Personal thoughts on URA

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To: Abby Conroy <aconroy@salisburyct.us>

To the Salisbury IWWC,

I have read with interest much of the recent correspondence regarding the URA setback, including the letter of July 16th from Shipman and Goodwin attorney Joseph Williams. As a result of his letter I contacted DEEP and discussed their guidance and learned that there are 3 models for URAs: a) a 100' setback, b) by topography and landscapes, and c) by resource types i.e. vernal pools, bogs, fens or other types.

I hope that 2 things can be accomplished with these URA proposals:

1) Unlike many areas in Connecticut, Salisbury still has beautiful and unusual wetlands and watercourses, including calcareous fens, vernal pools and forested streams. I hope that these areas can be protected and they would benefit from a larger setback than 200', perhaps with a resource-based URA model.

2) That a way can be found for lake and other homeowners to be able to accomplish routine maintenance or property improvements with a well-conceived declaratory ruling that minimizes costs and time yet still allows the IWWC or your administrator to review these proposals in a timely manner to ensure water quality.

The science is clear on this; undeveloped or carefully developed land equals cleaner water in addition to many other benefits. Thank you for your efforts to protect these vital areas in our town.

Curtis Rand