



TOWN OF WESTBROOK

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

866 BOSTON POST ROAD
WESTBROOK, CONNECTICUT 06498
(860) 399-3046 • Fax (860) 399-2084

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HEARING

Wednesday February 19, 2014
Raised Bill No. 70

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESERVATION OF LANDS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Westbrook Conservation Commission strongly supports Raised Bill No.70 to protect in perpetuity CT State Parks, State Forests and Agricultural Lands.

In many towns existing State Parks and Forests anchor municipal open space and greenways, providing significant green infrastructure to protect critical functions of watersheds with respect to maintaining water quality in ground- and surface water bodies associated with that system. Percent of forest cover in any watershed and maintaining forest cover in critical riparian areas are two key indicators of watershed health.

Westbrook planned the state designated Menunketesuck Greenway and related open space acquisition to link with the Weber Woods Section of Cockaponsett State Forest in Westbrook depending on the forest resource values remaining protected in perpetuity to protect water resources of 2 watersheds.

The Conservation Commission is now conducting research to make sure the Weber Woods Section of Cockaponsett State Forest will remain protected.

Raised Bill 70 provides a vehicle to ensure towns and land conservation organizations that State owned Parks and Forests and Agriculture land will remain protected with a conservation restriction to preserve their “high conservation value.”

The Westbrook Conservation Commission urges the Environment Committee to support Raised Bill 70.

The Westbrook Conservation Commission, established, pursuant to CT General Statutes Sec. 7-131a, by Town Meeting July 18, 1966, is a research and advisory commission for other municipal land use boards and the community. The Commission is responsible for identifying, prioritizing and recommending lands for open space acquisition, and for developing appropriate standards and limitations for use of parcels acquired to assure their continued use as Open Space. For further information please contact Tom ODell, Chairman, at 860-399-1807; todell@snet.net.