

TOWN OF WASHINGTON

BRYAN MEMORIAL TOWN HALL
2 BRYAN PLAZA
P.O. BOX 383
WASHINGTON DEPOT, CONNECTICUT 06794

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

ORIGINAL

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CONNECTICUT
SITING COUNCIL

April 3, 2009

Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, Conn 06051

Council Members,

Enclosed is a resolution passed by the Washington Conservation Commission April 1, 2009 regarding Docket #378 on Rabbit Hill Road, Warren.

As a Party to this application additional comments will be forthcoming from Washington Land Use Commissions as it is reviewed at their regularly scheduled meetings.



Mark E Lyon
First Selectman
Washington



Susan Payne
Chair, Washington Conservation Commission

Resolution of the Conservation Commission of the Town of Washington,
Connecticut
Unanimously adopted on April 1, 2009

The Conservation Commission of the Town of Washington Connecticut opposes the Connecticut Siting Council application under Docket 378 on the grounds that the proposed facilities will have severe adverse environmental impact on fragile natural resources, including wetlands and wildlife habitats and the ecosystems and organic life they support in the area adjoining the proposed sites within the Town of Washington as well as in the proposed coverage areas. Among the environmental and conservation areas that will be impacted are:

1. The fragile Meeker Swamp/Macricostas Preserve Ecosystem, much of which has been preserved by the State Open Space Fund, contains 8 Natural Diversity Data Base areas (as of DEP Dec. 08) with the potential for 100 to be categorized according to the Yale Macricostas study. These sites should be subject to an immediate review by the DEP and the Connecticut Siting Council under its statutory mandate.
2. Migratory paths, stopovers and habitats of state listed species including, but not limited to, Tennessee and orange crowned warblers, least flycatcher, broad winged hawks, sharp shinned hawks, wood turtles, brown thrashers, and other flora, fauna, insects and amphibians including annual sightings of Bald eagles. Steep Rock land trust checklist of bird exhibit A. Photos taken of Bald Eagles at Meeker Swamp exhibit B.
3. Headwaters to Bee Brook and the Shepaug River located on Rabbit Hill, which flow into Meeker Swamp and the Macricostas Preserve and are believed traveled by state listed species including the Wood Turtle.
4. The town of Washington's largest aquifer is located below these proposed facilities, site A on slopes greater than 25 pct, and is fed by the above mentioned headwaters. Site B is proposed 50 ft off these headwaters.
5. Critical habitat area as listed in the Town of Washington's Natural Resource Inventory.
5. Important view sheds from state and locally declared scenic and recreational areas, including Warramaug's Rock and the Pinnacle, along with historic local homes (exhibit C), would be permanently impacted by towers which crest high above the ridgeline between two mountains (site A) or sit directly on the ridgeline (site B) on a road declared scenic by both towns of Washington and Warren and

surrounded by multiple roads and areas declared scenic. Photo of balloon siting exhibit D

6. Site A is on 422a farmland on which the development rights have been sold and on which the construction of this type of structure and related outbuildings has been deemed to be a prohibited, commercial non-agricultural use by the Department of Agriculture.

7. Connecticut Office of Policy and Management Preservation Area of Conservation Priority 2.

8. Areas of Archaeological sensitivity. Exhibit E

Signed,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Payne". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Susan Payne
Chairman

Steep Hidden Macri-Rock Valley costas

Blue Jay*	Y1	Y1	Y1
American Crow*	Y1	Y1	Y1
Chickadee*			Y4
Common Raven*	Y4		Y4

Warblers

Prothonotary Warbler			Y3
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Titmice

Blue Jay*			Y2
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Geese

Low-throated Vireo*		S3	S3
Red-headed Vireo*	S3	S3	S3
Whimbrel Vireo*	S2	S3	
Red-eyed Vireo*	S2	S2	S2

Finches

Triple Finch*	Y4	Y4	Y4
House Finch*	Y3	Y3	Y2
Common Redpoll	Y5	Y5	
Red Siskin*	Y5		
American Goldfinch*	Y2	Y2	Y2
Evening Grosbeak	Y5		

