

Rosenson, Valerie

From: P Sofman <psofman@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2014 7:59 AM
To: Rosenson, Valerie
Cc: David Roberts; MRWC:Jack Stoecker
Subject: Comment about the current Budget Proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi, Valerie, cc: David Roberts (President of Friends of Mianus River Park (FoMRP), and Jack Stoecker (President of the Mianus River Watershed Council, and BOD member of the FoMRP)

Please forward my appended thoughts to the Board of Representatives.

Thanks,

Pete Sofman, Secty, Board of Directors, Friends of Mianus River Park
[203-322-0724](tel:203-322-0724)

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I urge you to keep the \$150,000 budget item on p. 63, earmarked for Paving and Drainage. My arguments:

Included in that budget item is the item: Merriebrook Parking Lot, which is a renovation of the parking lot for the Mianus River Park.

1. It is deeply eroded and creating runoff into the Mianus River, a source of drinking water and is a trout stream, stocked by the CT DEEP.

2. The parking lot is a shameful first impression for visitors to one of Stamford's finest parks, which includes about 400 acres of forest and river open space (including Stamford, Greenwich, and Treetops State Park), visited by thousands of people each year.

3. The Friends of Mianus River Park, an all-volunteer stewardship group for this open space, devotes many hours of volunteer work maintaining the trails and overseeing projects (Eagle Scout projects, riverbank restoration projects, corporate volunteer groups, a Nature Trail, and an Urban Oasis for migrating birds).. Many of these projects are funded by local non-profits such as the Mianus Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Fairfield County chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Assn, and the Greenwich Audubon.

Now it's up to the City and residents of Stamford to maintain the infrastructure at the entrance to the Park: namely, the parking lot.

4. If Stamford's goal is to remain a vibrant and welcoming city, for both residents and businesses, it must maintain its park system. The Mianus River Park is the largest open space recreational area close to the urban center of Stamford, and deserves adequate funding. It is truly a jewel in our midst. And

right now, the parking lot is a BLIGHT. Let's convert it from a blight to an attractive asset.

Thanks,

Pete Sofman, Secty, BOD for the Friends of MRP
[203-322-0724](tel:203-322-0724)

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