



Pre-Hearing Conference
Docket No. 378

April 22, 2009
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Statement Regarding Hearing Issues by Concerned Residents of Warren and Washington [CROWW] SITING COUNCIL

Section 16-50p(a)(3)(B) of the Siting Council's governing statute requires the Council to file an opinion in every certification proceeding in which it shall find and determine:

(B) The nature of the probable environmental impact of the facility alone and cumulatively with other existing facilities, including a specification of every significant adverse effect, including, but not limited to, electromagnetic fields that, whether alone or cumulatively with other effects, on, and conflict with the policies of the state concerning, the natural environment, ecological balance, public health and safety, scenic, historic and recreational values, forests and parks, air and water purity and fish, aquaculture and wildlife;

CROWW has identified the following significant adverse effects that must be addressed by the Siting Council in this proceeding:

1. Adverse effects on scenic vistas and scenic roads;
2. Adverse effects on the Macricostas Preserve,
3. Adverse effects on wetlands, watershed and aquifer;
4. Adverse effects on migratory birds, eagles, and state listed species;
5. Adverse effects on protected open space and farmland;
6. Adverse effects on public health and safety, including violation of the Town of Warren Zoning Regulation requirement of a 1500 foot tower setback from every residence.

CROWW fully intends to introduce testimony and exhibits on these topics but has not been allowed sufficient time to prepare. CROWW protests the Council's intention to "expedite the hearing procedure," which will only serve to benefit the applicant and to prejudice the due process rights of citizens and non-profit organizations like CROWW.

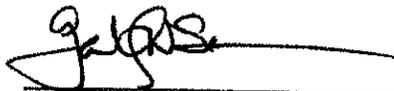
Mandatory Consultation With Agencies

Section 16-50j(h) provides:

Prior to commencing any hearing pursuant to section 16-50m, the council shall consult with and solicit written comments from the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Public Health, the Council on Environmental Quality, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Public Utility Control, the Office of Policy and Management, the Department of Economic and Community Development and the Department of Transportation. * * *

In view of the substantial and complex potential adverse effects from this proposed facility, CROWW specifically requests that the Council consult and obtain written comments from these agencies and make copies of the same available to all parties prior to the commencement of the hearing on this application. The consultation requirement will not be satisfied by mailing form letters to these agencies as the Council has done in the past, but requires direct personal face-to-face meetings, particularly with those agencies most familiar with the foregoing issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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DATE: April 28, 2009

TO: Parties and Intervenors

FROM: S. Derek Phelps, Executive Director

RE: **DOCKET NO. 378 – SBA Towers II, LLC application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public need for the construction, maintenance and operation of a telecommunications facility located on one of two sites at Rabbit Hill Road, Warren, Connecticut.**

At a publicly-noticed meeting of the Siting Council (Council), held on Thursday, April 23, 2009, the Council considered and decided the following issues attendant to the above-referenced proceeding.

1. Request by Town of Washington and Town of Washington Conservation Commission for an additional 60-day municipal consultation period pursuant to C.G.S. §16-50l(e) pertaining to Site B of the application.

In a letter dated February 27, 2009, received from the Town of Washington (Washington), and in a letter dated April 21, 2009, received from the Town of Washington Conservation Commission (Conservation Commission), both entities requested a full technical report and an additional 60-day consultation period pursuant to C.G.S. §16-50l(e) to examine the Site B proposal, which both entities consider to be a new application.

C.G.S. §16-50l(e) states in pertinent part: “...at least sixty days prior to the filing of an application with the council, the applicant shall consult with the municipality in which the facility may be located and with any other municipality required to be served with a copy of the application...concerning the proposed and alternative sites of the facility... At the time of the consultation, the applicant shall provide the chief elected official with any technical reports concerning the public need, site selection process and the environmental effects of the proposed facility. The municipality may conduct public hearings and meetings as it deems necessary for it to advise the applicant of its recommendations concerning the proposed facility. Within sixty days of the initial consultation, the municipality shall issue its recommendations to the applicant...” (Emphasis added).

The record reflects that the applicant, SBA Towers, II, LLC (SBA), submitted a technical report to the chief elected officials, the First Selectman of the Town of Warren (Warren) and the First Selectman of Washington, on August 20, 2008. (Application page 22). The applicant met with the First Selectmen to discuss the proposed facility on September 11, 2008. (Application page 22). The applicant also attended public informational sessions in both towns and as a result of the municipal consultations, investigated the possibility of Site B, located on the same parcel of land, as an alternate site and conducted a balloon float on November 20, 2008 at both proposed Site A

and Site B. (Application page 22). Thereafter, on February 27, 2009, the application proposing both Site A and Site B was filed with the Council.

Moreover, in a letter dated April 1, 2009, Warren indicated that an additional 60-day municipal consultation period does not apply to Site B because it is an alternative to the original site proposed in a different location on the same parcel of land.

Therefore, based on the evidence in the record and the correspondence from Warren, the Council determined that the applicant has fully complied with the requirements under C.G.S. §16-50(e) and denied the request.

2. Request by Town of Washington Conservation Commission for the Council to order an environmental impact study.

In a letter dated April 21, 2009, the Conservation Commission requested the Council order an immediate environmental impact study. C.G.S. §16-50n(e) states in pertinent part: "Upon receipt of the application, the Council *may* employ one or more independent consultants to study and measure the consequences of the proposed facility on the environment." (Emphasis added).

The term "may", used in the construction of the statute, indicates that the legislature intended the employment of consultants to be in the discretion of the Council. Evidence of environmental impact is elicited and becomes part of the record of the proceeding through interrogatories and written comments solicited from state agencies under C.G.S. §16-50j(h).

Therefore, the Council determined that employment of an independent consultant to study the environmental impact would be duplicative in this docket and denied the request.

3. Request by Concerned Residents of Warren and Washington (CROWW) for the Council to consult and obtain written comments from the state agencies listed in C.G.S. §16-50j(h) by conducting direct personal face-to-face meetings with those agencies.

In a letter dated April 22, 2009, CROWW specifically requested that the Council conduct direct meetings with the state agencies listed in C.G.S. §16-50j(h). CROWW alleges that the consultation requirement under that statute is not "satisfied by mailing form letters to these agencies as the Council has done in the past."

C.G.S. §16-50j(h) states in pertinent part: "Prior to commencing any hearing pursuant to section 16-50m, the Council shall consult with and solicit written comments from the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Public Utility Control, the Office of Policy and Management, the Department of Economic and Community Development and the Department of Transportation... Copies of such comments shall be made available to all parties prior to the commencement of the hearing. Subsequent to the commencement of the hearing, said departments and Council may file additional written comments with the Council within such period of time as the Council designates. *All such written comments shall be made part of the record provided by section 16-50o.* Said departments and Council shall not enter any contract or agreement with any party to the proceedings or hearings described in this section or section 16-50p, that requires said departments or Council to withhold or retract comments, refrain from participating in or withdraw from said proceedings or hearings." (Emphasis added).

The statute explicitly refers to written comments from the listed agencies to be made part of the record. On April 14, 2009, the Council, pursuant to the requirements of C.G.S. §16-50j(h), sent a notice to the listed agencies seeking written comments and consultation specifically related to this docket on or before May 14, 2009. To date, the Council has not received any comments.

