

**CONNECTICUT RIVER ESTUARY REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 12, 2005**

Attendance:

Chester:

Clinton:

Deep River: Bruce Edgerton

Essex: Carla Feroni

Killingworth: Jere Adametz, Pat Smulders

Lyme: Frank Skwarek

Old Lyme:

Old Saybrook: Karen Jo Marcolini

Westbrook: Bill Neale

Staff: Linda Krause, J.H.Torrance Downes, Wini Olson

I. The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by Chairman Bruce Edgerton in the CRERPA meeting space at 455 Boston Post Road, Old Saybrook CT 06475.

II. The discussion of the Regional Plan of Conservation and Development with Tina West was postponed until the October meeting.

III. Minutes

Karen Jo Marcolini moved that the minutes of the June 6, 2005 meeting be approved as circulated. The motion was seconded by Frank Skwarek and unanimously approved.

IV. Correspondence

Linda Krause reported that there was no significant written correspondence. She reported that Ning Rich had suggested that the by-laws be amended to allow meeting on the first Tuesday of a month when the first Monday is a holiday. Ms. Rich is among the members who have conflicting meetings on the second Monday of each month.

V. Treasurers Report

Copies of the Treasurer's report were reviewed as distributed. The annual dues have been received from the member towns. The OPM money is anticipated. The audit is in progress.

Bill Neale moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted for audit. The motion was seconded by Jere Adametz and Pat Smulders and unanimously approved.

VI. Transportation Matters

Linda reported that the MPO will meet this Wednesday. ConnDOT has selected diversion routes for incident management. No alternative route over the Connecticut River is available. A Traffic Incident Management Task Force is to be designated for the region.

The Emergency Management directors in Lyme and Old Lyme have decided to remain with their comrades to the east that they have been cooperating with for years in the Millstone drills. Linda expressed concern about the fracturing of the region. In Midstate, some of the northern towns, including Middletown are accustomed to cooperating with Hartford.

VII. Staff Report

Staff Positions

Linda reported that Ralph Eno has resigned as of September 30. Ralph initially accepted the Household Hazardous Waste responsibilities for a limited time. He will still be available for consultation and guidance. The resignation of Amy Cabaniss was also expected, but not quite so soon. Amy is completing her PhD and has accepted a full time job as General Environmental Coordinator for Connecticut College in New London. Janice Ehle-Meyer was recently hired to replace Ralph as HHW Coordinator. She is being asked to fill both positions. Janice is in Boston this week studying the proper handling of hazardous waste.

Space Needs

Linda reviewed the plan for CRERPA to relocate to the basement of the former Old Saybrook Town Hall. After the initial discussion, it was decided that the Judge of Probate should also be housed there. As the space requirements for the judge increased, the space for CRERPA became too small. Staff has decided to recommend that the Agency renew the lease at their present location. To make more space, all archives have been discarded. All personnel will be assigned to different spaces. The landlord has agreed to paint the place and replace the carpeting. A closet will be removed. Linda asked to be authorized to sign a five year rental agreement.

Bill Neale moved that the Director of the Agency be authorized to sign a rental agreement for up to five years. The motion was seconded by Frank Skwarek and unanimously approved.

Insurance

Linda reminded members that there initially had been no insurance on the HHW facility. The facility has been insured through CIRMA, a risk management association of Connecticut Municipalities. At the same time, CRERPA rewrote all of its insurance with the same agent. The cost of the pollution insurance for the HHW facility will be borne by the municipalities.

Personal notes

- Alan Bayreuther called and is unable to be here tonight due to out-patient treatment of his legs.
- Chairman Bruce Edgerton broke his foot while surfing.
- Wini Olson's son, Ron, died in mid-August.
- Torrance will be fifty next week.
- Ray Gastil has moved to Deep River.
- Don Croteau stopped to visit. He is involved in theatre while relocating and financing a church in Florida.

