



*Kathleen Holland, Director of Inland Wetlands (L) and Dan Stepanek, Chairman of the New Canaan Inland Wetlands (R) met Dan Esty, Commissioner of the newly established Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).*

Commissioner Esty recently spoke at the Sherwood Island Sunset Lecture Series. The meeting was attended by more than 100 individuals including various elected and state officials, members of the *Friends of Sherwood Island*, Park employees and area Inland Wetlands staff and Commission members. Commissioner Esty spoke about the newly established Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the rationale behind its creation.

Commissioner Esty spoke of the importance for DEEP to maintain partnerships with local communities. He also expressed appreciation for the many volunteers who donate their time to work on environmental issues; and how the State and many local communities rely on the help of volunteers to fulfill the statutory requirements regarding land use commissions, such as the New Canaan Inland Wetlands Commission.

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) was created by Public Act 11-80. Effective July 1, 2011, DEEP brings together the former Departments of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Public Utility Control (DPUC) along with the energy policy group from the Office of Policy and Management (OPM).