

February 7, 2015

## HB 5925 "AA Naming A Driveway After Lisa Maynard"

### Testimony for Lisa Maynard

I started working at the Connecticut Department of Transportation in August of 2007. As I began my career with the DOT Lisa Maynard was my supervisor and also my mentor. I began with the DOT in the Facilities Design Unit. My job focused on civil design for our vertical construction. This was my first job as a civil engineer and Lisa's tutelage was invaluable. As a mentor she was patient, understanding, and accommodating with her time. She guided me through many challenging aspects of civil engineering in a manner that was inspiring.

She would say to me, "this is not brain surgery", which still resonates with me today when projects become complicated. It was her way of communicating that while our job was not always simple and straightforward in nature; every problem that I was to encounter had a solution. I remember sitting with Lisa as she patiently showed me her technique for open flow channel drainage or how to calculate the water quality volume for project sites. She had a great quality for making the complicated understandable; her ability to explain these processes with simple language and instruction was impressive. To this day her teaching style has had a great impact on how I approach those that I am now called upon to instruct.

Lisa Maynard was the "go to" engineer in our unit. If there was a civil engineering question that needed an answer it was invariably "take it to Lisa". She was extremely competent and always confident in her abilities, yet maintained a sense of humility among her colleagues. She was apt to pass accolades on to others rather than seek the spotlight herself. A quality that drew the admiration of many that worked with her. I found myself on the receiving end of credit that could have more deservedly been credited to Lisa more than a few times. She wanted it no other way.

Lisa had a dry sense of humor, albeit quirky in nature. Her work area was plastered with sayings befitting her style of wit. "\$1 for all questions asked", comes to mind. Thankfully for her colleagues she did not collect or we would have all been much poorer. Furthering this quirky theme, her desk suggested an odd affinity for cows, prominently displayed. The intelligence that came within her sense of humor is missed by all.

Lisa cared about the environment. Her passion for engineering with the environment in mind inspired our unit to follow suit in these efforts. Her work ethic was indomitable. Challenging projects like the New Canaan salt shed or the Colchester facility's civil design, with all of their engineering complications and political "red-tape" were done befitting her style. No shortcuts. Competency and professionalism always the order of the day.

As Lisa became sick, and then sicker, her work ethic never wavered. To such an extent that many of us did not realize how sick, in fact, she was. How could this best be communicated? Lisa went to work on a Tuesday. She passed away on the following Sunday. Lisa's will and unrelenting spirit in the face of this dreadful disease never wavered and will inspire always.

The time that I worked directly under Lisa was relatively short in duration, but her mentorship in engineering, ethics, and professionalism resonates with me to this day. Lisa left an imprint on the Facilities Design Unit of the Connecticut Department of Transportation that is undeniable. Her passing was a great loss to the department and we all are left with the task of living up to standards that she created during her tenure. Lisa Maynard was a terrific engineer and an even better person. I can think of no one more deserving of this honor. Thank you for allowing me to share my testimony.

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