

**Discussion with Arty Selkowitz**  
**Chairman, Mill River Collaborative**  
**Notes**  
**June 14, 2013**

**Attending:** Arty Selkowitz, John Bassler, Frank Kemp, Charlie Janson, Dianne Selditch

The June 14 discussion with Arty Selkowitz about the Mill River project, held at the home of John Bassler, was very productive. Here are highlights and suggestions to consider for Holly Pond.

**Funding**

- Mill River Collaborative captured the attention of federal funders by positioning the project as a flood control issue. Mill River received funding from the Army Corps, and engaged a private contractor to work with the Corps to design the Mill River project, which has numerous flood-control elements in place. Holly Pond might want to consider identifying a similar need.
- Stamford retains a lobbyist in Washington, and it might be useful to ask the Mayor to talk with Stamford's lobbyist to find out what federal funding might be available; and engage Congressman Jim Himes and Sen. Richard Blumenthal in the project.
- Public/private funding: The government is responsible for projects such as dredging and fixing the dam; private funding serves as an enhancement to public monies, not a substitute

**Vision and Public Engagement**

- Promote the environmental aspects and ecological diversity of the Pond.
- Engage the larger community by making the Pond and view of the Pond more accessible; for example, create designated esplanades or walkways at Cove Park, along Weed Ave., or reclaimed public areas in Darien.
- Install interpretive signs for placement on Weed Avenue featuring, habitats, wildlife diversity, and history.
- Create public events on the Pond, such as canoe or sailing races.