

**Representative Policy Board
Land Use Committee
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District**

**December 8, 2021
Meeting Transcription**

Peter: Yeah. Yeah. So I guess we'll started with this meeting's being recorded. Our regular meeting December 8th. What time is it Jen? 5:30.

Jennifer: 5:31.

Peter: 5:31. I was going to start with the introduction of Sunny, but thank you, Larry. You chimed in just in time. I wanted to put Ted on the spot, saying the last name, but that's okay. I'm sure we're not going to get rid of Ted altogether. So welcome Sunny and everyone got their safety moment? It's pretty intense actually, I often think about the pollutants of the magic saw and the carbons and everything goes into the waterway. So we got to be diligent, study that and do the best we can do as individuals to keep our water safe and clean. Now, the 2021 deer hunt summary, is Nicole Smith with us?

Nicole: Yep. That's me. Hello.

Peter: Hi Nicole.

Nicole: Hi.

Peter: Okay, so you're up.

Nicole: Oh, awesome. Okay. I'm going to share my screen.

Peter: Yep.

Nicole: Okay. Can everyone see?

Peter: Yep.

Nicole: Awesome. Great. Okay. So I'm just going to quickly go through some of the numbers, deer hunt for this year. And if you guys have any questions. Sunny, I know you haven't, even though I just started, I'm familiar with the program because I did help Jeff a little bit to do flagging, when I used to work on the rec staff years ago. So Sunny, if you have questions about the deer hunt, I'd be happy to answer them as well.

Sunny: Great. No problems. Thanks.

Nicole: Yep. Okay. So we decided to do this hunt just really quickly because reducing the population of the deer is actually going to help with our forestry program in

terms of improving the quality of seedlings and saplings that are good for forestry and timber and stuff. So reducing the deer density basically enhances forest regeneration. It's also really helpful you because having a healthy forest also reduces a lot of erosion and more nutrients into our waterways and systems.

So in terms of being able to clean the water, having a really healthy forest is important and a big piece of that is just making sure the deer density is an appropriate level. In Connecticut, we've lost a lot of our big predators that would normally predate some of these animals. So the controlled hunt is a way to reintroduce that predation in back into the system so that we could reduce the population. Okay. So currently, although the program's been expanding over the last several years, currently we hold the hunt on 4,400 acres, a big chunk of that is around Gaillard with 3,233 acres. Okay. Was I going fast? Did someone have a question?

Peter: No.

Nicole: Oh, okay, cool.

Larry: Nicole, this is Larry. How has that outreach expanded over time? In other words, how many acres were we hunting on when this program began versus today?

Nicole: Okay. So the hunt started in 2009 and it originally started only in Gaillard with 777 acres. And Gaillard was the only property we had expanded in the beginning. So 2009 was only 777 acres in North Branford, which is the Gaillard property. And then it expanded into, let's see, into Ansonia and Seymour was the next property we expanded into. And then Bethany and Prospect came online for hunting in the same year in 2015. So does that? Yeah.

Larry: Yep. That's good. Thank you very much.

Nicole: Okay, sure. You're welcome. Okay. So this year we issued 205 permits. That's the upper limit of how many people we can have participate in the hunt. Basically the hunt for those who don't know is run by lottery, I choose the hunters randomly. Gaillard can hold up to 152 hunters. Bethany holds 25 hunters. Prospect, 20 hunters. And Ansonia and Seymour, eight hunters.

So the hunters are allowed to scout for 10 days in October, two weeks before the hunt. During the hunt itself, we have two check stations established. One is in Gaillard, the other is on the Bethany property, but that check station, that volunteer is responsible for helping us record the deer for not only the Bethany property, but also Prospect and Seymour as well. So if a hunter successfully harvest the deer in Prospect or Seymour and Ansonia, they then bring the deer to the Bethany check station. Overall, we had nine doe harvested. We actually

have what we call a doe incentive, where we encourage hunters to harvest doe, because that would successfully keep the population down. If someone is successful in harvesting a doe, they get to automatically skip the lottery and participate in the hunt the following year, it's the same with the check station volunteer.

