

Town Council
Town of Trumbull
CONNECTICUT
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TOWN HALL
Trumbull

TELEPHONE
(203) 452-5000



MINUTES
FEBRUARY 5, 2024

CALL

TO ORDER: The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. All present joined in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance. The Chair asked all those present to remember our fallen armed service members in the middle east and their families. This is a reminder of the cost of freedom.

ROLL CALL: The clerk called the roll and recorded it as follows:

PRESENT:

Mike Buswell	Mary Isaac	Bill Mecca
Ann Sather	Jennifer Winschel	Nicole Satin
Richard Wolf	Jason Marsh	Veronica Lenzen
Anthony Dorsey	Ashley Gaudiano	Carl Massaro
John Foreman	Joe Pifko	Scott Wich
Joy Colon	Steve Lemoine	Kelly Mallozzi
Tony Scinto	Kevin Shively	

ABSENT: Eric Story

ALSO

PRESENT: First Selectman Vicki A. Tesoro, Chief Administrative Officers Cynthia Katske and Kathleen McGannon, Town Attorneys Daniel Schopick and James Nugent, Finance Director Maria Pires, Public Works Director George Estrada, BOE Director of Operations Dave Cote, Middlebrook and Booth Hill Elementary School Roof Building Committee Chairman Patricia Borghesan, Economic & Community Development Director Rina Bakalar, State Representative Dave Rutigliano, Veterans & First Responders Center Building Committee Chairman Ray Baldwin and Chairman of the Community Facilities Building Committee Lori Hayes-O'Brien.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were three (3) people present to speak and one (1) email submitted for the record prior to this meeting. (Public Comment Attached)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Moved by Lemoine, seconded by Dorsey to approve the January 2024 regular meeting minutes as submitted. VOTE: Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent.

RECOGNITION:

- Public Works/Volunteer Firefighter Shaun Bogen:

The Chair read the following January 7, 2024, press release:

“This morning, the quick actions of town highway maintainer number four, Shaun Bogen, also a firefighter with the Long Hill Fire Company is being credited with saving the lives of residents in a structure fire. While on his plowing route, Firefighter Bogen found a house with a fire in the garage. Firefighter Bogen quickly radioed his base, alerting them of the situation and called 911. He proceeded to wake the sleeping residents, four adults and three dogs in the home to ensure everyone was outside before the department's arrival. This morning at the time and location above Southwest Regional Communication Center dispatched the Trumbull volunteer fire departments to a residence on Havilland Drive for a reported structure fire. An initial response of two engines, two trucks and a rescue company with three chief officers responded with 26 firefighters. Long Hill Fire Chief, Greg Sanfanandre was the first unit to arrive and found heavy fire in the garage extending into the home. Firefighters attacked the fire utilizing three hose lines and brought the fire under control in less than one hour under the command of Chief Safanandre. Trumbull EMS and Trumbull Police Department assisted firefighters on the scene and the Monroe and Shelton fire departments provided mutual aid.”

The Chair asked Firefighter Shaun Bogen and his wife Victoria to come to the podium. Shaun Bogen gave detail of what happened that night. The Chair noted this was a job well done and serendipitous, Firefighter Bogen was sent from above to save people who have more to do in the community. Trumbull is a grateful community for his service and his father's service as a past Fire Department Chief in town and of the Trumbull Highway Department. All present recognized and congratulated him.

First Selectman Vicki A. Tesoro presented Shaun Bogen a citation on behalf of herself, Chairman Massaro and the Town recognizing his heroic efforts. She noted how grateful everyone was. We know this could happen to any one of us, we have great first responders in town. She extended her gratitude for him going above and beyond to save people's lives and their pets as well. First Selectman Tesoro and Chairman Massaro proclaimed February 5, 2024, as Shaun Bogen Day.

State Representative David Rutigliano presented Firefighter Bogen with a citation. He noted the people of Trumbull are blessed to have such brave men and women in the fire companies to protect them and keep them safe. We hear all the time that if you see something, say something, but it takes a special kind of person to actually get in there and do something. This gentleman has really proven himself to be brave, strong, and worthy of the uniform he wears. On behalf of Trumbull he presented the citation to recognize Shaun Bogen's brave efforts, and heroism, and thanked him.

