

We all know that purpose of any town plan is to first recognize and define a town's character, and with awareness of future pressures, to protect the town from both the weaker sides of man and the stronger sides of nature. Darien's shoreline is, now and forever will be, under a great deal of threat. Consequently, I believe the urgency of the coming changes require new regulations directed specifically to address more extensively the aspects of our Shoreline protection than is currently included in Coastline Resources section of the drafted plan.

The current Coastline Resource section has covered many details with numerous suggestions. There are many details included about the water, wetland protection, invasive species, but those are just pieces of a much larger concept. The only reference to the word Shoreline, which covers all of these details, or its protection is in the appendix and that refers to dredging only. There are no specific measures or proposals to preserve its unique, diverse and beautiful geological configurations of beaches, wetlands, pine trees and granite bluffs. An awareness of the extraordinary beauty and diversity of our shoreline is vital and needs constant support, because so often familiarity creates sense of normalcy and becomes overlooked, then taken for granted.

Since the Shoreline is a very specific area of our Coastal Resources, and needs more definition as well as awareness of its unique nature, I would like consideration of having it identified separately from Coastal Resources.

With this in mind, I would like to make the following suggestions to the current draft for consideration. Suggestions are in italics.

Environmental Resources. Chapter 3

Overview add " Resources included are:....coastal resources *and a unique geologically and environmentally diverse shoreline.*

Policies. p.2 To preserve and enhance public use and enjoyment of the Town's coastal resources, *particularly our shoreline*, as well as to ensure current and future ecological integrity of those resources.

Recommendations: p. 3 *Consider zoning regulations for new set back, blasting and tree regulations, for both small and large area developmental changes on our shoreline before it is too late.(example: the possible Convent development on Scott's Cove.)*

Protective Measures p.6

Identify coastal viewshed resources within the coastal boundary *from the water as well as land* to protect against any adverse impacts on such resources *and beauty.*

Recommendations p.8

4. Education Brochures ...To preserve and enhance public use and enjoyment of the Town's coastal resources as well as to ensure current and future ecological integrity of those resources. Add: *and appreciation the rare geological diversity and beauty of our shoreline, and the care we must take for its preservation.*

Add: *Photo contests of shoreline views from water and land.*

2016 Plan Appendix suggestions in italics

Coastal Resources. Paragraph 2 *Darien's shoreline with its a rare combination of geological and environmental resource, is is a very valuable, fragile, as well as beautiful town asset.*

Paragraph 8. Question regarding Coastal Site Plan Review. Is there anyway we could control blasting destruction of rocky bluffs and outcropping? I do not believe we have regulations in place. For that within the current Site Plan Review.

Issues & Opportunities

- Shoreline Preservation

New developments along our shores have the potential to permanently destroy this major feature of Darien with rarity, its diversity and beauty.

Protection Tools Currently Used in Darien.

In addition to the zoning and subdivision tools, previously noted in this chapter that provide some controls on*preservation of configuration of existing Shoreline as a whole including views and ancient pine trees*, as well as creation of impervious surfaces.....