So if they volunteer at our check station, they also get to skip the lottery and they can actually participate in the hunt without that too. So it helps us manage the properties, just having someone on site when we can't be there. And it also encourages people to really aggressively hunt the doe. Okay. So this year here are the harvest totals. So in North Branford, we had a total of six doe harvested and 20 buck, which brings our total to 26 year overall. In Prospect, we had one doe and two bucks harvested, which was three deer overall. In Bethany, we had two doe and two bucks. That's a little type on me. That's four deer. And Seymour and Ansonia, we only had one buck harvested, but that's been pretty consistent on that property because it's the smallest one that we do allow hunting.

So that brings us to a total of 34 deer for the 2021 season. So here's a little bar graph that just shows you how the population for deer harvested has been fluctuating. We had originally in 2009, we had about 45 deer that were taken from the properties, basically that was just all Gaillard. As you can see, there was a huge jump in that in 2010, where they harvested a total of 98 deer. But right after that, we had that really harsh winter that took care of a lot of the deer population for us. There was really high snow, a lot of them were hit by cars. A lot were taken by coyotes, things like that. And over time, the number of deer that were harvested has hovered somewhere between 35 and 40, there were a few years in 2012 and '13, that's a little higher, but for the most part to this is where it's been for the last couple years.

Okay. And this is just a comparison of how many deer were harvested in Bethany, Prospect and Ansonia as well. Again, we saw higher numbers earlier when the hunt first started. So it's not just the overall weather, especially hard winters that have contributed to the decrease in harvesting the deer. In the beginning, the deer were not used to anybody hunting them. So they didn't really act the way prey animals normally do. So hunters had an easier time actually taking them. Over the years, obviously the deer have gotten a lot smarter, so they don't want to be hunted. And so they're learning when the hunters are on the property. So even though the numbers of deer that are being harvested are less, the fact that they're more wary of being on the property during the hunt, the hunters help reduce their browsing just by being there and keeping the deer away because they're nervous and they're scared to be there.

Brian:

Do we have a sense of what the total deer population has done over the time period that we have?

Nicole: No. I mean, in general, overall, when the hunt started in 2009, they did a lot of surveys, the Connecticut DP did surveys where they had a hundred deer per square mile, which is huge. For forest regeneration, if you look at some of the research that Jeff Ward has been doing, his ideal number is basically 12 deer per square mile for forest regeneration and 8 deer per square mile for wildflowers as well, because for wildflower regeneration, you also want the deer population lower because as [inaudible] they tend to eat a lot of the regenerative parts, the seeds and the flowers that are unripe. So it inhibits the plant's ability to reproduce. So that's why that number is like the target range of where you want to be.

From what I understand when I was researching information on what the current deer population is, nobody really knows. According to Jeff Ward, he said that the Connecticut DP had actually stopped doing deer density studies because the pro-hunting people were critical of their numbers and the anti-hunting people were critical of numbers. So it became, from my understanding, because obviously the webinar wasn't about the politics of deer population density, my understanding is that it seemed to be more of a political fight. So the GPs like, "Yeah, we're not doing it.: But from extrapolating, from the high numbers, from when they did them, I think you can say comfortably that the deer population in Connecticut is probably somewhere between 40 and 50 deer per square mile. But we don't have hard numbers anymore. Yeah. Those reasons.

Mike: Is the reduction in the number of harvested deer due primarily to the hunting in previous years? Or is it due to the lack of people getting permits this year?

Nicole: We actually had for the first time, to answer the first part of your question, we don't know, you'd have to actually do a study to get that data and you'd have to design something where you could measure those effects. I could only talk anecdotally about what's happening. So my sense of it is that we actually gave out more permits this year than we had in previous years. Couple of reasons why, partly because of COVID, our whole program in terms of interacting with the hunters, like our hunter safety meeting and all of that stuff went online. So what usually happens is when we require people to come to our hunter safety meetings, they get the permits that day and some people just don't show up. So even though the hunt might be full, there's an attrition of people.

So the hunt isn't always full by the time we get out the permits, because this year everyone went online, everyone who made it to the lottery was in the hunt. So we had a total of 205 permits. So it's not a matter of having less hunters on the property. I suspect, although you would need research to back it up, I suspect we're still feeling the effects of that winter of 2010, 2011, because as you can see from the chart for Gaillard, the number of deer harvested after

that precipitously dropped and then has stayed steady between that 36, 35 to 45 number that they harvest every year.

And that's been pretty constant since 2010. I also suspect because as more hunters enter the property that the deer just gets scared away. They weren't used to being hunted. They weren't used to being prey. Now that they're a lot smarter, they tend to get better at avoiding hunters as they have more experience with them. They're like any other living thing that learns and adapts to its situation. So I think it's a combination of those two things.

