

Hello. My name is Tracy Everson. I am a year round Branford resident.

I'm also a fourth generation islander with a summer home on Governors.

I also serve as the Secretary of the Thimble Islands Association, a group of homeowners who meet each summer to discuss our concerns.

There are 74 homes in the Thimbles on 22 islands, with an assessed property value of \$48 MILLION.

As islanders, we contribute Approximately \$1.4 million dollars in tax revenue to the Town of Branford.

Our members are looking to work collaboratively with town leaders to improve the village of Stony Creek.

This plan designates the village as a secondary focal point in town, which is wonderful.

Already....There are many competing interests in the summer months in a very small area in Stony Creek.

Limited parking has been an issue for over a century.

We as taxpayers and seasonal residents compete for public parking along with year round village residents, sightseers, kayakers and beach goers.

Stony Creek has become a draw for tourists, with three tour boats that operate around the islands. They utilize town dock space (which was specially constructed at a much higher height). Each pays approximately \$600 a season.

There is little space left for islanders to tie up a boat at a public dock when coming ashore. One reason - competition for space and the dock design, with yokes that limit tie up locations. Boats are left far beyond the time limits.

Additional dock space or pier expansion would give the village added access via boat.

We as representatives of the Thimble Island Association are asking to meet with the stakeholders at a community meeting on a date as yet to be determined, with the Board of Selectman, the Police and Fire Chiefs, and members of the Representative Town Meeting, to discuss our concerns.

With the town in the process of drafting a new Plan of Conservation and Development, the timing could not be better.

Our goal is to identify and find solutions.

There's a town-owned ball field near the trolley tracks trail on West Point Road. There's an opportunity there perhaps to create additional public parking with appropriate signage.

coastal access especially for kayakers might be explored in that area as well. That would reduce some of the congestion near the boat ramp in Stony Creek.

Or from the Tilcon driveway access point to the trolley trail.

The Branford train station has plenty of vacant spaces on weekends. A shoreline shuttle to Branford Center and Stony Creek might be a consideration to enhance tourism while preserving the town's character.

Perhaps this is an opportune time for the town to consider creating a Stony Creek Task Force. Invite all of the stakeholders in the village of Stony Creek to participate - the village residents, the islanders, members of the the Stony Creek Association, the tour boat operators and representatives for commercial interests such as Thimble Marine, the fisherman and construction crews.

Thank you for listening. I'll give a copy of my comments to the clerk with my contact information.

Tracy Everson  
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Branford  
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