

**LITCHFIELD HILLS COUNCIL OF ELECTED OFFICIALS
AND
NORTHWESTERN CT. COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

To: First Selectmen and Mayors
Land Use Commissioners

From: Rick Lynn, Planning Director, Litchfield Hills Council of Elected Officials
Dan McGuinness, Executive Director, Northwestern Ct. Council of Governments

Date: February 2, 2012

Re: E-Mail List Serve for Land Use, Open Space and Affordable Housing Issues in
Northwest Connecticut

In the fall of 2006, the Litchfield Hills Council of Elected of Officials and the Northwestern Ct. Council of Governments created an e-mail list serve for individuals interested in land use, open space and affordable housing. Currently, more than one hundred people have joined the LHCEO-NWCCOG list serve. This list serve has proved useful for exchanging information and sending announcements.

We are taking this opportunity to invite you to join the list serve. Below is a description of the list serve and a form that you can complete to join.

Here are several examples of how you can use the list serve.

- As a planning and zoning commissioner, you are interested in the experience of other planning and zoning commissions in dealing with portable signs. You send out an e-mail to the list serve asking how other towns have dealt with this issue. Other members of the list serve may respond with the experiences of their town, or send a zoning regulation that has worked well in their town. You are a land trust member interested in what other land trusts are doing about violations of the terms of easements. You could use the list serve to ask about the experience in other land trusts.
- You could use the list serve to announce a forum on affordable housing.

The Litchfield Hills Council of Elected Officials and the Northwestern Ct. Council of Governments cover twenty municipalities in northwestern Litchfield County. These two Regions contain numerous organizations dealing with land use, open space and affordable housing. All twenty municipalities have planning and zoning commissions, inland wetlands commissions, and zoning boards of appeals. Most municipalities have conservation commissions, and many towns have land trusts and affordable housing groups. Regional and national organizations such as the Northwest Conservation District, the Housatonic Valley Association, and The Nature Conservancy are also active in the Regions.

Although the list serve's primary objective is to serve land use commissioners and members of open space and affordable housing organizations, the list serve is open to all those who live or work in the two Regions. Members, however, are required to limit their e-mails to issues involving land use, economic development, open space and affordable housing. No advertising, no obscenities, no political messages, no personal attacks, no scatological comments, and no anonymous e-mails are allowed.

You are responsible for the content of your e-mails. E-mails will not be screened prior to being sent to all those on the list serve. The list serve manager, however, will remove a person from the list serve if the person sends inappropriate e-mails. Please remember that the list serve is a "public space" and the e-mails that you send to the list serve are widely read and circulated.

If you have any questions concerning the list serve, please contact Dan McGuinness, NWCCOG, at 860-868-7341, nwccog1@snet.net or Rick Lynn, LHCEO, at 860-491-9884, lhceo1@snet.net.

If you would like to be included on the LHCEO-NWCCOG List Serve, please complete the following form and return it to the Northwestern Ct. Council of Governments, 17 Sackett Hill Road, Warren, Ct. 06754.

There is no charge to participate on the list serve, and you may remove your name from the list serve at any time.

LHCEO / NWCCOG COMMISSIONERS LIST SERVE

I AM REQUESTING THAT I BE INCLUDED ON THE LHCEO-NWCCOG LIST SERVE.

AFFILIATION: (check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning and/or Zoning Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> Inland Wetland Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Selectmen | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning Board of Appeals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> Town Land Trust |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Town Affordable Housing Organization | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaffiliated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____