

**THE WATER BUREAU**  
555 Main Street  
Hartford, Connecticut 06103  
Wednesday, November 7, 2018

**Present:** Commissioners Andrew Adil, Daniel Camilliere, Georgiana Holloway, Gary LeBeau, Domenic Pane, Pasquale J. Salemi, Raymond Sweezy, Alvin Taylor and District Chairman William A. DiBella (9)

**Absent:** Commissioners Clifford Avery Buell, Mary Ann Charron, Timothy J. Fitzgerald, Peter Gardow, Denise Hall, David Ionno, Kathleen Kowalyshyn and Special Representative Michael Carrier (8)

**Also**

**Present:** Commissioner Allen Hoffman  
Commissioner Bhupen Patel  
Commissioner Peter Gardow  
Scott W. Jellison, Chief Executive Officer  
John M. Zinzarella, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Business Services  
Christopher Stone, Assistant District Counsel  
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk  
Christopher Levesque, Director of Operations  
Sue Negrelli, Director of Engineering  
Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Technology  
Kelly Shane, Director of Procurement  
Tom Tyler, Director of Facilities  
Karyn Blaise, Controller  
Michael Curley, Manager of Technical Services  
David Banker, Project Manager  
Jennifer Ottalagana, Project Manager  
Nick Salemi, Special Services Administrator  
Kerry E. Martin, Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer  
Carrie Blardo, Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer  
Victoria S. Escoriza, Executive Assistant  
David Silverstone, Consumer Advocate

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Sweezy called the meeting to order at 3:14 P.M.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS**

Clare Cain of CT Forest & Park Association spoke regarding Agenda Item #5,  
Proposed Land Swap in West Hartford and submitted the following public  
comments:



*Connecting people to the land since 1895*

16 Meriden Road  
Rockfall  
Connecticut 06481-2961  
Tele: 860-346-TREE  
[www.ctwoodlands.org](http://www.ctwoodlands.org)

11/7/2018

Metropolitan District Commission Water Bureau  
District Headquarters  
555 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06142

**RE: New England Trail**

Dear Water Bureau Members,

In 1895, CFPA was established as Connecticut's first conservation organization. Our mission is to connect people to the land to ensure the protection and thoughtful stewardship of forests, parks, and trails in Connecticut. We are also the manager for the 215-mile New England National Scenic Trail (NET) in Connecticut, which includes the section of the Metacomet Trail on MDC property. The NET was designated as a national scenic trail in 2009 and is one of only 11 national scenic trails in the country.

The New England Trail would not exist without the support of hundreds of trail hosts. These private, State, municipal, land trust and commercial landowners willingly host the trail on their property and they are our heroes! They allow the trail to connect from one beautiful spot to the next in a continuous footpath along the spine of Connecticut's Metacomet ridgeline.

Trail continuity and public access are of paramount importance to our organization and to the thousands of trail users who enjoy the trail regularly. Ideally a scenic trail will be located in the most scenic areas, but, when it comes down to it, trail continuity is the most important thing. Continuity gives the trail its integrity and allows users to have an undisturbed and unbroken experience. Ideally, a section of trail will not be severed or closed, resulting in hikers needing to walk on roads to make critical connections or not being able to make connections at all.

We want to work closely with the MDC and all involved parties to maintain a continuous route for the Metacomet Trail on MDC property, and we appreciate that Mr. Chase has hosted the section of trail we are talking about today on his property for many years. The 7.5 miles of trail are a critical link for iconic and historical sites in the area (like the Hill-Stead Museum, Heublein Tower and Penwood State Park) and for outdoor recreation in general.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments and I'm happy to field any questions you may have.

Clare Cain  
Trails Stewardship Director

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

***On motion made by Commissioner Pane and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of September 12, 2018 were approved.***

***Without objection, Agenda Item #5 "Proposed Land Swap West Hartford" was taken up prior to Agenda Item #4 "Expansion of Water Service in Glastonbury"***

## **DISCUSSION RE: PROPOSED LAND SWAP WEST HARTFORD**

***Lou Weise, representing Arnold Chase, presented and distributed the following written comments:***

### **Potential Remediation/MDC Lot Line Revision with Deercliff Land Preservation Trust**

#### **Background**

Starting in the late 1970's, as long-held large parcels of privately owned land immediately adjacent to the MDC West Hartford Reservoirs has been sold for residential development, the MDC has erected permanent fencing along the MDC property line to positively establish the boundary between MDC owned property and private property. The fencing has served two primary purposes: First, to control trespassing by the tens of thousands of individuals that are allowed onto MDC property, as the MDC literature states, "to be used for joggers and bicyclists, hiking trails, wheel-chair accessible picnic groves, cross-country skiing and snow shoeing", and secondarily as a means of positive access control and safety enforcement to protect the critical MDC infrastructure.

