

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

**January 12, 2022
Meeting Transcription**

Peter: Okay. Okay. Good evening, everyone. Welcome to our regular meeting. Remember it's being recorded. We'll start with the safety moment. I really think it's needed to read this because with the fires going on, with heaters, I'm sure all of you are pretty educated with how to ventilate your house and keep your house safe. Just go through that for me. And it's, it's good to know. And I need approval minutes from last month.

Greg: So moved.

Peter: Second.

Bob: Bob Harvey.

Peter: All in favor?

Group: Aye.

Peter: Oppose? Extensions.

Greg: I abstain. [inaudible].

Peter: [inaudible]. Oh, okay. All right. Oh shoot. Hold on, guys. I'm sorry. Stop it. My scanner from the police department. Bess. Oh boy. So sorry guys and ladies. All right, so we're moving ahead. We're going to have to [inaudible] water Chester harvest summary with Josh and Will. Are they aboard here?

Josh: Absolutely.

Peter: Hey Josh, how are you?

Bob: Doing good, Peter. How are you doing?

Peter: Good. Good. Well, who's going to start for us?

Will: Oh, I'm going to share it here and make sure you guys can all see it.

Peter: Yep, yep.

Jennifer: Yep.

Will: Good to go?

Peter: Yeah.

Josh: Yep.

Will: Okay. Hope you guys are all doing well. Thanks for having us again. We guys, we're going to provide you with a quick update on the Water Chestnut harvest. Most of you are probably familiar with this project, but we'll go over it really briefly again here. So you guys are all familiar with what the plant looks like. Water chestnut, *Trapa natans*. It's an aquatic invasive plant. It's prolific. It expands exponentially. On the left is what the plant looks like. It has a floating leaf. That's what that is there that sits on the surface of lakes and ponds. And then it produces these [keens], the fruit on the right, these little seeds. Each plant can produce each rosette, which is a part of the plant, can produce 10 to 12 of these. They drop down into the sediments, the viable ones grow back the next year, and it becomes a major problem in our water bodies.

So the area that we have this infestation is Furnace Pond, which is south of Lake Saltonstall separated by the Amtrak railroad and I-95. This here is some aerial photography taken by the Department of Agriculture each year. You can see from 2008 where there's nothing present, 2010, there's a small population. By 2012, you can see that there's quite a bit of it. And you kind of fast forward through these here to 2018, which is where they collected the last set of imagery. And we're kind of at the maximum extent that this plant can grow in Furnace Pond. Sometime in 2017 is when we first noticed that this was an issue. They started to find the fruit floating along the shore in Lake Saltonstall and that's when we started our management efforts.

So this is kind of what it looks like out there. This plant creates a monoculture. It shades out all of the native plant life. It grows really aggressively. Like I said, each of these plants can produce the rosettes, which there can be multiple rosettes per plant, can produce 10 to 12 seeds per plant. So it can grow exponentially up until it reaches its maximum extent. This is what it looks like out there.

Our primary goal here with harvesting the plant and managing it is to prevent the spread into Lake Saltonstall. This map here is just kind of a risk assessment map. The plant can only grow in six to eight feet of water. So we've kind of looked at the areas where Saltonstall is generally that depth. So you have your areas of low risk and areas of high risk. Basically anywhere between 25 and 60 acres of the lake could become infested with this plant if we allow it to spread north into Lake Saltonstall. Again, Furnace Pond and Lake Saltonstall, they're connected by about a six foot diameter culvert. It might actually be bigger than that. It might be 12 feet, but it's a small culvert that does connect them.

Water flows in both directions. Generally, water does flow south from Saltonstall into Furnace Pond, but under certain conditions, it does flow the other way, which is when these water chestnut vegetative masses and seeds can float into Lake Saltonstall. So

that's something that we don't want. It really compromises the ecosystem. It's bad for water quality. It's bad for the health of the system. It's bad for the fishing that we have there in Lake Saltonstall.