Direct, personal, face-to-face meetings are unnecessary, burdensome, and arguably rise to the level of ex parte communications considering the Department of Agriculture is a party to this docket. Therefore, the Council determined that the notice sent to the agencies listed under C.G.S. §16-50j(h) seeking their consultation and written comments fulfills the requirements of the statute and thus denied the request.

4. Request by parties, Ray and Mary Ellen Furse, CROWW, and Conservation Commission, whose status was approved April 23, 2009, for the Council to extend the pre-file testimony deadline.

During the pre-hearing conference held on Wednesday, April 22, 2009, Mr. Ray Furse (Furse) submitted a written statement requesting additional time to prepare his case on the basis that his party status had not been granted as of that date. Also during the pre-hearing conference, CROWW and the Conservation Commission expressed concern as to the time limitation for preparing their cases by the May 14, 2009 pre-file deadline.

Considering the hearing scheduled for May 21, 2009, in Warren shall commence with the applicant's case and cross examination, followed by intervenors, New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (Cingular) and Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Verizon), and considering the 7:00 P.M. session is reserved primarily for the public, it is not likely that there will be enough time for Furse, CROWW, and the Conservation Commission to go forward at that time. The date for the continuation of the hearing has been set for Tuesday, June 2, 2009, at the Council offices in New Britain.

Therefore, the Council determined that an extension of time to Furse, CROWW and the Conservation Commission would not impede the proceeding and that an extension of the pre-file date to May 26, 2009, in preparation for the June 2, 2009, hearing would be reasonable. The request for an extension was granted. (Please also note that although they did not seek to associate themselves with this request, this extended deadline is equally applicable to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, given that their status was also not granted until April 23, 2009.)

Notwithstanding the above, the Council urges all participants to undertake all good-faith efforts to present interrogatory questions on a schedule sufficient to facilitate responses in time to meet the May 14, 2009, pre-file deadline associated with the hearing scheduled in Warren on May 21, 2009.

5. Request of participants at the Pre-Hearing Conference, held of April 22, 2009, regarding E-Mail Service of Documents.

The e-mailing of documents, rather than traditional U.S. mail, was suggested and agreed to by many of the participants at the pre-hearing conference. This is an optional service. In order to formally receive correspondence via e-mail only, the attached form must be completed and returned to the Council Office. As stated on the attached form, please note that this does not eliminate the requirement to send the original and 15 copies of each document filed to the Council for staff and Council member distribution.



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COUNCIL ON
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



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Minutes

-DRAFT MINUTES-

THESE DRAFT MINUTES HAVE BEEN PREPARED BY STAFF AS A RECORD OF WHAT OCCURRED AT THE MEETING. AT THE NEXT MEETING, COUNCIL MEMBERS WILL REVIEW THESE MINUTES AND MIGHT MAKE CORRECTIONS BEFORE APPROVING THEM. READERS SHOULD RELY ONLY ON THE APPROVED VERSION FOR A COMPLETELY ACCURATE RECORD.

Minutes of the April 29, 2009 meeting of the Council on Environmental Quality, held in the Holcombe Conference Room, 5th Floor, 79 Elm St., Hartford.

PRESENT: Barbara Wagner (Chair), Howard Beach, Janet Brooks, Bruce Fernandez, John Mandyck, Earl Phillips, Richard Sherman, Ryan Suerth, Wes Winterbottom, Karl Wagener (Executive Director), Peter Hearn (Environmental Analyst).

Chair Wagner convened the meeting at 9:04 AM, having determined that a quorum was present.

Beach motioned to approve the minutes of March 25, 2009. Fernandez seconded the motion. Approved unanimously. Mandyck and Sherman abstained, having been absent at the March meeting. Brooks, Phillips and Winterbottom had not yet arrived.

Executive Director's Report

Wagener reported he had no recent news regarding the Council's budget. The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) had requested all agencies to submit budget reductions that contained 5%, 7% and 10% reductions; they were due today.

He spoke of the complications reducing the budget of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Wagener said he wished to report on four bills. 1) The bill prohibiting the use of Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grants to develop on agricultural lands has become much less flexible than originally proposed, allowing no exceptions. It passed the Environment Committee and is now in the Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee. 2) The "wetlands training" bill no longer contained any language regarding wetlands training. He said that there was still some hope that it will be put back in. 3) The Finance Committee has a bill that would assign the University of Connecticut's Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) the role of coordinating all municipal land use training, including wetlands. 4) A bill to exempt the Oxford Airport project from the requirements of the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act.

Discussion on these bills followed. Brooks said the wetlands bill is still evolving. She has been surprised at the number of people who don't know that the DEP provides training and wondered if CLEAR would simply refer requests to the DEP. Brooks said there is reported to be interest by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts to get involved in this training also.

Wagener spoke about the proposal to exempt the proposed new construction on state owned land at Oxford Airport from the environmental impact evaluation (EIE) requirements of the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA). Chair Wagner said that the precedent of exempting a project like Oxford was a cause for concern. Wagener said that he had maintained for a long time that EIEs need not be huge documents and that the DEP has produced EIEs that were less than 20 pages. A document on this scale could be produced in time for construction to commence this summer, assuming that all of the information that is reported to be available is indeed available. He said staff has been providing citizens, legislators, and the town with information when requested. Sherman said the confusion regarding the need for the EIE should have been avoided if there was an Environmental Classification Document as required that said what state agency projects required EIEs. Chair Wagner said that it appears there is no need for Council action except to continue to cooperate with the parties involved if they request information.

Citizens' Complaints

Wagener reported that although staff had received complaints, none required action today.

Review of State Agency Actions

a. Danbury Interceptor Sewer EIE – no action was recommended by staff on this EIE.

b. University of Connecticut, Storrs – Two Academic Buildings EIE – no action was recommended on this EIE.

c. Telecommunications Tower, Warren – Wagener reviewed the application for the members, and referred to draft comments that staff had prepared. Site A is on land on which the state has acquired development rights under the farmland preservation program. The owner has already sold the rights to use the property for any non agricultural purpose and may not sell it again. The statute governing the Siting Council appears to allow for consideration of the site, but such consideration does not alter the fact that the applicant does not have the permission of the easement holder (the state) to build there. Members agreed that the idea of allowing the replacement of preserved farmland with farmland in another place is an extremely dangerous precedent that should not be accepted as a rationale for allowing the use of preserved farmland for a non-agricultural enterprise.

Site B is not on farmland preserved by the state, but has more scenic impact than site A, which has considerable scenic impact. Hearn added that the farm location is known locally as one of the best views in the region. There may be no place on that hill that would not have a significant aesthetic impact on the surrounding area. It also may affect views from three state parks and that an expanded viewshed analysis should be added to the application. Mandyck said it should be made clear in the comments that there are objections to the negative

scenic impacts of both sites. Sherman and Fernandez said that absent a demonstrated public safety need to locate it there the Siting Council has discretion in allowing or not allowing the siting. Chair Wagner said the wording on the draft response to the application should be stronger. Winterbottom agreed. Mandyck suggested obtaining photos of the location as a "before" – in case the tower is approved; these could be an example in future cases of the negative impact a badly located tower can have. Brooks added that the photos should be submitted into the record to be used in the hearing about the application. Phillips arrived at this time and had not participated in any prior deliberations at this meeting. Members agreed to submit the strengthened comments as soon as possible.

