

MLUE GRANT

LID – Low Impact Development

TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CT

SUMMARY

- Received \$47,000 grant from the Farmington River Enhancement Grant to review our Zoning, Subdivision, and Wetlands Regulations, our Town Ordinances, and our Plan of Conservation and Development to incorporate LID where possible and remove any barriers which would prevent LID.
- We established a 12 member stake holder's group. This group consisted of a representative from Planning and Zoning, Inland Wetlands, Economic Development, Board of Selectman, MDC, Conservation Commission (2), a local farmer, a local business owner (2), and our Fire Chief. Staff to the Commission was The Consultants, Zoning/Inland Wetlands Officer, and Highway Supervisor.
- An RFP was sent out to hire two consultants, a Planner and an Engineer. We hired Martin Connor AICP, as our Planner and Lenard Engineering as our Engineer.
- We held a joint meeting with Planning and Zoning and Wetlands Commissions and invited Chet Arnold from UCONN CLEAR program to come and explain the benefits of LID and answer the question "what is LID?" Several members of the public attended this meeting as well.
- The Inland Wetlands Commission Adopted changes to their regulations to incorporate Stormwater management. Also the upland review area was increased from 50 ft to 100 ft. The Adopted changes were based on DEP's Inland Wetland and Watercourse Department's suggestions and publication, "Guidelines – Upland Review Area Regulations Connecticut's Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Act.
- Proposed changes to the Zoning and Subdivision Regulations were presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission. The Commission is currently in the process of rewriting their entire set of regulations. The LID regulations were written to be incorporated into these new regulations. The Commission views these changes favorably, however due to delays in adopting their new regulations the proposed LID regulations have not yet been implemented.
- Some of the proposed changes to the Zoning Regulations include, Stormwater Management Plan requirements, reduced front yard minimum yard setback requirements, changes to landscaping requirements, reduced parking requirements, allowing a fee in lieu of parking add LID terms to definitions, and increase amount of impervious surface. A new Section, "Stormwater Management Standards," is proposed to be added to the Zoning Regulations. Proposed changes to the Subdivision Regulations include requirements for a Stormwater

Management Plans, changes to Subdivision Map Requirements, Site Plan Requirements, Construction Plans and Grading Plans to incorporate LID, reducing pavement widths for new streets and replacing bituminous curbs with grass swales where appropriate. Changes have been proposed to Subdivision Regulations, Appendix A, Roadway Construction Standards updating Roadway Cross Sections to include LID and eliminate inconsistencies. Changes have been proposed to Subdivision Regulations, Appendix D Road Ordinance regarding raising inspection fees for new streets.