Mike: Thank you.

Nicole: Sure. Okay. And really quickly, I had some final thoughts, but I wanted to just check in with you guys. Let you know, for this year we actually had a hunter fall out of his tree stand and injure himself. Thank God he was eventually okay, but he ended up in the hospital for observation. So I've met with Joe and a bunch of other people to try to beef up our safety procedures to make sure people are hunting safely out there as much as possible.

Catherine: Nicole, you actually-

Brian: Signed the waivers I assume we have the hunters-

Nicole: Oh yeah, they have to [crosstalk].

Brian: Responsibility.

Nicole: Yeah. There's a waiver. And because we don't charge people to hunt on the property, Connecticut DEP actually indemnifies the [inaudible] authority. So we fall into their insurance.

Mark: How do they get him out of there? Do they have to bring our ATV in?

Nicole: No, he wasn't super far in, but his friend had been able to cut him down and then medical personnel was able to assist him and get him to the proper facilities.

Mark: Because We do have one ATV, that's like a rolls Royce. I think we need some extra ones to have around in the area so that we could fastly displace them, if we need to help people in the woods.

Nicole: That would be a really, really good thing. That'd be probably very helpful.

Mark: And did anybody check his sobriety?

- Nicole: I believe the hospital would've run all those tests and-
- Mark: I think that's important to know whether you want them to come back next year.
- Nicole: No, we talked about that. So I would say for this particular gentleman before he's able to hunt on our property again, he's definitely going to have to go through some sort of safety test to make sure we know that he knows what he's doing.
- Catherine: Nicole, this is Catherine LaMarr. I'm just curious. I'm looking at John Triana's report. It says a hunter fell out of his stand, did this man construct a deer stand on our property?
- Nicole: During the scout, they bring their stands into the property. So there's two kinds of stands you can have, you can have a ladder stand, which usually takes about two people to set up or you can have a climber and that's a more mobile stand. So that's why we have to scout two weeks before the hunt actually starts when you're hunting, you want to be quiet. So what the hunters usually do, is they come and they set up their stands. They'll scout the properties. They'll find a place where they want to pitch for the duration of the hunt. And then they set up their ladder stands and then they stay in their stands until they harvest deer. And then until the Hunt's over, at which point they remove the stand and they leave the property.
- Catherine: Okay, well you answered one of my questions. I just want to know are they constructing permanent deer stands on our property?
- Nicole: No, no, you can't leave any equipment in there. So once the hunt's over, everyone has to take all their gear and leave.
- Catherine: My other question. And I'm also looking at John Triana's report, so the NRA made regular trips.
- Nicole: The NRA?
- John: That's Nicole. She's the natural resources.
- Nicole: Oh, sorry.
- Catherine: I thought it was natural... Okay. Thank you.
- Nicole: I was like, "Wait, the National Rifle Association? I was out all the time."
- John: You're looking and you're hearing from the NRA right now.

Nicole: Yeah, no that's me.

John: Yes.

Nicole: Yeah. So I basically rode around not only to meet the volunteers, but to just check in on the property because when I read the hunt report for 2020, a lot of times people lose their status because they're just following the rules. So even if I didn't put eyes on the hunter, just telling people that I was out there and I was going to be rolling around in my truck, checking on things. We actually had nobody this year who got thrown out of the hunt for violating our rules. Which was nice.

Catherine: Okay. I just wanted to know about the National Rifle Association, but thank you.

Nicole: I can't tell you very much about that. I [inaudible] their firearm safety program's really good. I took it this year.

John: If I could add a couple more things for Catherine's edification for everyone's edification, is that all the hunters have to abide by many rules. One of which that we institute right at the beginning in 2009, is that all hunters need to hunt from a stand. This induces a downward angle to their shot, so we don't have any complaints or worries about neighbors with errant shots. They can use a ladder stand or a climber, as Nicole said, they also have to use a harness whenever they go up into the tree. They have to be wearing orange all times when on our property. Now this gets a little bit into the weeds, but we can tell that how this man fell out of this stand, he was not wearing his harness on properly. That is why Nicole said earlier, that if he is to come back, we are going to put him through a complete test of how he does all his safety stuff, otherwise he will not be able to hunt with us again.

