



## Wilton Rotary Drummer

Wilton, Connecticut

[www.wiltonrotaryclub.org](http://www.wiltonrotaryclub.org)



March 2, 2012

Vol. 31, No. 32

Editor: Bill Meehan

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The Club was relieved to see esteemed President Frank return from his one week sabbatical and preside over the meeting of 19 Rotarians and speaker Jim Little.

### Announcements:

1. President Frank reported on his power lunch with First Selectman Bill Brennan. The town is working towards installing a "Welcome to Wilton" street sign at the corner of Ridgefield Road and Center Street. Frank reported that, for some reason, the sign will not be neon lit and confirmed the town was soliciting a contribution of \$1,200 to defray costs. The sign has sparked some controversy since it seems to conflict with the oral history and records of Patty Sweeney's ancestors, "settlers" in the town. However, as David previously reported, some of the present day Kiwanians were amongst the town's 1706 settlers and confirmed the date.
2. Patty, could not be drawn into the "settlers" debate and instead announced that \$310 had been collected through Fun and Fines for Wilton-Warm-Up Fund.
3. For Show and Tell, Pat brought in one of the defibrillators the club recently purchased with the aid of a District Matching Grant. The defibrillators are to be installed in the Wilton Commons assisted living project. Pat had great fun playing with the defibrillator. President Frank could not be convinced to remove his shirt and tie for a demonstration. Thanks to Karen and Pat for their efforts in lining up the District Grant for this project.
4. Pat also announced that he has located a senior in need of the access ramp. Now, if we can install it without anyone getting hurt ...
5. We are sorry to hear that Don's wife has taken ill. We wish her a speedy recovery.
6. On the other hand, all were pleased to see Judy back on her feet and chipper as ever. Additionally, Karen and Sue announced they intend to take a death defying plunge into the frigid waters of the Y pond to raise money for the Y's annual appeal.
7. Two final notes. The Police Awards ceremony has been moved to March 26. Also the envelope stuffing party for the New Member Mailing will take place at Prosperous Printing on Wednesday, March 7 at 4:00 p.m. Please attend if possible.

### Program: Jim Little – Connecticut Forrest & Park Association

Dating to 1895, the **Connecticut Forrest & Park Association** (CF&P) (not to be confused with CL&P) is the oldest conservation group in Connecticut and one of the oldest in the country. CF&P has been instrumental in acquiring the land and guiding the management of Connecticut's state

parks and forests. At the time of its creation, there was a 20% tree canopy in the state. Now it is roughly 60%. While CL&P would like to knock that number down some, CF&P feels it is just fine. Jim described the economics of conservation. State parks and forests generate \$1 billion in economic benefits and 9,000 jobs in Connecticut. CF&P works with the state Department of Environmental Protection to manage and develop these resources. Jim identified a number of walking trails that have been developed on both public and private parcels. Additional information, such as trail maps, is available at the CF&P web site – [www.ctwoodlands.org](http://www.ctwoodlands.org).

***NEXT MEETING: Friday, March 9, 2012 – Marly's in Wilton***