First Selectman Tesoro presented Shaun Bogen another recognition from Lieutenant Governor Susan Bieniewicz and read what the Lieutenant Governor had written: “I take great pleasure in offering my sincerest appreciation to Shaun Bogen. In recognition of your service to our community, the selfless actions you took while plowing were instrumental for saving the lives of four individuals and their pets. Through your bravery and quick thinking, you're a hero and role model in your community. Thank you for your service to your community and the state of Connecticut.”

The Chair asked all of the attending members of the Trumbull Fire Departments to stand and be recognized for their service to the community.

DISCUSSION ITEM:

- *Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Task Force Update:*
Chairman Jonathan Tropp was present and reported the following: The last report to the Council was July 6, 2023, and have met as a committee on seven occasions in the interim. Since the last report, they lost one member to resignation due to competing personal obligations and have been joined by three others, Christopher Powell, Jennifer Pacelli and Rodney Gray. He was pleased to report the new members have been wonderful additions to the Task Force.

The Task Force has been discussing the Trumbull equity profile and held a successful and well attended program on censorship during Banned Books Week in October. That was in collaboration with the Trumbull Library. The program was moderated by Charlotte Fleming who serves as vice chair of EDIT, Matt Bracksieck, Dave Rutigliano, Julia McNamee, and Sarah Keitt were panelists. The discussion was lively, interesting, engaging and respectful. Ms. Fleming participated in a community forum sponsored by Connect, coordinated by Therese and Rodney Gray and included First Selectman Vicki Tesoro and Police Chief Michael Lombardo.

EDIT conducted an Inaugural Book Club discussion in coordination with the Trumbull Library. The event was held in November and focused on the book, *The Sum of Us* by Heather McGhee. They have scheduled a second book club discussion for March 4, 2024. The next book is *How the Word is Passed* by Clint Smith. In November, EDIT cohosted with the Trumbull Historical Society and the Paugussetts and surrounding tribes, a well-attended celebration of Native American Heritage Month. The event featured Native American culture including dance, storytelling, cuisine, jewelry, and filmmaking, as well as local Native American history and artifacts. EDIT is planning an event in celebration of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month for May.

They issued a statement in the wake of the distribution in our town of Neo-Nazi leaflets, condemning that action. He extended his gratitude to First Selectman Tesoro, Chief of Police Michael Lombardo, both the Trumbull Republicans and Democrats for their statements in the wake of that incident. We discussed the incident with Assistant Chief Glenn Byrnes in November, and Chief Lombardo at their January 2024 meeting. They met with First Selectman Tesoro in January 2024, and discussed ways of better collaborating with her administration. During their meeting with First Selectman Tesoro

she suggested they schedule meetings with certain town departments and also to invite this Council to select a council member to join some of these meetings. If the Council would like to do that, they would be delighted to have a council member join them. They would like to schedule a meeting with Parks & Rec to discuss collaboration and welcome the Council's participation.

EDIT also discussed with First Selectman Tesoro the proposed Town Value Statement they shared with the Council in May. First Selectman Tesoro indicated she is supportive of the statement. EDIT would welcome the Council's guidance on how best to bring that statement before the Council for its consideration.

Councilman Gaudiano extended her gratitude to Chairman Tropp and noted EDIT has hit their stride and are seeing good things come from the EDIT's work and is looking forward to the March 4th Book Club.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. RESOLUTION TC30-17: Moved by Lemoine, seconded by Mallozzi
BE IT RESOLVED, That the final drawings and project manual along with the cost estimates for the Booth Hill Elementary School Roof Project, dated December 20th, 2023, as approved by the Board of Education on January 9, 2024, and the Middlebrook and Booth Hill Elementary School Roof Building Committee on January 10, 2024, are hereby approved.

Committee Report: The L&A Committee met on January 29, 2024, and voted unanimously.

Mr. Cote reported they met with the state on Wednesday, January 31st. It was a long, detailed meeting with the state's plan reviewer from the Office of Grant Administration. There are a few items that they asked to revise, the architect is working on those, and they are hoping to get those revisions to the state and get the approval to go out to bid.

The grant application has already been approved by the state, this will allow the district to go out to bid.

Solar is still to be determined, if they were to seek it they would have to come back to the council with another set of resolutions. They are working with the town finance director on different opportunities in the state.

VOTE: ADOPTED by unanimous consent.

