CONNECTICUT:
: ss. Bridgeport
COUNTY OF FAIRFIELD :

Personally appeared Rakesh Narang and Neelam Narang, signers and sealers of the foregoing instrument and acknowledged the same to be their free act and deed, before me, on June ______, 2016.

__________________________
Joel Z. Green
Commissioner of the Superior Court

STATE OF CONNECTICUT:
: ss. Bridgeport
COUNTY OF FAIRFIELD :

Personally appeared Kevin J. Gumpper, Chairman of the Conservation Commission of the Town of Fairfield, Connecticut, signer and sealer of the foregoing instrument and acknowledged the same to be his free act and deed and the free act and deed of said Conservation Commission of the Town of Fairfield, Connecticut, before me, on June ______, 2016.

__________________________
Commissioner of the Superior Court
Dear Commissioners,

Re: Conservation Commission Agenda, Feb. 20, 2019

New Business Item III.B.

B. Request of Attorney William Fitzpatrick on behalf of Black Rock Realty, LLC, to permit an encroachment into the Conservation Open Space and Public Access Easement within the Metro Center Conservation Area at 219 Ash Creek Boulevard (f/k/a 21 Black Rock Turnpike) (see attached).

Dear Conservation Commission,

FairPLAN requests a public hearing on Item III.B. of your New Business for February 20, 2019. The public should have full disclosure of any disturbance of the Conservation Open Space and Public Access Easement at MetroCenter since this is a part of the large property meant for public use. The public needs to know that any encroachment does not create environmental issues, does not create pedestrian safety issues since the proposed encroachment involves an area to be used by trucks, and the public needs to know that any area of the Open Space removed for commercial use be replaced by the equivalent amount of open space in another area contiguous to the existing Conservation Open Space and Public Access Easement area.

Respectfully submitted,

Fairfielders Protecting Land and Neighborhoods

FairfieldPLAN's mission is to support open spaces, natural resources and the character of our neighborhoods, by
- supporting positive government action through good laws, regulations and land use decisions
- promoting appropriate development to achieve both economic
and environmental health
- being a resource for local groups by providing education, support and advocacy
- encouraging and sponsoring planning initiatives
February 8, 2019

Mr. Brian Carey, Director  
Conservation Commission  
C/o Conservation Department  
725 Old Post Road, Sullivan Independence Hall  
Fairfield, CT 06824

Subject: Conservation Commission request in regards to the proposed Crossing at Fairfield, Fairfield, CT

Dear Mr. Carey:

On behalf of our client, Black Rock Realty, I am hereby submitting a request to allow a portion of the driveway to serve the proposed residential portion of the Metro Center to be constructed within an area of the Conservation easement between Ash Creek Boulevard and Ash Creek. To the best of my knowledge when the original Metro Center project was designed and approved a driveway was constructed for future use at the easterly corner of the project intersecting with Ash Creek Boulevard. In the same approval a conservation easement was created that extended along the banks of Ash Creek extending into the project and west along the entire project area to the train tracks at the southwest corner.

2018 plans were prepared and an Inland Wetland Application was submitted for a proposed residential development and a 120 room hotel in the southwest portion of the Metro Center site. The new plans utilize that driveway at the northeast corner of the property. However, when we prepared the design for that driveway, which is the second means of access in and out of the site we found that, the radii were so tight that only passenger vehicles could maneuver that curve. The driveway and it was previously laid out is unable to accommodate larger vehicle, i.e. fire trucks, emergency vehicles, garbage trucks, etc. When you apply the larger vehicle turning radii for those larger vehicles to the drive and intersection it moves the driveway and the grading needed to negotiate the slope into the conservation easement.

We have prepared a plan showing the adjusted driveway location that depicts the limits of the approved Conservation Easement, the new driveway and the relocated wooden post delineating the suggested new limits of the Conservation Easement. I have also enclosed the following maps for the Commission’s review:

1. 8-30 x 42” copies of the Existing Condition Survey Map; dated 9.27.18
2. 8-30 x 42” copies of the Preliminary Landscape Plan; dated 9.28.18
3. 8 - 8 X 12” copies of the Proposed Drive Entrance Plan; dated 1.25.19

If all is in order, once you have an opportunity to review the enclosed information, please place us on the February 20, 2019 Conservation Commission hearing. If you have questions or require additional information please contact me on 203-454-2110, ext. 15 or at promano@landtechconsult.com.

Very truly yours,

LANDTECH

[Signature]

Peter T. Romano, Principal

C. S. Merriodstein; B. Fitzpatrick
Hi Mark, Jeff, & Bill & Brian,

YOUR PROMPT ACTION IS REQUESTED!!!!

I believe the attached open space location would work perfectly to add two park benches. The location is 120 Shoreham Terrace and consists of a relatively narrow stretch of Town owned land overlooking the Ash Creek inlet to the west of the lock. I believe that the proposed location would require little-to-no future town maintenance, no tree work, no pavers or walkway of any kind. The Greater Fairfield Board of Realtor through it's relationship with the National Association of Realtors would secure the funding for two park benches similar to what we did together at the corner of Oldfield and Reef Road. All that would be needed would be help by the Town in installing the benches.

Attached are photos and an ariel view of the location for your review and comment.

I look forward to your approvals so that we may proceed with securing funding through our grant process. Gentlemen, please note that time is of the essence and I believe this to be a suitable beautification of the area.

All my best,
PLEASE NOTE MY NEW ADDRESS!!

RE/MAX Heritage
20 Saugatuck Avenue
Westport, CT 06880
t: 203-227-4111
c & txt: 203-981-7554

A Licensed Realtor in Connecticut
I'm currently marketing!

www.4Weatherbell.com
www.FenskyRoad.com
www.321Brookside.com
Gardens of 279 Jackman Ave, Fairfield

Nothing in this email shall be deemed to create a binding contract to purchase/sell real estate. The sender of this email does not have the authority to bind a buyer or seller to a contract via written or verbal communications including, but not limited to, email communications.