VIII. Committees

1. Referrals

Torrance reported that both referrals involve changes in regulations. Deep River is repealing a section that allowed the ZBA to over rule Planning and Zoning Commission decisions. It is also adding definitions, an expiration date for unused permits and the posting of notice signs.

Haddam is in the Midsate RPA but refers proposed changes due to its proximity to Chester and Killingworth. It is proposing more restrictive regulations for lots.

None of the proposals in either town should have an adverse affect on its Frank Skwarek moved that the staff comments be approved and forwarded to the appropriate parties. The motion was seconded by Pat Smulders and unanimously approved.

IX. Liaisons

A. Gateway

Linda reported that Gateway is proposing a new Village District standard that would only apply to East Haddam. The proposal was written by East Haddam personnel and addresses the problem of how to preserve the tradition of theatre in East Haddam without violating the Gateway Standards. Carla asked which towns have adopted the new Gateway standards.

They have been adopted by Deep River, Chester, Haddam and Lyme. Essex has concerns about Special Permits and Old Lyme has concerns about Riparian Buffers.

Carla asked about legal matters. Linda explained about the Chester appeal. A variance was granted for a 3800 square foot house to extend into the setback from the Connecticut River. The elevation of the land is 6'. The high tide line is 4'9". The statute requires that referrals be sent to the Gateway Commission ten days before a public hearing. The timing of applications does not always make this possible. When necessary, the Gateway Commission asks that the ZBA keep its hearing open to receive comment. In this case, the Gateway made the request and it was ignored.

Attorney Gerraghty of Haddam has been retained by the Gateway Commission to represent it in this case.

Carla also asked about a NOAA Fellow.

Linda noted that NOAA has engaged a female Fellow to look at the visual aspects of the Coastal Area. Gateway is the only example of visual enhancement based legislation .

ETD

Doris Sanstrom was unable to attend this meeting but had called in her report that the ETD is in transition. As of November 1, the ETD will assume detailed responsibility for operations rather than sub-contract with Dattco.

B. Municipal Assistance

Torrance reported that he recently assisted the Deep River ZEO as she administered the first application for a house over 4000 square feet in the Gateway Zone. The house was designed for 6500 square feet. It has been redesigned to 3900 square feet and can be granted an administrative permit. Since the house is on Merriwold Lane, it is subject to a deed restriction. Houses in that sub-division are limited to 1 ½ stories. This house is 2 ½ stories. Deed restrictions are not enforced by the ZEO. It becomes a civil matter for other residents of the sub-division to enforce.

Carla asked what was avoided by reducing the house from 6500 Sq. Ft. to 3800 sq. ft. The applicant did not have to go before the commission.

X. Old Business

A. EPA

Linda announced that Judy Preston is now full time at Yale. She has been mapping the riparian buffer of the lower Connecticut River as part of a grant awarded to CRERPA.

B. Linda has completed rewriting the Zoning Regulations for the Town of Lyme. She is now working on the sub-division regulations for Lyme.

C. Torrance is involved in Harbor Management issues. Old Saybrook is focusing on the Oyster River. Torrance did a study of present and potential docks for the commission. The South Cove Committee is considering dredging the cove. Torrance researched the DEP records and found that earlier studies do not advise dredging. That, coupled with the CAM policy of no new dredging did not allow him to encourage them to dredge.

Clinton adopted its Municipal Coastal Plan. At the last minute, Torrance was called upon to revise and complete the plan that had been partially drafted by local staff. CAM requires towns to enhance public access to beaches. In the Clinton plan there was the suggestion to “investigate the ownership” of several ROWs. The term was misinterpreted by several beach association property owners as “CRERPA says “take by eminent domain”. The language was deleted from the plan.

Symptoms of dissatisfaction with CRERPA among some individuals in Clinton was discussed.

XI. New Business

There was no new business.

XI. Other Business

There was no other business.

Frank Skwarek moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Bill Neale. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Neale, Secretary