

Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency
February 7, 2005

Attendance:

Chester: Natalie Williams
Clinton: Liz Isaacson
Deep River:
Essex: Ray Gastil
Killingworth: Jere Adametz, Pat Smulders
Lyme: Frank Skwarek, Ning rich
Old Lyme: Jane Marsh
Old Saybrook:
Westbrook: Bill Neale
Staff: Linda Krause, J.H. Torrance Downes, Wini Olson

- I. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Secretary Bill Neale in the CRERPA meeting space at 455 Boston Post Road, Old Saybrook, Ct. 06475.
- II. Minutes**
Liz Isaacson moved that the minutes of the January 3, 2005 meeting be approved as circulated. The motion was seconded by Jere Adametz and unanimously approved.
- III. DVD**
Linda Krause presented a 12 minute DVD entitled “ Reaching Home “ that explains the importance of supportive housing. The film is sponsored by coalition of agencies including The Connection “ staffed by Peter Nucci, chairman of the Deep River Planning and Zoning Commission.
An informal discussion of housing needs ensued.
- IV. Correspondence**
 - A. Funding**
Linda circulated a letter from Housatonic Valley Council of elected Officials calling attention to HB6159 that would return the funding for RPOs back into the OPM budgrt. During the past two years, the funding has been included in the DOT funding package.
 - B. State Plan of Conservation and Development**
A public hearing is scheduled for the State Plan of Conservation and Development. CRERPA has previously supported the plan and intends to use the principles it espouses as guidelines for the Regional Plan of Development. Linda has been encouraging other RPOs to support the plan. It was agreed by consensus that she should write a letter of endorsement on behalf of the Agency.
 - C. Legislation**

Linda mentioned that the Selectmen of the region have invited the Legislators representing the region to join them for a discussion of issues at 8:00 AM Wednesday morning. Issues of concern include the real estate conveyance tax which is scheduled to “sunset” this year, the Probate Court issue, the State Plan of Conservation and Development and criteria for STEAP grants.

V. Reports

A. Treasurer

Copies of the Treasurer’s report were reviewed as distributed.

Linda reported that additional revenue is anticipated soon from two grants that have recently been awarded. NOAA has awarded CRERPA a grant to translate the information assembled in the Dock Study and the hand drawn maps that accompany the study into GIS format.

The Gateway Commission has been awarded \$25,000 by the EPA Long Island Sound study program to map riparian buffers. Judy Preston applied for the grant. CRERPA staff will participate in the project. Ben Gahagen, who has been working on a voluntary basis, has been added to the staff and will be assigned to the project.

Jane Marsh moved that the Treasurer’s report be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Liz Isaacson and unanimously approved.

B. Transportation

1. Regional Plan

Linda reported that Jean Davies will resume work on the Regional Transportation Plan as soon as she completes the Local and Regional Hazard Mitigation Plans.

2. ETD

Linda reported that she met this morning with Jean, two Selectmen, Jim Rodes, manager of the ETD and Mitzi Eilts, director of the Estuary Council of Seniors to discuss the provision of public transportation and the specialized transportation and personal service provided for frail elderly by ECS.

3. Scenic Road

Linda announced that Route 154 in Old Saybrook from the beginning of Main St. to the Post Road at the Oyster River has been designated a State Scenic Road. CRERPA assisted in preparing the application.

C. Staff

Linda announced that Rebecca Augur, formerly of the CCM staff, is writing her Master’s thesis on Regional Planning Agencies. The three agencies she is including in her study are Windham, Vt., Cape Cod, and CRERPA. Board members may be interviewed as part of the project.

D. Referrals

Torrance Downes distributed a Referral Summary Sheet explaining two referrals.

Old Lyme proposes eliminating hotels as a use in residential zones and requiring the Special Permit procedure in commercial zones. It will lessen the potential impact on Lyme.

Haddam is proposing regulations for Elderly Housing. The proposal is similar to the Chester regulations but lacks esthetic guidelines. Killingworth has no regulations for elderly housing but does allow for other uses of similar size.

The staff suggestion was to find no inter-municipal conflict in either proposal but to include a copy of the Chester regulations with the suggestion that esthetic guidelines might be added.

Ray Gastil and Ning Rich lead a discussion of who makes esthetic determinations and how criteria is specified.

Natalie Williams moved that the staff report be approved and forwarded to the appropriate persons. The motion was seconded by Liz Isaacson and unanimously approved.

E. Liaison

1. Gateway

Linda circulated a packet of pictures and comments from a recent boat tour of the shoreline by Gateway members

VI. Old Business

There was no old business.

VII. New Business

There was no New Business.

VIII. Other Business

There was no other business.

Frank Skworek moved that the meeting be adjourned. . The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

William Neale, Secretary