

CONNECTICUT POST

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Speak up now on saving Remington Woods

The Friends of Remington Woods, whose mission is to preserve the Woods, had a booth on Stratford Day at which many stopped at to see photographs, to chat, to donate and to sign up to help in this preservation effort.

A ballpark figure on those visitors to our booth would be around 200 people. When you add to that the startling number of residents who joined SOS (The State of Our Sound) last year, you'll begin to get a sense of the number of townspeople who wish to see Remington Woods preserved.

At this time, FRW's main Stratford focus is the question of why its residents don't take more of a hand in making their wishes known on this issue —not an easy question to answer as the residents of many towns feel quite the opposite about preserving their quality of life and the character of their town where significant remaining open space is concerned.

For instance, how many preservation-minded residents have informed the mayoral candidates of their point of view? Or, will the candidates, assured (as far as they know) of a positive response from Stratford citizens, express their fervent support for Remington Woods industrialization while the many citizens who disagree remain silent?

Over a year ago, a Stratford newspaper editor told me the town residents, including the media, consider the Woods industrialization *a fait accompli* — a "done deal."

Obviously, FRW would not have bought a booth at Stratford Day if this were true.

As well, DuPont (the owner of the land) holds public meetings twice a year regarding the status of both the Stratford and Bridgeport portions of the 419 acres.

This letter is written on the assumption that if each preservation-minded citizen

knows how many others are of the same mind, each might take a hand in his own behalf. To that end, FRW is opening a public registry for preservation on our Website.

For Stratford residents to require that its first mayor make a firm distinction between well-selected economic development and the slide into a mini-metropolis incumbent upon the placement by thousands of cars and trucks daily at the town's most beautiful, most legendary and most verdant oasis could define the arena for success of Stratford's mayoral hopefuls.

But if citizens wait to speak up until the builders come to Remington Woods, it will be much too late.

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Bridgeport