So as you guys are probably aware of, we've been doing a harvest of Furnace Pond, basically they come in with a large machine. It is like a conveyor belt with a lawnmower on the front of it, is a really broad analogy. They remove all of the vegetative matter before the seeds can come into play. And we've done that now. This is our second ... well, this will be our third year coming up in 2022. So in 2021, we conducted the harvest from the end of July until the beginning of August. We did have a few delays, mostly on the contractors part due to they were short staffed. It was related to the COVID conditions. They were looking for people, so they had a shortage there, which kind of delayed things. They also had some equipment malfunctions and those malfunctions required specialized parts that as many of you may be aware there's some supply chain shortages.

So finding those specialized parts of repairing the machine took some time, but all in all, they harvested just as much material as they did last year. We budgeted for 10 days of harvesting. They harvested for seven days and accomplished the goal. They used a much larger machine this year than last year. So we actually did save some money despite the delay. And we harvested about 4.4 acres of the pond. So this is just an idea of the machine that they used. I don't know if I touched on this earlier, but the pond is about a 10 acre pond and it's got about six acres of water chestnut. So we harvested anywhere between 60 and 70% of it, which is about what we can reach with this kind of technique. Someone have a question?

Mike: I might have a question.

Will: Sure go for it.

Mike: Is this water chestnut native to North America?

Will: No, it's not. This is from Eurasia. The plant was first found in the Potomac River in the late 1800s. This is relatively new to Connecticut, though. We have one of maybe four different populations that are in Connecticut. So no, it's not native to the United States in any way.

Mike: Thank you.

Will: Of course. So they use a machine like this. You can kind of see the front is on the left. The back is on the right. They use the cutter on the front to remove the material. They use the conveyor belt on the back to unload it. This is a better picture here. So there's a lot of material out there. This plant has a lot of biomass. And even though it's six acres might already seem like a lot, you have to consider that you're thinking in three dimensions here. So you're talking about three to four feet worth of the plant underwater as well. So they use this machine to harvest it.

Then we use our machine to ... the facilities folks help us out. They bring the plant material up onto the top of the hill where it can dry out and desiccate. These are some piles from 2020. This is how much material we removed in 2021. The little truck there is kind of a size comparison. This plant material decomposes really fast. So it's mostly water. Water, and nutrients. So these piles will become very small after a few days in the sun.

So some updates on our monitoring efforts. There are few areas of concern. We monitor the Furnace Pond population because that's the primary vector for this. We also have found that the plant now, and this was in 2021 ... Sorry, 2020. So I've already updated you guys on this, but in 2020, we found it in Vaiusos, which is the nursery that is off of Hosley Avenue. And then they've also found it in the Pages Millpond, which is upstream of Lake Saltonstall in the Farm River. This year, we have actually were notified by the Branford Land Trust who acquired a small piece of property off of Cherry Hill Road. The property was previously owned by the Cosgroves of Branford, if anyone's familiar with that. It was a large property. It had some ponds on it. The Branford Land Trust, when acquiring the property, found some strange plants in one of the ponds. Turns out it was this water chestnut. So this is another possible vector for the plant to move into Lake Saltonstall. So this is another area that we're going to be monitoring going into the future.

Each year we go into Lake Saltonstall and remove anything that we find. Lake Saltonstall has a very small quantity of the plant compared to Furnace Pond. So we can go out on a small boat and remove it by hand. Over the last four years, we have seen the plant, the population has diminished. We still find the plant in Saltonstall, but we don't find it as far north. Looking at this map, the purple circles are the first year that we've removed it. This year is the red circles. Probably a bad choice of color on my part, but we are finding it farther and farther south. And we're able to remove it each year. So this year, very small. We're talking about just a couple of plants and it's right now, it's manageable.

And so keeping that population down in Furnace Pond, removing the plants before they go to seed and going out each year and removing the plants here from Saltonstall are really the keys to this. We've also increased our monitoring to look at the north end of Lake Saltonstall where the Farm River diversion comes in, because we know now that there's a population above Lake Saltonstall that can enter there. And next year, we're going to increase our efforts monitoring near if you're familiar with Lake Saltonstall where the boat launch is or where the recreational boats are sold, there's a small stream that comes in there that would be coming from Cherry Hill Road, I believe. Josh, if you want to go from there.

