Environment	17-19, 193-201, 220, 222, 311-324	28
House	6169-6173	5
Senate	7169, 7176-7178, 7182-7183	6
		39

JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS

ENVIRONMENT
PART 1
1 – 346

2011
INDEX

have some old-timer bills that we've been here before, and we also have some new ones. There's a considerable emphasis today on open space and upon organizing DEP in a way that will make it even more effective and efficient. It's going to be a good hearing. Thanks.

REP. ROY: You'll also see we have some old-timer legislators along with some new ones. And with that, Senator Beth Bye, you're number one.

SENATOR BYE: I know you're here -- you're doing this bill by bill -- I'm here to refer to a couple of bills that are before you and one really in concert with Representative Piscopo.

We represent the Town of Burlington who really needs access to dry hydrants. So I'm here to support House Bill 5068. It allows fire departments in the interest of public safety to proceed more quickly with the installation of dry hydrants in rural areas without ready access to public water supplies. SB831

A dry hydrant, for those of you who were not here when this bill was discussed two years ago, is a structure that's placed in a body of water that allows the fire department to hook up and draw water from a source during all seasons. Such a structure is necessary in instances where access to a hydrant is nonexistent. The existence of a dry hydrant, particularly during times of inclement weather or where there is hilly terrain, dramatically increases the ability of fire department to fight a fire.

I have copies of this testimony to -- we did five. I know you asked for 40. And you'll all receive this by email on account of being the Environment Committee.

So I ask that it be raised and you'll hear later

from our firefighters in Burlington -- I now represent Burlington as well -- who can give you more specifics.

The other bill that I was here to support is Senate Bill 831, and I'd like to call up Shari Cantor who is a town councilor in West Hartford who is strongly in favor of this bill.

And do you want to say a few words here?

SHARI CANTOR: Yes. Actually I have to run out as well with that (inaudible) function. But we are strongly in support. West Hartford spoke very clearly with the surrounding towns and the concern of them when MDC -- there was a threat of closing those facilities.

I have submitted 40 copies of written testimony. West Hartford Town Council, me, in particular as a resident and parent of four young men, feel very, very strongly that we need to address this issue of limited liability for open space recreational activities.

And thank you so much for bringing this bill, and I appreciate your reading my comments.

SENATOR BYE: So public safety with dry hydrants really important in rural towns and Senate Bill 831, and I -- I welcome questions, and I'm happy to answer questions here or afterwards. Thank you very much.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Any questions from members?

Representative Piscopo.

REP. PISCOPO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator, thank you very much for your testimony. I appreciate it and your support on that bill.

I -- it would also benefit all -- all those towns on our shoreline with the more narrow streets where tankers can't necessarily get up and down those streets to -- and a lot of Connecticut not -- not just our hilly part -- our hill towns, too, also. Is that true?

SENATOR BYE: That's true. Thank you, Representative Piscopo.

REP. PISCOPO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Any other questions or comments from members of the committee?

Seeing none, Senator, good job. Thank you.

SENATOR BYE: Thank you. Have a great hearing.

REP. ROY: Our next speaker will be First Selectman Ralph Eno from Lyme.

RALPH ENO: Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, members of the committee. Thanks for this opportunity to testify before you this afternoon.

I'm here to speak in favor of Raised Bill 834, AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL OPEN SPACE PRIORITIES AND FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF SUCH PROPERTIES. I'd like to thank you all again very much for raising this bill and keeping it in the forefront, if you will. I am an old-timer on this bill particularly and it's near and dear to my heart. And, hopefully, it gets some legs this time.

Lyme sees this as a smart growth tool and a smart

Advisory Board, I'm sure you all follow the large energy bill that went through last year. There's been a lot of debate about the current RPS and the CEAB put out an RFP recently, which was won by Rutgers University that's doing an extensive study of the Connecticut RPS Class I, II, and III, and the results of that study are due in a few months. So I urged the committee to just use some caution and to see, at least some of the results of that study, before adding or subtracting resources to the current RPS.

And I'd be happy to answer any questions.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Any questions or comments from members of the committee?

Seeing none --

CHARLES BURNHAM: Thank you very much.

REP. ROY: -- thank you very much.

Jeffrey Bond.

We have to get people to print their names.

I'm sorry. I called you Boyd, sir.

And he'll be followed by Ray Collins, who is not in the room at the moment.

JEFFREY BOND: Good afternoon, members of the Environment Committee, Senator Meyer, Representative Roy.

My name is Jeffrey Bond. I am the -- I'm a resident of Burlington, Connecticut and also the public information officer for the Burlington Volunteer Fire Department.

HB5068

I would like to support bill -- House Bill 5068, AN ACT CREATING A REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN INLAND WETLANDS PERMIT FOR A DRY HYDRANT.

Dry hydrants are something that I've been pursuing for several years from the fire service side of it in order to make our community a better place to live. However, there are many difficulties in trying to do that. The purpose of this bill is to simplify and standardize the inland wetland activity permit for a dry hydrant.

Each town or municipality in Connecticut addresses the application process for a dry hydrant differently. In many rural areas, there are no -- no regular fire hydrants or a public fire hydrant. The only viable solution for firefighters is a dry hydrant. And in your packet -- I will go over towards the end of it -- includes what a dry hydrant is, some of the national standards, and so forth.

Dry hydrants are permanent structures placed into a water resource, lake, pond or stream that enables the State of Connecticut Firefighters or fire departments to access water for fire suppression. Fire departments, many of them volunteer, must rely on water from portable tankers, ponds or streams, to provide water necessary to put out a structure fire.

Several years ago, a structure fire in Simsbury required over 90,000 gallons of portable water transported by tankers in order to be able to provide fire suppression to the scene. A dry hydrant provides large volumes of water every day. These structures are placed below the frost and ice line enabling them to be used in every season. They provide a reliable water resource for the fire officer, reduce homeowner's

insurance rates, provide for firefighter safety and keeps large fire trucks from making multiple trips to and from the water resources several times. It may be a mile, 2 or 3 miles away.

With extreme weather conditions this year, such as deep snow, varying ice conditions throughout the state and many roads narrowed by snow, dry hydrants would benefit nearly every town in the state of Connecticut.

The current process goes something like this: identifying a water resource working with a homeowner, engineering and completing the inlands and wetlands permit, attending the inlands and wetlands commission meeting, participate in public hearing oftentimes, and then, finally, the construction of the dry hydrants. This takes an enormous amount of time to be able to do.

In many areas of the state, this is driven by the local fire departments. Most fire departments don't have the technical expertise to complete a dry hydrant application.

House Bill 5068 provides the standardized and develops the permitting process for dry hydrants in the state of Connecticut. It provides for a more efficient process, increases public safety. Dry hydrants are inexpensive to install, have minimal impact on the wetland, recognized by the National Fire Protection Association as a standard for hydrants for rural firefighters.

There are an estimated 22,150 volunteer firefighters, 4,420 career firefighters in the State of Connecticut. Dry hydrants will benefit both volunteer and career firefighters. From communities, along the shoreline to interior Connecticut, many areas are not served by the public water utilities. Our solution and the only solution is to install a dry hydrant.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

JEFFREY BOND: Thank you very much.

REP. ROY: Any questions?

Representative Chapin.

REP. CHAPIN: Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Just want to clear when I drive around the country side, and I see these, I would guess they're PVC pipes, white pipes, they look like they go down to a water body.

JEFFREY BOND: That's exactly what a dry hydrant is.

REP. CHAPIN: And when you talk about the dry hydrant, you're just talking about the pipe going into the water body?

