

**Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency**  
**February 6, 2006**

Attendance:

Chester: Steve Williams  
Clinton:  
Deep River: Bruce Edgerton  
Essex: Carla Feroni  
Killingworth: Jere Adametz, Pat Smulders  
Lyme: Frank Skwarek, Ning Rich  
Old Lyme: Jane Marsh  
Old Saybrook: Karen Jo Marcolini  
Westbrook: Bill Neale  
Staff: Linda Krause, J. H. Torrance Downes, Wini Olson

I. Chairman Bruce Edgerton called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM in the CRERPA Conference Space at 455 Boston Post Road, Old Saybrook, CT. 06475.

II. **Minutes**

The minutes of the December 2005 meeting were approved by consensus as circulated.

III. **Correspondence**

Director Linda Krause opted to incorporate any correspondence into other reports.

IV. **Reports**

A. Treasurer

Linda distributed copies of the prepared Treasurer's report. Linda reported that there are no problems with the budget or with the cash flow although the fiscal status for the later part of the year is still uncertain.

Linda reported that second notices of bills for the annual contributions have recently been sent to Westbrook. The town's budget has finally been passed and there is hope that the bill will be paid.

Linda will be attending a Directors' meeting at OPM on Thursday. The state contribution to Regional Planning will be discussed. CRERPA has received approximately \$43,000 annually for many years. It was reduced from \$60,000.

The grant is determined on a per capita basis plus a bonus for financial effort. As a region, CRERPA has one of the smallest populations. We compensate with the third highest local per capita assessment.

Linda reported that Amy Cabaniss has applied for a grant to assess various methods of publicizing Household Hazardous Waste Collections. It will be the subject of her doctoral thesis.

Judy Preston has applied for an EPA grant to do a pictorial inventory of open space areas. CRERPA no longer offers her a salary but supplies working space and an official address.

Bill Neale moved that the Treasurer's report be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Ning Rich and unanimously approved.

#### B. Transportation

Linda reported that both the Lower Connecticut Valley Selectmen's Association and the Connecticut River Estuary Metropolitan Planning Organization will meet here on Wednesday at 8:30 AM. Four of the nine Selectmen are new and the Chairman requested a workshop session.

It was noted that the Selectmen chose to serve as the MPO instead of delegating the responsibility to the regional planning agency... As such, they are required to be a more formal organization and to meet such requirements as quorums and alternate members. Both the LCVSA and the CRVCEO are electing new officers this month. The officers of the LCVSA also serve as officers of the CREMPO.

#### C. Staff

Linda reported that Board member Alan Bayreuther has been in and out of the hospital. He is suffering from unhealed sores on his legs and is reluctant to accept pain medication. He and his wife are planning to relocate to a smaller home in East Lyme.

Linda reported that she has an appointment on Tuesday afternoon to tell Chester First Selectman Tom Marsh about CRERPA programs that can benefit him and his town.

Linda reported that she and Torrance went to a Selectmen's meeting in Clinton and explained the benefits of participation and the need for delegates. Selectman Sipples often attends meetings on behalf of First Selectman Klein of Killingworth.

Linda mentioned that the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is supporting a bill that would require all Planning Regions to become organized as Councils of Governments (COGs). She explained that CRERPA is a Regional Planning Agency. As such, the Board of directors consists of a representative of the Planning Commission and a representative appointed by the Selectmen in each town. A Council of Elected Officials, such as the CRVCEO, consists of the Chief elected Officials. A CEO maintains a separate Regional Planning Agency. In the case of the CRVCEO, two planning agencies are maintained. A COG is a Council of Governments. The chief elected officials serve as the board of directors. Each COG maintains a Regional Planning Commission that is responsible for the Regional Plan of Development and the review of referrals.

Linda mentioned that a Regional Health district is being considered by eight CRVCEO towns- Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Durham, Essex, Killingworth, Middlefield and Old Saybrook. Each town has been awarded a \$5,000 grant to off set the expense of compiling figures and considering the

possibility. The potential members are discussing proposed budgets. The District would need an aggregate population of 40,000 or more people.

Linda will be meeting with Fritz Gahagan on Tuesday afternoon to discuss conservation sub divisions, especially as they might apply to the town of Lyme.

Linda announced that arrangements are being made with CRRA to sponsor two electronics collections at the HHW facility this year.

Linda mentioned that caring for pets during disasters will be discussed at the RPO Directors' meeting on Thursday morning. The discussion will be lead by Dr. Goldman of the Capitol Region COG. Linda noted that CRERPA started the initiative. Early in the process, Joel Severance applied for grants to involve the Public Works Departments, to involve the private sector, and to care for pets. The CRERPA pet plan is "pre-Katrina". It was agreed that Capitol Region may use the information and offer it statewide if they so choose.

At the same meeting, Margaret Welsh will present the Landscape Steward Initiative. Linda is on her advisory board.

