

**TOWN OF CANTON, CONNECTICUT
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
Wednesday, February 19, 2009**

The Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Canton was held on Thursday, February 19, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the Canton Public Library and Community Center, 40 Dyer Avenue, Collinsville, CT,

TO HOLD A DISCUSSION on the Town of Canton Hydro Electric Project.

James Bixler, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Town Clerk, Linda Smith, read the call of the meeting and the return of notice.

In accordance with the Town Charter, no votes were taken.

Richard Barlow, First Selectman, discussed the historical aspects of the Collins company dams. Both the Upper and Lower dams are owned by the State of Connecticut. The Upper dam is in the center of Collinsville and was originally built in the 1830s. It was used for water power for the Collins Company. In the 1930s it was used to generate electricity. The Lower dam is located on the Avon/Burlington town line. Both were constructed by the Collins Company. Later ownership was by the Hartford Electric Light Company who pulled the generators out of the buildings. In the 1960s the State of Connecticut took over ownership and it is now under the control of the Department of Environmental Protection.

Ken Wassall, Town Engineer, presented a power point presentation/tour of the facilities including:

- ? Upper Collins Company Powerhouse
- ? Upper Collins Company Dam
- ? Upper Dam – Power Canal Weir
- ? Upper Powerhouse Release Gates
- ? Upper Powerhouse Intel Control
- ? Upper Powerhouse Tailrace Area
- ? Upper Dam Sluice Gates on CT179
- ? CT179 Sluice Gate Controls
- ? Lower Collins Company Powerhouse
- ? Lower Powerhouse Bar Rack & Bypass
- ? Lower Collins Company Dam
- ? Lower Powerhouse Interior
- ? Lower Powerhouse Turbine Shaft
- ? Lower Powerhouse Bridge Crane
- ? Lower Dam Power Canal Gatehouse
- ? Lower Powerhouse Tailrace Area

Questions/Comments came from:

Fred Krompegal-East Hill Road
David Kubas-East Hill Road
Maggie Schofield-Thayer Ave
Fred Fletcher-Main Street

Mr. Wassall encouraged anyone to contact him at the Town Hall for any questions they may have in the future. A *Canton Hydropower Project* handout is attached to these minutes.

Mr. Barlow addressed the fiscal aspects of the project. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is in charge of permit licensing. Summitt Hydropower LLC got a permit in 2001 to go ahead with the project but the State of Connecticut can't lease to a private individual. The delay of legislation to reverse this stopped them from moving forward with the project. Their permit was later revoked. The Canton Board of Selectmen looked into the feasibility of the project and filed a letter with FERC. Both

Avon and Burlington are supportive of the project. An attorney familiar with FERC licensing procedure came forward and gave the BOS a proposal to do a study of the project. This was supported by the Board of Finance. A preliminary license was filed on behalf of the Town in August of 2008. In January 2009 we received that preliminary license. The U.S. Congress can step in and accelerate the process by issuing the license on their own. Congressman Chris Murphy has submitted legislation to allow the final license to be awarded to the Town. The fall of 2010 is the soonest we can expect it.

The cost of the project will run from \$8-10 million. This includes refurbishing, new equipment, dredging of the area and fish ladders.

The National Park Service is reviewing its wild and scenic designation. We will request that the dam areas be excluded from the study.

The project will create a revenue stream of over \$700,000, netting the Town about \$100,000. This is a 50-100 year legacy project that can last a lifetime. Money is available from both State and Federal grants and loans. The Town of Canton needs to decide at some point if they want to go forward with the project. A bill was submitted to the Connecticut legislature by Senator Witkos and Representative LeGeyt regarding the feasibility of the project.

Some of the issues we need to address:

- ? Firm up cost estimates
- ? Who shall run it? Privatize project or use existing staff?
- ? Tax benefits
- ? Task force needed to move forward

Questions/Comments came from:

David Kubas-East Hill Road
Kent Jamison-Hanson Road
Fred Krompegal-East Hill road
Roger Clarke-Sunset Terrace
Rob Sigman-West road
David Leff-The Green
David Madigan-Robin Drive

There being no further discussion, the Annual Town Meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.

Linda Smith, Town Clerk

Received for record February 20, 2009

Linda Smith, Town Clerk