There was some discussion of the Council's plan to investigate scenic impacts generally. Winterbottom and Sherman added that, in the future, the location of wind turbines will raise even more complex questions and the Council should be prepared for these issues.

d. Discussion of placement of land transfer notices and comments in the Environmental Monitor.

Wagener said some questions have arisen about implementation of the still-new law regarding public notice of state land transfers, specifically about the requirement for state agencies to publish any comments received about proposed state land transfers and responses to those comments. Occasionally the only comments received do not really pertain to the transfer; comments of this sort were not anticipated and perhaps should not trigger the second round of notice and publication requirements, so an amendment to the statute might be appropriate in the future. Also, it will soon be time to publish OPM's responses to the first proposed transfer to receive substantive comments. Council staff intends to redesign the website, but that will take some time. In the meantime, members agreed, it will be adequate for the Monitor to contain a link to responses in PDF format posted by OPM.

e. Others – Wagener raised the topic of the Department of Transportation's new **Strategic Long Range Transportation Plan** and distributed some pages, pointing out a new emphasis on the need to integrate transportation with land use and other government functions. He asked the Council if there was an interest in supporting this new approach. Phillips said that there is a need to support the creation of bikeways and improvement of pedestrian access in many parts of the state. He said he would be willing to assist the Council on this topic. Sherman said he would like to see the correlation between the plan's words and the list of funded projects. Winterbottom and Fernandez urged a letter supporting the DOT in this, an offer of Council assistance and an invitation to speak to the Council about new transportation plans; members concurred.

Discussion of Release and Distribution of the Annual Report

Wagener reiterated that the 2008 Annual Report would be the first to be entirely on line. A PDF version would be available on line for those that wished to print out a copy.

Mandyck said the Council should be prepared to explain to the press the apparent contradiction between the salutary report on the state's drinking water and the drinking water alerts in the Hartford area for the last five days. He added that an explanation of this exception to the norm should be included in



COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Barbara C. Wagner
Chair

M. Howard Beach

Janet P. Brooks

Bruce R. Fernandez

John M. Mandyc

Earl W. Phillips, Jr.

Richard Sherman

Ryan Suerth

Wesley Winterbottom

Karl J. Wagener
Executive Director

DATE: May 13, 2009

TO: S. Derek Phelps, Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council

FROM: Karl Wagener, Executive Director

RE: Proposed Telecommunications Facility at Rabbit Hill Road, Warren
(Docket #378)

In response to the Siting Council's April 14, 2009 request for comments and consultation regarding Docket #378, the Council on Environmental Quality reviewed the application and offers the following comments.

The Council recommends strongly that the application be denied for four reasons:

1. Construction of a communications tower on Site A would contravene Connecticut's farmland preservation policy.
2. State law does not authorize the substitution or creation of alternative farming parcels in exchange for farmland that is taken for the facility.
3. Siting Council approval would not eliminate the applicant's need to have the permission of the landowner *and* the owner of the development rights. The applicant does not have the latter's permission.
4. The proposed location possesses scenic quality of local, regional and state-wide significance that make it an inappropriate choice to locate a tower on either Site A or Site B.

The Council also offers comments and recommendations regarding the viewshed analysis.

I. Construction of a telecommunications facility on Site A would contravene Connecticut's farmland preservation policy.

The development rights on Site A were purchased by the taxpayers of Connecticut. The owner of the land may not sell those rights again to the applicant for the purpose of constructing a telecommunications facility. The statute is clear. CGS Section 22-26bb(d) defines "development rights" as the "rights of the fee simple

owner of agricultural land to develop, construct on, sell, lease or otherwise improve the agricultural land *for uses that result in rendering such land no longer agricultural land*" [emphasis added] , subject to certain exceptions which are not applicable here.

Because the development rights were sold to the state, the landowner may not lease the same land for a non-agricultural commercial purpose.

The application states that some of the area to be developed for the facility is wooded and does not possess prime soils. The farmland preservation statute makes it clear that preservation of farms, including non-productive portions, is within the intent of the statute. CGS Section 22-26aa states that "conservation of certain arable agricultural land *and adjacent pastures, woods, natural drainage areas and open space areas* [emphasis added] is vital for the well-being of the people of Connecticut."

CGS Section 22-26bb(d) clarifies that the landowner may make undertake "improvements, activities and uses thereon as may be directly or incidentally related to the operation of the agricultural enterprise." The construction of a commercial telecommunications tower does not satisfy this requirement.

II. State law does not authorize the substitution or creation of alternative farming parcels in exchange for farmland that is taken for the facility.

The applicant proposes, as compensation for taking agricultural land on site A, putting into production more land than would be taken out of production on the site. The Council does not see anything in statute that would permit this mitigation. In fact, to accept such a proposal would lead to a predictable result: piecemeal destruction of farms that the public has paid to preserve.

Furthermore, the land that is proposed to be put into production is not "new" farmland. If the applicant has the capability to turn this currently fallow land into productive land, then so does the farmer when the need arises. This proposed mitigation amounts to a net loss of farmland, a contradiction of the intent of the state's farmland preservation policy.

III. Siting Council approval would not eliminate the applicant's need to have the permission of the landowner *and* the owner of the development rights. The applicant does not have the latter's permission.

Should the Siting Council choose to give serious consideration to Site A pursuant to CGS Section 16-50p(a)(3)(G), which is applicable to the *regulatory* question, it still should give due consideration to the *ownership* question. Simply put, it is this Council's understanding that the easement held by the state prohibits the proposed use. The landowner may not make an agreement to lease rights no longer owned, even if the Siting Council considers the site to be acceptable from a regulatory

standpoint.

Also, this Council notes that the application is not consistent with the intent of Public Acts 03-221 and 03-278, which added the subsection regarding restricted agricultural land to Siting Council statutes. The intent of the General Assembly in 2003 was to allow the construction of a telecommunications antenna on the Tiffany Farm in Lyme (House Session Transcripts, May 30, 2003). That facility subsequently was constructed without Siting Council approval as it was placed on an existing silo. It is ironic and regrettable that P.A. 03-221 and P.A. 03-278 were adopted, without public hearing or public input or agency advice, as they were not needed and have led to the potentially damaging application before you.

IV. The proposed location possesses scenic quality of local, regional and state-wide significance that make it an inappropriate choice to locate a tower on either Site A or Site B.

Site B is not on land to which the state acquired development rights. Both sites A and B are on a hill that is a local attraction for tourists and residents in search of a breathtaking view of Lake Waramaug and its surrounding farms and hills. A portion of this view was featured in the April 2009 issue of *National Geographic Traveler* magazine. The tower will be visible from two roads that have been designated "scenic" and from another road that is being considered for scenic designation. It is near the crest of a scenic hill in a region nationally acclaimed for its scenery. Sec.16-50p states that:

"(b) (1) Prior to granting an applicant's certificate for a facility described in subdivision (5) or (6) of section 16-50i, the council shall examine... (C) whether the proposed facility would be located in an area of the state which the council, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Protection and any affected municipalities, finds to be a relatively undisturbed area that possesses scenic quality of local, regional or state-wide significance. The council may deny an application for a certificate if it determines that... (iii) the proposed facility would substantially affect the scenic quality of its location and no public safety concerns require that the proposed facility be constructed in such a location."

