

Planners' Lunch

Tuesday, January 9, 2018
Comstock Community Center
180 School Rd., Wilton, CT
Room 13

Agenda

1. 12:00-12:30 – Lunch & Networking
We ask that those joining us for pizza at noon RSVP in advance and contribute \$5.
2. 12:30-1:00 Presentation by William R. Rath, Esq., Center for Energy & Environmental Law
UConn School of Law: CIRCA Municipal Resilience Planning Assistance Project
3. 1:00 – Presentation by Alyssa Norwood, Energy Technical Specialist for Sustainable
Communities, Sustainable CT

CIRCA Municipal Resilience Planning Assistance Project

In the wake of super-storm Sandy, the CT Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) secured a HUD grant to develop tools and techniques that shoreline communities can use to assess flood vulnerabilities in the face of climate change and rising seas. This presentation by the UConn Law Center for Energy & Environmental Law will introduce new sea-level rise projections that are specific for Long Island Sound, describe the likely ramifications of this rise, then focus on the legal issues associated with policy and regulatory decisions based upon forward-looking climate science rather than backward-looking historical floods. The legal issues explored during this presentation will be those not adequately covered by previous works, and will include the results of a national survey of oceanfront state coastal management programs, an evaluation of CT sea-level rise statutes, a survey of local regulatory structures related to floodplain elevation requirements, an evaluation of floodplain zoning height restrictions, a discussion of the unintentional exemption of “shoreline flood and erosion control structures” from coastal site plan review, and guidance on how sea level rise can be incorporated into local coastal and floodplain management programs under existing legal authorities.

Sustainable CT Presentation

Learn how you, your municipality, businesses, and community organizations can participate in Sustainable CT, Connecticut's new voluntary certification program to recognize thriving and resilient municipalities. An independently funded, grassroots municipal effort, Sustainable CT provides a wide-ranging menu of best practices. Municipalities choose Sustainable CT actions, implement them, and earn points toward certification. Sustainable CT also provides opportunities for grant funding to help communities promote economic well-being and enhance equity, all while respecting the finite capacity of the natural environment. The program is designed to support all Connecticut municipalities, regardless of size, geography or resources. Sustainable CT empowers municipalities to create high collective impact for current and future residents. Learn more at www.sustainablect.org.

About the Speakers

William R. Rath, Esq.

Bill Rath is a Legal Research Fellow at the University of Connecticut Center for Energy & Environmental Law. Bill earned his law degree in May of 2015 and was admitted to the Connecticut bar in November of that year. Prior to law school, he was a partner with an environmental health and safety consulting firm and a consulting engineer with a major Boston engineering firm. Bill holds a bachelor's degree in nuclear engineering technology, is a veteran of the United States Navy submarine service, and is continuing his legal education at UConn with a master of laws in energy & environmental law.

Alyssa Norwood

Alyssa is an Energy Technical Specialist for the Institute for Sustainable Energy, where among other initiatives, she helps spearhead Connecticut's statewide sustainable communities initiative. Alyssa earned her Juris Doctor with honors and her Master of Public Health Degree in Health Law and Policy from the University of Connecticut. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree cum laude in Biology from Harvard University. She formerly served as Project Manager for Connecticut's Legislative Commission on Aging, where she led the state's livable communities initiative and served as a policy expert on wide-ranging health, planning and zoning, transportation and housing issues. Alyssa has worked for numerous health policy organizations, including the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health and the Connecticut Health Foundation. Alyssa began her career as an attorney at the law firm of Robinson and Cole.

In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be held at the same place and time on January 30th.