Woodpeckers

Red-winged Warbler*	S3		S3
Parula Warbler	M5	M5	M5
Orange-crowned Warbler			M5
Shoville Warbler	M4	M4	
Parula Parula	M3	M3	M3
Low Warbler*	S3	S3	S2
Least-sided Warbler*	S3	S3	S2
Ignolia Warbler	M3	M3	M3
Pe May Warbler	M5		
Black-throated Blue Warbler*	S4	S3	S2
Black-throated Green Warbler*	S3	S3	S3
Blackburnian Warbler*	S2	S2	S3
Blue Warbler*	S3	S3	
Blue Warbler*	S2		
Yellow-breasted Warbler	M4	M4	M3
Blackpoll Warbler	M4	M4	
Parula Warbler	M5	M5	
Black-and-white Warbler*	S2	S2	S2
American Redstart*	S3	S3	S3

Steep Hidden Macri-Rock Valley costas

Worm-eating Warbler*			S4
Ovenbird*	S2	S2	S2
Northern Waterthrush	M4	M4	M4
Louisiana Waterthrush*	S2	S2	
Common Yellowthroat*	S3	S3	S1
Wilson's Warbler			M4
Canada Warbler*	S5		

Tanagers

Scarlet Tanager*	S2	S2	S2
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Sparrows

American Towhee*	S2	S3	S3
American Tree Sparrow			W2
Chipping Sparrow*	S2	S3	S3
Field Sparrow*	S3		S3
Savannah Sparrow			M3
Fox Sparrow		M4	M4
Song Sparrow*	S3	S3	Y1
Swamp Sparrow*			S3
White-throated Sparrow	W3	W3	W1
Dark-eyed Junco	W3	W3	W1

Cardinals and Grosbeaks

Northern Cardinal*	Y2	Y3	Y2
Rose-breasted Grosbeak*	S3	S4	S3
Indigo Bunting*	S4		S3

Blackbirds and Orioles

Bobolink			V3
Red-winged Blackbird*	S3	S3	S1
Rusky Blackbird			M3
Common Grackle*		S3	S3
Brown-headed Cowbird*	S3	S3	S2
Baltimore Oriole*	S3	S3	S3

- S = Summer resident
- M = Migrant
- Y = Year-round Resident
- W = Winter Resident
- V = Occasional Visitor
- O = Seen primarily in flight overhead
- * = Known to have bred at Steep Rock

Please report sightings of birds not listed here to the

Steep Rock Office or to Peary@Pipeline.com



STEEP ROCK

LAND TRUST

Checklist of the Birds of Steep Rock

We are indebted to Michael Harwood and others who created the first Checklist of the Birds of Steep Rock in 1968.

Updated July, 2006

Steep Rock Association, Inc.
 P.O. Box 279
 Washington Depot, CT 06794
 Telephone: 860-868-9131
 Steeprockassoc.org

Steep Hidden Macri-
Rock Valley costas

ons				
Common Loon	MO5	MO5	MO5	
Finorants				
Double-crested Cormorant	MO4	MO4	MO4	
rons and Bitterns				
Great Blue Heron	S3	S3	S3	
Green Heron				S3
ans, Geese and Ducks				
Canada Goose*	Y2	Y2	Y2	
Mallard Duck*		S3	S3	
Mallard*	Y1	Y2	S3	
American Black Duck*			S3	
Wooded Merganser			M3	
Common Merganser*	S3	S3		
lures				
Key Vulture	S3	S4	Y2	
Prey				
Prey	M4	M4	M4	
gles and Hawks				
Id Eagle			MO5	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	M4			
Cooper's Hawk	M4			
American Osprey*		Y4		
Red-shouldered Hawk				
Sharp-shinned Hawk*	S4	S5		
Sharp-shinned Hawk*	VO3	VO3	Y2	
Icons				
American Kestrel				
linaceous Birds				
Id Turkey*	Y2	Y2	Y2	
Field Grouse*		Y3		
American Bobwhite*	Y3			
Ring-necked Pheasant				
orebirds				
Deer			S3	
American Woodcock*	S4		S3	
Least Sandpiper			M4	
Least Sandpiper			M5	
Least Sandpiper	M4	M4	M4	