This is such a location. In addition to agriculture, tourism is a major economic activity in this part of the state. The location of a modern cell tower among the beautiful hills and prominent farm silos that characterize the region can reasonably be expected to have an economic as well as a scenic impact.

V. The proximity of potentially sensitive scenic receptors in the area warrants an expansion of the visual analysis to include those locations.

The Council maintains that the exceptional scenic vistas in the area analyzed in the application are sufficient to deny the application. In addition, the visual impact

might be broader than described in the application. Above All State Park, Mount Bushnell State Park, the beach and campground at Lake Waramaug State Park and Mt. Tom State Park were not included in the viewshed analysis of the application. If the Siting Council were to give serious consideration to Site B, it should require an analysis that encompasses those areas.

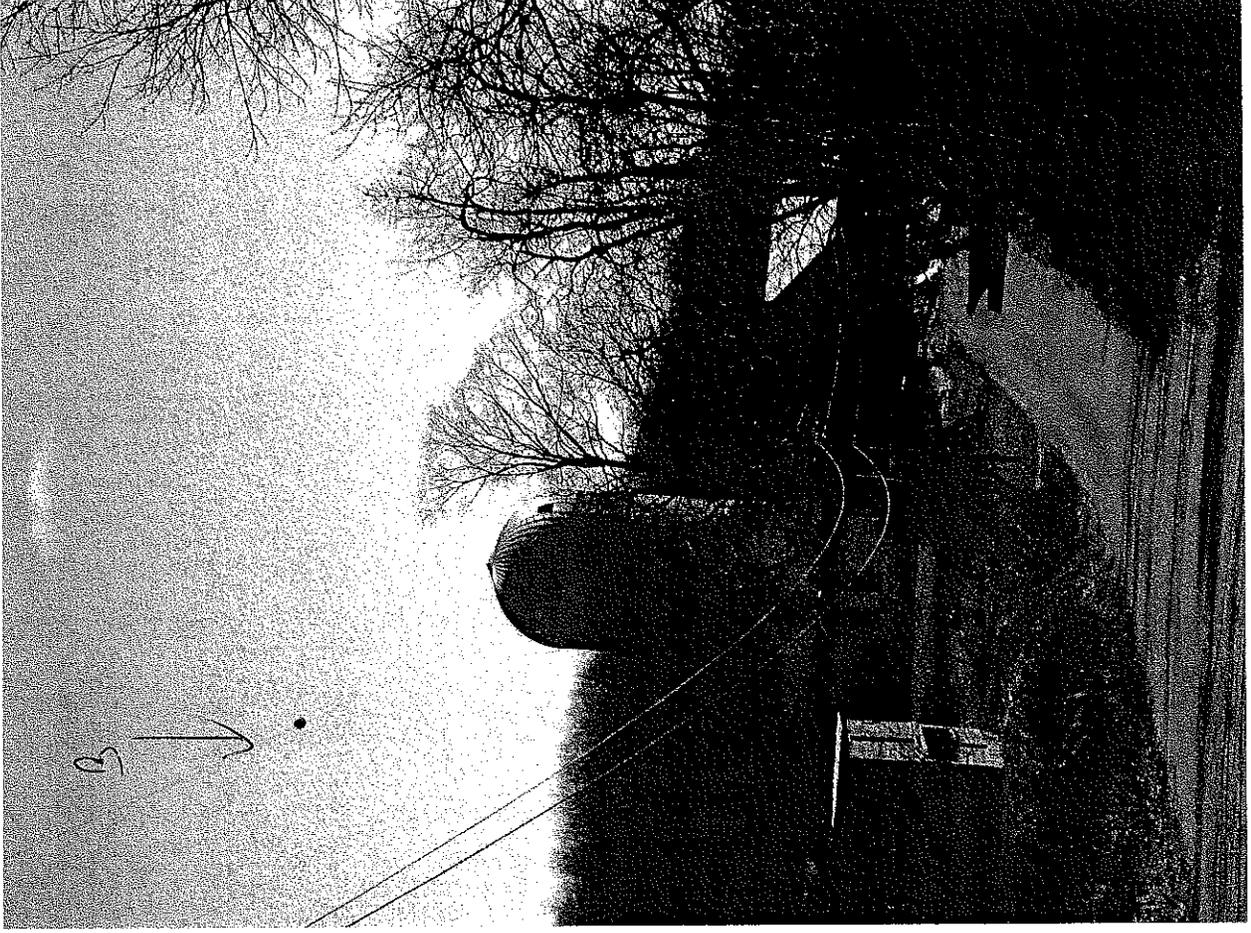
I would be pleased to answer any questions you might have about these comments.



