

**CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SECTION MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 24, 2008**

INTRODUCTION & BUSINESS

Nancy Mendel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed members.

Keith Ainsworth, Treasurer, reported that the Section account balance is \$8,840.35 as of 12/31/07. The CBA Board of Governors has increased the fee charged to sections for each member from \$18 to \$22 effective as of July 1, 2008. However, the Section has eliminated its previous deficits due to the last increase and therefore does not need to increase section dues at this time. Nancy noted that the evening's dinners were subsidized by the Section's funds in order to make the Hartford Club available.

Tom Armstrong, Court Watch, reported that a new format will be utilized for Court Watch: 3 quarterly reports will be issued. Tom requested that any interested contributors should send material to him for submission to the report. Tom noted several cases of interest on CEPA legal fees under 22a-18(e) and equitable indemnification (ATC case).

Matt Stone, Law School Liaison, announced two programs: mentoring and law student shadowing, to encourage law students interested in the environmental law field to attend our meetings. Members interested in mentoring or having a law student shadow them for an event or a day should contact Matt.

Program Committee, the Chair reported on next month's program, Annual meeting with the Co-Chairs of the Environment Committee, Representative Roy and TBA (likely Senator Meyer). Holly Winger reported on the upcoming March joint meeting with SWEP on "Rational Development & Striking a Balance". April's meeting will be a joint meeting with the P&Z Section on Conservation Easements. May and June are to be scheduled. Suggested programs should be sent to Beth Critton or Ryan McCain.

There were no other Committee Reports.

PRESENTATION

Nancy Mendel introduced **Gina McCarthy**, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.

Commissioner McCarthy gave an overview of the Department's achievements and her concerns over the past year and outlined her goals for the upcoming year, including regularizing the process at DEP for cleanups and spills, improved review and management of permit applications, and continued focus on a leaving a legacy of decision-making. She entertained questions from the audience including the revival of 22a-452 to increase privatization, certainty in permitting and enforcement process, environmental justice, the cleanup of urban sites, RSRs and the need for a clear set of standards in cleanups, agency turnover and delegation of decisions.

Ann Catino, Vice Chair finished the meeting with a brief update of the Brownfields Task Force.

Adjournment at 8:43 p.m.

Keith Ainsworth, *Treasurer, Environmental Section*