

Thames River Basin Partnership Floating Workshop X

June 18, 2010

The Natural and Cultural Significance of Poquetanuck Cove

Ledyard and Preston, CT



Thames River Basin Partnership Floating
Workshop 10 June 18, 2010



To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Thames River Basin Partnership Floating Workshop, the planning committee decided to feature a successful TRBP initiative to control an aggressive invasive species, *Phragmites australis*, that had invaded the fringes of the high quality tidal marshes of Poquetanuck Cove.

Several posters were displayed during the registration period



- Poquetanuck Cultural Resources in Pictures presented by the Preston Historical Society
- Phragmites Control by the CT DEP WHAMM Program
- Partnering to Protect Poquetanuck Cove, by the Thames River Basin Partnership
- Pre-treatment Vegetation Map
- Preston Riverwalk (former Norwich State Hospital land) proposed land use

Thank you St James Episcopal Church in Poquetanuck Village for the use of your community room for our workshop!

Introduction to Poquetanuck Cove

Bill Haase, former Senior Planner for the Town of Ledyard, overviewed current conservation measures for Poquetanuck Cove and suggested other strategies that may be worth pursuing.

Jean Pillo, ECCD Watershed Conservation Coordinator, overviewed the Phragmites control project planning and the TRBP partner roles in that project.



Next, workshop attendees take to the water



By kayak...



...by airboat...



...and by skiff...





Workshop participants are taught about the importance of Poquetanuck Cove to migrating fish species and of a planned upstream fish ladder project by Steve Gephard of the CT DEP Inland Fisheries Program.



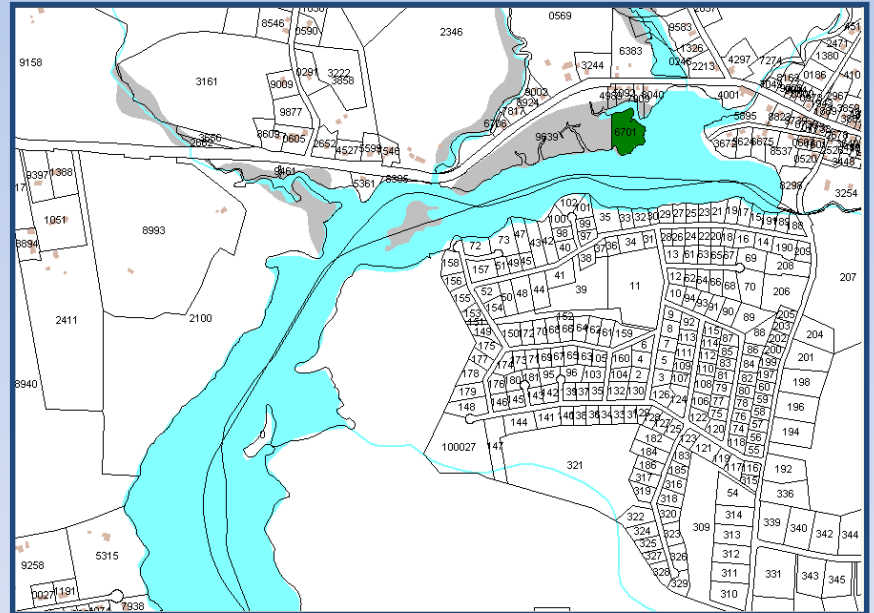
Roger Wolfe of the DEP Wetland Habitat and Mosquito Management (WHAMM) Program answers questions about the Phragmites control project in Poquetanuck Cove.

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Avalonia "Sedge Bed"

Anne Roberts Pierson, President
Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc.

ALC, as a landowner in Poquetanuck Cove, was able to apply for funding for a multiyear Phragmites control project on behalf of all landowners in the cove. Spraying was initiated in 2008.



Mickey Weiss of Project Oceanology

Looking through a sample of the bottom mud for living things important in the food chain of Poquetanuck Cove



Before and After

Dense Phrag stand at rail road crossing being sprayed by DEP WHAMM staff in 2008

Same area in 2010 shows mostly Phrag stubble and native plants.



Before and After

A Phragmites stand at the end of Royal Oaks Drive in Ledyard in 2008.



The same area in 2009 after being treated with herbicide and mulched.



Thank you to our sponsors for the TRBP Floating Workshop X

- Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Council
- Connecticut Sea Grant
- The Mohegan Sun

