

**Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency
Minutes
December 5, 2005**

Attendance:

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

Members gathered at 7PM in the CRERPA office at 455 Boston Post Road, Old Saybrook CT 06475 to inspect the newly rearranged space and enjoy desert that included Christmas cookies from Karen Jo Marcolini and apple bread pudding made by Jane Marsh's mother.

I. The meeting was called to order at 7:37 PM by Chairman Bruce Edgerton. Linda mentioned that Alan Bayruther has been hospitalized again and is unable to attend. Bill Neale and Jere Adametz also called and will not be here tonight.

II. Minutes

Chairman Edgerton asked that, in the section on Referrals, the word "one" be inserted after "only."

Karen Jo Marcolini moved that the minutes be accepted as corrected. The motion was seconded by Ning Rich and unanimously approved.

III. Correspondence

A. Open House

Linda reported on the progress of the physical reorganization of the CRERPA office. Since the next meeting is scheduled for January 2, she suggested that it might be appropriate to hold an Open House in February. It was agreed upon by consensus.

B. Linda reported that four of the CRE towns have new First Selectmen. In the expanded group of the Connecticut River Valley Council of Elected Officials, 8 of the 17 members are new to the job. Linda explained that this will necessitate a great deal of education. She noted that she accepts the responsibility of teaching them how important the Regional Planning Agencies are to the funding and smooth operation of their municipalities.

IV. Reports

A. Treasurer

1. December report

The Treasurers' report was reviewed as distributed.

Linda reported that income may be supplemented by two grants. Judy Preston is applying for a grant to continue the riparian buffer study. Consultant Amy Cabaniss is applying for a \$16,000 EPA grant to further educate the public about the Household Hazardous Waste Program. She will study the results as part of her thesis. Pat Smulders moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Ning Rich and unanimously approved.

2. Proposed assessment

On the reverse of the Treasurer's report, Dorothy had prepared a calculation showing the new population figures as estimated by the Connecticut Department of Health and the amount of revenue that would be produced at the 2005 figure of \$1.90 per capita and the amount of revenue that would be produced by a \$2.00 per capita assessment. Chairman Edgerton suggested that the assessment be kept at \$1.90.

Jane Marsh asserted that it is better to increase the assessment a small amount each year. She believes that most boards of finance look at the percent of increase per year. She moved that the assessment be increased by five cents per capita which will be \$1.95 per capita for FY 2006-2007. The motion was seconded by Ning Rich and unanimously approved.

B. Transportation

Linda reminded members that Bruce Edgerton represents CRERPA on the Lower Connecticut Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization. She reported that she believes the Selectmen are beginning to realize that the MPO is a formal organization and attendance is necessary.

C. Regional Health District

Pat Smulders stated that she has been hearing things about a Health District and asked what it is all about.

Linda explained that the State Department of Health is encouraging all towns with part time directors of Health to join a Health District.

CRERPA led the effort twice over the decades but never quite achieved the critical mass of people needed to meet the funding criteria of the state.

The current effort is being led by Pamela Kilby- Fox, a former Health Director for the City of New London. The proposal was presented to the seventeen towns CRVCEO. Durham, Middlefield, Chester, Deep River, Essex, Old Saybrook and Westbrook have expressed interest.

Four of those towns now have new political leaders. Each has accepted a \$5,000 grant to study how the district would affect their town.

B. Staff

There was no staff report other than the moving process.

C. Referrals

Torrance reported on three referrals

1. Salem

The Town of Salem is increasing the strength of their excavation rules and is adding drive-in windows in some commercial districts.

The drive-in regulations should have no effect on Lyme.

The Excavation rules are stronger than the previous rules but would not protect the Town of Lyme from increased through truck traffic. Torrance suggested stronger wording that could help.

2. Westbrook

Westbrook is revising the Bed and Breakfast rules to make them consistent with the State Fire Code. He sees no inter-municipal impact.

3. Old Saybrook

Old Saybrook is considering a zone change specific to the proposed "Max's Place" that fronts on both Route 166 and the Boston Post Road. The site plan would put the parking in the interior of the lot. The request is to reduce the set back from 50' to 10' and to allow major signs on each state road. Discussion centered on the esthetics of the rear of large builds close to Route 1.

It was agreed that since the public town's hearing is set for January 3, Torrance can get more information on the proposal and report back at the next meeting.

Frank Skwarek moved that the Agency accept the staff report on the proposal in Salem and Westbrook and submit the necessary comments. The motion was seconded by Ning Rich and unanimously approved.

D. Gateway

Linda reported that the Gateway Commission unanimously adopted that East Haddam Village District Regulations as part of the Gateway Standards.

E. ETD

Ning reported that the ETD is very busy assimilating the services formerly supplied by the Estuary Council of Seniors.

V. Old Business

There was no old business.

VI. New business

There was no new business.

Steve Williams moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Karen Jo Marcolini. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Wini Olson, Clerk