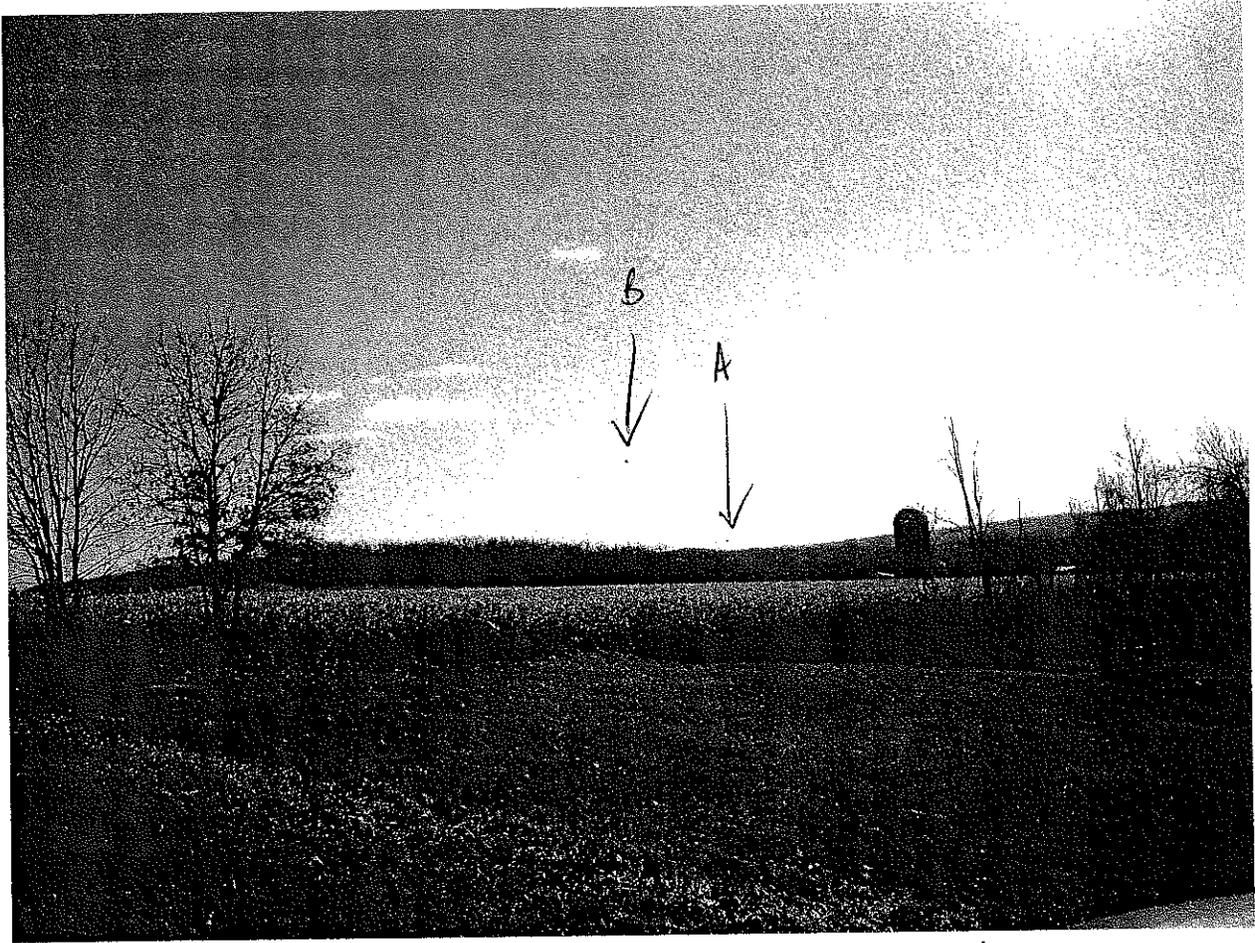
from Jack corner

App View 1



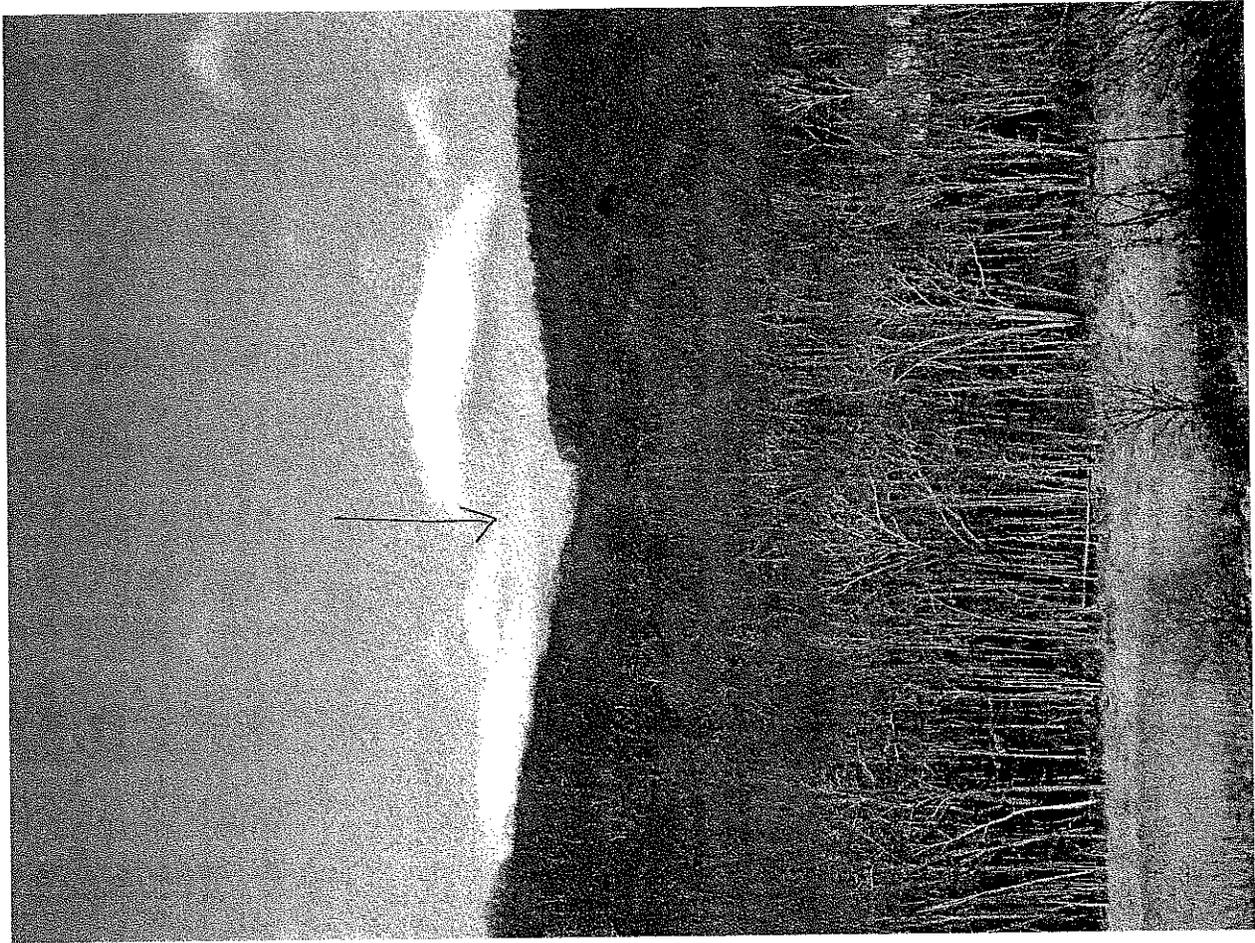


App View 2



from jack corner

App View 5



from 202
behind whittelsey
House. (historic)
①

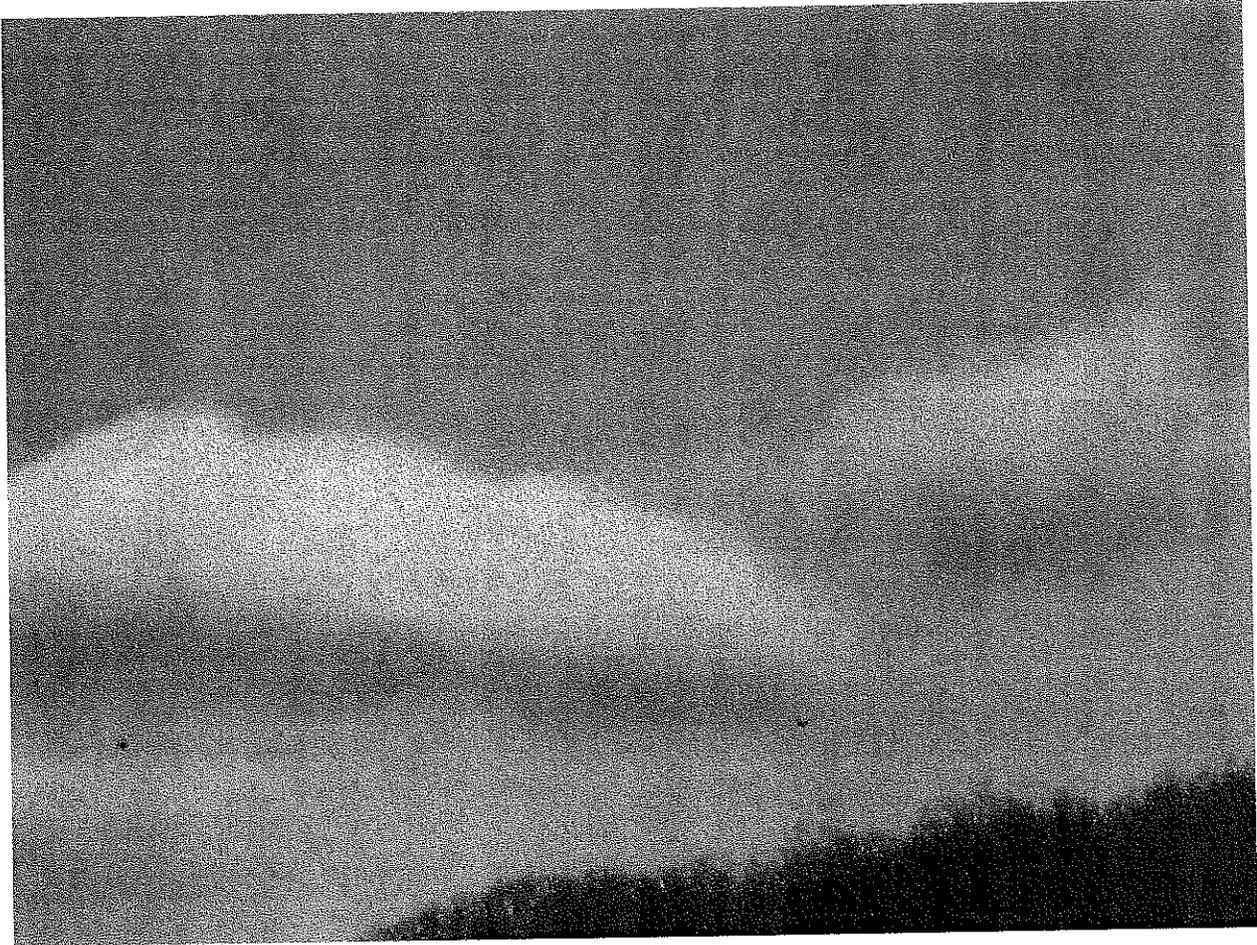
AppView5



App View 5

from 202
 behind Whifflesey House
 zoom (2)

