

## Discussion Regarding the Waterfront of Coventry Lake and Beach Creation and Maintenance

### Bob Kortmann Introduction:

- Trained as an Ecosystem Ecologist specializing in Limnology (PhD)
- Masters in Botany-Plant Ecology
- Experience as an Applied Limnology Practitioner
- Experience as a Wetlands Consultant
- Conservation Commission Member for a decade (during the sewerage debate)

However, my discussions today are of my opinions as a Coventry Townsperson –  
not to be considered “Professional Advice”(at this time).

- Reasonable Use of Private Property.
- Wetland and Zoning Regulatory Jurisdiction  
Limited to what is authorized by Statute and Written Regulations.

Coventry Lake was once a Natural Lake, it was raised initially for water power (downstream mills).  
Now Residential and Recreational Uses are becoming more and more dominant– less and less Natural  
Features, especially at the land-water interface “ecotone”.

Water Quality- Cyanobacteria Blooms

Invasive Plants

Habitat Suitability – Biodiversity

### Goals:

- Provide an acceptable balance between the right to reasonable use of private property and the protection of ecosystem structure and function (“the commons”).
  - *“The commons” is the cultural and natural resources accessible to all members of a society, including natural materials such as air, water, and a habitable Earth. These resources are held in common, not owned privately.*
- Protect the Environmental and Economic attributes.
- Account for the Cumulative Impacts of many seemingly small activities.

Beaches and Beach Replenishment – Development of Design Criteria to provide for “reasonable use”  
and resource protection. See: Environmentally Critical Aspects

---

### Future Discussions: (with joint PZC and IWA)

- How to accomplish effective watershed management – forever.
  - LID Techniques – They can be excellent, *but the devil is in the details.*
  - Has Induced Development occurred due to sewerage?
  - Have new or re-developed properties always “fit the neighborhood character” and adequately “protected critical environmental features”?
    - Should we amend the Regulatory Approach (e.g. Design Standards and Requirements), or develop an Incentives Approach?