Josh: Sure. So as with our goals, we want to try to fly this our drone at the beginning of the harvest, prior to the harvest and after the harvest and to document how much material was removed, but also more importantly to document how the plant is growing and trying to monitor if our efforts are actually moving in the right direction. So on top of collecting the pre and post-harvest imagery, we want to utilize the data that we receive for future initiatives. So you can go to the next slide, Will.

Will: Oh, right.

Josh: So this is the product that we got from flying in July of 26 ... Sorry, of 2021. You can see the population, it's tough to tell now, but on the next map ... you can go to the next map, Will. This is the most important piece of information that we're going to get from the drone imagery is this comparison between the 2020 harvest and the 2021 harvest.

So on the left is the 2020 harvest. And on the right is the 2021 harvest prior to the harvest taking place. And you can see in 2021 it appears that the population has started to diminish in the center. You can see that there's just less growing in the right image than there is on the left image. And this is a trend that we're hoping to see over the next five to seven years of mechanical harvesting is every year the population returning, but returning in less force, less material to harvest less seeds in the seed bank. So this is super promising seeing this type of imagery coming out from our drone flights. You can go to the next slide.

So unfortunately when we flew this mission, this was the post-harvest mission. So this was taken in August of 2021. It was slightly windy. And because it was windy, it caused kind of this parallax effect where the trees are moving. Some of the plants are moving and, in every image, each picture is subtly different. So when the program wanted to stitch them together, it just didn't want to line up perfectly. But for our purposes, it gives you a general idea of where the population is and that's really all that matters to us. It doesn't need to be super detailed. We can differentiate the green from the blue. So if you go to the next slide, Will. This is a comparison between the pre-harvest and the post-harvest. So we generally got the same amount of area removed that we did in 2020 now in 2021.

And that's mostly due to the fact that the depth of the water will only allow us to move this boat to certain areas of the pond. So, what you're seeing is about the extent of what we'll get through mechanical harvest. You can move to the next slide, Will. Yeah. So here's the comparison between the 2020 and the 2021 harvest. In the 2020 harvest, the lake level was down pretty low, which meant that the depth was at a point where the boat couldn't reach any of the material towards the middle and the south at that point. You can still see there's a large chunk of water chestnut there.

This year in 2021, the water level was much higher and the boat was able to reach further into the center of the mass and was able to do a pretty good job clearing up just about everything there.

Brian: This is Brian Eitzer. One quickie question.

Josh: Sure.

Brian: There is that small portion of the pond in the upper right corner that seems to be separated.

Josh: Yep.

Brian: What are we going to do about that piece? Because it looks like it's in that piece and I don't imagine the boat can get in there.

Josh: Yeah. So we've investigated. It's hard to tell from this picture, but there is ... if you look in the left picture, the post-harvest for 2020, you can kind of see a little bit of water pushing through the water chestnut where that line of trees in that separates the two water bodies and that area is accessible to a small boat. Will and I have gone in there in the past. It is accessible to hand pulling. I'm not sure how much of that area is actually water chestnut in there. There's a lot of native species growing up there, too. So realistically there probably isn't a lot of management that needs to happen in that small portion of the pond. There will be some management that needs to be done, but a boat can access it.

Brian: Okay.

Josh: Yeah, we're hoping using the mechanical harvesting to get the population down to a point where we can go in and hand pull what's left in the shallower areas. And so the project will be ongoing even past the point where we stop mechanically harvesting. Next slide, Will. In using the pre and post maps, we can then extrapolate that to ArcGIS and draw polygons and using the polygons we can estimate how much of the pond we were able to harvest. So in this case, as Will had mentioned earlier, it came out to roughly 4.4 acres.

I think the amount of material that was harvested was significantly more than last season, just because of the depth of the water and the access we had to some extra populations and the size of the boat that we were using to harvest. We had the machine for almost the same amount of time. This time it was 10 days versus I think somewhere closer to 12 days or 14 days last time. But since the boat was larger, it was able to harvest much more in the allotted time it had. Next slide, Will.

