

**CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SECTION MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 29, 2008**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Nancy Mendel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m. with 8 members present.

Nancy noted that the Section bylaws provide that officers may serve for a maximum of 3 consecutive one-year terms, and that Section officers had, in recent years, been serving for a single year after which new officers would be elected. However, she (and many of the current officers) would be willing to serve for a second year in order to provide for more continuity. Discussion was generally favorable, with one contrary view being that a 1 year term allows more people to get involved as officers of the section. A motion was made to make it the policy of the Section that officers would serve for 2 consecutive years, seconded, and passed with one Nay.

Barbara Miller, Clyde Fisher Chair, read this year's nominees: Margaret Miner of CT Rivers Alliance and Steve Ramsey, formerly of General Electric. Margaret Miner was voted to receive the award.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

SECTION MEETING

INTRODUCTION & BUSINESS

Nancy Mendel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:44 p.m. and welcomed members. Nancy reported to the Section on the results of two motions passed by the Executive Committee (see above).

Keith Ainsworth, Treasurer, reported that the section account balance is \$7,304.40 as of the end of March. The Section should have approximately \$5,000 at the end of the year.

Chris McCormack, CLE, reported that there will be a CLE session on Environmental Due Diligence at the CBA Annual meeting. The session will be at 2:00 on June 9.

Nancy reminded the section that the next meeting will be May 28 for our annual legislative update. The final meeting of the year, to award the Clyde Fisher Award, will be at the end of June. Nancy thanked Dave Platt for putting together tonight's program.

There were no other Committee Reports.

PRESENTATION

Dave Platt of Murtha Cullina spoke on conservation easements. Dave provided an overview of the uses, provisions and potential problems in their use. Section 47-42a et seq. of the Connecticut General Statutes is the enabling legislation. A main advantage of a conservation easement over a private restriction is that a conservation easement is made to a third party governmental agency or a not-for-profit, which is a third party enforcer of the easement. An important consideration in the drafting of conservation easements is the balance between the prohibitions on use of a parcel of land versus the reserved rights of use.

Stephen Patton of the Nature Conservancy and Elizabeth Moore of the Connecticut Farmland Trust spoke regarding specific conservation easements that each organization held and administered.

Adjournment at 8:54 p.m.

Doug Pelham, Secretary, Environmental Section