

Letter read at the Inland Wetland and Water Courses  
Commission on Tuesday 9/3/2024

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SEP 10 2024

Land Use Department

My name is Lori Edwards . I am a Wildlife Rehabilitator and Environmental Educator. This property is very unique-it contains multiple different habitats. Home to numerous species of plants, reptiles, amphibians, birds & mammals.

This merged piece of land contains Wetlands & in the spring vernal pools, which are the perfect habitat for threatened and endangered animals such as Eastern Box turtles, spotted turtles, fairy shrimp, yellow and Blue spotted salamanders. These species are not only dependent on the vernal pools, **but the surrounding upland habitats.**

On the walk I didn't find any of these animals but I did speak with a gentleman, a neighbor of the Sweet Hill property and he indicated in fact that he has had Eastern box turtles in his yard. **Thus confirming my suspicion of their presence in this ecosystem.**

In regard to Eastern box turtles the CT DEEP website states in part; *The main threats in CT are loss and fragmentation of habitat due to the deforestation & spreading suburban development: vehicle strikes on busy roads that bisect the landscape.*

I wonder how many turtles will lose their lives due to vehicle strikes when the proposed apartments are full with new residents or how many more will be brought to me for rehab.... That's If they even survive the construction of the buildings and the DESTRUCTION of their environment!

(I added somewhere in there about my granddaughter catching a juvenile Rat snake, grasshopper and finding a Wolf spider)

The meadow provides the perfect hunting grounds for American Kestrel, the smallest Falcon in the U.S. and a **Species of Special Concern in Connecticut**.

Although not an endangered bird, I spotted a Red tailed hawk soaring overhead, searching for a staple in his diet, rats & mice. I wonder how C.R. Klewin LLC will control the rat population that will **no doubt explode** once building begins...

Most likely they will use Rodenticide. Thus killing any animal who happens to eat a poisoned mouse or rat. A mother fox, bringing food to her kits, raccoons, owls, even your beloved pet dog or cat.

I implore the Wetlands Commission to protect this unique property and the wildlife who live & breed there!