Steep Hidden Macri-
Rock Valley costas

Gulls				
Ring-billed Gull	VO3	VO3	VO3	
American Herring Gull	VO3	VO3	VO3	
Pigeons				
Rock Pigeon*			Y2	
Mourning Dove*		Y3	Y2	
Cuckoos				
Black-billed Cuckoo			S4	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo			S4	
Typical Owls				
Eastern Screech-Owl*	Y3	Y3		
Great Horned Owl*	Y3	Y3		
Barred Owl*	Y3	Y3		
Northern Saw-whet Owl	M5	M5		
Nighthawks				
Common Nighthawk	MO3	MO3	MO3	
Swifts				
Chimney Swift	S03		S03	
Hummingbirds				
Ruby-throated Hummingbird*			S4	
Kingfishers				
Belted Kingfisher*	Y2	Y2	S2	
Woodpeckers				
Red-bellied Woodpecker*	Y2	Y2	Y3	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker*	S2	S2	S2	
Downy Woodpecker*	Y2	Y2	Y2	
Hairy Woodpecker*	Y2	Y2	Y2	
Northern Flicker*	S3	S3	S3	
Pileated Woodpecker*	Y3	Y3	Y3	
Flycatchers				
Eastern Wood-Pewee*	S2	S2	S2	
Acadian Flycatcher*	S4			
Alder Flycatcher*			S3	
Willow Flycatcher*			S2	
Least Flycatcher*	S4	S4	M4	
Eastern Phoebe*	S2	S2	S2	
Great Crested Flycatcher*	S2	S3	S2	
Eastern Kingbird*	S3	S3	S3	

Steep Hidden Macri-
Rock Valley costas

Swallows and Martins				
Purple Martin			V5	
Tree Swallow*	S2	M3	S1	
N. Rough-winged Swallow			S3	
Barn Swallow*			S3	
Kinglets				
Golden-crowned Kinglet	W3	W2		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	M2	M2	M2	
Waxwings				
Cedar Waxwing*	Y3	Y3	Y3	
Wrens				
Carolina Wren*			Y3	
Winter Wren*	S3	S3		
House Wren*	S3		S2	
Mimids				
Gray Catbird*	S1	S2	Y1	
Northern Mockingbird*	S3		Y3	
Brown Thrasher*	S5			
Thrushes				
Eastern Bluebird*	Y3	S4	Y2	
Veery*	S1	S1	S2	
Gray-checked Thrush	M4	M4		
Swainson's Thrush	M4	M4		
Hermit Thrush*	S3	S3	S3	
Wood Thrush*	S3	S3	S3	
American Robin*	S2	S2	Y1	
Gnatcatchers				
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	S2	S2	S2	
Chickadees and Titmice				
Black-capped Chickadee*	Y1	Y1	Y1	
Tufted Titmouse*	Y1	Y1	Y1	
Nuthatches				
Red-breasted Nuthatch*		Y5		
White-breasted Nuthatch*	Y2	Y2	Y2	
Creepers				
Brown Creeper*	Y3	Y3	Y3	