JEFFREY BOND: That's correct. A dry hydrant what it does -- it's essentially dry except for where the water line is. That's why you need it below the 36 inches in the ground to prevent it from being frozen in the winter time or ice accumulating it in the winter time.

REP. CHAPIN: And in the absence of a dry hydrant, do you have the authority -- does the fire department have the authority to drop a line in that water body?

JEFFREY BOND: We do, under a declared emergency by the fire chief. The fire chief can basically do essentially what he needs to do to be able to protect the community, the structure, or whatever is the case. There's more environmental damage when we have to go and drive the truck across the lawn or in through the woods to be able to drop that line in.

There are chemicals from the pump process that then can get entered into the waterway. So that's much more damage than preemptively putting these dry hydrants in place.

REP. CHAPIN: And with the dry hydrant, would the fire chief also have to declare an emergency for the use of that as well?

JEFFREY BOND: No. Typically the arrangement goes -- these are processes developed from the fire department working with the homeowners and in the towns. Sometimes it's a town resource that you can put these in. So there's already a predesignated relationship. These are typically close to roadways, easy to shovel out or clean out and then accessible 365 days a year.

The important thing that was made to me a couple of years ago -- and this was a perfect winter for that -- is one of our firefighters said going out in the middle of the night and standing on a pond or a lake or a stream and hearing the ice crack, he didn't know when next moment he was going to go in.

That's never happened to me but that's -- along with just good public safety, that's one of the reasons why this is an important bill to standardize that application process and move it quickly to be able to allow departments to be able to increase their dry hydrants and also to be able to make fire protection easier. They're a lot cheaper than putting a $250,000 fire truck with 2,000 gallons of water on the road if we can put these within 1,000 feet in most rural areas of the state.

REP. CHAPIN: Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Senator Maynard.

SENATOR MAYNARD: Are these -- is the permitting authority generally either the fire district or the municipality when -- when the permit is submitted for a dry hydrant?

JEFFREY BOND: I can speak for -- for several towns that I have worked with in this process to know that there is variability across the state. It's typically generated from the fire department. It would be nice if planning and zoning commissions were aware of these so when projects are brought to their table that they could identify a resource and at that time say that, you know, we should probably put a dry hydrant in there.

In Burlington, we've done that. We've worked with our planning and zoning commission. So four or more homes or 1,000 or more feet of roadway, the builder now is required to put in a water resource for us. But, as you saw in a map earlier today, Burlington is largely a rural area with 70 percent of open space so -- and no public water supply. We have a very limited public water supply. This is our venue for fire protection in the town of Burlington.

SENATOR MAYNARD: Thank you very much. I appreciate your efforts.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Representative Piscopo.

REP. PISCOPO: Thank you.

I just wanted to thank you, Chief, for coming up, staying around all day. Your patience, I

appreciate it.

JEFFREY BOND: It's one way to clear out a room, I gather.

REP. PISCOPO: Well, I -- just by the nature of the hydrant being dry, I would say -- I would think that limits the -- the probability that can be tampered with or is there -- is there concern for, I don't know, vandalism or somebody tapping these or --

JIEFFREY BOND: For any other residential person to be able to go in and obtain water from it, they would need two things: one, they would need a high volume pump. These are 5-inch diameter end fittings for the end of the -- in our case they're 5 inch. They can be a little bit smaller but typically 5. And they need to have a very large pump, and they would also need to have a special fitting which they would have to order. These are National Fire Protection fittings. They are standardized fittings. So somebody would have to have that, a noncollapsible hose, and they would really have to be working to vandalize it. We've had two hit by cars, but that's the only other vandalism that I've ever heard of anybody ever having happen to their hydrants.

REP. PISCOPO: And I'm glad in your testimony you brought up that this could be a statewide concern, you know, a lot of different --

JEFFREY BOND: This is, both, a rural and municipal problem, I've had a chance to speak with a gentleman in the fire service in Greenwich, Connecticut, that they do not have a public water supply throughout their entire town. And they would benefit in a certain area, a new development, and by placing a dry hydrant in a water body that's nearby.

We recently participated in a program in West Hartford, way up on top of Avon Mountain that they don't have any public water supply up there. We laid 2,000 feet of hose and ran our tanker trucks back up and down Avon Mountain to be able to provide water to see if we could get the volume supplies that the Town of West Hartford was looking for. And we actually exceeded it but if their truck could pull up within a 1,000 feet and access this, then instead of having four tanker trucks, two separate engines to supply that, they would only need to have their normal complementive apparatus to be able to do it.

As a fire operator, our tanker truck is 2500 gallons on it and weighs about 32,000 pounds fully loaded. Going down the hills in Burlington is not one of the most fun things to do, especially as this winter's proven.

REP. PISCOPO: I had trouble going down the hill in my Buick (inaudible) in Burlington.

Thank you, Chief, appreciate it.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Representative Miller.

REP. MILLER: Thank you.

Chief, can you drop a line in the wetlands area to get water if you had to?

JEFFREY BOND: We can get pretty creative. I just -- a point of order, I'm the public information officer for the Department. Any place that we can access water. We've modified our system to be able to -- and there are devices out there to

get water from as little as 4 inches in a stream. So, yes, any wetland -- if you're putting a dry hydrant in, there's some technical things you need to do; water depth, being able to put it through the ice fine, to be able to do it. Typically, an installation for us is about a day to be able to. The materials are about $1500 and contractor prices vary or a town crew could easily put these in one day.

Thank you very much.

Thank you.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Any other questions or comments?

Just want to point out that in more urban areas, especially where the interstates go through, they have what's called stand pipes that are used to feed the engines which are on top of the bridge and from the water down below and so they can fight without have to lay a lot of line or run across the highway.

Thank you very much, sir. I appreciate your testimony, and, with that, we'll move on to the next.

JEFFREY BOND: Thank you very much.

REP. ROY: Raymond Collins has not returned, however, I believe a young lady by the name of June Lee, who has not testified. I don't know what she's going to testify on but come on forward.

JUNE LEE: Hi, everybody. My name is June Lee. I am the chairperson of the Easton Conservancy Trust, and I'm here to speak about Senator Meyer's bill and for town choice in cell infrastructure citing and strict rules for distances from residences, SB833

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut

A tax-exempt organization under 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code

TESTIMONY
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING
January 31, 2010

To Chairmen Ed Meyer, Richard Roy, and Members of the Committee:

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut is the statewide, non-profit coalition of river organizations, individuals, and businesses formed to protect and enhance Connecticut's waters by promoting sound water policies, uniting and strengthening the state's many river groups, and educating the public about the importance of water stewardship. Our 450 members include almost all of the state's river and watershed conservation groups, representing many thousand Connecticut residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the bills before you today. This testimony addresses seven of these bills, in their order on the agenda.

S.B. No. 60 AAC THE ENFORCEMENT AND PERMITTING DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION [DEP]. The DEP has responded positively to recent criticism of the slow pace at which permits were being processed. These days, most applications are moving rapidly through DEP. (Complex projects, involving multiple authorities, are still problematic.) By all measures, however, the state falls short on monitoring and enforcement. Permits and mitigation plans are rarely monitored in the field by unannounced inspections or by independent experts. Enforcement relies on self-reporting, which from time to time may not be entirely accurate. Even when the state has received evidence that conditions in a permit or management plan are not met, the response is likely to be slow and weak. This is true of most agencies having project oversight, not just the DEP. These failings have frequently resulted in significant harm, cost, and danger to the public. Rivers Alliance strongly supports adequate staffing for permitting, monitoring, and enforcement. We believe that this could be revenue neutral if some costs (such as independent monitoring) were to be covered by applicants, and if fines (which should be reasonable) were to be collected promptly and consistently.