Mark: You think this is a winning battle, Josh?

Josh: Well, as far as invasives go, this is probably one of the only species that we have a pretty decent chance at eradicating mechanically. So in terms of winning, yes. In terms of timeframe, it's not going to be a quick and swift defeat, but over time this is a plant that can definitely be taken over. We can definitely remove it. And eventually this pond won't have it anymore. It's just a matter of being diligent.

Mark: Yeah. So you're talking what? 10, 15 years probably?

Josh: Yeah. The seed bank I think has been documented to last upwards of 10 years at the most. And so that means that most of the seeds probably won't last that long, but the fact that we have to first use the mechanical operation to remove a significant portion, and then we have to get in a handful means that even though the seed bank will be

exhausted, we're still going to have some plants in there that's going to be providing some seeds. So we're going to have to, yeah, 10 to 15 years is probably on the right order for this.

Mark: Maybe you can get it down to the part where the RPB and the RWA members can go in there with boots and clean it up led by the RWA member, five member authority first.

Josh: That sounds like a great idea, Mark. I think that's something I could get behind. I'll fly the drone over everyone, too. We'll put it on Facebook. I think it'll be a ... I think that's a great idea.

Greg: [inaudible], Mark.

Josh: So in terms of the future, we're definitely budgeting for the harvest to happen again in 2022. This harvest needs to be treated almost like a ... if we stop at any point, it can really just set us back significantly. If these plants can grow and set their seeds again in the middle, then you're kind of restarting the clock in terms of the seed bank life. So this is an important project that we need to keep going. So we're going to budget more money for 2022.

And then we want to try to talk to adjacent landowners, like Will had mentioned. We're starting to come up with more possible places where we could have gotten contaminated from, and we want to branch out to see if there's any other populations or at least help the ones that have existing populations in knowing what to do and how to treat what they have. We're going to continue to fly the drone and do a pre and post-harvest flights. As time goes on, we may have better drones, better drone imagery, and access to more programs that could give us more information. That's yet to be known, but this technology's improving all the time, which is super exciting. And-

Mike: I have a question.

Josh: Absolutely.

Mike: I have a question. I see what you've been able to accomplish and I agree with your procedure, but is there something you can do to ... is there some I'll say boat or craft that needs less draft, so you can eliminate the stuff along the shorelines? Which, from the pictures, you're not able to do because the boat can't go into shallow waters. Well, if the boat can't go into shallow waters, then those plants are going to continue to survive and spread. So are there smaller boats? Are there boats of less draft that can help you eliminate that plant along the shorelines?

Josh: Will, maybe you could answer this question for Mike?

Will: I think definitely is the answer. I think that this last harvest that we did, they brought a much bigger boat than they had the year prior. One of our limitations in 2020 was that they had a small boat that could access a lot of these areas, but we didn't have a lot of

water that year. I think the lake was down almost two and a half feet. Last year, the lake was a hundred percent full, but they had a much bigger boat. So yes, I think there are smaller craft that we can use. It's just a matter of whether the contractor has them and whether we have the money to budget for that timeframe.

Because when you get into using, there's kind of a ... you got to think about it as like a cost benefit of two lines crossing. At a certain point, it doesn't make sense to mechanically harvest anymore, but to hand pull the plants. And I'm not sure that we're quite there yet, but yeah, I think there are other opportunities that we could look at in terms of using a smaller boat to get some more of this shoreline, but not necessarily all of it. I hope that answers your question.

Mike: Okay. It seems to me that if you were able to have a contractor that has the combination of both a larger boat and a smaller boat, you could accomplish more removal and that's what we're all striving for.

Will: Yes.

Mike: Thank you.

Will: Of course.

Josh: Is this the last slide, Will?

Will: I believe this is the last slide, yes, Josh.

Josh: Okay. So we're happy to take more questions from you guys about this project.

Will: Oh, I guess there would be one more.

Greg: I have one question.

Will: [crosstalk].

Greg: Okay. I have one question. This is Greg from West Haven. Have we found water chestnuts in any other area of our water sources?