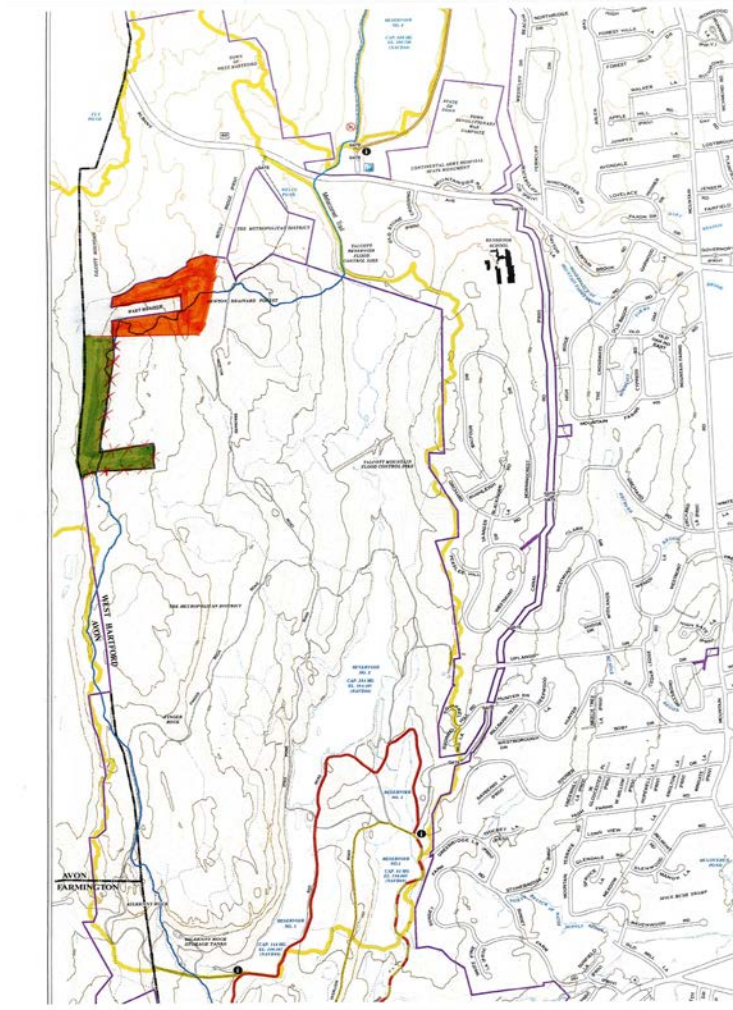
For reasons unknown, the MDC has failed to complete their fencing program on its northwesterly property lines, causing a continual and unwelcome trespassing situation. More critically, the MDC has continuously published material inferring that private property which in some cases includes potentially dangerous locations such as cliff edges is part of the MDC property. While the MDC enjoys the protection of Public Act No. 11-211, Deercliff Land Preservation Trust has *never* made its private land available for public recreational purposes, and as such, does not fall under the protections of Section 52-557 of the general statutes.

MDC has created an untenable situation wherein they have implicitly encouraged the general public to trespass upon adjacent private property by way of MDC produced maps inviting the general public to use and stay on the "Blue" trail, even though the "official" MDC maps in reality show the "Blue" trail crossing large segments of Deercliff Land Preservation Trust property.

MDC sanctioned trespassing occurs on a daily widespread basis, due in no small measure, to the lack of fencing in this area and the completely inadequate marking system that is located in that area. Without continuous adequate property boundary markers, as well as the installation of secure fencing as is the case with all other sections of the MDC property boundaries, there is no way that individuals even with MDC maps can know what property (e.g., MDC or private) they are on. Additionally, the complete lack of warning signs for potentially dangerous areas further adds to the liability concern.

In the interest of safety, the MDC publishes and enforces a lengthy list of rules and regulations. The present situation, however, legally allows completely unregulated visitation hours and activities to bypass the existing MDC controls on the reservoir property over ¼ past the usual boundaries.

While the MDC maintains extensive (albeit incomplete) security fencing along the property perimeter, along with gates that are closed at sunset, and a dedicated MDC police force, the present situation literally contains unregulated "holes" that compromise MDC infrastructure.



**DISCUSSION RE: EXPANSION OF WATER SERVICE IN GLASTONBURY**

*Project Manager Jennifer Ottalagana gave a presentation regarding the Expansion of Water Service in Glastonbury.*

**OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:07 P.M.

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk

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Date of Approval