Catherine: Thank you.

Nicole: Oh, you're welcome.

Bob: Bob Harvey. What parcel did the accident happen on?

Nicole: Oh, I'm sorry. Gaillard and actually I don't think I have a map in the actual presentation, but if you know Lake Gaillard, he was on the east side of the property by the ice house. So normally during our hunt, that is parking lot four. So he was past parking lot four, going in that area.

(silence).

Larry: Okay. Nicole, does that wrap up your presentation?

- Nicole: It does. If anyone has any other questions, I don't have to talk about the hunt, obviously to cut it in your meeting, but you guys can ask me questions pretty much at any time.
- Peter: There you go. Thanks so much, Nicole.
- Nicole: Thank you guys.
- Larry: Thanks, Nicole.
- Nicole: Okay guys. Thank you so much for having me. I'll talk to you guys at some point in the future.
- Peter: Stay safe.
- Nicole: Thanks guys. I'm going to sign off.
- Peter: Good job. Yep. Okay. All right. That was very interesting. That was our deer hunt. John Triana you're up. Regional water properties, including invasive species update.
- John: Yep. All right. So Jennifer has the update on the screen for you to see, for me to read. And at the end of November, the raw water percent storage for all the surface water supplies was 85%, last year at 67. Long term average is 66. So as you heard from last couple months, few months, that it's been a very wet year, especially a wet summer after we got past 4th of July. Rainfall for the month of November was 1.65 inches. Last year, we were over five inches. Long term average about four. For the year, we are about seven or eight inches above what the normal is for the historic average. Land We Need For Water We Use Program, we talked to property owners in Cheshire, a couple Madison and one in North Haven about acquisition of their properties and North Branford. I'm sorry, was there a question?
- Okay. North Branford, Beach Street in Palm's Lane, we correspond with the North Branford Land Conservation Trust to talk about the steps forward for those two properties that they were interested in. Branford at the Brushy Plain Road property, we exchange correspondence between Larry and the first selectman, about 30 acres there. Emailed the first selectman's office to discuss further, I've not heard back from him yet. That was at the end of November. Rental house's updates, 95 Ives Street, the bid was published and we actually held a bid opening this Monday. We had three bidders, which was good. We also published two addenda to the bid before it and out, we have already started to see that there's problems with the first bidder. So we may have to go to the second guy, but I need to talk to Peter Bocciarelli more about that before we do anything, definitely. Hamden-

- Mark: Wait a second. John, has our group seen this drive? I know we can't go in it, right? It's too dilapidated.
- John: That's correct.
- Mark: That's the one right on the creek. That's not the one on Skip Street, well here's the one on Skip Street. I'm sorry.
- John: Yeah.
- Mark: But should we drive by these? Has our group ever seen them? I've seen them by driving by, but you think the rest of the group should drive by or see them or something or no?
- John: I mean, you're free to go by anytime. The Ives Street house has already been through disposition. We're at the point where we're about to sell it.
- Mark: Yeah.
- John: But hopefully within three months we have already had a closing and it's gone. The Skip Street one still has to be come up. What happens here is you see in the note is that I email the town staff to determine the status of the condemnation. We need the town to condemn a certain portion of the property. That is where they incorrectly put the sidewalk and the bridge, over the property line, we need them to condemn that so that we have an accurate survey in order to separate out that from the rest of the parcel.
- Mark: Any of these going to be redone? Is the Ives Street one, the people trying to rebuild it?
- John: They will. Yes. They will be required to, that's part of the deed.
- Mark: How much-
- John: Required to.
- Mark: How much of property was there?
- John: At Ives Street?
- Mark: Yeah.
- John: Was I believe 0.92 acres.