Will: We have not found it anywhere yet. I will say that it has been surprising to find it in other water bodies around Lake Saltonstall over the last three years in places that we would not have expected to find it. The location in Furnace Pond makes it ... we found it in Vaiusos and we found it in Furnace Pond. Those makes sense. You know, those are adjacent properties. It's possible that it came from Vaiusos or we gave it to them, whatever. To find it in Pages Millpond in the Farm River is a location that's spatially a lot farther away and it's not downstream of us.

So, and then finding it again in this small pond in Branford, it is a little concerning. I think we are fortunate that we don't have any other sources of supply that are very close to this, but no, we have not found it in any of our water bodies yet.

Mike: I have another question. Do we know if any other water company is experiencing the same problem? And do they have different methods of removal?

Will: I know that Aquarion does have it in one pond. I believe they've done the harvesting like we have done. I think the difference there is that the pond is smaller and they also draw the pond down a lot more than us. So drawing your pond down, it kills the seeds, but we don't have as much of a supply need at Saltonstall that that will help us. Other than that, this specific invasive plant, no. Aquarion is the only one that I know of. I do know that Norwalk does have another invasive plant, Hydrilla, which is an up and coming plant in terms of invasives but that is not a concern for us yet.

Mike: Thank you.

Peter: Thanks, Josh and Will for a great presentation. Any more questions for the two of them?

Jamie: Will, these boats that they're using to remove the water chestnut ... I'm sorry, this is Jamie. Can they also be used for lily pads?

Will: Yeah. Yes.

Jamie: Okay. Just curious. Thank you.

Will: Of course. If you have a lake or pond that you're interested in having the lily pads removed, they do actually sell a small boat that we looked at initially that is solar powered and is perfect for little ponds like that. I can e-mail it to you.

Jamie: I think the town ... I want to think, I think it's either Haddam or East Haddam recently bought a ... I didn't know if it was the same boat. They recently bought one for I think one of the land trusts maybe bought one.

Will: Okay.

Jamie: I remember that, but I don't know if it same thing, but that's pretty cool. Okay. Thank you.

Will: Yeah. No problem. Josh, do you remember what that was called? Oh, it was called a WeeDoo. And they were small little-

Josh: Yeah. Just the WeeDoo.

Will: Yeah, small electric powered, solar powered. Much smaller application, though, than what we're doing here, but perfect for small ponds.

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Josh: And all kinds of fun, different attachments you can get with oil booms and buckets and all kinds of stuff you can use for different pond needs.

Will: Yeah.

Peter: So, guys, it looks like we're gaining. Mark was questioning how long, but it makes no sense to stop now. And hopefully our budget will allow us to keep going. Correct?

Will: Absolutely. I would like to be more optimistic and say six to eight years from now, but we'll stick with a decade.

Peter: It may be. It may be.

Will: We'll keep saying 10 years until it's not 10 years.

Peter: That's right. And another thing is, is you're talking about the depth of the water. When the reservoir is more full, is it these plants grow more or less? Is it more deep?

Will: So when the reservoir is full, the plants actually can grow less because the water is deeper in the middle.

Peter: Okay.

Will: So when the lake is down, we actually can experience more grow because there's less water above the height that they can grow to, if you know what I mean. They can only grow in six feet of light. The limiting factor is how deep can the light penetrate. It has to warm those seeds up so that way they can sprout.

Peter: Gotcha.

Will: When the lake is down, more of them can actually grow.

Peter: Yeah. You might have covered that already, but it's pretty deep. The whole concept. Any more questions? Well, thanks guys. Thanks so much for your time. And keep up the good work.

Josh: Thanks for having us

Will: Of course. Thanks for having us.

Peter: Thank you. Okay, John Triana, how are you?

John: Good. How are you?

Peter: Good. Happy New Year. I didn't say happy New Year to everyone. Happy New Year.

John: Same to you.

Group: Happy New Year.

Peter: Let's hope it's a good one, huh?

John: Amen.

Peter: But it's all you John with updates on the properties.

