

OCTOBER 13, 2020 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

WRITTEN TESTIMONY: PUBLIC HEARING NO. 1

PROPOSED CHANGES TO TOWN CODE, CHAPTER 14, ARTICLE III – RECREATIONAL AREAS USE REGULATIONS.

Written Testimony: Per Council rules & procedures, testimony at public hearings is limited to 5 minutes. Please limit your written testimony to what can be reasonably read to the record of the public hearing in 5 minutes.

First Name	Last Name	Street Address	
Carol	Aylward	947 Chestnut Hill Road	I am concerned about being charged for parking at the Grange pool and Cotton Hollow parking areas. My husband and I are in our 80's and have been enjoying our walks in Cotton Hollow for over 45 years. Please consider giving Glastonbury seniors free passes to these areas as well as Eastbury pond. We pay high taxes with little advantages. We have to pay to bring our trash to the recycle station. We have a well & septic system. Thank you for your consideration.

John	Nealon	145 Moseley Terrace	I urge all Town Council members to vote in favor of the proposed amendments to the Town Code's regulations regarding use of the Cotton Hollow and Great Pond recreational areas. Free association and free expression are among the most cherished and critical rights that our federal and state constitutions protect. I acknowledge, at the same time, that protecting public safety is both a compelling governmental interest and an important responsibility for local officials. But exclusion of non-residents is not, as case law requires, narrowly tailored to achieve that goal. One might assume that it does, but that assumption almost certainly rests on fears and stereotypes than on facts. Just as importantly, Glastonbury ought to convey a message of openness to our neighbors and a willingness to share our nature preserves with them, rather than indicating suspicion and hostility to those who live elsewhere. I should add that I agree with the Recreation Commission's position that the Town should maintain the park ranger program to help guard against unsafe or inappropriate activities in these preserves.
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Steve	Dickison	168 Forest Lane	All should be welcome to Cotton Hollow and Great Pond Preserve. When we came to Glastonbury 3 years ago to go house hunting, the very first public place we visited and explored was Cotton Hollow. We fell in love with all the green space that Glastonbury has to offer and it was a big part of why we moved here. Today we are privileged enough to be able to continue to enjoy the parks and nature here. That being said, we were disappointed to learn that the town is considering closing Cotton Hollow and Great Pond Preserve to non-residents. Closing our green spaces or making it less accessible to non-residents who simply want to retreat into nature would be inequitable and would hurt local businesses and the town as a whole. It would cost the town nothing for Cotton Hollow and Great Pond Preserve to stay open to anyone. Closing it to non-residents or charging a fee would require police enforcement. Our police officers have enough on their plates and likely don't want to have a constant presence at our green spaces due to a requirement to enforce a local law. Additionally, our police officers do not want to be put in the position of having to decide who looks like they belong in Glastonbury and thus who gets asked for identification. We have also heard potential for charging a fee. Not only will a fee structure be perceived as a "dog-whistle" policy that serves to keep those with less means out of our town, but any amount of revenue the town would hope to make from this would be wiped out by the enforcement of the fee and the inevitable lawsuit as to limit use of public land has been ruled to be in violation of the Connecticut Constitution as well as in violation of the First Amendment of the US constitution (see Leyden v. Greenwich). We have a flourishing town with many small businesses that count on the support of both residents and non-residents. Closing our green spaces to non-residents would cause these businesses to suffer as we would be perceived (rightfully so) as an unwelcoming town. We should be doing things that bring people to our beautiful town, not enacting policies that drive people away. Finally and most importantly, Glastonbury should take steps necessary to contribute to the formation of an equitable society for all. Keep Cotton Hollow and Great Pond Preserve open and free for all!!!
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OCTOBER 13, 2020 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

WRITTEN TESTIMONY: PUBLIC HEARING NO. 2

PROPOSED TOWN ACQUISITION OF THE COTTON HOLLOW MILL SITE AND A \$225,000 TRANSFER AND APPROPRIATION FOR THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION.

Written Testimony: Per Council rules & procedures, testimony at public hearings is limited to 5 minutes. Please limit your written testimony to what can be reasonably read to the record of the public hearing in 5 minutes.

First Name	Last Name	Street Address	
No written testimony received for Public Hearing No. 2			