- Mark: Oh, so there's a lot of land. And then it's right near that creek. When that creek goes, it goes pretty good.
- John: Yeah. Both of these are directly adjacent to the Mill River, which is the main river that goes into Lake Whitney.
- Mark: Yeah. So how about the other one on Skip Street? Could that be rebuilt or you don't know?
- John: Yes. I mean, everything could be rebuilt. That's what we hope. In the case of Skip Street, to answer your earlier question, is that we brought you out to some of these places before, but we don't usually do it right beforehand, just as an LUC meeting, because we don't want to break the... What's that term, the Latin term? Now I'm drawing a blank. An ex parte communication with bringing the application to you. However, what we have also done, is if you remember, is that we held special meetings out there as part of it so that the public can also view it at the same time.
- Mark: That was a while ago. Right? That was a while ago.
- John: Yes. We did not do that with the Ives Street house because of COVID and all that. But the last one that we did before that was... Which one was the last one before that? I think it was Bethany.
- Mark: Yeah.
- John: And we did a special meeting there.
- Mark: Okay.
- Larry: John, this is Larry. The benefit for some of our newer members. Maybe you might want to explain what we're doing with rental houses, because this is all out of context if you don't understand what the purpose is here.
- John: Correct. So I'm going to try to abridge 150 years into a few sentences. Okay.
- Larry: Yes, please.
- John: Back when the New Haven Water Company and the Regional Water Authority would buy land for watershed protection, is that a lot of times they had buildings that came along with it. In some instances, when the buildings were old and dilapidated, they were just taken down. Sometimes they were donated to the local fire department as a training exercise. But if the houses were in good shape, then they would rent them out to people. Sometimes it would be employees. Other times it would just be members of the public. Well, we are

great at being the water utility, we are not a great landlord. So in the late or early 2000s, we just said, "We are going to get out of the residential landlord business." And we were evicting all the people who lived in these houses and there were about 20 or so at the time. Once we started the eviction process, we wanted to demo them also that we didn't have to deal with the houses in any way, shape or form.

And once you do that, you got to talk to the towns. Once you talk to the towns, then the historical interest can come and make objections. And they did in several towns. So we reacted to this by pivoting and saying, "Okay, we were going to try to sell all the houses." Initially, Claire Bennett was the head of the fire member authority. She did not want to sell any property that was on class one or class two land. So the deal that we made in the early 2000s after we evicted everyone, is that if you want the house, you can buy it from us for a dollar, but you got to move it off our property. And even in the strongest of real estate markets in that mid 2000s time period, we didn't sell a single house. We had a couple little nibbles, but no deal got consummated.

So time went on. We changed our philosophy where we were okay with selling the house where it stood, at this time when I take the position after Diane retired, then all the properties had been vacant for over 10 years, 2013 about, and we said, "We're going to change the paradigm here. We're going to sell these houses or try to sell them where they sit, whether they're on class one, two or three land." And I started in the process thereafter of triaging everything, trying to sell those that had the best chance of being sold and rehabilitated first and work our way down, because you couldn't do it in mass because you need to do things in every town, including for our purposes, for your purposes, the public hearing needs to occur in the town where the property is located. So in other words, we can't sell the Hamden house at the same time as the Madison House, because we need public hearings at the same time in both municipalities.

So it's been a long staggered process that has taken many years, but we are almost there, we can see the finish line. We have the last two houses to be sold, are those two in Hamden. Ives Street has already been through the disposition process. We have completed the bid and we are hopefully going to have a successful award of the bid. Once we tell the successful bidder that they have won, they have 30 days sign the person's sale agreement. And then another 60 days after that to get to a closing table. So it should be sold 90 days after we award the bid. Did I answer your question? That was a lot for 150 years.

Peter:

Good job.

- Larry: John, the only thing I would add is that we had to amend our enabling legislation twice in order to allow us to sell these houses on class one or two lands. So that was a process that we had to go through a couple of times.
- John: That's that's correct. All right. So Woodbridge, 1029 Johnson Road continued to correspond the Tarlowski's, they're the new owners there, about their plans for the house. I just got an email from them earlier this week. Everything looks like it's going to be in order. I told them to send me the updated plans. So that should be coming to me soon. At 2040 Litchfield Turnpike, Bayram's placed three piles of material over the property line and pushed it down the bank. I ordered them to remove everything from our property and once I inspected it, I saw that they did not remove everything. So I told them that any bid that they put in for 95 Ives Street and they were interested in that, was not going to be acknowledged and so they did not submit a bid ultimately for 95 Ives Street.
- Mark: And is there any way we could put a fence along that line there so they can't throw anything over there anymore?
- John: Well, we can and will. Yes.
- Mark: Okay.
- John: I put our fence around most of the property, but of course the one place where I didn't put it, that's where they pushed all the stuff. So we're going to correct that situation.
- Mark: They're doing a lot of work there.
- John: Yes. And some of it's good work [crosstalk].
- Mark: You're right.
- John: That includes over the property line is not warranted.
- Mark: And you don't have it on here, but last month we talked about that orange house. You must have gone by and saw the fence now by now?
- John: Correct.
- Mark: Yeah. I don't know. Is he still within a ballpark in the rules and regulations?
- John: Yes. He's submitted to us the plan forward for the next two years to get the building up, at this time he has, I believe, has completed the entire foundation at this point.