2. RESOLUTION TC30-18: Moved by Mecca, seconded by Colon
WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut Bond Commission has authorized \$820,000 for the Williams Road Culverts and Reconstruction project; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Vicki A. Tesoro, First Selectman is hereby authorized to accept the State Bond Commission funds for the Williams Road

Culverts and Reconstruction project, and to sign the application, assistance agreement, and all subsequent amendments, reports, and related documents in order to administer and implement the project. (Full Resolution Attached)

Committee Report: The L&A Committee met on January 29, 2024, and voted unanimously.

Mr. Estrada explained they were fortunate to secure this funding from the state. The First Selectman's office and Rina Bakalar worked on this with the town's legislators. It is a project that's desperately needed. Without this the Town was going to fund it entirely through the capital project funding this year.

VOTE: ADOPTED by unanimous consent.

Moved by Satin, seconded by Colon to pass as Emergency Legislation.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent.

3. RESOLUTION TC30-19: Moved by Sather, seconded by Mallozzi
BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Council hereby approves the preliminary plans to construct a new Veterans and First Responder Center on 1 Veterans Circle at Kaatz Pond in the Town of Trumbull and authorizes construction of the septic system, building foundation, stormwater management system and parking lot.

Committee Report: The L&A Committee met on January 29, 2024, and voted unanimously.

Ray Baldwin, Chairman of the Veterans and First Responder Center Building Committee explained the plans for this building were approved May 3, 2021, by the Town Council. They are now implementing phase one, which was outlined by the committee report. This includes the septic system, stormwater management system, some of the things on site and the building and backfilling of the foundation.

Mr. Baldwin requested emergency legislation. The STEAP grant funds of \$69,000 must be invoiced by early April of 2024 or will be lost. They will use the STEAP grant funds first then the \$750,000 from Representative Hime's office. The \$250,000 is good through 2030.

VOTE: ADOPTED by unanimous consent.

Moved by Buswell, seconded by Lemoine to pass as Emergency Legislation.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent.

4. RESOLUTION TC30-20: Moved by Foreman, seconded by Dorsey
BE IT RESOLVED, That First Selectman Vicki A. Tesoro is hereby authorized to sign the Agreement entitled "Master Municipal Agreement for State Funded Construction Projects".

Committee Report: The L&A Committee met on January 29, 2024, and voted unanimously.

Mr. Estrada explained this is this is the official process for qualifying and administering grants. The Master Municipal Agreement allows the town to apply for and execute the grant money they are eligible for. Once the agreement is in place it is good for 10 years.

VOTE: ADOPTED by unanimous consent.

Moved by Satin, seconded by Gaudio to pass as Emergency Legislation.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent.

5. RESOLUTION TC30-21: Moved by Lenzen, seconded by Mallozzi
BE IT RESOLVED, That \$85,000 is hereby appropriated from the Fund Balance to 01013800-581888 Capital Outlay.

Committee Report: The Finance Committee met on January 29, 2024, and voted unanimously.

VOTE: ADOPTED by unanimous consent.

6. RESOLUTION TC30-22: Moved by Marsh, seconded by Colon
BE IT RESOLVED, That \$30,000 is hereby appropriated from the Fund Balance to 01022000-581888 Capital Outlay.

Committee Report: The Finance Committee met on January 29, 2024, and voted unanimously.

VOTE: ADOPTED by unanimous consent.

7. RESOLUTION TC30-23: Moved by Winschel, seconded by Gaudio
BE IT RESOLVED, That \$150,000 is hereby appropriated from the Fund Balance to 01050600-522202 Services & Fees- Professional.

Committee Report: The Finance Committee met on January 29, 2024, and voted 4-1 (AGAINST: Scinto).

The Chair noted the Building Committee has \$220,000 that can be expended for this purpose, the funds subject of this resolution are not needed. Because the BOF has approved these funds the Council needs to vote this resolution down to prevent the spending this money.

Councilman Marsh noted there were comments during public comment with regards to additional environmental testing, the committee will rely on the professionals to guide

them in that process, but it appears there is sufficient funds if that were necessary. The Chair noted that they will inquire about that.

Attorney Schopick explained for the Council there were funds appropriated and there was money from the sale of the houses that went back into this account. It will not be necessary to allocate additional funds at this time for the purpose of the architectural fees. Per the bond counsel they were not allowed to pay down the bond. The Chair noted many times it is in the bond language that there will be no early prepayment.

