



Susan Holway, left, and Gloria Hall of ERA Property Center in Thomaston chat with Jack Capone of JD Realty and State Rep. John Piscopo during the Litchfield County Board of Realtors' annual Legislative Night, Monday at the Cornucopia in Torrington. Purchase a glossy print of this photo and more at www.register-citizen.com.

Candidates meet with local Realtors

By Mike Agogliati
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TORRINGTON — There is hope on the horizon in these dark economic times, and the home building and real estate industries look to lead the way to recovery in Litchfield County.

That was the message when the Litchfield Board of Realtors held their annual Legislative Night Monday at Cornucopia banquet Hall and discussed several issues affecting home builders and Realtors in the area.

State legislators were in attendance to speak on some of the current economical and environmental issues that home builders and realtors alike.

Workforce housing is a big issue that T. J. Zappulla, president-elect of the Litchfield County Board of Realtors wanted legislators to address. During a 17-year span, from 1990-2007, Connecticut lost 30 percent of its 25-34 year old workers due to lack of affordable housing.

Zappulla believes that Connecticut needs to participate in grant applications that would offer potential home-buyers who work for municipalities the opportunity to stay in town if there are affordable housing options. State Rep. Roberta Willis agreed with Zappulla.

"The return of the economy begins with home building and home buying," said Willis.

Tim Bobroske, who the board recognized as their builder of the year also echoed the comments from Zappulla and Willis as far as home building and buying are concerned.

"If there are no jobs, then there are no

homes to buy, and if you can't afford it, then why would you buy it?" said Bobroske.

Several environmental issues were also addressed at the informal meet and greet. The Home Builders Association of Connecticut proposed a list of concerns that they felt state legislation needed to hear. Included was a suggestion to reform a confusing policy regarding land use and the environmental regulatory system.

The association believes that there is a mis-use of the state plan of conservation and development (POCD). Currently, state agencies control development through items such as sewer extension decisions and changes to sewer service maps. These are small hurdles that builders would have to overcome before developing a piece of land.

Another environmental concern that the home builders had dealt with inland-wetlands committees that often delay and stop development, which the builders believe is a misuse of the authority. The home builders want to push legislators to not pass any more laws that would expand wetland regulatory authority.

The message that legislators sent to the Home Builders Association and Realtors was a positive one. State Sen. Andrew Roraback praised the Realtors in Litchfield County.

"Real estate is the engine that drives business in Litchfield County and housing and real estate will get us through these dark times" said Roraback.

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Tim Bobroske, Northwest Chapter President of the Home Builders Association of Connecticut, left, his mom Beverly and Don Lorusso of Collinsville Savings Society talk during the Litchfield County Board of Realtors' annual Legislative Night, Monday at the Cornucopia in Torrington. Purchase a glossy print of this photo and more at www.registercitizen.com.