

Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency

Minutes

July 11, 2005

Attendance:

Chester:

Clinton: Liz Isaacson

Deep River: Bruce Edgerton

Essex: Ray Gastil

Killingworth: Jere Adametz, Pat Smulders

Lyme: Frank Skwarek

Old Lyme: Alan Bayreuther

Old Saybrook: Karen Jo Marcolini

Westbrook: Doris Sanstrom

Staff: Linda Krause, Wini Olson

I. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Chairman Bruce Edgerton in the CRERPA meeting space at 455 Boston Post Road, Old Saybrook, CT 06475.

II. Minutes

It was noted that although Karen Jo Marcolini was an active participant and often referred to in the body of the minutes, her name had not been included in the list of those attending. Ms. Olson apologized for the error.

Jere Adametz moved that the minutes of the June 6, 2005 meeting be approved as amended. The motion was seconded by Pat Smulders unanimously approved as amended.

III. Correspondence

Linda Krause reported that there was no significant correspondence but she circulated the July/August issue of "Journeys", an AAA publication that features Connecticut River Views.

IV. Reports

A. Treasurer

Copies of the Treasurer's Report were reviewed as distributed.

The Monthly cash flow report showed that the fiscal year ended with a small amount still in the checking account. The review of the "Budget vs. Actual" accounts concentrated on the areas where the greatest changes occurred during the year.

Bills were sent to each town. The town of Lyme is the first to pay its dues for FY 2005-2006.

Jere Adametz moved that the Treasurer's report be approved as circulated. The motion was seconded by Alan Bayreuther and unanimously approved.

B. Transportation Matters

Linda reported that the Governor's Transportation Bill finally passed. The focus is on public transit, including the Shoreline East.

C. Staff

1. Torrance

Linda reported that Tor is rehearsing for "All My Sons" and will be opening at the Ivoryton Playhouse on Wednesday.

2. Harbor Management

Linda reported on a recent turn of events in Old Saybrook. Members of the Zoning Commission believed that a 3-2 vote had approved the much publicized amendment for Special Permits that would allow large tents to be erected in marinas. The attorney for the neighbors alerted the commission that since the Harbor Management Commission had advised against the approval, a 2/3 or "super-majority" vote was needed.

3. HHW Staff

Linda announced that six applications have been received for position of HHW coordinator. The position is currently being ably handled by Ralph Eno who has resigned effective in September 2005. Linda and Amy Cabaniss will screen the applications, and Chairman Bruce Edgerton will assist in the final decision.

Linda noted that it a CRERPA staff position. She mentioned that some Selectmen have expressed a desire to oversee the selection of CRERPA staff, particularly anti-terrorist personnel.

V. Committees

1. Referrals

Linda reported that Torrance had given her the material for three referrals but had not prepared the customary reference sheet.

1. Clinton Municipal Coastal Plan

Linda reported that this spring CRERPA had received two urgent requests for last minute help with the Clinton Municipal Coastal Plan. One request came from Clinton and the other from the DEP. The first payment had been made and a deadline had been set for completion. Torrance spent a week putting the assembled material into the proper format and writing background portions that were missing. As a result, Clinton will not have to return the money that it had received.

Torrance did not see any suggestions that would have an adverse impact on a neighboring town.

Liz Isaacson understood that there are references to acquiring beach access to beaches by eminent domain. She asked where the suggestion originated.

All policies were in the original draft.

Ray Gastil asked if it might set precedence for other towns.

Linda found the reference to public acquisition in Section 6-12. Eminent domain is **NOT** suggested.

2. Deep River

The Deep River Planning and Zoning Commission has put its regulations into a new format with a “Schedule of Uses”, similar to the format used in Clinton. The actual uses are primarily the same as before.

3. Fenwick

Fenwick has updated its zoning regulations and incorporated the Gateway Standards. The new regulations were drafted by Torrance under a contract with the borough. The previous ones were drafted by Linda under a similar arrangement. Residence A is the only zone.

Many members were surprised to learn that Fenwick has a separate zoning authority and is not regulated by the Town of Old Saybrook.

The discussion centered on the status of the borough. Linda reported that Fenwick now sends a non-voting member to Gateway meetings. Since the regulations do not have an adverse effect on the rest of the town and are in compliance with the Regional Plan of Development, no problem was perceived.

Ray Gastil moved that the Agency support the staff finding of no inter-municipal concern and notify all affected parties. The motion was seconded by Liz Isaacson and unanimously approved.

4. Westbrook

Linda mentioned that a fourth referral had arrived that day. Westbrook is proposing an amendment that defines “structure” and “terrace”. It was agreed that no action is necessary.

B. Liaisons

1. Gateway

Linda reported that Gateway is involved in two particularly interesting issues.

- a. ZBA

The Chester Zoning Board of Appeals has approved a variance of the setback from the Connecticut River in a particularly vulnerable location. By statute, the Gateway Commission has the authority to appeal the decision. Since the Commission has no staff attorney, Linda was authorized to select an attorney, apprise him of the situation and have the appeal filed in a timely matter.

- b. Connecticut Audubon Society Sale of Property

It was brought to the attention of the Gateway Commission that the property being offered for sale in East Haddam by OWL was the Haagenson Preserve, which had been donated to the Fairfield based Connecticut Audubon Society in 1989 and is advertised by them as being protected.

Gateway instructed Linda to write a strong letter of disapproval to the Connecticut Audubon and agreed to cooperate with other parties in opposing the proposed sale.

2. ETD

ETD Chairman Doris Sanstrom referred to a recent article in the Hartford Courant as she reported on improvements that are being proposed in statewide transit system. The additional money should help ETD projects.

Doris distributed packets of new schedules for both the Shoreline shuttle which goes from Old Saybrook to Madison and connects with busses to New Haven, and the Riverside Shuttle that connects Chester, Deep River and Essex with Old Saybrook.

Doris explained that Dial-a –Ride is available for those whose needs cannot be met by the scheduled routes.

VI. Old Business

A. Lease

Linda announced that the current lease expires in August. The space in the former Old Saybrook Town Hall is not ready and future plans have not yet been agreed upon. She asked to be authorized to extend it for 18 months.

Liz Isaacson moved that Linda Krause be authorized to negotiate a lease for another 18 months. The motion was seconded Pat Smulders and unanimously approved.

B. Personnel

Chairman Edgerton announced that Bill Neale and Jane Marsh had agreed to serve as a sub-committee for Linda's request for a change in hours and remuneration.

VII. New Business

A. CRVCEO

Linda announced that the seventeen town Connecticut River Valley Council of Elected Officials will meet Thursday, July 28 at the Boom Restaurant in Westbrook. Both proponents and opponents of the Broadwater CNG proposal will be present.

B. August meeting

The chair asked if members wanted to meet in August. There was no support for the suggestion. The meeting will be cancelled.

VIII. Other Business

There was no other business.

Jere Adametz moved that the meeting be adjourned. . The motion was seconded by Liz Isaacson and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Winifred T. Olson, Clerk