Attorney Nugent corrected a misstatement regarding expenditures necessary to bring the project to a referendum should it be approved to get there. He negotiated this contract and made it crystal clear to the building committee at their meeting when this contract was brought to them. He negotiated the terminology into the contract that the owner will not authorize any services beyond the schematic design phase until the referendum result is obtained. The \$150,000 is to prepare the schematic designs only, not design documents, which is the additional 300,000 needed, should the referendum be approved. That is for the purpose of approving the bond, a level of detail is needed in order to determine what the amount of the bond is going to be because that is what the referendum is going to approve. He wanted to make sure that everyone present hears that, it's \$150,000 not \$450,000. The Chair thanked him for the clarification and noted for the purpose of this resolution it does not change that there are funds available instead of appropriating through this resolution.

VOTE: Motion FAILED 0-20 (AGAINST: Buswell, Isaac, Mecca, Sather, Winschel, Satin, Wolf, Marsh, Lenzen, Dorsey, Gaudio, Massaro, Foreman, Pifko, Wich, Colon, Lemoine, Mallozzi, Scinto, Shively)

8. RESOLUTION TC30-24: Moved by Buswell, seconded by Mallozzi
BE IT RESOLVED, That \$130,000 is hereby appropriated from the Fund Balance to 01050600-581888 Capital Outlay.

Committee Report: The Finance Committee met on January 29, 2024, and voted unanimously.

Mr. Estrada explained there are issues at the current senior center they are compelled to address, regardless of the timeframe for the new facility. Some are ADA compliance issues, and others are safety issues within the building.

Mr. Estrada further explained to the Council they have been deferring major maintenance at the current Senior Center for the last several years, as they have been developing the new facility, obviously as to not spend money twice. There are many issues needed to be addressed and are holding back on those.

Councilman Gaudio suggested a list be drafted of what needs to be done in a one-year timeframe and possibly over several years including what the expenditures would be,

recognizing if they get to a referendum, they are still looking at years before there is a new senior center. Mr. Estrada noted he would provide something to the Council.

Councilman Gaudio also suggested Mr. Estrada provide an opportunity to tour the current senior center as he had done at the Public Works Yard. It would be important for people to see its condition.

Mr. Estrada explained repairs subject of this resolution would have to be executed before the end of the fiscal year.

VOTE: ADOPTED by unanimous consent.

Moved by Dorsey, seconded by Lenzen to pass as Emergency Legislation.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent.

9. RESOLUTION TC30-25: Moved by Wolf, seconded by Lenzen
BE IT RESOLVED, That \$75,000 is hereby appropriated from the Fund Balance to 01080600-522202 Services & Fees- Professional.

Committee Report: The Finance Committee met on January 29, 2024, and voted unanimously.

Mr. Estrada explained residents have been advocating for reopening the bridge in Great Oak Park. It has failed and is at the end of life. It's in a very wet area which is why the structure has deteriorated.

The \$75,000 is for design. They will be able to come back to the process next year knowing what it will cost, they will have estimates from an engineering firm. It was confirmed this is just to study the one main bridge that leads to Great Oak Park none of the others are under consideration. The engineers will determine what material will be best in this application, it could very well be a poly-deck, but it is the structure that has failed. This project is significant and would be bid out, it would be someone with the right equipment and experience. He did not know who built the bridge, they have estimated its age at 20 years.

VOTE: ADOPTED by unanimous consent.

10. RESOLUTION TC30-26: Moved by Colon, seconded by Mallozzi
BE IT RESOLVED, That \$125,000 is hereby appropriated from the Fund Balance to 01030500-522202 Services & Fees- Professional.

Committee Report: The Finance Committee met on January 29, 2024, and voted unanimously.

The ADA Transition Plan is required federally, there must be a plan in place by 2030. Basically, all intersections and municipal buildings are to be ADA compliant.

Daniel's Farm, Booth Hill and Middlebrooks are three of the primary school zones to be investigated. They want to do that now before summer break to capture peak times. The drone is a tool that the engineering team has been training on and will be utilized in assessing traffic patterns from above and capturing the data, so they can develop plans in conjunction with the BOE for corrective measures.

After the studies are done it will be a combination of structural solutions and other solutions at the BOE level. But from an engineering standpoint, it's going to be assessing what they're queuing at each of those schools, how that operates, flows today, and what improvements can be done. This will help from the engineering side with some determinations on what the plan might be, what the cost will be. It will be brought back through the capital plan process next year for improvements at those schools.

Daniels Farm Road is being look at with MetroCog and is being looked at in 3 phases. The overall cost for Daniels Far Road is \$11 million to \$14 million. That will be a separate project from this.