Linda reported that in March 2006, the Long Island Sound division of the DEP will become a division of the Water Bureau within DEP.

Linda will attend the annual meeting of the Council of Small Towns (COST) on February 13 in Cromwell.

Linda reported that the Gateway Commission has appealed a decision of the Chester Zoning Board of Appeals. The DEP and the CT Attorney General have filed a notice to intervene in the appeal on behalf of the Gateway Commission.

Jane Marsh mentioned that she has been approached by a member of Gateway who believes that there a Federal ruling requiring a mandatory fifty foot setback that would make the Gateway requirement moot. She asked for verification.

Linda reported that Jean Davies went to Boston and acquired a verbal signoff from FEMA on the CRERPA Plan for Natural Hazard Mitigation. Written confirmation is to follow. The plan must be presented to a Public Forum. Linda suggested that Public Forum for the Mitigation of Natural Hazards be held just prior to the March meeting of CRERPA and be combined with an Open House reception. The suggestion was adopted by consensus.

#### D. Referrals

J.H.Torrance Downes announced that the three referrals include changes in the zoning language in Old Lyme and Durham and the formal approval of the Conservation and Economic Development section of the Old Saybrook Plan of Conservation and Development.

##### 1. Old Lyme

A private developer has requested that non-residential buildings be allowed to be converted into residential uses in the R10 and R15 zones. The change is accompanied by a plan to convert Christ the King Church into condominiums.

Torrance noted that the only place that either zone is near the Town of Lyme is in the Rogers Lake area with no obvious non-residential buildings. Therefore, there is little danger of an intermunicipal conflict.

The other aspect to be considered is potential harm to Long Island Sound. There are other Commercial buildings in the Sound View area that could qualify under the proposed change. He suggested that in this case, the Health Code should be relied upon to protect the quality of the Sound.

2. Durham

Durham proposes to make the regulations pertaining to sand and gravel more restrictive.

A Special Permit would be required for disturbing 1,000 cubic yards of material on any given parcel. The Durham ZEO sees the proposal as unenforceable and feels that it could apply to manure. Both Torrance and the Durham ZEO agree that it would only be an advantage to Killingworth for Durham to initiate the more restrictive regulation.

3. Old Saybrook

Tor reminded members that the Agency reviewed the Economic and Conservation portions of the Old Saybrook Plan of Conservation and Development in November of 2005.

Under a new statute, local plans must be reviewed for consistency with the State and Regional Plans of Conservation and Development and for consistency with the plans of the towns in the region. Torrance has reviewed all of the ten other plans and finds that the proposed Old Saybrook Plan of Conservation and Development is consistent with and exceeds all of the other plans. He noted for the record that all of the plans are silent in reference to tourism.

Carla Feroni asked about the Old Saybrook referral that was tabled in December for further discussion in January. It regarded a zone change for Max's Place to allow buildings within 10 feet of the street. There was concern that this could present an ugly rear view to the public. The language of the proposed change need to be clarified.

Torrance obtained a copy of the Yale study that is referred to in the application. It identifies five nodes on the Boston Post Road in Old Saybrook and suggests that those areas be made more pedestrian friendly with buildings closer to the street. He sent a staff letter expressing the concerns of the Agency.

Bill Neale moved that the Agency accept the staff comments on the proposed Old Lyme Zone change. The motion was seconded by Steve Williams. Jane Marsh absented herself from the discussion. The motion was approved unanimously with the exception of Jane Marsh who did not participate.

Jane Marsh moved that the Agency accept the staff recommendations regarding both the Durham and Old Saybrook referrals. The motion was seconded by Pat Smulders and unanimously approved.

V. ETD

There was no report from the ETD.

**VI. Old Business**

**A. Torrance**

Linda reported on the latest chapter of “The Exciting Adventures of J. H. Torrance Downes” who called her from O’Hare Airport in Chicago to report that he was on his way via chartered jet to play golf with his brother and John Travolta at Pebble Beach.

**B. Budget**

Linda reported that Wini Olson was requested to reduce her hours from 30 to 20 per week and has agreed to do so. This is one measure for reducing total agency costs with an eye on the possible budget shortfall this fiscal year. If any additional money is available, it should be used to provide additional staffing for the GIS function.

**C. Broadwater**

Pat Smulders asked how many members are familiar with the Broadwater project. She explained the proposal to build a Liquefied Natural Gas terminal in Long Island Sound and distributed bumper stickers opposing the proposal.

**D. Eight Mile River**

Ning Rich announced that the towns of Lyme, Salem and East Haddam have petitioned Congress to declare the Eight Mile River a Wild and Scenic River.

Linda announced that since the planning of the project is complete she has resigned from the Project and will leave the lobbying to residents of the watershed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 PM

Respectfully submitted,

William Neale, Secretary