HB5202
SB 831
SB 59
HB6157
HB5068

S.B. No. 834 AAC MUNICIPAL OPEN SPACE PRIORITIES AND FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF SUCH PROPERTIES. This bill enables what is popularly called the "Green Fund." Rivers Alliance and many other environmental groups have supported the Green Fund for a number of years. The bill gives towns the authority to impose (if they wish) a small fee on someone buying real property in

7 West St., Suite 33, P.O. Box 1797, Litchfield, CT 06759 860-361-9349 FAX: 860-361-9341
email: rivers@riversalliance.org website: http://www.riversalliance.org

might cross into town land? The bill safeguards for the public the valuable right and privilege to enjoy this state's wonderful open spaces. It encourages exercise and good health. It supports tourism and outdoor recreation, along with affiliated businesses. The bill will also save towns money, somewhat from lower insurance premiums, but most importantly by reducing the risk of costly legal defense in cases where there has been no wrongdoing.

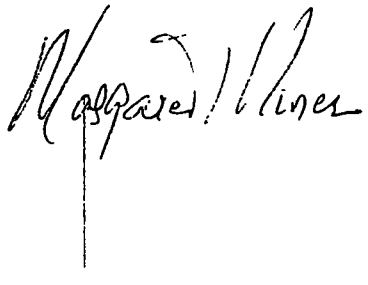
We support the goal of this legislation, and would be happy to work with you if questions arise.

S.B. 59 AAC PROHIBITING THE SALE OR USE OF FISHING SINKERS, JIGS AND TIRE WEIGHTS THAT CONTAIN LEAD. We support the effort to keep lead, which is highly toxic, out of water. Sinkers and jigs lost in water poison fish, water fowl, and other birds, like eagles, that hunt in water. For example, a high percentage of untimely deaths in bald eagles, loons, and trumpeter swans are due at least in part to lead poisoning -- from 25% to over 50%. The underlying problem is apparently the sheer volume of lead in fishing waters. An Audubon Society Waterbird Conservation Study found that some 2,700 metric tons of lead fishing weights are produced annually, mostly to replace lost weights. (Losing weight is good. Losing weights is bad.) Both science and policy are trending toward the conclusion that lead should not be used in fishing sinkers and jigs. Lead sinkers are banned or limited in New Hampshire, Minnesota, Maine, Vermont, and Wisconsin -- and in Yellowstone National Park. Massachusetts has banned the use of lead sinkers at two reservoirs (Quabbin and Wachusett). There are alternatives already available in sporting shops. This legislation will protect the health of wildlife and humans without economic hardship or limits on recreation.

H.B. No. 6157 AAC STATE FORESTRY PROGRAMS. Rivers Alliance urges legislators to pass this bill this year. There is no better protection for water resources than forested land, and good state forest management will pay for itself and even generate profits.

H.B. No. 5068 AAC CREATING A REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN INLAND WETLANDS PERMIT FOR A DRY HYDRANT. This proposal shifts the burden of proof to wetlands commissions in applications for dry hydrants, that is, non-pressurized hydrants that access a body of water. Dry hydrants are typically used to draw water in case of fire. They need maintenance to be reliable. I am not aware that inland wetlands commissions are unreasonably prohibiting installation of dry hydrants. But if the bill is needed, the word "public" should probably be deleted from the reference to alternative access to a "public water supply." The alternative supply could be located on public or private land.

Margaret Miner, Executive Director



Jeffrey S. Bond
19 Westwoods Road
Burlington, CT 06013

January 31, 2011

Environment Committee
Room 3200, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: 860-240-0440

Support for H.B. No. 5068 AN ACT CREATING A REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN INLAND WETLANDS PERMIT FOR A DRY HYDRANT.

Mr. Chairman
Members of the Environment Committee

My name is Jeffrey S. Bond. I am a resident of Burlington and the Public Information Officer for Burlington Volunteer Fire Department. I would like to support H.B. No. 5068 AN ACT CREATING A REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN INLAND WETLANDS PERMIT FOR A DRY HYDRANT.

The purpose of this Bill is to simplify and standardize the inland wetlands activity permit process for a dry hydrant. Each Town or Municipality in Connecticut addresses the application process for a dry hydrant differently. In many rural areas in Connecticut, there are no fire hydrants. The only viable solution for firefighters is a dry hydrant.

Dry hydrants are permanent structures placed into a water resource, (lake, pond or stream) that enables many State of Connecticut fire departments to access water for fire suppression. Fire departments, many of them volunteer, must rely on water from portable tankers, ponds, or streams to provide the water necessary to put out a structure fire. A fire in Simsbury several years ago required an estimated 90,000 gallons of water, over 800 gallons per minute to provide for fire fighter safety and fire suppression.

A dry hydrant provides the fire department access to large volumes of water everyday. These structures are placed below the established frost and ice margins enabling them to be used in every season. They provide a reliable water resource to the fire officer, reduce homeowner insurance rates, provide for fire fighter safety and keep large fire tanker trucks from multiple emergency trips to and from a dedicated water resource. With the extreme winter weather conditions this year such as deep snow, varying ice conditions and many narrow roads, dry hydrants will benefit nearly every Town in Connecticut.

An example of the current process for obtaining an inland wetlands permit for a dry hydrant has five phases. 1. Identifying a water resource that can be used by the fire department for a dry hydrant (obtaining property owner permission) 2. Engineering and completing the inland wetlands permit. 3. Attend the inland wetlands commission meeting reviewing the site permit

application. 4. Participate in the public hearing regarding the application. 5. Construction of the dry hydrant (if approved and a permit is granted). In many areas of State, this process is driven by the local volunteer fire department. Most fire departments do not have the technical expertise to complete a dry hydrant application for the local inland Wetland and Watercourse Commissions. We see dry hydrants as a necessity not an option for public and firefighter safety.

H.N. 5068 is designed to standardize the development of dry hydrants in Connecticut. It provides for a more efficient permit process that increases Public Safety. Dry hydrants are inexpensive to install, have a minimal impact in a wetland, and are recognized by the National Fire Protection Association as the standard hydrant for rural firefighters.

It is estimated that there are 22,150 volunteer firefighters and 4,425 career firefighters in the State of Connecticut. Dry hydrants benefit both volunteer and career firefighters. From communities along the shoreline to interior Connecticut there are many areas not serviced by a public water utility. Our only solution is to install a dry hydrant.

In 2007, the 242 Connecticut Fire Departments submitted loss reports in excess of $56,000,000. There were 235 reports of civilian injuries and 25 civilian deaths. Please support your local fire services by supporting H.B 5068.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey S. Bond

enclosures

WFSB.com

Crews Battle Rural Stafford Fire

Firefighters Bring In Water Amid Lack Of Hydrants

POSTED: 11:25 pm EST February 20, 2009
UPDATED: 12:35 am EST February 21, 2009

Related To Story

Video: Pets Rescued From Stafford Blaze

STAFFORD, Conn. – A lack of fire hydrants proved to be a challenge for firefighters battling a Friday night blaze in a rural section of Stafford.

The blaze broke out on Chestnut Hill Road at about 8 p.m.

Firefighters said when they arrived, the home was engulfed in flames and that crews couldn't immediately get inside the building.