Daniels Farm area/corridor is a superhighway at times involving both vehicular and pedestrian traffic. They are concerned with appropriate sidewalk areas where children get to and from school, they will look at all the schools the same way.

It was noted emergency legislation was not necessary.

VOTE: ADOPTED by unanimous consent.

11. RESOLUTION TC30-27: Moved by Scinto, seconded by Lemoine
BE IT RESOLVED, That _____, a member of the Town Council, be and the same is hereby appointed as a member of the Middlebrook Elementary School HVAC Improvements Building Committee.

Committee Report: The L&A Committee met on January 29, 2024, and voted to amend unanimously.

The Chair recognized the amendment in committee. Moved by Lenzen, seconded to amend by inserting the name Tony Dorsey into the blank. VOTE: Motion CARRIED by unanimous consent.

VOTE: ADOPTED as amended by unanimous consent.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to discuss and upon motion made by Colon, seconded by the Trumbull Town Council adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret D. Mastroni
Margaret D. Mastroni, Clerk

FULL RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION TC30-18: WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut Bond Commission has authorized \$820,000 for the Williams Road Culverts and Reconstruction project; and

WHEREAS, the culverts in the area of Williams Road and Edison Road are failing and require reconstruction in order to prevent flooding that is affecting residents and the Police Station; and

WHEREAS, the project is fully designed and shovel ready; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Trumbull has committed an additional \$821,000 toward the project; and

WHEREAS, the total project budget, inclusive of the State Bond funding and the Town of Trumbull contribution is approximately, \$1,641,000,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Trumbull Town Council authorizes Vicki A. Tesoro, First Selectman, to accept the State Bond Commission funds for the Williams Road Culverts and Reconstruction project, and to sign the application, assistance agreement, and all subsequent amendments, reports, and related documents in order to administer and implement the project.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were three (3) people present to speak and one (1) person emailed the Council prior to this meeting.:

1. Richard White – Spoke to TC30-23. (Public comment attached)
2. Chris Pettinella – He asked the Council to consider a different location that is ready for a major facility being implemented on Hardy Lane. Traffic is a major issue. Church Hill Road has one of the biggest blind curves. It is a struggle going up the hill, there is traffic congestion, and his neighbors can tell you about the noise and air pollution. He asked for the Council to listen to the citizens' consistent pushback.
3. Nina Boynton – spoke to the building design for the veterans. She had tried to speak several times, but it didn't work out, she was told it was too late and many other things but was told she could speak to the Council. Long Hill, especially the Green was supposed to be a village, but is not, it is great for businesses, but the buildings overpower the locations. Kaatz's pond is the last piece of real estate that Long Hill has. She took a survey of 690 people. They had four (4) choices for the property – (See attached). The New England Style facility appealed to a broader group of people. She is fighting for Long Hill and is not trying to stop the veterans from being at the site she wants people to consider a change in what is built. Ridgefield has a good business model. There is a community center, where there could be weddings or other events held there too. Residents get the residential price. People want more of a new England setting and we want to appeal to a broader group of people. She also talked to some veterans who are not happy because it is not a facility for just veterans. Most of the police training/certification is done in another town and/or the University of New Haven. If the facility is to make money and the veterans wanted to use the facility that is great, but she thinks this could be done better as a design for Long Hill. Shovels could still go in the ground in March and funding won't be lost.
4. Richard Post – (Public comment email attached)

I would like to discuss Resolution TC30-23, a \$150,000 Supplemental Appropriation from our Fund Balance to Professional Services and Fees. Please refer to page 333 of your agenda or page 5 of the new \$1.2 Million contract with QA&M.

When this contract was discussed at the December 20th Building Committee meeting, the \$150,000 was necessary for "Schematic Design & Detailed Cost Estimating" and that the entire \$1.2 Million contract would not move forward without Town Council approval and ultimately a successful Bonding Referendum. This description was also used with our Board of Finance last month and your Finance Sub Committee meeting last week.

However, the contract clearly states that an additional \$300,000 will be needed for "Design Development, Municipal Approvals, Estimating & Referendum Support".

Before we move forward with additional architectural fees, I would like to ask you to instead appropriate \$30,000 for an expanded Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) of the Hardy Lane properties to be scoped with input from our Conservation Commission and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

Note: \$30,000 is based on the initial Phase II ESA costs.

I have been reviewing the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) which was delivered to the town attorneys when the property was first purchased and the Phase II ESA which was commissioned by the Building Committee.

