

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

February 25, 2026

The Honorable Dave Barger
First Selectman, Town of Canaan
108 Main Street, PO Box 47
Canaan, CT 06031
firstselectman@canaanfallsvillage.org

Re: Cobble Road Bridge over Hollenbeck River

Dear First Selectman Barger,

The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) received a press release regarding the proposed replacement of the Cobble Road Bridge over Hollenbeck River. The Council offers the following comments regarding the proposed project.

The Council notes that the Cobble Road Bridge is located within a Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Natural Diversity Database (NDDB) buffer area. Further, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Conservation (IPAC) tool indicates that there is a possibility that Northern Long Eared Bat (NLEB), a species listed as endangered, and Bog Turtle, a species listed as threatened, might occur in the vicinity of the proposed project area. The Council recommends that the bridge construction company consult with DEEP's NDDB for guidance to minimize and mitigate any potential adverse impacts on federal and/or state-listed species. The Council also notes that the proposed bridge replacement project has the potential to impact inland wetlands. The Council recommends that the Canaan Inland Wetlands & Conservation Commission carefully review the proposed project, at the appropriate time, for consistency with the Town's Wetland Regulations.

Thank you for your consideration of the Council's comments.

Sincerely,



Paul Aresta
Executive Director

c: Marc Byrnes, Transportation Supervising Engineer, Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT)
James Barrows, Transportation Engineer 3, DOT
Michelle M. Rame, Transportation Engineer, DOT



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