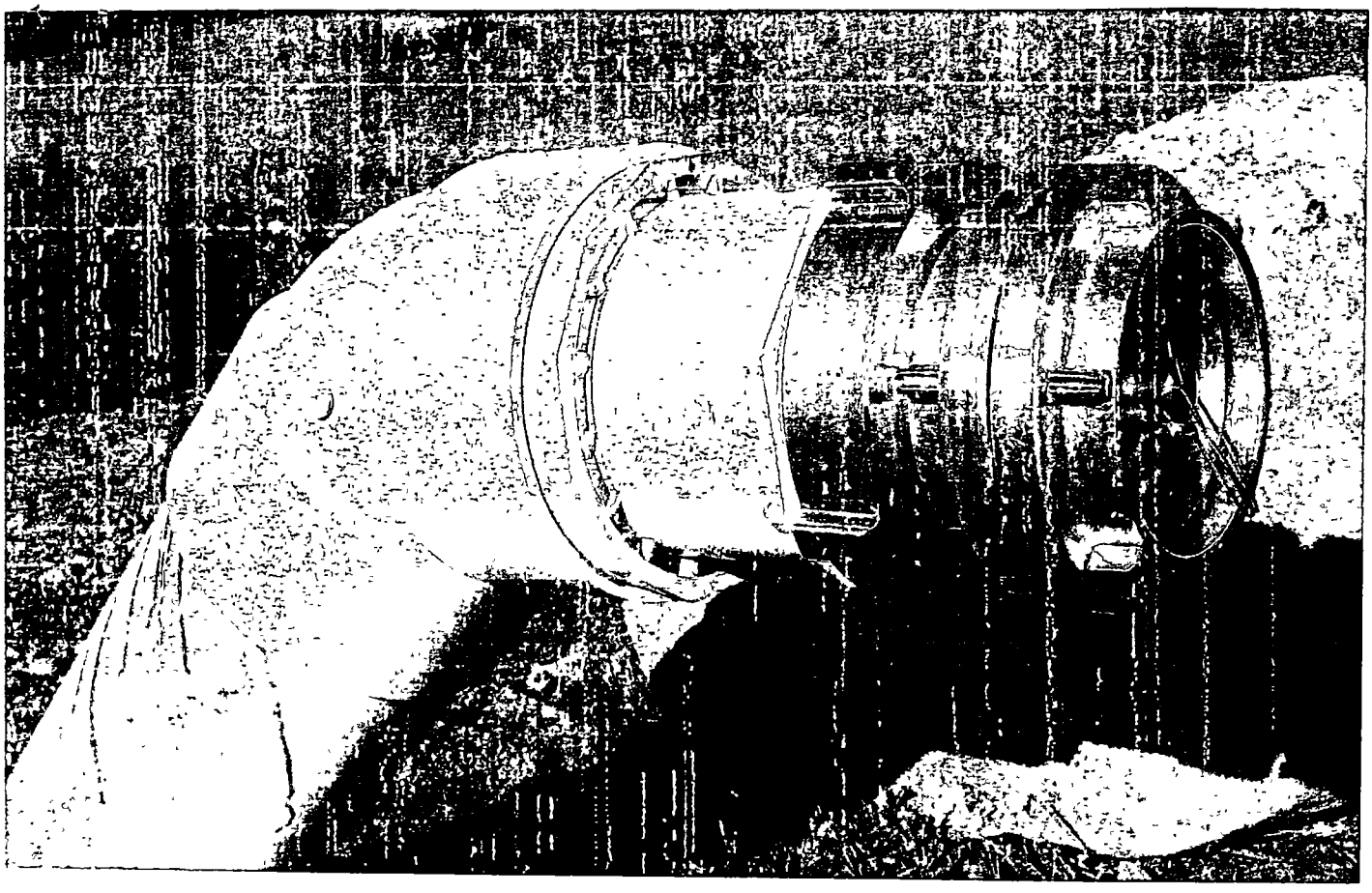
The fire chief said he believes the blaze began near the center of the house.

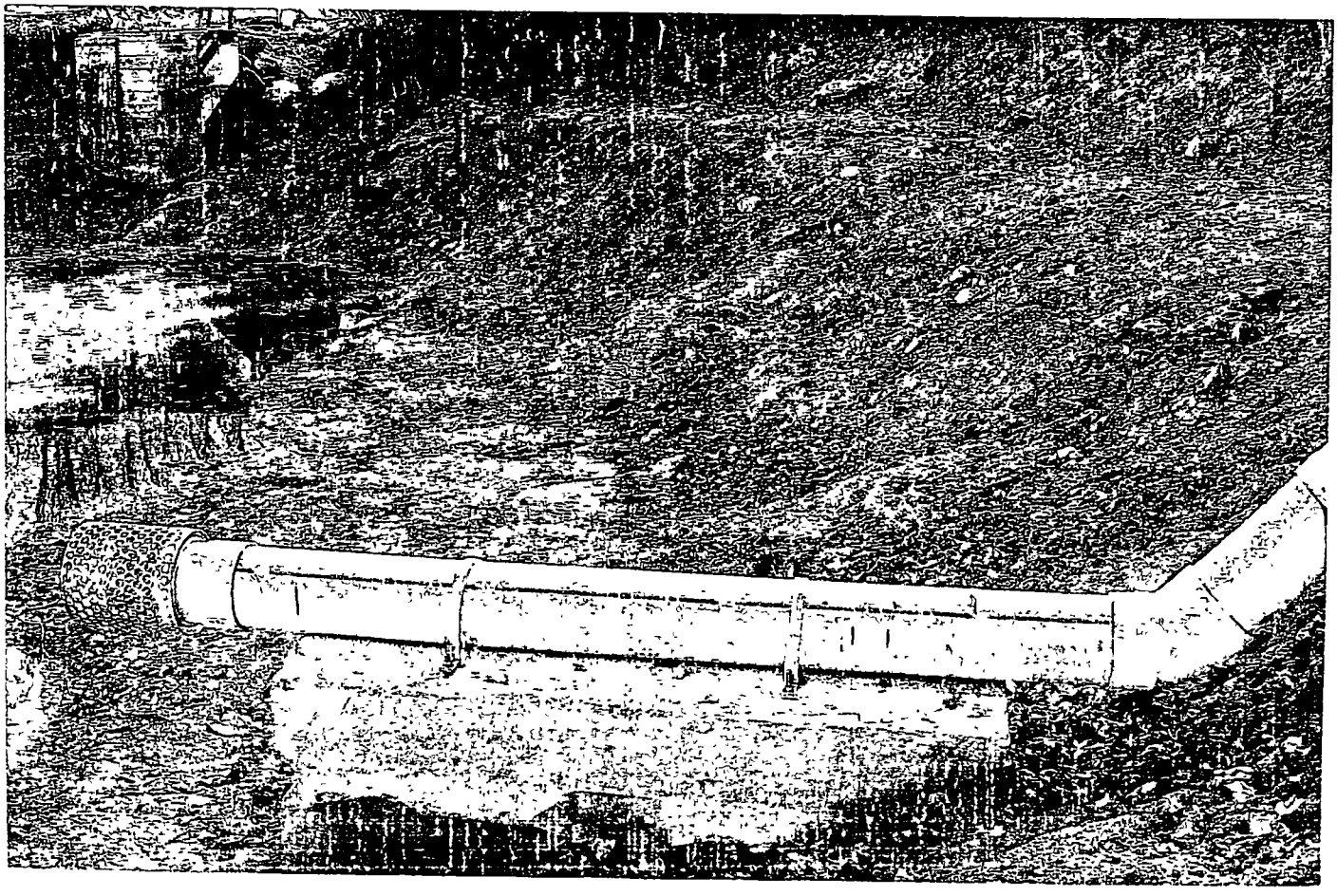
About 50 firefighters from the Stafford area responded to the blaze. They said the lack of hydrants in the rural area meant extra man power and equipment had to be called in.