App View 5



behind Whittlosey House
KT 202

zoom

App View 5

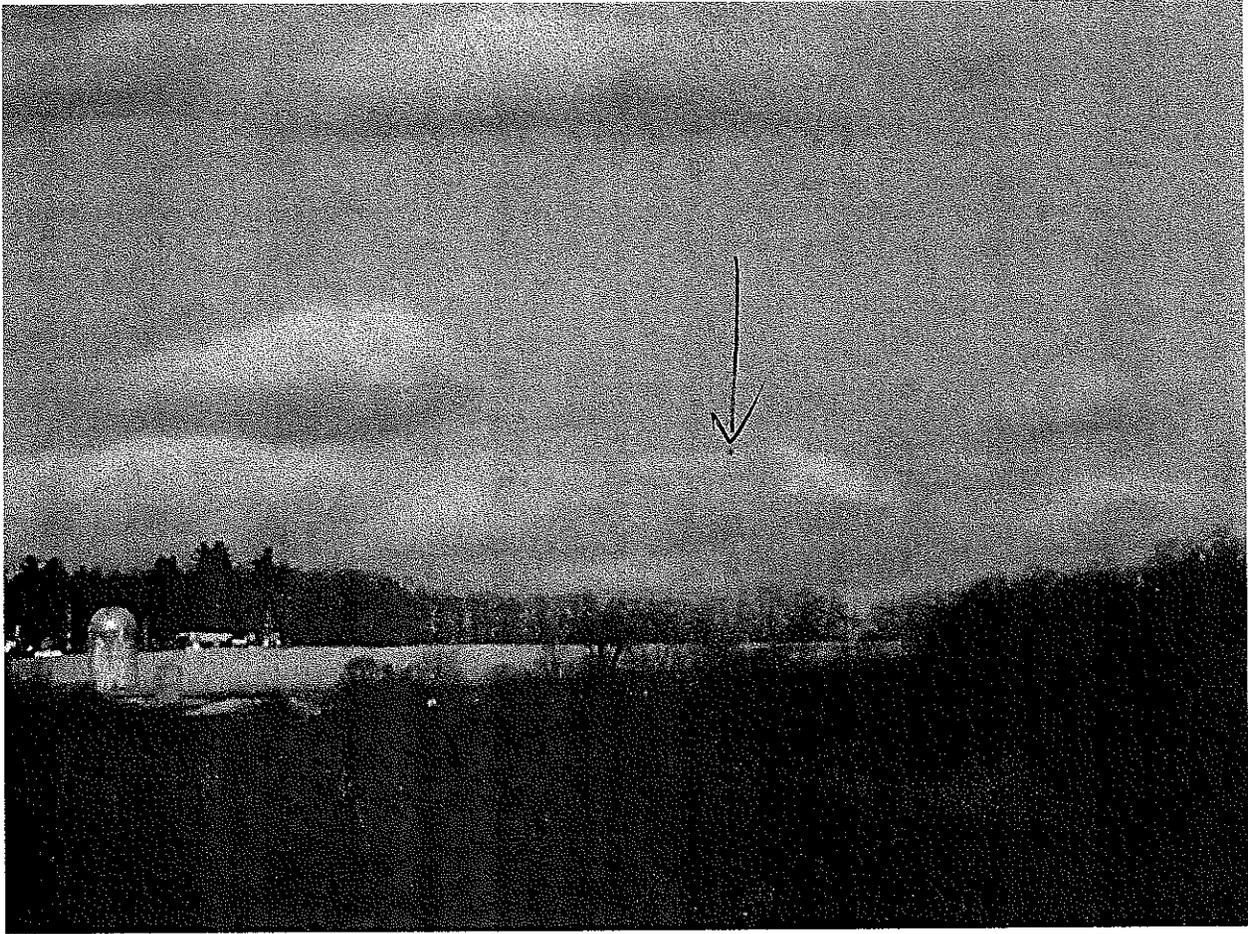


② from top of Whittlesey Road



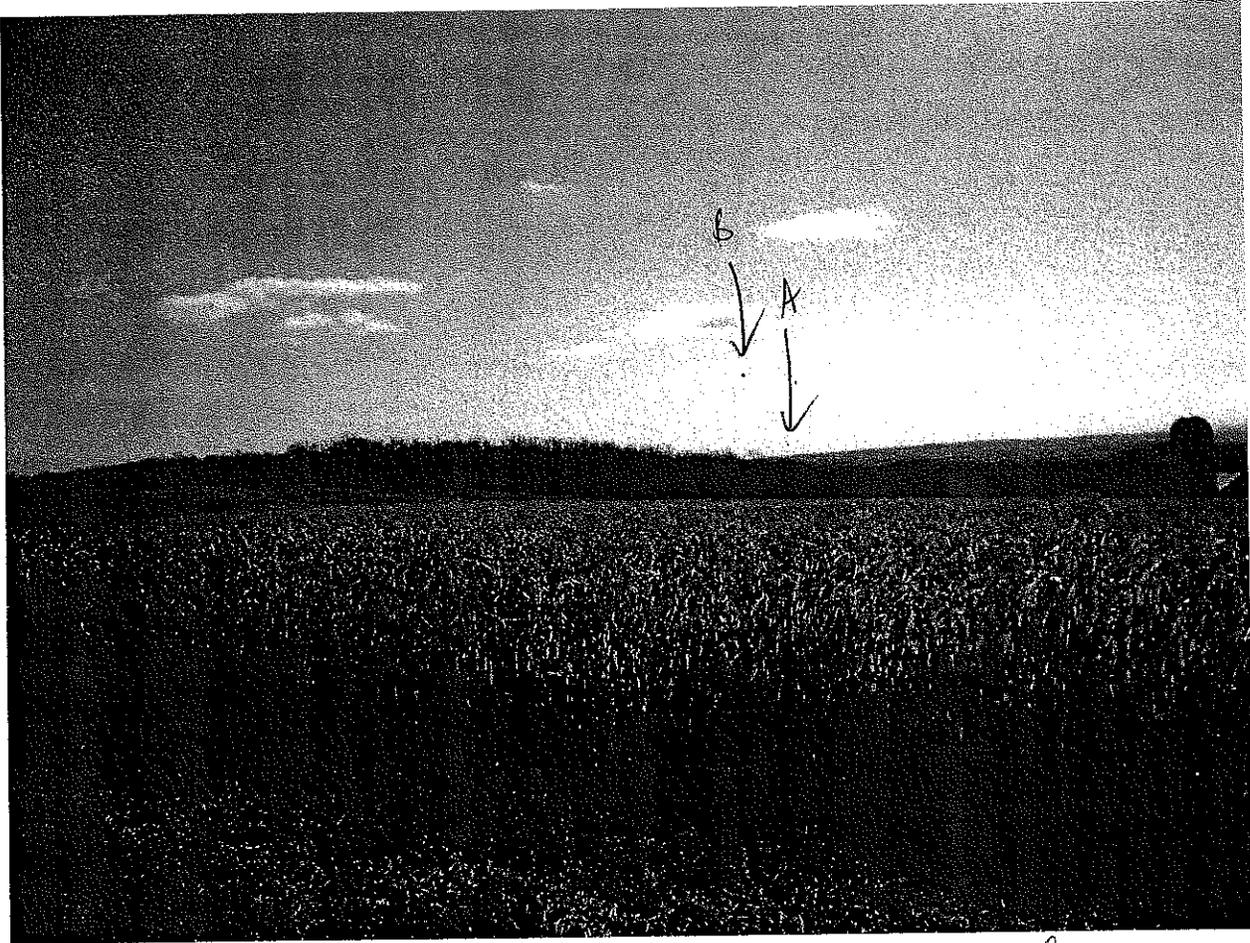
① from top of Whittlesey Road

App View 10 + 11



from Whittelsey Rd
zoom
③

App View (0+11)



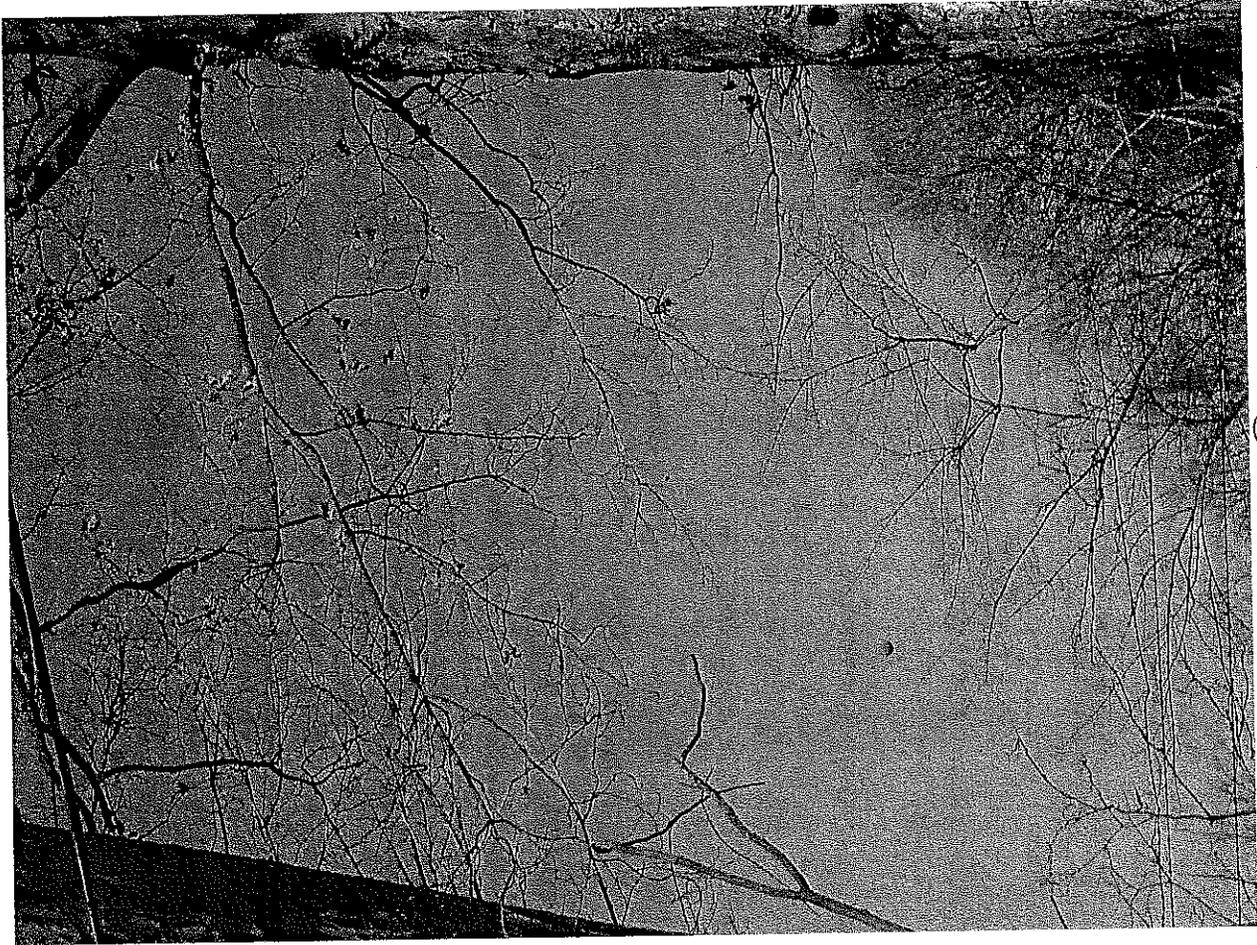
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APP View 17



Jack corner

App View 17



(A) Rabbit Hill Rd

APP View 20



NO APP VIEW

Rabbit HMI
towards Tanner 12

Elizabeth E. Corrigan

70 Carmel Hill Road [Washington, Connecticut 06793 [860.868.7830 [e.corrigan@yahoo.com



EXPERIENCE (*includes part-time seasonal and independent work*)

Northwest Conservation District

Torrington, Connecticut

Biologist /GIS Specialist (2001-present)

- Performed environmental review of various development projects/site plans for municipalities as well as for private property owners.
- Developed and produced municipal GIS natural resource inventory maps, using ESRI's Arcview and ArcMap.
- Advised and provided guidance to landowners on native and non-native invasive plant issues.
- Refined vernal pool mapping methodology that I initiated in 1998 (*see below*).
- Conducted field surveys and mapped vernal pools for Litchfield County municipalities (towns of Washington, Norfolk, Kent, Litchfield, Sherman).
- Kings Mark Environmental Review Team participant on various environmentally sensitive development projects.

