

Margerie Reservoir Trail Advisory Committee
January 23, 2023 - 6 P.M.

Chairman DiGilio called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. on Monday, January 23, 2023. Present were Committee Members Antonio Iadarola, Public Works Director & City Engineer, City of Danbury & Engineer, New Fairfield; David Day, Public Utilities Superintendent, City of Danbury; Les Pinter, Deputy Corporation Counsel City of Danbury; Ray Yamin, Outside Counsel, City of Danbury; Jeff Main, Conservation Inlands Wetlands/Conservation Commission, New Fairfield; Peter Hearn, New Fairfield; and Jonathan Barney, Alternate member, City of Danbury. Present Ex-Officio Members were John Esposito; Irving Fox; and Ben Chianese. Present from the public were Patricia Del Monaco, New Fairfield First Selectwoman; Khris Hall, New Fairfield Selectwoman; Ken Gucker, Danbury Resident; and 4 unidentified individuals.

Public Speaking:

Mr. Gucker, 89 Padanaram Road, spoke in support of the trail project.

Minutes:

A motion was made by Member Hearn, and was seconded by Member Iadarola, to accept the meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DiGilio noted alternate appointments will take place in February/March.

Mr. Iadarola discussed recruiting consultants for the following: survey work, wetlands, and mapping. Furthermore, recruiting a landscaper architect with trail/conservation experience, and engineer with stormwater treatment experience. He provided a brief overview of the City's RFP outreach efforts and existing mapping. He suggested drafting an RFP, which will be reviewed by a New Fairfield agent; and recommended performing a walk-through of the site.

Mr. Yamin discussed requiring the public to sign a release to walk the property. Mr. Main suggested the Committee visit the site first, before allowing the public onsite. Mr. Iadarola suggested hosting a group tour with signed releases. The trail is approximately a 1-hour walk, with rough terrain. The Committee discussed the meeting requirements and trail options of hosting a site visit.

Mr. Iadarola noted that a hired consultant will provide trail options for the Committee to review. Ms. Hall provided a brief overview of the "Red" route recommendation (Concept 3) on page 29 of the corridor study (attached). Mr. Main suggested exploring a north corridor to the reservoir. Ms. Hall discussed significant resistance in the past regarding a north corridor proposal; and recommended evaluating the grant language. Mr. DiGilio requested the Committee set up logistics for a site visit and determine a visitation date.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Member Iadarola, and seconded by Member Main, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
DiGilio, Chair
Antonio Iadarola
David Day
Jeff Main
Peter Hearn