The Phase I ESA includes historical aerial photographs which indicate a substantial fill operation that went on at Hardy Lane for decades. The Phase II ESA confirms this with test pits that contain polluted and contaminated fill to depths over 20 feet. Normal practice with a Phase II ESA would be to extend the scope of work to include testing past the deepest and most contaminated portions of the site; to date, this has not been completed.

I am concerned that the town is grossly underestimating the sheer volume of the fill documented in these reports. I have reviewed my concerns with the Conservation Commission and have asked to meet with our First Selectman and Head of Public Works for a more detailed review.

Only after the environmental impact to the Pequonnock River Watershed of both the current conditions as well as any proposed development has been fully reviewed and mitigated by both our Conservation Commission and CT DEEP should the town move forward with, or fund any, additional architectural work.

If you do vote to move forward with the Building Committee's requested \$150,000, I'd ask you to also fund an additional \$30,000 for an expanded Phase II ESA as described above.

THE FUTURE OF TOWN PROPERTY LOCATED ON KATZ POND (Corner of Whitney Ave and Teller Road)

121



Katz Pond

Clean pond and area around it for access to the water.
With native fish and keep it for kids fishing only.
Install perennial gardens.

432



New England Style Facility

To include full-scale catering kitchen and bar. Ready Rooms for wedding parties, entertainers, event planners, etc. on second floor. Full length covered porch area facing water with seating accommodations. Office space for veteran affairs and records. Exterior fire pit and dedicated veteran memorial area. This facility would be available to town residents at a reduced rate. Non-resident would pay higher fees. Proceeds will cover the operational costs of the building, and any surplus will be distributed to Trumbull community organizations and individuals in need. Example: Food Bank, after school activities, scholarships, etc.

90



Ice House Brewery

Build a brick replica of former Katz ice house. "Ice House Brewery" and restaurant. This would also see the town as the landlord to which the town would receive rent.

47



Veterans Center

Veterans center only. Dock to center of pond. Kitchen and bar. Can be rented for events. Proceeds go directly to the veteran organization. They will then pay a rental fee to the town.

TOTAL 690

From: [Richard Post](#)
To: [Council Clerk](#)
Cc:
Subject: Please submit this email to public comments Feb 5 TC meeting
Date: Monday, February 5, 2024 4:09:58 PM
Importance: High

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Greetings,

Please include this email in the public comments for the TC meeting tonight, as I am unable to attend.

Primarily, this is a great site for the Town, but it's use for the senior center may be problematic for environmental and financial reasons. More data must be obtained to determine if the proposed senior center on this site poses a risk for potential cost overruns and environmental damage, since the data is far insufficient to make a good decision.

I strongly recommend the Town Council does **not** proceed with the Hardy Land location for the proposed senior center, until:

- (1) additional environmental investigation and sampling further determines the extent and volume of contaminated/polluted soil that has been found at this site, and the type of pollutants, and
- (2) has asked the CT DEEP and SW Conservation District to review the environmental hazards at this location, as any runoff from this site would flow down a very steep slope with significant erosion risk, onto State property, into the Inland Wetlands regulatory area and into the Pequannock River and trail.

With the current ***insufficient environmental assessment*** results, the Town has ***unknown liability and financial exposure*** to remediate the site and construct the building and parking areas. The current remediation budget of \$750k could be grossly inadequate, and this figure cannot be determined until the depth and horizontal depth of the pollution has been properly assessed.

New evidence shows the polluted/contaminated soil includes dumping of commercial/industrial foundry sand which can contain heavy metals and other pollutants. The Phase II investigation which has been completed does not show the edge of this fill in the most critical direction – towards the steep slope down to the Pequannock River and trail.

The proposed rain garden to control runoff from the constructed facility appears to be directly over the contaminated/polluted soil and this could leach pollution into the Pequannock and if soil erosion occurs near the contaminated/polluted fill it could expose this onto the steep slope. No rain garden or runoff control measures can be designed for very large rainfall events which climate change will likely make worse as time goes on. Therefore, when erosion control measures overflow at this site the water will flow down the steep slope towards the Pequannock.

Erosion of the very steep slope along the Pequannock has a history of erosion where construction has occurred especially if vegetation/trees were removed, even at smaller sites.

Please note that I am a retired remediation project manager who worked for industry and was responsible for assessment and remediation of polluted sites.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Richard Post, CPG
Conservation Commission Chair
40 Saxony Drive, Trumbull