MACRICOSTAS RIDGELINE



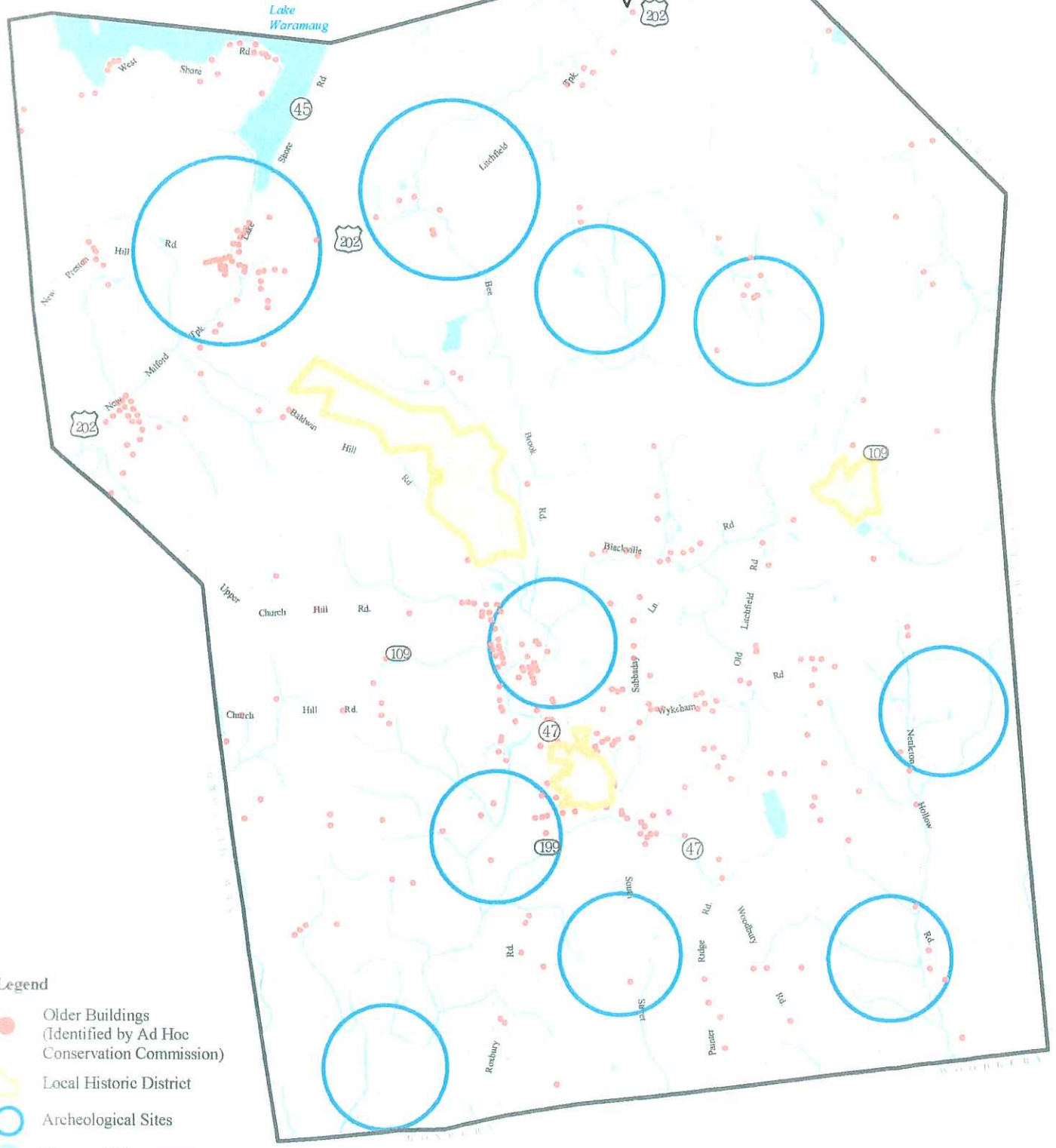
MACRICOSTAS/
MEEKER SWAMP

EXHIBIT B

Historic Resource Map

Town of Washington, CT

PROPOSED TOWER SITE → WHITTLESSEY HOUSE

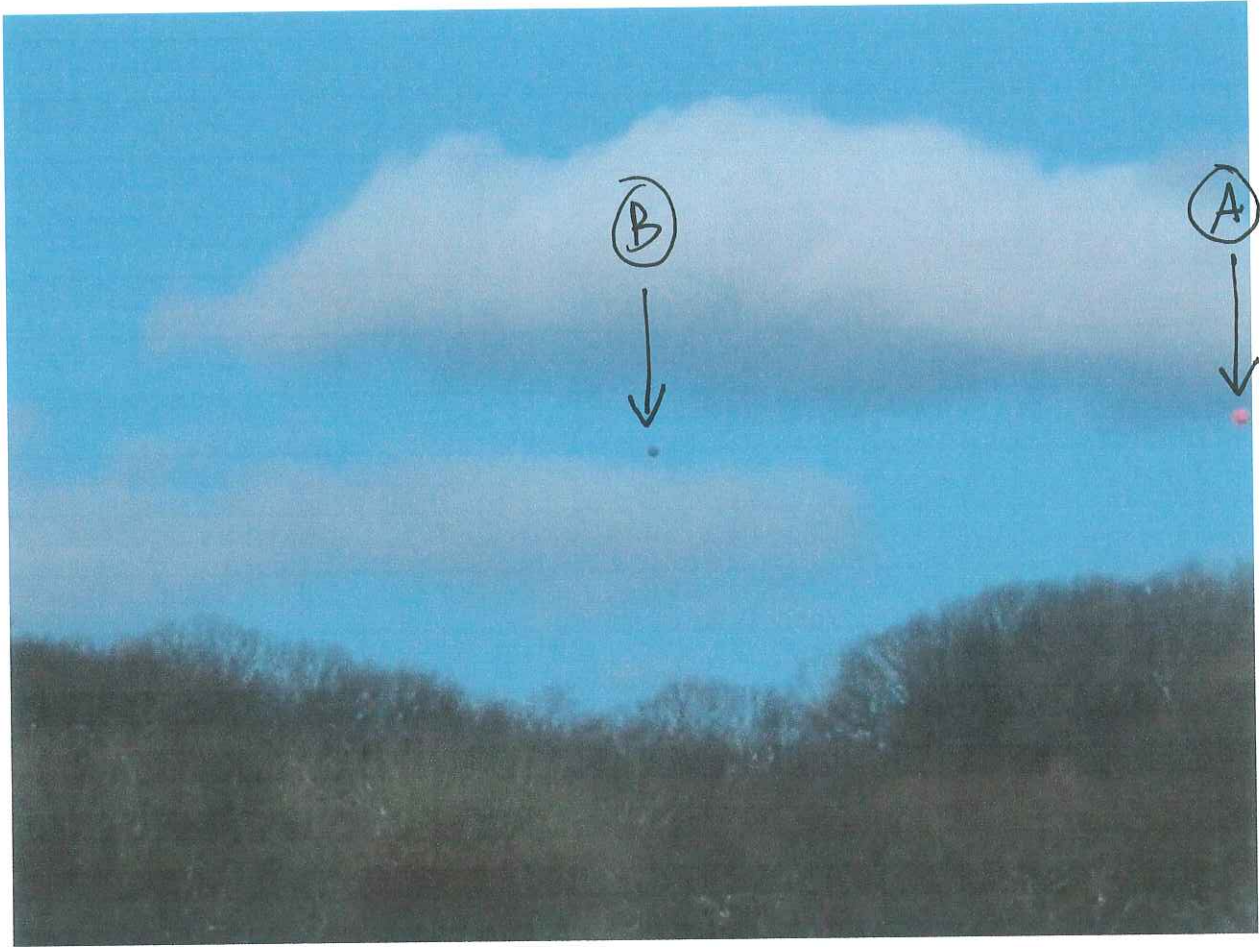


Legend

- Older Buildings (Identified by Ad Hoc Conservation Commission)
- Local Historic District
- Archeological Sites
- Water and Watercourses

NOTE: Boundaries are shown for local historic districts. Boundaries for state or national districts may be different.

0 5000 Feet



PHOTOS TAKEN FROM
WHITLSEY HOUSE
VIEW FROM 202
EXHIBIT D

6.8.2: Archaeological Studies

Another interesting aspect of the Macricostas Preserve is historical use by Native Americans. A survey in 1978 by a field crew from the then American Indian Archaeological Institute (AIAI) and students from the Gunnery School, the local private college preparatory high school, found prehistoric tools and tool fragments predominantly along the knoll bordered by Bee Brook in the West, Meeker Swamp in the north, and Route 202 to the south. The results of this survey determined that this area had discrete concentrations of artifacts dating between 7000 and 2500 years ago (Handsman 1987).

The potential developers of Meeker Swamp commissioned the AIAI in 1987 to prepare a report determining the impact on the archaeological resources contained within the area to be altered by construction. The area surveyed included the property bounded by Route 202, Christian Street, and Meeker Swamp. The survey results determined that hunter-gatherers have used the areas surrounding the wetlands for several thousand years, probably wintering in the high grounds and using the wetlands to hunt grouse and deer (Swigart, personal communication with Lydia Dixon). Ned Swigart, former director of the AIAI, noted that the research findings were not particularly productive in the 1987 survey.

However, the potential for future discoveries here is high given the historical use of wetlands by Native Americans as a focal point for settlement and land use (Handsman 1987). Given the historical concentration of Native Americans in this region and the similarity of the Meeker Swamp area to other places in Northwest Connecticut that have archaeological significance, it is likely that a further study could unearth interesting archaeological findings (Swigart, personal communication with Lydia Dixon, December 2002).

Swigart also noted that the Institute for American Indian Studies (formerly AIAI) in Washington should be very interested in pursuing further research at this site if the Steep Rock Association expressed a desire for exploration, contingent upon the reestablishment of the research program at the IAIS (which should be forthcoming).

FROM THE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE STEEP ROCK
ASSOCIATION'S MACRICOSTAS PRESERVE JANUARY 30, 2003

EXHIBIT E