"We bring in water, actually DOT came and salted the road," said West Stafford Fire Chief Joe Lorenzetti.

Fire officials said several pets were rescued from inside the home. No one was injured.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.





Sprawl exceeds reach of hydrants

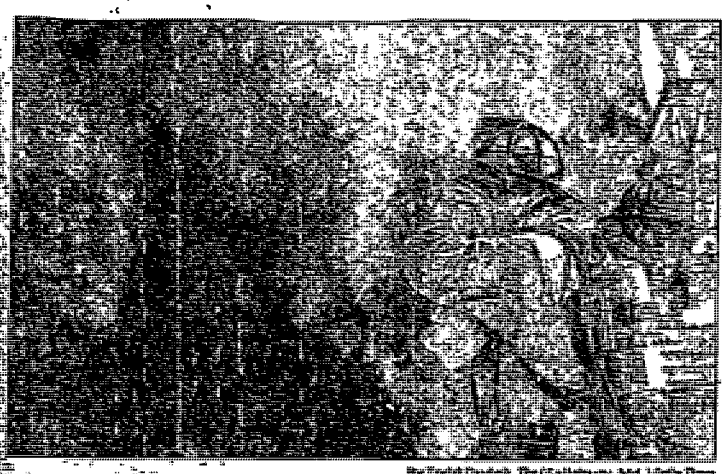
Lack of water outlets is a growing fire hazard

By Joseph Gidjunis
USA TODAY

SALISBURY, Md. — When Robert and Tammy Weber bought their dream home in 2004, they didn't give a thought to the fact that the nearest fire hydrant was more than a mile away.

"Having the entire house burn down is one of those things you don't ever think is going to happen to you," Robert Weber says.

On July 17, that's exactly what happened. Three tankers of water couldn't put the fire out in their late 1990s subdivision house.



By Fredel Dudrick, The (Salisbury, Md.) Daily Times

Destroyed: Firefighters are unable to save Robert and Tammy Weber's home in Salisbury, Md., on July 17. The Webers bought the house in '04.

Six out of 10 homeowners in Wicomico County, Md., a growing area between the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, do not have hydrants within the recommended 1,000 feet, says Jack Lenox, county planning and zoning director.

Nearly a fourth of U.S. families face the same protection inadequacies as the Webers because they live in extended suburban or rural locations with no hydrants, says Lori Moore-Merrell, an operations analyst with the International Association of Fire Fighters. The lack of fire hydrants is a growing problem as more homes are built outside urban and suburban infrastructure, she says.

States create their own standards, and localities may or may not enact stricter rules, says Chris Jelenewicz, an engineer with the Society of Fire Protection Engineers.

"Municipalities and county governments are finding with this far-flung development it costs a lot to extend the basic infrastructure," says Anthony Flint, public affairs director of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.

In Wicomico County, it costs about $15,000 per house to run water and sewer service into a new development, Salisbury, Md., City Manager John Pick says.

Hydrants, which are recommended every 1,000 feet, cost about $1,200 apiece, according to Jim Smalley of the National Fire Protection Association.

Proximity to hydrants and fire stations has always been important to homeowners because it influences insurance rates.

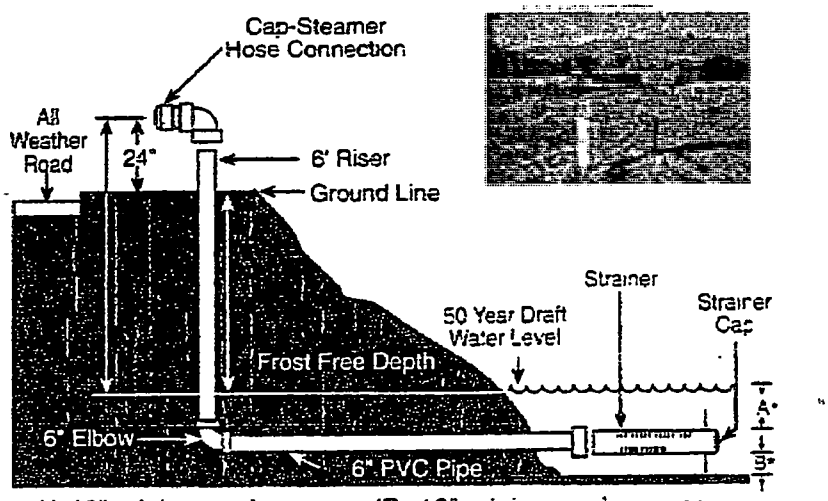
In Lexington, Ky., for example, the owner of a $100,000 home in the city limits pays about $400 a year, but the rate is $1,200-$1,500 a year on the outskirts of the county, says Donna Pile, president of the National Association of Professional Insurance Agents.

Gidjunis reports for *The Daily Times* in Salisbury, Md.

USA Today
August 24, 2007
Friday | Saturday | Sunda

Sec. 7-312. Liability as to use of water holes. Any municipality, as defined in section 7-314, or any property owner on behalf of any such municipality, may construct or maintain open water holes for the purpose of providing fire protection for such municipality, and no such municipality or property owner shall incur any liability as a result of injury to any person arising out of the maintenance of such water hole, provided such water hole has been approved by the fire-fighting organization and the municipality within whose jurisdiction such water hole is situated and provided such approval has been communicated, in writing, to the property owner on whose premises such water hole is situated.

CT General Statutes.



*(A) 12" minimum clearance: (B) 18" minimum clearance

Click on image to enlarge

The system is assembled aboveground and lowered into the trench. The strainer is positioned in the water.

Click on image to enlarge

The trench is then backfilled and the water remains in the pipe all the way to the vertical rise because the horizontal pipe is below water level.

What Are Rural Fire Hydrants

Rural fire hydrant systems, otherwise known as "dry hydrants," which are non-pressurized fire hydrants that can be installed on farm ponds, lakes, streams, rivers or below-ground tanks.

The heart of the rural hydrant system is the head assembly and external strainer assembly. The head assembly provides the fire department with the appropriate NST thread connection, which allows the firefighters to connect their suction hose to the hydrant system and pump water. The strainer is the intake device, which is affixed to the end of the pipe and is positioned at an optimal location in the water source.

These products are constructed of 6" Schedule 40 PVC, stainless steel, bronze, aluminum and polymer parts that are all non-corrosive materials. 6" Schedule 40 PVC pipe is used to connect the strainer to the head assembly.

Once installed, the fire department can connect to the hydrant head and start pumping water within seconds.

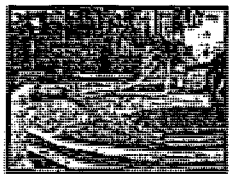
How Rural Dry Hydrants Are Used

Dry fire hydrants are basically used in rural fire fighting two different ways. First, if a dry hydrant is located within a few hundred feet of the fire site, fire hoses can be stretched from a fire truck to a burning structure and water can be pumped directly from the water source to fight the fire.

Second, if the fire site is located beyond the reach of fire hoses, tanker trucks can be filled at a dry hydrant site and water can be shuttled to the location of the fire. A network of dry hydrants, one every three square miles, is required to reduce the travel time of tanker trucks and promote an efficient water shuttle operation.

A community-wide savings ...

