

Creation of the Woodridge Lake Sewer District - Volume 1, Chapter 1

Why does the sewer district exist? Actually, that is a rhetorical question because without the District, the lake would not exist and the 49-inch tiger muskie that was caught recently wouldn't have been.

The lake was the dream of the late Alfred H. Wright, Jr., president of the West Goshen Realty Corporation. In the early 1960s, Alfred's dream was to dam the Marshepaug River to create a recreational lake community. However, there were a number of families living within the area that was to become the 1,740 acres of land surrounding the proposed 385-acre lake that weren't as excited about Alfred's vision as he was.

There were 26 property owners who were either living or had land holdings within this defined area and 15 who actually lived within the district. After much negotiating, perhaps a few cocktail parties and some arm twisting, a deal was struck. The project got started on July 23, 1969, when the transactions of 11 of the property holders were filed with the Town of Goshen and a large block of land was sold to Boise Cascade Properties, Inc. The 750 one-acre lots were laid out around what would become the lake. The original design specified septic systems, but the soil type, steep slopes and ledge interfered with that plan. Since the planned area was located within a public watershed the use of individual septic systems was not an acceptable option. Boise Cascade could not move forward without creating a sewer system to accept the wastewater generated by the homes within the planned community.

The law of unintended consequences came into play, often called the best laid plans of mice and men, as the State DEP, rather than a private corporation, had to work with a municipality for the design and construction of a public sewer system. The Town of Goshen did not have a sewer authority at that time and turned Boise Cascade down when the town was asked to form one. Boise Cascade cut a deal with the original 15 property owners living within the 1,740 acres and agreed to hook up their properties free of charge and pay their sewer taxes for 10 years. On July 17, 1970, the Woodridge Lake Sewer District was formed in accordance with Connecticut state statutes.

The property owners that we can thank for this are:

David and Elizabeth Aitken
Raymond and Irene Bodach
William and Muriel Breakell
William Breakell, Jr.
Margret and Edwin Carpenter
Milton and Florence Cohen
Henry and Alice Degoumois
Russell and Helen Griswold
Robert and Audrey Harmon
Alma and John Horvay
Russell and Dorothy Jackson
Joan and William Lang
John and Elizabeth O'Brien
Doris Platt
Richard and Lillian Snay

Most of this first article was based on Joan Lang's written notes. Joan is currently the Clerk for the Woodridge Lake Sewer District and has served in various capacities since its inception. Thank you, Joan for your service and dedication.

Questions, comments and suggestions for future topics should be emailed to ckarnolt@optonline.net.

Sotheby's

INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Sue Doyle

Broker Associate

18 Titus Road, Box 329 Washington Depot, CT 06794

t 860.868.6924 h 860.567.4776

f 860.868.0301 c 860.307.7335

sue.doyle@sothebys homes.com

sothebys homes.com/litchfield

Owned and Operated by NRT LLC