Mark: Really?

John: And should be going up, I don't if he is going to be doing it in the winter time now, probably start in earnest with the rest above the foundation in the spring.

Mark: That's probably the best visual property we have, pictorial or whatever, we have or we sold. I would think.

John: Yeah. Okay. Any other questions on the former rental houses before I move on. If not, we'd go on to forestry. There's only three things that were new. They are in bold. As you see on the list here. So the Hamden over story removal for the tornado salvage, we're looking to grant the guy the extension. This is the fellow who had the heart attack. So that delayed his ability to work out there. But we think things are going to improve where he's going to get somebody back there to continue the work. The slash wall in Madison is 85% complete. And the one that's in Seymour off Silver Mine Road is expected to start this month. The notes is that Alex... Oh, we've gone too far, Jen. Go back. There you go. Alex announced that he will be leaving the authority in December and taking job with DEP Forestry.

He's going to be the deep forester for the [inaudible] State Forest, that's out where he lives around [inaudible] or Killingworth, that area. So we will be losing him very shortly. And we have started the process of filling his position. His last day is next Friday, the 17th. He continued to mark timber for our future sale, Lake Menunketuc and did a timber sale harvest, showed the pre-bid meeting at the one that was won by Permatree. He attended and cohost, the forestry career development event that was at Brian's old digs, the ag experiment station, and he ordered plans for reforestation efforts in the spring. For recreation, I held a bird walk at Hammonasset with the new Haven Bird Club had seven people attend. We updated our online forms to include the veteran's category. It was just an omission that that was not included in all those other categories for the online stuff.

Jeff and I gave a tour of recreation facilities to the two new customer service representatives. Corresponding with DEEP staff about new fishing regulations that are coming down the pipe and the water wagon attended its final event for this season. Jeff has started the process to hire new recreation staff for next year's fishing season. In November, we ended the month with 5,578 permittees, down a little bit from where we were last year, but up from last month, I think last month, if you remember that there's something odd about the number. We can never figure it out exactly, but I'm confident in this month's number, is on the mark. Linda had a quiet month in November, no special activity permits came in, nor were they issued for her. So that was unique. That very rarely happens. Other items, encroachments, and agreements.

We talked to another potential farmer for a field off of Downs Road. That's in the Hamden part of Downs Road, not the Bethany side. The pages indicated that they would not be using the Parish Farm Road fields anymore, that's in Branford, but would renew the agreements in Barberry Road. And those fields are in East Haven. I sent them drafts to review for the renewing of the ones in Barberry Road. 167 Saltonstall Parkway, this is the big encroachment that occurred earlier this spring corresponded with [inaudible] about the progress there, not much is going on. Although we did send them a letter, giving them an ultimatum and a deadline to hear something, otherwise we would start filing suit. Cheshire up at 264 Harrison Road, we sent a letter to abutter about a fence and lawn over the line.

The owners have said that they would be willing to enter a license agreement. There used to be a license agreement there, did not include a fence. It was just a law area. So when it was sold that actually terminates the license agreement, once the property changes hands and the new abutter installed the fence and improved the lawn over the line. So he looks like he's okay with signing a license agreement. We're still discussing that with him. More invasive plants, Josh has been out there and been very busy in Hamden, East Haven and Branford and north Branford. He met with a woman from the agricultural experiment station to discuss invasive insects collections on her permit. And then he met with a woman from Yukon or the intended, it was actually her, I can't remember if it was her masters or her PhD presentation about distinguishing invasive plants with the use of drones by taking images over the forest, processing them and being able to tell you what kinds and how much invasive plants are underneath the canopy. For the month of November...

Mark: Excuse me, John. In search for a new Forester, who's on that committees? Josh be on a committee like that?

John: I am, and Sunny will be too.

Mark: That's it?

John: Yes.

Mark: All right. I thought Josh will be very helpful.