John: Yep. At the end of the calendar year, December, the surface water supplies were 85% full. Our previous year is 81%. The long-term average is 72. So we're still way ahead. The rainfall for the last couple months have been under the long-term average. In December, it was only one and a half inches. Last year we were about four, which is almost right on the long-term historical average. For the fiscal year, we're above the long-term average and we were also about half a foot more than what we saw in the previous fiscal year. The Land We Need and Water We Use program, spoke to land owners in Madison. Two in Madison, one in North Haven for the Beech Street and Poms Lane property in North Branford. I appeared out of North Branford Land Trust meeting to discuss our disposition process.

And then I talked to the engineering and survey firm, surveyors that who worked on the previous disposition application in 2010 and 2011, that's Bennett and Smilas. If they would help me get the properties through the splitting process through North Branford. So they said they would do that. We had a meeting at the end of last week with some of the North Branford staff. It went very well. Excuse me.

Rental houses, 95 Ives Street. We had the bid opening in December. The top bidder wanted to pull out. I think I mentioned this at last month's meeting. So we then awarded it to the second highest bidder. And we've been marching forward with him ever since. We corresponded with his attorneys about the purchase and sale agreement and the closing and I can say at this point that we have executed the purchase and sale agreement.

The buyer has just completed their title report. So we hope to schedule the closing soon. At Skiff street, I spoke to the deputy town attorney about the condemnation and he indicated that it would ... he basically gave himself until the end of the first quarter of 2022 to get condemnation to us. So, hopefully we'll see something from them by the end of March. For 1029 Johnson Road, I spoke to the owners there and they indicated they would compromise in some of the points that we brought up about their revised plans. And I asked them to send me some updated plans. I've not heard anything since then. And I in fact sent them an e-mail today to see how they're doing on it because it's been about a month since I last corresponded with them.

At 2040 Litchfield Turnpike, we found material that was still left over the property line from the stuff that they dumped down the bank. So I forced them to remove it all and

told them that we would not accept any bids from them for 95 Ives Street. They were hoping to bid on that property. So by the end of the month, they removed all the material and our crews installed some jute mats to make sure there was going to be no movement of material because it is very steep. It goes down to the wetland where it is the stream that connects Lake Glen and Lake Dawson. Very close to the water treatment plant.

Forestry updates. The things in bold are changes from the previous month. So in Madison, the slash wall harvest is almost complete. In Seymour, that slash wall harvest has just started. And in Killingworth, a bid for the North Chestnut Hill Road patch cuts was awarded in December. Alex's last day was the 16th of December and we started interviewing candidates for the position back in December. We're still working on that.

We observed southern pine beetles at Lake Bethany. This is a new infestation. Remember, we had several in West Haven by the Maltby lakes, which caused us to take down many potential host trees. In this case, it's in one solitary red pine that survived or was left over from the harvest that Alex did just north of Hatfield Hill Road. So we consulted with ag experiment station staff, and their advice was to leave it. They want to actually want to monitor it for the next few months or a year to see how it's doing right now. It looks like it is repelling the insects pretty well. In fact, we had one photograph where when these insects attack a red pine, the red pine oozes sap. It makes it look like a popcorn, a piece of popcorn that comes out. And in one of the popcorns, you could see a dead beetle in it.

So that this is one of the strategies that the tree has for defending itself against insect pests. Other things for forestry, we updated all the SOPs in advance of Alex's departure. Josh has been taking over the reigns for dealing with forestry on a day-to-day basis. So he marked some firewood lots and issued a new permit and he's continued marking for a future sale up at Lake Menunkatuc in Guilford.

Recreation stuff. The Christmas tree cutting event was held. We didn't do a party this year. COVID stuff. But we had 63 trees removed, which was good. Weather was decent for both days. We held an invasive plant walk at Lake Saltonstall. Had four attendees come to that. We continued our process to hire new people for next year's fishing season. And Jeff is actively working on that as we speak. I rebled the trails at Lake Bethany and we redirected some Facebook Messenger notices when there was a discolored water episode that happened in West Haven towards the end of the month. That actually occurred because somebody hit a water main in ... or not a water main.