In August 1993, Mountain Rest, South Carolina, a small rural community of approximately 2,000 families, experienced a community-wide



Click on image to enlarge

Click on image to enlarge

Benefits of Rural Hydrants

Dry fire hydrant systems can be plumbed several hundred feet from water sources to all weather roadways, allowing fire departments to pump water quickly and easily. Dry fire hydrants enable fire departments to use untreated water to fight fires instead of treated water, saving money, saving energy and protecting utility water systems. Dry hydrants are economical to install and can be used to supplement pressurized hydrants for large demand situations. In some cases, dry fire hydrants can lower home owner insurance premiums. Insurance agents and fire chiefs should be consulted to evaluate potential savings.

For more information on Dry Fire Hydrants contact your community's Volunteer Fire Department or Contact your County Commissioner for Assistance.

increase in cash flow. Starting that August, approximately $200,000 a year would be channeled into the community. This was a result of the Mountain Rest Volunteer Fire Department ISO rating re-classification from an **ISO Class 9 to a Class 7.**

The Mountain Rest Volunteer Fire Department was well trained. They had the manpower and equipment requirements to be rated much lower than an ISO Class 9, but they were lacking in one very important area-rural water supply.

The difference between a Class 9 and a Class 7 from an insurance standpoint, is approximately a 40% savings on homeowners' premiums. This savings, community-wide, has been estimated to be approximately **$200,000 a year.**

The material cost and labor expense for the installation of these 13 dry fire hydrant systems was less than $20,000.

The Valley Press

A weekly newspaper distributed to homes in Avon, Burlington, Canton, Farmington and Simsbury

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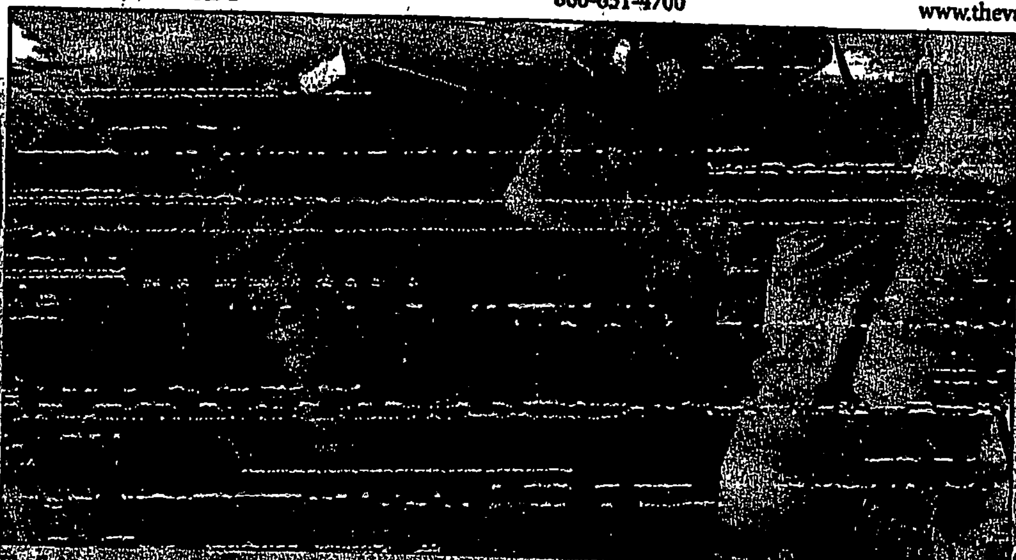


[illegible] dry hydrant during a demonstration on how a dry hydrant is used on Wednesday, Dec. 30. [illegible] and firefighter/PIO Jeffrey Bond took part in the demonstration. *Photo by Abigail Albair*

Dry hydrants provide safer, faster water resource for firefighters

By Abigail Albair
Editor

If there were a fire in your home, you would hope for a fast response time from the fire department, but would you stop to wonder if they would have enough water to put out the blaze?

"It is a real concern," said Jeffrey Bond of the Burlington Fire Department. "In rural areas like Burlington, outside of big urban centers, there is no place for us to get water."

On Dec. 21, the town of Burlington installed its [illegible] dry hydrant to allow for more and easier water access for firefighters in the event of an emergency.

Continued on page 3

"Dry hydrants are really the answer for us to get water in the winter. Water is the thing we all need for a fire, and if we have to bring it in by truck or find it on our own, it takes a lot longer." Bond said.

A dry hydrant is placed into a pond, stream or river below the frost and ice line. "Unlike a regular hydrant, no water is pressurized in it. The trucks have a vacuum hose on them that pulls out the air and the water follows up and into the pump on the truck," Bond explained. "This allows us to get water with less risk to the firefighter that comes with drilling though ice. One firefighter told me about one incident where he had to go out on the ice to drill for water. He had no idea how thick the ice was and had a great concern of falling through."

Aside from the concern for firefighter safety when searching for water, there is the additional concern of firefighters and residents in burning buildings.

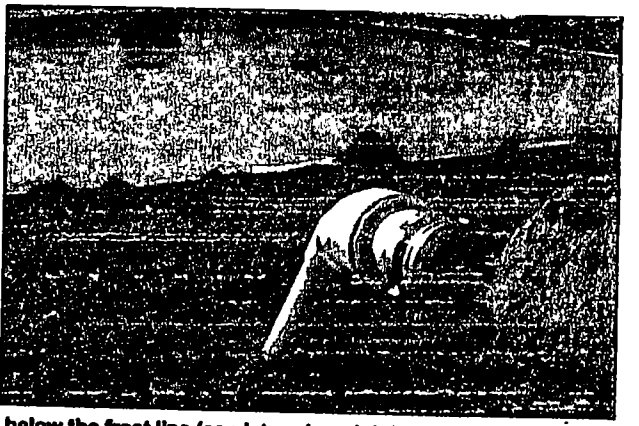
Bond said, "Firefighters or the people that live in buildings which catch fire could get trapped inside without any water while we wait for it to be delivered."

Last February, 90,000 gallons of water needed to be transported to a Simsbury fire by six department tankers. "It is a danger to other drivers to have those trucks going back and forth with lights and sirens making the road slick and icy from spilling water," Bond said.

"This is really a statewide issue," Bond said. There have been reports of a lack of water in other rural areas of Connecticut, including one in Stafford last winter, where a lack of hydrants meant that extra manpower, resources and equipment had to be called in, delaying the firefighters' ability to enter the building.

"It is hard to get firefighters these days," Bond said. "To add in the problem of trying to look for water at a fire means we have to pull resources from Avon, Canton, Farmington, New Hartford and other surrounding towns and take the resources out of their town temporarily to provide fire protection here."

Burlington has made it mandatory in the last few years that any new housing developments have water on site for the fire department, either a natural resource such as a stream or pond, or a tank placed in the ground.



Dry hydrants are placed in the ground near ponds, lakes or streams below the frost line (as pictured on right) to allow firefighters to get water in the winter without having to drill through ice. On left, a fire truck sprays water taken in from the dry hydrant. The truck was able to circulate nearly 2,000 gallons of water in under seven minutes during a Dec. 30 demonstration for The Valley Press.

Photos by Abigail Albair

Having a dry hydrant also reduces homeowner insurance rates. "If somebody has one of these within a thousand feet of their home, most insurance companies will give them an insurance break," Bond said.

Currently, the fire department has permits for another hydrant to be put in during the next few weeks, and Bond says the town will most likely need another seven or eight more to have a strong network of reliable water resources.

The largest obstacle Bond has seen so far, and anticipates he will continue to see, is the inland wetlands permitting process.

