

animals/birds, unknown reasons and car accidents. More than 50 percent of the outages were due to trees, affecting about 195,000 customers. "Trees are a major challenge," Gross said.

Fanelli said ice storms are generally the most difficult weather events to deal with as road conditions and temperatures make the linemen's jobs harder.

Customers' expectations are higher than ever before, Gross said, as they have become more price-conscious. "I always say 'when do people think about the power company - when they get their bill and when the power goes out,'" Gross said.

Dana Louth, vice president of energy delivery services, said the EOC is "the nerve center" of the company. "Historically we have done a really good job of getting the wires back up, but if we don't communicate that well then it goes down as a failure to the public," Louth said.

That's why the EOC, which has been in operation since June 2002, is open to the media any time it is in use. While CL&P puts its plan to work during severe outages, the company also wants to make sure that the most accurate, up-to-date in-

See Storm, page 29

Conservation OKs dog park

Boy Scout Tyler Sibley from Troop 33 recently presented his idea for a dog park in Middlefield to the Conservation Commission. Sibley has chosen the creation of a dog park as his Eagle Scout project.

Sibley told the commission at its May 20 meeting that he was considering several properties in town, but felt the King property on Mattabeseck Road, or the Strickland property were the two best sites. He noted that a five foot chain link fence or a box fence would be used to enclose the park, and should the King property be approved, the park would be located on a lower piece of the property.

Commission member Bruce Villwock noted that the current gate to the property may have to be moved to accommodate more parking at the site.

Marty Smith spoke in favor of the dog park and said that Sibley had taken on a massive project. Smith said he thinks the King property would be the best site for the park as it is an underutilized piece of open space in town.

Sibley has been working with a group of supporters and

dog owners in town called the Mi-Dog group. This group will help to raise money for the park and maintain it. However, Sibley said that dog owners will be responsible for cleaning up after their dogs.

A sign would be placed at the entrance to the park listing all the rules. Peter Sibley, Tyler's dad, said they have checked with town officials regarding liability, and were told that the park would be covered under the town's current insurance plan.

After the discussion, the commission unanimously approved a motion in support of Sibley's project to build a dog park on the King property, contingent on a maintenance agreement with the Mi-Dog group.

In other business, the commission also approved a motion stating that there be no activity to remove the house on Coe Hill until the ground is frozen enough to support vehicles.

Middlefield Government Calendar

(Unless otherwise indicated, all meetings are held in the Community Center.)

Wednesday, June 11

7:30 p.m. — Board of Education at Memorial School

6 p.m. — Planning and Zoning Commission

7 p.m. — Water Pollution Control Authority

Monday, June 16

7 p.m. — Board of Selectmen

Tuesday, June 17

7:30 p.m. — Midstate Planning, 100 DeKoven Dr., Middletown

Wednesday, June 18

7 p.m. — Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

Thursday, June 19

7 p.m. — Board of Finance

Monday, June 23


11:30 a.m. — Housing Authority at Sugarloaf Terrace

Dave Chowanec reported to the commission that many birds are nesting at Coe Hill.

Villwock is expected to follow up with the police on a complaint he received in March

from a lake resident who said that illegal tree cutting was occurring on the King property. Villwock determined that 30 to 40 ash trees were cut down. (From minutes/Pamela Morello)



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