

From: [Camporeale, Karen](#)
To: arthur@featherruffler.com
Cc: [BOR_OfficeStaff](#)
Subject: conservation committee
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 1:35:09 PM

Hi Arthur,

I don't believe we've met. Nice to meet you, and thanks for reaching out. I answer all constituent emails so I'll answer this on that basis. I'm ccing the board office so they can place this in the public record for the item.

1. The legal opinion is that the ordinance, as drafted, is legal. The legal advice was provided to the Board to leave the language as drafted. It has been made part of the public record, you should be able to obtain it through the Board of Representatives website for the item.
2. I believe Glenn Price may have been referring to the email chain that I placed into the public record. Although I can't say that with certainty what he meant.
3. The primary motivation for the ordinance came from the City itself. Bob Claus of the Environmental Protection Board (EPB) approached the Board after hearing repeated requests from members of the public to establish a Conservation Commission. Connecticut law has authorized municipalities to create these advisory commissions for decades, and many communities have done so. Given Stamford's environmental challenges, and adopted Comprehensive Plan which calls for it, I believed it was the right time to establish one here.
4. I have not found any evidence that an advisory-only Conservation Commission with no regulatory, permitting, enforcement, or approval authority would impede housing or development. The ordinance is very clear that all land use authority remains with Stamford's existing boards and commissions. I am not an expert which is why I deferred to the city's experts and trust their record of pro-development activity thus far. They have all concurred that this poses no risk to development.
5. I disagree with that characterization. "you have a record of opposing housing by any means necessary, so they assume anything you support is actually to oppose housing."

As for my record, I think it speaks for itself. All of the legislation I have worked on has the same thread running through it all and most of it has absolutely nothing to do with housing

I have consistently advocated for science based environmental stewardship while also supporting responsible growth and investments that make Stamford a stronger healthier more

sustainable city.

For example:

- I authored and passed one of Connecticut's strongest single-use plastics and reusable foodware ordinances, transitioning dine-in restaurants and Stamford Public Schools to reusable non-plastic foodware, implementing "Skip the Stuff," and requiring a citywide composting study.
- I authored legislation to transition Stamford's municipal landscaping equipment from gas-powered to electric while providing businesses with a practical transition period.
- I supported reducing building permit fees for nonprofit organizations to encourage investment in community-serving projects.
- I have publicly advocated for workforce housing and have consistently stated that Stamford needs to grow while ensuring that housing is supported by the infrastructure necessary to make that growth successful.
- I have repeatedly advocated for investments in roads, flooding mitigation, schools, utilities, and other infrastructure so development keeps pace with the needs of residents and businesses.
- I have supported sustainable development policies, including green roofs, rooftop solar, energy efficiency, and other measures that make development more resilient.

The Conservation Commission ordinance follows that same philosophy. It creates an advisory body that can provide science-based recommendations on issues such as flooding, forestry, water quality, wildlife habitat, open space, tree canopy, and climate resilience. It does not approve projects, deny applications, regulate development, or take authority away from any existing board.

My record reflects a consistent philosophy: support responsible growth, invest in infrastructure, protect our natural resources, and build a city where people want to live, work, and raise a family. I do not believe responsible development and environmental stewardship are competing priorities. I believe they are complementary investments in Stamford's future.

Best,

Karen Camporeale

From: Arthur Augustyn <>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2026 9:03 PM
To: Camporeale, Karen <KCamporeale@StamfordCT.gov>
Cc: karen@urbanapparel.com <karen@urbanapparel.com>
Subject: conservation committee

Hi Karen,

I'm writing a story for my [news blog](#) about the Conservation Committee ordinance you proposed that's currently held up by co-chair Ryan Hughes. I had a few questions for you if you were willing to provide a comment for the story.

1) Do you have the legal opinion provided by the law department? You referenced their position in a public meeting (Steering I think) and Hughes claimed their position was different than how you portrayed it. Is this a document I can read? Can you send it to me?

2) Do you know what Glenn Price is referring to when he said he read a "very long email chain"? Do you have that?

3) On the ordinance itself, what was your primary motivation for the ordinance? You reference several supporting reasons including the comprehensive plan, conservation needs, and other statistics, but what would you say was the event or context that led to you to pursue this ordinance?

4) Do you think Ryan Hughes' concerns about housing are at-all justified? Or do you have a fundamental disagreement on that issue?

5) The other sources I've talked to about this story have said something along the lines of "if Karen supports it, then I'm against it." When I ask what's motivating that they claim you have a record of opposing housing by any means necessary so they assume anything you support is actually to oppose housing. Do you have a response to that distrust of your record?

Let me know your thoughts or if you'd like to decline to comment. I may publish something by Tuesday.

-

Arthur Augustyn

Editor & Owner

Feather Ruffler

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