I meant [inaudible] in West Haven, which caused us to be moving water in weird ways in order to cordon off the problem so we can correct it. Within a day, we had it all corrected and things had improved greatly. So sorry, I don't have the permit numbers here. I did not get them until after this was produced because we had some of our customer service staff were not in until Tuesday of this week. So I don't have that for you. I'll have that for next month. Special activity permits that Linda takes care of. We had four in the month of December. Mostly, actually, all four of these are repeats that

we do almost every year. Other items, encroachments, and agreements. For agricultural agreements, we signed one agreement for the use of one of the fields on Downs Road in Hamden.

And then I met our resident beekeeper up in Prospect, because he's going to be looking to use part of the field off of [inaudible] Cornwall for another site. Right now he has six hives and this would be the seven. East Haven, the drama at 167 in Saltonstall Parkway continues. We corresponded with Murtha's staff about progress. We gave them an ultimatum. Well, when we then talked to their attorneys, they said they didn't get the materials that we sent them. So we had to resend it to them. And then we sent them a new letter. In the meantime, the abutter was parking vehicles outside on what is really state property in our frontage to Route 1 in this location. So it occurred in January, but I contacted DoT who actually went out there within a week and knocked on the their door and told them to move their vehicles because they cannot park on state property in that ...

So, and last I heard is that one of the three vehicles that was there had a dead battery. So they needed time to move that. I have not been by since then to see if it's gotten a jump and gotten moved. At 264 Harrison Road, we sent an abutter, a draft license agreement for the extension of a lawn and fence that went over the line. 8 Maiden Lane in Seymour, we sent a draft [inaudible] to a realtor because that house is changing hands. Actually, I can report now that the new owner has contacted me this week and I sent them an updated draft license agreement. That is for basically just parking a couple vehicles on our property across the street. Mike, I don't know if you're familiar with Maiden Lane, but if anybody's familiar with Maiden Lane, it's about eight to 10 feet wide and the people on the, I guess it'd be the east side of the street, have no ... some of the houses go right to the asphalt and on our side, some of the asphalt goes over our line.

So, they have really no ... Several residents there have no place to park. So we allow two of them to park on our side and they pay an annual fee for that. At 1201 Whalley Avenue, this is the ice cream place, Spinaci's, and we contacted them to renew the license agreement there. It expired in December. Linda has contacted them and they said it is in the mail. I haven't seen it yet, though. At 81 Suffolk Drive, this is south of you, Joe, we corresponded with the Nature Conservancy staff. They went out in December to check on their conservation easement over the property your family sold to us. And the fence is still there from 81 Suffolk Drive. And we sent another more nastier letter to them from a follow up of what we sent in January. So I gave them a time period to January 21st in order to get back to me. I've not heard from them sense. So if they don't do anything by that point, then I will have Murtha knock on their door.

Joe: Okay. Backyard, it's pretty close.

John: Yeah. I don't know if you've gone down that far, Joe, but this is a fence that we observed in I think it was 2003 or 2004 and notified them about it, told them they had to move it. They said that they would move it and then we never got back there again until early

last year or late ... I'm sorry, late 2020 or early 2021. And it was still there. So, that's why we are following up on this matter.

Joe: Good.

John: At the Big Gulph area, we were alerted by North Branford town staff who were in the Northford Park there that they observed youths going into our property, trespassing and then our police went in and found a fort that they had constructed on our property.

Paul then went through some of the materials that were dumped there. All the trash and so forth. Was able to determine at least the name of one of the youths who were in there and went and knocked on the door, told them to not into the property anymore and to alert his buddies that they are not to enter the property either. Then our operation staff went and dismantled the fort. It was pretty well built. Invasive plants, Josh and Will gave you some information from this summer, but in the last month, Josh has treated and documented invasive populations in North Branford and Guilford and he's mapped 39 more acres as well as treated 2.66 acres. He also discussed aquatic species grant with our new grant coordinator and got her up to speed on what we applied for last year. For your edification, we actually put in a application for this DEP, DEEP Aquatic Invasive Species Program and we were denied because they were really looking for more water bodies that had public access and that doesn't apply for Furnace Pond.