John: Yeah. Well it's complicated. But for Josh he went out there and mapped 11 acres and treated four acres for invasives. Don't have to go through the deer hunt stuff, because Nicole did a spectacular job in giving you the summary of what happened this season. In East Haven, the Beach Avenue water main, Ted that's Chaplik and not Norris and Tom [inaudible] came up with an alternate route for the water main coming off of Morgan Avenue to Stanton Road. So that looks like it's going to be the way to go. We talk to East Haven staff and they are

okay with the concept of it. So we are getting the draft easement and survey for them to look at the Oland property option. And this is off of Treadwell and Putnam. There were some questions about whether or not we relinquished our option in 2005.

I dove into Tom Chaplik's emails and saw a couple from 2005 that maybe what the Oland representative was referring to. I do not think that it's correct and neither does the Hamden Land Trust attorney. So I gave him the emails from Tom and they're going to present them to Oland to get clarification on this, but certainly enough to say that we will support the Hand And Land Conservation Trust because we do believe that the option was there and we did transfer it to them. The Christmas tree donation, we donated a Christmas tree to the New Haven Parks Department to use at the Sea Wall Park to sit down in the annex.

And we've responded to two abutters off of Rockland. Is there a question?

Catherine: I'm just saying, thank you.

John: Oh, you're welcome. And we responded to two abutters from Rockland Road and County Road in Gilford and Mass respectively, about problems with the locks on the gates. We've had a lot of problems with people cutting locks and damaging, vandalizing gates recently. There's five articles for you to read, dealing with land issues. And next month we will have Josh and Will come in and give you a summary of the water Chestnut harvest from Furnace Pond that occurred in 2021. And that's all the news that's fit to print.

Mark: Excellent report, John. Excellent report.

Peter: Any questions for John? I think we were asking as we went. I was so excited about the deer hunt summary. I forgot to approve the minutes in the November 10th meeting. Can I have an approval of the minutes? [crosstalk]. All in favor? [crosstalk]. Very good. Thank you. All right. Other items, I guess we have our new replacement for Ted. Anything else, John, that we need to really cover with other items or Larry? Anyone?

Larry: I don't think so, but let's see, have you designated somebody to attend the December.

Peter: Yeah. That's next. [crosstalk].

Larry: Oh, great.

Peter: Jamie's going. Yep. Yep.

Larry: Okay great. Thank you, Jamie. [crosstalk].

- Peter: Item six, we were confirming a proposed state, the special joint committee meeting for the budget review, April 18th, 2022 at 5:30. Did everyone get that email?
- Jennifer: No, only the chairman got it.
- Peter: So that'd be I. So we threw that out there. I don't know, Jen, if we have too much wiggle room there or we do have a little time between, is that date going to work for most of you?
- Brian: The date is what?
- Peter: April 18th.
- Brian: April 18th.
- Jamie: What is it for?
- Peter: This is the budget workshop.
- Bob: Budget workshop with consumer affairs.
- Mark: Yeah. Combined meeting with consumer affairs. You can also go to the finance meeting too.
- Peter: Which is advisable. So you get a good grip on it.
- Mark: Well, I know, you either go to the either meeting.
- Peter: Yeah. You could go to both too.
- Mark: Yeah. You go to both too.
- Brian: Do the same presentation twice.
- Mark: Yeah.
- Peter: Yeah. Well anyways, that's the date. I believe we'll fine tune it, right? Jen, in the near future.
- Jennifer: Yeah. As long as everybody can let me know as soon as possible that's the week that Rochelle was hoping to get the committees, finance is going to discuss next week, April 20th for their meeting. So theirs will be Wednesday. Consumer affairs meeting is a regular meeting on the 18th. So it would be like last year

they had a regular meeting and then land use committee was a special meeting, but it was a joint meeting.

Peter: With them?

Jennifer: Yes.

Peter: I'm okay with that date. So I would say keep the date so we can-

Jennifer: Okay.

Peter: Move ahead with your schedule.

Jennifer: Okay.

Peter: And then of course Jamie is going to our December 16th meeting to represent us and-

Jamie: Brian, you started to say something when that was brought up earlier? Were you wanting to attend it this year?

Brian: No, no. I was just from the agenda, which Pete just got to.

Peter: Okay.

Brian: I believe I had volunteered to do the January one.

Peter: I believe you did. Yep.

Brian: We're now going to be on the fourth Thursday in January?

Peter: I believe. Yeah. Yep.

Jennifer: Yes. That's correct.