"It has been a huge struggle," he said. "The inland wetlands concern is that it will harm the environment, but there is actually very little impact on the ponds and streams that they are put into. We could probably cause more damage to a pond if we had to drive a fire truck into the area damaging the ground and leaking fuel than we would putting a pipe in and regulating it the right way."

Fire Chief Michael Boucher attended an Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission meeting with Bond to stress the need for dry hydrants.

He told The Valley Press, "The bottom line is that we can take control of anyone's property to get water through any means necessary in an emergency, something that often creates a greater disruption to the eco-system."

He added, "Jeff pushes forward. He has been a big force behind getting this done."

Bond put his support behind first-time proposed legislation S.B. No. 500, "an act creating a rebuttable presumption for the approval of certain inland wetlands permits" last winter.

The legislation was aimed to maintain the local inland wetlands permit process, but to simplify and facilitate it so that once the application for a dry hydrant is completed, a rebuttable presumption for approval would exist.

Bond explained that "eventually, everyone agrees that it is the right thing to do, but it is a time-consuming process that delays the installation. If a property owner, fire department and the town agrees to it, we should be able to move forward." The process he refers to involves public postings and several hearings with the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission.

"[The legislation] takes a step out of the process," Boucher said. "As long as there is an engineer plan and the property owner gives their permission, we can go ahead. These are necessary things and, right now, the process makes something that should take four weeks, often take months."

The legislation did not make it through the Environment Committee, but Bond said he is working with local senators to propose it again this February.

The Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission did not return calls for comment at press time.

The hydrants are relatively inexpensive, according to Bond, costing only approximately $1,000. The town has assisted in the cost, and the fire department has also applied for a grant through the Department of Environmental Protection Forestry Division that provides partial funding for dry hydrants.

Bond said, "We can afford at this point to put in one to two a year with what the town gives us, which is very generous. They provided a fund of $4,500 to $5,000 a year to install the hydrant once we find a willing homeowner."

*** MEDIA ADVISORY***

BURLINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT INSTALLS DRY HYDRANT

Who: **Burlington Volunteer Fire Department**

What: **Will install the 13th Dry Hydrant in the Town of Burlington to assist Firefighters and Home Owners**

WHEN: **December 21st, 2009**

WHERE: **35 Heather Lane Burlington**

BACKGROUND:
Nearly everyday a fire occurs in Connecticut. In some municipalities, the fire department will use the public water supply hydrants to obtain water to put out the fire. In many parts of Connecticut, however, there are no fire hydrants. When water is not available, it puts firefighters at risk, increases property loss and may result in the loss of a life. In these parts of the state, firefighters must look for water in ponds, swimming pools or rivers. The answer in rural Connecticut is a Dry Hydrant.

A Dry Hydrant is placed into a pond, stream or river below the frost and ice depth. It is "Dry" meaning no water is pressurized within the hydrant like a public water supply. This allows the fire department to obtain water every day without risking lives of firefighters by cutting a hole in the ice.

A house fire in Simsbury last winter required 90,000 gallons of water. This water was bought to the fire scene by six fire department tankers.

A Dry Hydrant provides for a reliable water resource to the fire officer, reduces homeowner insurance rates, provides for increased firefighter safety and keeps large fire tanker trucks from multiple emergency trips to and from a dedicated water resource.

The men and women of the Burlington Volunteer Fire Department are proud to be a part of the Town of Burlington and provide for Fire Protection, Emergency Medical Services, Rescue Services, Emergency Preparedness, Fire Education and Public Education.

More information can be found on the Burlington Volunteer Department Website at; http://www.burlingtonvfd.com/

CONTACT: Jeffrey Bond, PIO Burlington Volunteer Fire Department
860-675-2183 (Fire Department)
860-335-6269 (Cell)

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Public Hearing – January 31, 2011
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Amey W. Marrella
Department of Environmental Protection

Committee House Bill No. 5068 – AN ACT CREATING A REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN INLAND WETLANDS PERMIT FOR A DRY HYDRANT

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Committee House Bill No. 5068 - AN ACT CREATING A REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN INLAND WETLANDS PERMIT FOR A DRY HYDRANT. The Department of Environmental Protection (Department) offers the following testimony.

We certainly understand and appreciate a municipality's need for dry hydrants in wetlands and watercourses for the purpose of fire control, particularly for rural fire departments. A dry hydrant is a non-pressurized pipe system permanently installed in existing lakes, ponds and streams that provides a supply of water typically to a fire department tank truck. In rural areas, a lack of water mains and pressurized fire hydrants can sometimes impair a fire department's ability to do its job quickly and efficiently. The success of a fire departments operation hinges on the distance a truck must travel to fill-up and return to the fire. In many cases these fill-up points are often long distances from the fire and the firefighters are unable to maintain an uninterrupted water source at the scene. The installation of a non-pressurized pipe system into local water sources provides a ready means of supplying water to fire engines.

Currently a municipal inland wetlands agency has the authority pursuant to the Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act (Sections 22a-36 through 22a-45) to regulate the installation of dry hydrants. The proposed language facilitates the installation of dry hydrants provided there are no other feasible and prudent alternatives that will have a less adverse impact on wetlands and watercourses.

The Department agrees with the overall concept of the bill and believes that public safety will be well served, but is concerned with the proposed language. The proposed language does not specifically state that the installation of the dry hydrant and subsequent withdrawal of water is for the purpose of fire control. While dry hydrants are typically used for fire control, it is conceivable that a town can install such dry hydrant and use the water for other purposes (i.e. irrigation of town ball fields). Further, often private contractors (i.e. landscapers) will access

such hydrants for water. This may negatively affect the wetland or watercourse by drawing down the water level.

The Department believes the proposed language needs to be clarified to ensure the installation and use of such dry hydrants is for fire purposes only. The Department would be happy to work with the Environment Committee and proponents of the bill to develop language that would ensure the protection of wetlands and watercourses while permitting the use of such resources for the purpose of fire control.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, pleas contact the Department's legislative liaison, Robert LaFrance, at 424-3401 or Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov.

SENATOR BETH BYE
Fifth District

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State of Connecticut
SENATE

Chair
Higher Education & Employment Advancement Committee
Member
Education Committee
Internship Committee
Judiciary Committee

January 31, 2011

Testimony to the Environment Committee
House Bill 5068 and Senate Bill 831

Thank you Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and Members of the Environment Committee,

My name is Beth Bye, State Senator for the 5th district, representing West Hartford, Farmington, Burlington and Bloomfield.

I am here today in strong support of House Bill 5068, which would allow fire departments, in the interest of public safety, to proceed more quickly with the instillation of dry hydrants in rural areas without ready access to a public water supply.

A dry hydrant, for those members who were not here when this bill was discussed two years ago, is a structure which is placed into a body of water which allows a fire department to hook-up and draw water from a source during all seasons. Such a structure is necessary in instances where access to a hydrant is non existent. The existence of a dry hydrant, particularly during times of inclement weather, or where there is hilly terrain, dramatically increases the ability of a fire department to fight a fire. Such a hydrant increases the safety of firefighters and the general public by preventing the hauling of water repeatedly over long distances.

I also want to take a moment to address concerns that CCM raised in 2009, that such a bill would "tilt the playing field" away from Inlands-Wetlands Commissions. I believe that there are few instances where a rebuttable presumption is warranted. I also believe that public safety is one such instance.

I asked that this bill be raised because a gentleman whom you will hear from later, a volunteer firefighter from Burlington, explained that the process for a permit in Burlington was taking longer than seemed necessary.