The deer hunt post hunt surveys were mailed out by Nicole. I know she's gotten many in already and has been logging the data at Beech Street in East Haven. This water main that we're looking to replace. We corresponded with the attorneys, our attorneys, and the surveyor preparing the easement and map, because we're going to go over, excuse me, part of Town of East Haven property and where you want to have a draft easement and survey for the engineer and town attorney to review. And it's almost ready.

I just need the surveyor to change something on the map. We're almost at that point. For the New Haven Country Club in Hamden, we were asked by the country club staff to sign off on assignment between them and Webster Bank. I sent it off to Murtha to get their opinion. I've not heard back from them yet. For the matter of the Eli Whitney museum and the access to get to the dam, I discussed the license agreement with Murtha staff and we said ... it's because they also work for UI or what's it called now? Avangrid. That we would be willing to waive our conflict of interest if we have to involve Murtha in a more detailed way. And there's six articles for you to read this month and I am open for any of your questions.

Peter: Thanks so much, John. Questions for John?

Greg: Hey John, this is Greg. I was looking at the harvesting of the deer and I saw there was only one deer harvested on the ... was it Ansonia? Was it Seymour? Derby?

John: Yes.

Greg: Is that right?

John: Right.

Greg: Is that because of the lack of hunters or lack of deer?

John: It's just a smaller area. In that case, see, the way that we set up the hunt is that we have about one hunter for every 20 acres. That one is about 160 acres. So we only issue eight permits for that location. So there's not a lot of people there. I don't think we've ever pulled more than maybe two or three in any particular year. Some years we've had zero deer harvested out of there. It's just the some years it doesn't get a lot of action. And it's not for lack of deer. There's definitely deer in there. I remember one year it was probably around 20 say 12 or so. And I would go by, I'd see someone was parking there all the time. So they were putting in a fair amount of time.

It got to the end of the hunt. I think it was one of those years where we didn't get any deer. So I was wondering, "Are there no deer here?" Then I'm driving along 313 Rimmon Road there going out towards from Woodbridge to the center of Seymour and then boom, boom, boom, boom. There goes two deer running across the road from the deer hunt area to our recreation area. And I'm like, well, it's not for lack of deer. They're definitely here. So it's just a matter of getting them.

Greg: Maybe were a little smarter than the other deer, huh? In other places?

John: Perhaps. I also note that surrounding that on the west and south sides are areas that BUI sold to DEP a few years before we bought BUI. And that area is, they allow hunting on that property. So there is a fair amount of general hunting pressure around that property, which is not necessarily the same amount of pressure that we see like in North Branford.

Greg: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Okay. Thank you.

John: Yep.

Peter: Thanks John. Any other questions for John? Mark? No? Other land items, John? Anything we should be brought up to speed on?

John: Not that I could think of.

Peter: How about Sunny? You want to chime in on anything?

Sunny: Nothing at this point I would say. I think both John [inaudible] I would say Will and Josh pretty much gave [inaudible] to the extent of the work that we've been doing. I think it's been great, Will and Josh. I think we've been following up on many things. I think there's going to be probably some updates coming up I would say [inaudible] acquisitions,

maybe I would say going forward as well. So, John's working on a few of them right now. So, maybe the next time for sure, I think there'll be some more updates.

Peter: That's fine. They making you feel at home, Sunny?

Sunny: Absolutely. Absolutely. I think so. I think it's been a great team. Filling in Ted's shoes is extremely difficult, but I think the team is fantastic.

Peter: All right. Great. Okay, Ryan, you'll be head taking care of our January 27th Authority meeting.

Brian: That's correct.

Peter: And Mark [crosstalk].

Brian: I assume it's going to be ... I assume it's just Zoom and I'll be taking care of it from here the same way I'm taking care of this one.

Jennifer: That's right.

Peter: Yeah. Okay. And our next meeting's February 9th at 5:30. I wished all of you a happy New Year. Please stay safe. We're going through crazy times again. If there's nothing else, make a motion to adjourn.

Greg: So moved.

Brian: Second.

Peter: [inaudible]. All in favor.

Group: Aye.

Peter: Oppose. So carry. Take care everyone.