

Maromas Land Use Study
Resident Workshop
June 12, 2007- 6:30pm –8:00pm

Attendance

Phyllis Stanchfield	Warren J. Marshall
Barbara Melia	Gary Curnow
Debi Bagley	Jamie Halliwell
Fran Messina	Jack Herczaklewski, Jr
Cynthia Peterson	Douglas Gagnon
Sandra Tilley	Eloise Gagnon
Sue Muik	Laurel Patt
Allan Spott	David Roane
Adam Boone	Carmelina Greenway
Raymond Taones	Stephanie Roberts
John Govoni	J. Dixon
Nita Govoni	Jake Jacobson
Allison Behnke	Michele Morrell
Jim & Eileen Katz	Nito Govoni
Peter Ciesielski	Brian Kaskel
Gail Petras	Ann Wagner
Brent Petroka	John Sullivan
Salvatore Fazzino	Mary Giglio
Evelyn Fazzino	Walter Clohosey
Bob Stella	Nicole Salafia
Karen Nocera	Ed Hills
Coley Mabine	Nancy Russo
Brenda Mabine	Eugene Russo
Julie Isidro	Noreen O'Connell
Mary Jane Dapkus	Earl Roberts
Stan Dapkus	David Bauer
Samuel Mannhardt	

Notes

Protection of the Watershed-

The watershed is a resource that should be protected.

Millane's Nursery-

The was support to end the lease with Millane's Nursey, provided that the sites will be maintained and preserved as open fields, either for agriculture (farming, grazing, and/or haying) or kept clear of brush to support nature wildlife needs. Furthermore, there is a concern of the nursery's use of pesticides and their effect on the safety and well-being of wildlife, people, pets, and the watershed.

Golf Course-

The golf course proposal was not favored by the attendance of the workshop, since it would be a significance development with in an existing pristine habitat. Furthermore questions of who will own it and maintain it, the residents are not comfortable in letting the City select a developer with out their input. Will the public have access to the lands if it were developed into a golf course? Is

there really a market to support a golf course? The question of the future of the Newfield golf course puts further concern that a Maromas golf course will not be successful.

Wildlife-

There needs to be more in depth study of the existing wildlife, so that the public has an understanding about the vibrant and diverse nature of flora and fauna on these properties. These properties are also seen to be a green corridor wildlife to roam without inference of development or people.

Wildlife Enhancements-

The participants do see that there are opportunities to enhance the natural settings to strengthen and encourage diverse wildlife for the area. Some ideas include creation of eagle and osprey platforms.

Maintenance-

One attendee proposed that the mission statement should be "Passive use, Active management". There is concern that there are some unwanted activities, such as ATV and snowmobile. There is also interest in developing a plan of action if invasive species begin to negatively impact the area. Have a plan in place to address the issue while it is still a small problem.

City's capacity to maintain these properties-

A number of residents are concerned that the City does not have resource to maintain these properties to a standard that they deserve. Any plan should include steps to enhance the capabilities of the City to manage and preserve these properties.

Educational Opportunities-

Creation of a visitor's center and/or museum to educate the public on wildlife, agriculture and the unique history of the Maromas area. This could be combined with an animal shelter and provide Middletown Vocational Agricultural Program (VOAG) opportunities to intern and volunteer in caring and maintaining animals and learning agriculture techniques outside of the classroom. Connecticut Valley Hospital historian Tom Ford has documented the history of the lead silver mine that was located on the site.

Keep Maromas for Wildlife-

Through a show of hands the participants of the workshop would like to prevent any further development from taking place that would impact the rural character and adversely impact the natural wildlife of the area.

Expand the Trail System-

Providing public access to the trail system was not objected to. One attendee proposed using the Middlesex Community College as a trailhead since parking infrastructure currently exists. The trails connecting the College and these properties and the rest of Maromas would need to be upgraded.

Agriculture-

One attendee proposed to replicate the Community Supported Agriculture program that exists in Granby, Connecticut.

Other Concerns-

There are concerns by the residents that any public or private/public partnership will take away from the natural settings, and bring in fences and gates to disconnect people further from nature. There were a number of comments that the City needs to remember the history of the land and this area. Any proposal that is not in keeping with this history is probably not the best idea for the City.

This is public land, paid initially by the tax payers of Connecticut, therefore the residents of Connecticut should benefit from any proposal(s).

Any proposal should be evaluated to the extent what are the impacts on the residents, such as traffic implications, etc.