Brian: Okay.

Peter: Okay. Thanks, Brian. And our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 12th at 5:30. Any other questions? Great meeting as usual.

Ted: Hey Peter, this is Ted.

Peter: Yes.

Ted: You mind if I just jump in for one second?

Peter: I was going to grab you Ted. I got your cell phone too, so. I'll be reaching out to you, but go ahead, Ted. Sure.

Ted: I just wanted to say that I've really enjoyed the past eight years being the liaison to this committee and the relationships that we have all developed. It's a great committee. It's a close-knit committee. I just have really seen the passion that you folks have for the land and our protection of it and how you've challenged us to be continually improved in how we do that. So thank you very much for the opportunities and the time that we've had together.

Peter: [crosstalk]. Thank you so much, Ted. You'll be missed, but I agree with you wholeheartedly about this committee and the pride they take in their positions on it. So anything else for Ted? I hate long goodbyes. I'm serious.

Jamie: I think Ted has been an extraordinary representative of the RWA, you've just been exceptional in every way in educating us, keeping us up to speed, giving us context and you've gone over and beyond, and you've also trained your staff to do the same. And so you're going to be missed. You've been exceptional, Ted. And so I wish you well with your next steps in your era and the adventures in front of you, but you will be missed.

Ted: Thank you, Jamie.

Peter: Thanks, Jamie. Larry, you were going to say something?

Mike: I think we all would second that.

Peter: Absolutely. I believe our CEO wanted to say one more thing here.

Larry: Well, two things. Ted, certainly he's been with the RWA 30 years. And when I started with the RWA in 2009, we worked closely together first in crafting the RWA, first strategic plan based on the balance scorecard and Ted jumped into that with both feet. I think he had some hair raising moments, but I think did a great job helping us with the strategic plan. And he's been a real pioneer in helping us in many of the asset management activities, first creating the capital prioritization matrix under his supervision, but also too, within the past few years, helped working with John Triana to create a land trust council that we are the sponsor of.

And maybe at a future meeting John Triana and perhaps even the chair of that organization might want to give you a briefing on all the work that's been done in partnership with that land trust council, that Ted and John were heavily involved in the early stages, in order to get it formed. So we're going to miss Ted and I understand he is leading his shoes behind for Sunny to fill, but will be a tough job. And thank you, Ted, for all of your service.

Ted: Thanks, Larry.

Peter: Good job, Larry.

John: Can I give one Ted story?

Peter: Sure.

John: This is a funny one. So I don't have a lot of Ted stories, but this is one of the first times I remember meeting Ted, is that when I started at the water authority, remember I was at the Whitney Water Center. My office, I had a desk that is very near where Linda Mortality sits now, which is in front of Ted's office. So I only came into the office maybe once every couple weeks or so, because most of my work was at the Water Center and this was probably two or three years into being at the Water Authority and working at the Water Center. And I had met Ted once or twice, didn't really know him, but I knew he was an engineer and engineers are usually, he was quiet and focused on things, right?

And one day I was in the office and I had lunch, but I didn't bring any snacks with me. So I went over to the concession, the vending machine, I put in my money hit the button and that little cork screw thing went and then it stopped and my Fritos were hanging there in midair. Takes my money and just leave it there. Now I'm just standing here, bummed in front of the machine. I'm like, "Oh man." And then Ted walks by, he's like, "Oh, what's wrong?" And I say, "Oh the machine didn't drop my Fritos." And he goes, "Oh, don't worry about that." And he takes the machine and the thing falls down and I'm like, "Wow." And I was like, "Thanks." So that was one of my first real memories of Ted Norris.

Mark: That's what you call engineering.

Peter: I was going to say that. Yeah.

Mark: That's the second-

Peter: Anything else?

Jamie: If you liked that, Sunny, wait till you see how Ted took care of the dam issues.

Peter: Yeah. That's true Jamie. Well Ted, you heard it all. You will be missed. You're quite a gentleman. You always made me feel comfortable, helped me out and I looked up to you. So thanks so much.

Ted: Thanks, Peter.

Peter: Anything else? Yep. You're welcome. I make a motion to adjourn.

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Joe: [inaudible].

Brian: Second.

Mike: Second.

Peter: All in favor?

Jamie: Aye. [crosstalk].

Peter: Oppose? I doubt it. Okay. Goodnight, everyone. Be safe.