Currently, "on call" as consultant to conduct ecological surveys for proposed developments, to review planting plans for various projects, and advise on other environmentally-related matters.

Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust

New Milford, Connecticut

Biologist (2007-present)

- Field surveys, baseline documentation and reports for proposed conservation easements.
- Project manager for invasive plant eradication project (Mile-a-minute vine) in rare habitat on preserve property.

Mad Gardeners Invasive Species Task Force

New Milford, Connecticut

Project Director/Intern Supervisor (2007)

- Developed early detection, rapid response and eradication strategy for mile-minute vine (*Polygonum perfoliatum*) after personally discovering plants in Litchfield County.
- Conducted field surveys for additional populations, documented/ mapped distributions.
- Responsibilities also included training and supervising college interns. Project was first of its kind for a terrestrial non-native invasive plant in Connecticut.

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

Burlington, Connecticut (Sessions Woods)

Resource Assistant (2006-2007)

- Assistant to Western District DEP biologist.
- Duties included monitoring agricultural easements, conducting ruffed grouse and raptor call-back surveys, locating and assessing invasive plant incursions on state properties; also conducted native plant surveys.

University of Connecticut, School of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Storrs, Connecticut

Field Technician (2001-present)

- Conducted invasive plant surveys for federal prohibited noxious weeds in Connecticut.
- Located and verified occurrences of lesser known noxious weeds reportedly present in the state assessed degree of incursions.
- Currently, survey work focuses on giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) (2002-present).
- Responsibilities also include collecting specimens for documentation and conducting public outreach.

New England Wildflower Society

Framingham, Massachusetts

Researcher (2002-2003)

- Developed and authored conservation and recovery plans for regionally rare *Calystegia spithamea* (Low Bindweed), and *Agastache scrophulariifolia* (Purple Giant Hyssop).
- Documented historical and known occurrences of taxon and detailed conservation and research actions towards recovery.

Northwest Soil and Water Conservation District

Torrington, Connecticut

Field Biologist (1998-1999)

Vernal Pool Mapping Project:

- Initiated vernal pool mapping methodology.
- Ground-truthed and mapped vernal pools, initially located by aerial photograph interpretation, for the town of Washington (natural resource inventory).
- Vernal pools were field inspected and geographic positions marked and mapped using GPS and GIS technology.
- Vernal pool organisms and associated flora also identified and documented. Resulting map published in *Washington, Connecticut Natural Resource Inventory Report and Recommendations* (2000).

OTHER

Washington Environmental Council (2004-present)

Board of Directors

Community outreach on local environmental issues.

Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (1999-present)

Co-chair (2002-2007)

Public outreach concerning invasive plant issues.

New England Wildflower Society Plant Conservation Volunteer (2001-present)

Locating occurrences of endangered plants known from historical record; assessing status and potential threats.

Town of Washington Conservation Commission (2001- present)

-Ad hoc Open Space Committee (2001-2002)

Identified and prioritized parcels for preservation based on ecological attributes.

-Flora and Fauna Subcommittee (2002-present)

Chair Projects include: updating and augmenting Washington's Natural Resource Inventory (e.g. locating and documenting additional vernal pools and identifying important natural communities). Also, locating and identifying invasive plant infestations (on town and land trust properties) to be targeted for eradication and educating the public on invasive plant issues; developing website, "Invasive Plants of Washington"; advising wetlands commission on ecological issues pertaining to development projects.

Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE) (2000-present)

Contributor and Surveyor Documenting invasive plant distributions throughout New England. Data is used in an educational, interactive web atlas; authored several species descriptions.

New England Plant Conservation Program (NEPCoP) (1999-present)

Taskforce Surveyor Monitoring endangered plant populations in Connecticut, identifying threats, recommending management options; educating and working cooperatively with respective landowner to protect rare taxa. (Program is administered by the New England Wildflower Society).

Friends of the George Safford Torrey Herbarium (1998-2000)

University of Connecticut, Storrs.

Collected, verified and prepared botanical specimens to document distributions of Connecticut plants.

Connecticut Amphibian Monitoring Program (1998)

Surveyed wetlands for amphibian species as part of 10-year effort to document population levels/ trends with respect to landscape changes, e.g. fragmentation and other causes.

Town of Washington Inland Wetlands Conservation Commission (1993-2000)

Treasurer (1996-1997)

Vice-Chair (1997-1998)

Reviewed applications and prepared conservation reports for subdivisions over 25 acres which included conducting biological surveys, proposing recommendations for reducing long-term impacts, and verifying accuracy of site- plans.

-Ad hoc Natural Resource Inventory Committee

Located, documented, and mapped critical habitats in Washington, including vernal pools, talus areas, potential wildlife corridors, "notable" trees, and other significant natural resources; proposed recommendations towards preservation. Located and documented new sites for state-listed species. Findings and recommendations published in *Washington, Connecticut Natural Resource Inventory Report and Recommendations*, 2002.

Steep Rock Land Trust Washington, Connecticut.

Volunteer (1999-2002) Meeker Swamp protection project adviser, conservation easement monitor, adviser on non-native invasive plant issues; botanical inventories.

Trustee (2002-2009) Botanical surveys, invasive plant management.

EDUCATION

Southern Connecticut State University

New Haven, Connecticut.

B.S. Biology

PUBLICATIONS

Critical Habitats: Known and Potential (map and text); Town of Norfolk, CT; Natural Resource Inventory (expected publication date: February 2009)

Critical Habitats: Known and Potential (map and text); Town of Kent, CT; Natural Resource Inventory (expected publication date: January 2009)

Area with Known and Potential Ecological Sensitivity (map), Town of Sherman, Natural Resource Inventory, 2005

Non-native and potentially invasive vascular plants in Connecticut. Mehrhoff, L.J., K.J. Metzler, & E.E. Corrigan, Center for Conservation and Biodiversity, University of Connecticut, Storrs; 2003.

Conservation and Research Plan: Calystegia spithamea (L.) Pursh, Low Bindweed, New England Wildflower Society, 2003

Conservation and Research Plan: Agastache scrophulariifolia (Willd.) Kuntze Purple Giant Hyssop, New England Wildflower Society, 2002

Washington, Connecticut Natural Resource Inventory Report and Recommendations (Wildlife Habitat and Listed Species), Town of Washington Inland Wetlands Conservation Commission, 2000

Vernal Pool Inventory Report for the Town of Washington, Litchfield County Soil and Water Conservation District, 1999

MEMBERSHIPS

Connecticut Botanical Society

Connecticut Invasive Plant Work Group

Friends of the Office of State Archaeology

Litchfield Hills Archaeological Club

New England Botanical Club

New England Wildflower Society