



Help The New Canaan Land Trust and Norwalk River Watershed Association Challenge Significant Construction at Grupes Reservoir!

Background: Norwalk's First Taxing District Water Company is seeking a permit to do repairs on the Grupes Dam. The dam is the fourth in a series of dams along the Silvermine River, and is located next to the Land Trust's Browne Wildlife Sanctuary on Valley Road.

The plans call for the dam to be raised by four feet, to prevent water from spilling over the top in the event of a 500-year flood. The First Taxing District claims that this also necessitates the construction of nearly 1500 feet of berms and walls along the reservoir's eastern bank.

The New Canaan Land Trust and Norwalk River Watershed Association are challenging this proposal, and have become interveners in the hearing process, overseen by the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)

Our Concerns: We believe that this plan fails to identify, quantify, and minimize the impacts of constructing 1500 feet of berms and walls along the eastern bank of the Grupes Reservoir. Some impacts include:

- **Removal of Over 400 Native Trees and Shrubs Along the Reservoir Banks**
- **Diversion of Natural Water Flows**
- **Impacts to Wetlands, and Changes to Vegetation and Habitat**

The Norwalk First Taxing District has failed to address these potential impacts, effectively disabling DEEP from evaluating them. Further, they have denied permission for NCLT and NRWA to access the proposed construction site, including requests for a soil scientist and consulting botanist to identify wetlands and inventory vegetation for rare or endangered plant species.

Alternatives: NCLT and NRWA support plans to bring the dam up to current safety regulations, but ask that the First Taxing District adopt alternative plans to minimize damage to the eastern bank of the reservoir. **Some options include: lowering or widening the existing spillway would have far less of an impact on the surrounding area. NCLT and NRWA support further exploration of these ideas.**

What Can You Do? Attend the Virtual Public Hearing on Sept. 29!

Let DEEP and the First Taxing District know that you oppose this plan by raising your concerns at the Virtual Public Hearing

When: September 29, 2020 at 3pm

Zoom Link: <https://ctdeep.zoom.us/j/91282249776>

Telephone: +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 912 8224 9776

Say NO to Proposed Construction at Grupes Reservoir!

**Help Protect Browne Wildlife Sanctuary
Please Consider Making a Donation to Support Our Legal Fees**



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