

**Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency**

**Minutes**

**April, 4, 2005**

**Attendance:**

Chester:

Clinton: Liz Isaacson

Deep River: Cliff Kelley

Essex:

Killingworth: Jere Adametz, Pat Smulders

Lyme: Frank Skwarek, Ning Rich

Old Lyme: Alan Bayreuther, Jane Marsh

Old Saybrook:

Westbrook: Bill Neale, Doris Sanstrom

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

I. The meeting was called to order at 7: 30 PM by Secretary Bill Neale in the CRERPA conference space, Saybrook Junction Marketplace, 455 Boston Post Road, Unit#2, first floor, in Old Saybrook, CT 06475.

**II. Minutes**

Liz Isaacson moved that the minutes of the March 7, 2005 meeting be approved as circulated. The motion was seconded by Frank Skwarek and unanimously approved.

**II. Correspondence**

Linda reported that there was no unusual correspondence. There were several changes to pending legislation but no comprehensive summary. There was a discussion of proposed land use legislation and the bill requesting the purchase of The Preserve.

**III. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's report was reviewed as circulated. Liz Isaacson moved that it be accepted for audit. The motion was seconded by Ning Rich and unanimously approved.

**IV. Transportation Matters**

1. Drafting the Regional Transportation Plan

Linda reported that Jean Davies had to postpone drafting the Regional Transportation Plan due to other work demands and staff absences.

## V. Staff Report

### 1. HHW Facility

Linda reported that when in operation, the Regional Household Hazardous Waste collections are covered by the insurance of Clean Harbors. There is no independent insurance on the physical facility. In his attempt to secure insurance, with CIRMA or a private insurer, Ralph Eno has learned that no similar facility is insured and no one offers pollutant insurance. Members of the Selectmen's Association are assisting in the search for insurance.

### 2. Homeland Security

Linda reported that although representatives of the State of Connecticut have noted that the product produced for each of the CRERPA towns, specifically "Appendix G", the anti-terrorism component of the local emergency management plan, impressed them, dissatisfaction has been expressed by representatives of the local member town. She understands that an executive session of the regional emergency management director's group was held with several selectmen present to discuss the performance of the consultant employed by CRERPA. Linda noted that she has full confidence in Hanna-Watrous and its representatives. The recommendation of the Agency was that if anyone should contact her concerning the CRERPA consultant, a specific, objective demonstration of the problem should be requested, rather than vague statements of dissatisfaction.

## VII. Committees

### 1. Referrals

Torrance reported that there were four referrals and distributed the Referral Summary Sheet.

- a. Westbrook Zoning commission is proposing more specific regulations for Drive-Thru windows. Torrance suggested that they might want to eliminate the use in the center of town.
- b. Old Saybrook Zoning Commission is considering a request from Island Cove Marina to allow marinas with more than 75 docking spaces to obtain 2 year Special Permits to allow special events in tents. Since no marina is within 500' of another town, Torrance questioned the need to refer the matter but considered it worth discussion.

Jane Marsh suggested that it might be more appropriate to pass an ordinance to allow such events by municipal permit with a fee attached.

The questions of parking and shuttle services were discussed.

Linda suggested that perhaps the zoning commission could designate sites that would be eligible for the permits.

- c. Clinton Planning and Zoning commission is considering requiring signs to be posted on sites subject to a public hearing. It was suggested that signs should be legible from the road by drivers.
- d. Old Lyme Zoning Commission is considering an application for a change of zone from LI80 to R40 near Exit 71.

Jane Marsh noted that it is an extremely rocky area that may be best suited to multi family housing. Liz Isaacson suggested requiring a buffer zone.

Jane explained that the topography provides a vertical buffer.

Torrance did not find any inter-municipal concern created by any of the proposals.

Jane Marsh moved that the Agency accept the staff report augmented by the comments of the Agency. The Motion was seconded by Liz Isaacson and unanimously approved.

2. Liaisons

a. Gateway

Linda reported that neither CRERPA representative was able to attend the March meeting of Gateway. Since Fenwick Borough has its own Zoning authority, Gateway invited a Fenwick representative to participate in Gateway deliberations. Warden Chuck Chadwick attended as a non-voting member. Voting membership is determined by Statute.

b. ETD

ETD Chairman Doris Sanstrom reported that the ETD is attempting to implement a plan to provide public transportation on route 154 through Essex, Deep River and Chester. An attempt is also being made to provide round trip transportation to and from the soup kitchens.

Doris was happy to announce that ConnDOT is providing additional funding to allow the ETD to retain Jim Rode as director.

**VI. Old Business**

1. Status of Regional Plan of Conservation and Development

Linda reported that she will start writing the plan in the near future.

**VII. New Business**

1. Personnel Policy

Linda asked member to review the proposal presented on the reverse side of the Treasurer's Report for an amendment to the Personnel Policy. She is proposing that staff members who have worked full time for five years or more and whose hours are reduced to part time could retain health insurance by paying a percentage of the premium equal to the proportion of reduced hours.

Secretary Neale suggested that the proposal be checked for compliance with labor law. Cliff Kelley suggested that reference be made to the policy for dependents.

Jane Marsh suggested that town policies should be reviewed to be sure that it is similar.

2. Easement benefits

Ning Rich reported that congress is considering eliminating tax benefits for conservation easements. She urged members to contact their Senators and representatives.

**VIII. Other Business**

There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Neale, Secretary