These hydrants, by their very nature, cause a minimal disruption to wetlands and are only activated in the case of an emergency or for maintenance. They enhance public safety, and provide benefits for nearby homeowners by way of decreased insurance rates. For these reasons, I encourage the Committee to JF this bill.

***

I would also like to take a moment to lend my support to Senate Bill 831, a measure which would extend the same land owner liability protections to towns and municipal corporations currently enjoyed by personal property owners.

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CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE

PROCEEDINGS
2011

VOL.54
PART 18
5829 – 6187

Members to the Chamber. The House is voting by Roll Call.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Have all the Members voted? Have all the Members voted? If so, the machine will be locked. The Clerk will take the tally and the Clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5048 as amended by House "A".

Total Number Voting	146
Necessary for Passage	74
Those voting Yea	93
Those voting Nay	53
Those absent and not voting	5

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The Bill as amended is passed.

The Clerk please call Calendar 139.

THE CLERK:

On Page 35, Calendar 139, Substitute for House Bill Number 5068 AN ACT CREATING A REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN INLAND WETLANDS PERMIT FOR DRY HYDRANT. Favorable Report of the Committee on Planning and Development.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The distinguished Chairman of the Environment Committee, Representative Roy.

REP. ROY (119th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The question is on acceptance and passage. Explain the Bill, please, sir.

REP. ROY (119th):

Thank you. Essentially what this Bill does it provides the wherewithal to provide firefighting capabilities to people in rural areas. The dry hydrant would be located in a dependable water supply, whether a lake, a pond or river, and it would be there for the firefighters to use. They don't have the hydrants out there as you do in the city.

I move approval.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir. Representative Piscopo.

REP. PISCOPO (76th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has an Amendment, LCO Number 5932. Will the Clerk please call and I give leave to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The Clerk is in possession of LCO Number 5932, which will be designated House Amendment Schedule "A". Will the Clerk please call the Amendment.

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 5932, House "A", offered by Representatives Piscopo, Olson, Aresimowicz and Chapin.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The gentleman has asked leave of the Chamber to summarize. Is there objection? Hearing none, please proceed, Representative Piscopo.

REP. PISCOPO (76th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this Amendment, this is language from the agency and it just makes it clear that it's for, these dry hydrants are for firefighting apparatus only. I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The question is on adoption. Will you remark, sir?

REP. PISCOPO (76th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I think this will go a long way, not just to help our rural fire departments, but it will help also those fire departments along the shore, anywhere there are narrower streets where you need tankers to, in the process of fighting a fire to be able to refill

themselves rapidly and in the vicinity of a fire, and I think this would go a long way to help a lot of our firefighters throughout the state, and I'm hoping for passage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir. Representative Roy.

REP. ROY (119th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a friendly Amendment and I urge adoption by the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further on House Amendment Schedule "A"?

If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVGES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it. The Amendment is adopted.

Will you remark further on the Bill as amended? Will you remark further on the Bill as amended?

If not, staff and guests please come to the Well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by Roll Call.

Members to the Chamber.

The House is voting by Roll Call. Members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Have all the Members voted? Have all the Members voted? If so, the machine will be locked. The Clerk will take a tally and the Clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill Number 5068 as amended by House "A".

Total Number Voting	143
Necessary for Passage	72
Those voting Yea	143
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	8

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The Bill as amended is passed.

The Clerk will call Calendar 30, please.

THE CLERK:

On Page 33, Calendar 30, House Bill Number 6234 AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF CONDOMINIUM UNIT OWNERS' ASSOCIATIONS AND CHANGES TO THE

S – 633

CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE

PROCEEDINGS
2011

VOL. 54
PART 22
6915-7208

House Bill 5068. Madam President, move to place the item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Also Calendar page 18, Calendar 628, House Bill 5008; Madam President, move to place the item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Also Calendar page 18, Calendar 633, House Bill 6489; Madam President, move to place the item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, Calendar page 19, Calendar 640, House Bill 6559; Madam President, move to place the item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber. Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

Madam President, the items placed on the first Consent Calendar begin on Calendar page 10, Calendar Number 478, House Bill 6488; Calendar 480, House Bill 5256.

Calendar page 11, Calendar 513, substitute for House Bill 6557.

Calendar page 12, Calendar Number 535, substitute for House Bill 6226; Calendar 555, House Bill 6259.

Calendar page 13, Calendar 560, substitute for House Bill 5368; Calendar 567, substitute for House Bill 6157.

Calendar page 14, Calendar 574, substitute for House Bill 6410; Calendar 578, House Bill 6156.

Calendar page 15, Calendar 591, House Bill 6263; Calendar 594, substitute for House Bill 5508; Calendar 595, substitute for House Bill 62 -- 5263.

Calendar page 16, Calendar Number 606, substitute for House Bill 6581; Calendar 609, substitute for House Bill 6501.

Calendar page 17, Calendar 610, substitute for House Bill 6224; Calendar 613, substitute for House Bill 6453.

Calendar page 18, Calendar 614, substitute for House Bill 5068; Calendar 628, substitute for House Bill 5008; Calendars 633, House Bill 6489.

Calendar page 19, Calendar 635, substitute for House Bill 6351; Calendar 640, House Bills, 6559.

Calendar page 20, Calendar 642; House Bill 6595.

Calendar page 21, Calendar 645, substitute for House Bill 6267; Calendar 648, substitute for House Bill 5326; Calendar 650, substitute for House Bill 6344.

Calendar page 22, Calendar 651, substitute for House Bill 6540.

Calendar page 23, Calendar Number 655, substitute for House Bill 6497; Calendar 657, substitute for House Bill 6262; Calendar 658, House Bill 6364; Calendar 659, House Bill 5489.

Calendar page 24, Calendar 660, substitute for House Bill 6449.

Calendar page 36 -- correction -- Calendar page 33, Calendar Number 390, substitute for Senate Bill 1181.

Calendar page 36, Calendar Number 481, House Bill 5472.

Calendar page 37, Calendar Number 584, substitute for House Joint Resolution Number 34; Calendar 585, substitute for House Joint Resolution Number 54; Calendar 586, House Joint Resolution Number 65, Calendar 587, House Joint Resolution Number 66.

Calendar page 38, Calendar 588, House Joint Resolution Number 80; Calendar 589, House Joint Resolution Number 63; Calendar 590, House Joint Resolution Number 35; Calendar 620, substitute for House Joint Resolution Number 45.

Calendar page 39, Calendar Number 621, substitute for House Joint Resolution Number 47; Calendar 622, House Joint Resolution Number 68; Calendar 623, substitute for House Joint Resolution Number 69; Calendar 624, substitute for House Joint Resolution Number 73.

Calendar page 40, Calendar 625, substitute for House Joint Resolution Number 81; Calendar 626, House Joint Resolution Number 84.

Madam President, I believe that completes the items placed on Consent Calendar Number 1.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, please call for a roll call vote, and the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The Senate is now voting by roll call on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber. The Senate is now voting by roll call on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gomes?

If all members have voted; all members have voted? The machine shall be locked.

And, Mr. Clerk, will you please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

Motion is on adoption of Consent Calendar Number 1.

Total number voting	36
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0

Those absent and not voting 0

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar passes.

The Senate will stand at ease for a moment.

(Chamber at ease.)

SENATOR LOONEY:

Madam President?

THE CHAIR:

Yes, Senator.

The Senate will come to order.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes. Madam President, the Clerk is in possession of Senate Agenda Number 5 for today's session.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Madam President, the Clerk is in possession of Senate Agenda Number 5, dated Wednesday, June 8, 2011.

Copies have been made available.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.