

**Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency  
Minutes  
October 1, 2006**

**Attendance:**

Chester:  
Clinton: Sal Ardigliano  
Deep River: Bruce Edgerton, Rob Wylie  
Essex: Carla Feroni  
Killingworth: Jere Adametz, Pat Smulders  
Lyme: Ning Rich  
Old Lyme: Jane Marsh  
Old Saybrook: Dick Tietjen  
Westbrook: Bill Neale  
Staff: Linda Krause, Jean Davies, J. H. Torrance Downes, Wini Olson  
Public: Dr. Walter Harris, Old Saybrook Zoning Commission

Chairman Bruce Edgerton called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM in the CRERPA Conference Space at 455 Boston Post Road, Old Saybrook, CT. 06475. Chairman Edgerton introduced Rob Wylie who is observing the meeting prior to agreeing to become the new Deep River Selectmen's delegate to CRERPA. Round table introductions were given.

**I. Public Informational Session**

Chairman Edgerton called to order the Public Informational Session for the National Hazards Mitigation Plan prepared for the region by CRERPA. Planner Jean Davies, who distributed hard copy booklets of the Regional Plan, reviewed the history of the project and presented the latest electronic version of the plan. She agreed to provide additional hard copies for those who requested them and also noted that the plan is available on the CRERPA web site.

Carla Feroni commented on the fact that FEMA has only given conditional approval. Jean explained that the process requires conditional approval by FEMA before the plan is offered to the public. As soon as CRERPA provides a Resolution of Adoption and publishes the required notice in a newspaper, FEMA will grant full and official approval.

Jane Marsh asked if there is any mention of protecting the supply of drinking water. Jean explained that that portion of the Mitigation Plan is being prepared in detail by the Connecticut Water Company.

Dick Tietjen asked for copies of the plan to share with the Old Saybrook Planning Commission. Jean will print some for the Commission but assured him that the Town Planner has copies and has participated in the preparation of the plan.

Dick asked if attention has been paid to communications. Communications are being attended to by Region 2 Emergency Operations. All Selectmen are required to be NIMS certified which includes being trained in uniform nomenclature determined by the

National Incident Management System. Several CRERPA staff members received the training.

Jane Marsh asked about wind insurance. Homeowners Insurance for Property within 1000' of the coast no longer includes wind damage. Flood insurance can be obtained. She recommends that a similar program be established for wind insurance since it is not available privately. .

Carla Feroni pointed out that federal wind insurance would require all tax payers to subsidize the repair or replacement of wind damaged waterfront homes.

Jane encouraged finding some source of money to repair or replace damaged property.

Jean Davies inserted that the Mitigation Plan concentrates on physical mitigation rather than policies. She suggested that CRERPA might put together an educational pamphlet that could include an analysis of insurance policies.

Chairman Edgerton asked if there are any questions on the actual document.

Jean reviewed the Regional Plan for Hazards Mitigation section by section.

Jane asked if oversight and technical review is available. It is.

Jane Marsh moved that the draft plan for National Hazards Mitigation be both accepted and approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Ning Rich and unanimously approved.

## **II. Minutes**

The minutes of the September 11, 2006 meeting were approved by Consensus.

## **III. Correspondence**

- A. Linda announced that donations of more than \$1500 have been received by the Lower Connecticut River Valley Land Trust in memory of Natalie Williams. It has been agreed that a specific project will be dedicated to her memory.
- B. Linda distributed copies of an article on development that appeared in the New London Day.
- C. Wednesday morning will be devoted to staff training on the use of the new copier/ FAX/ printer.
- D. CRERPA is considering changing banks. Moving to Citizens would eliminate about \$600 annually in fees and increase the interest paid on CDs. Vice Chairman Stu Fairbank is reluctant to give Citizen's the information required to sign checks. The board recommended that it is financially advantageous to move the account.
- E. Linda announced that Steve Williams is willing to become Treasurer. Jane Marsh moved that the Election of a Treasurer be added to the agenda and that Steve Williams be duly elected. The motion was seconded by Bill Neale and unanimously approved.
- F. Linda announced that she has recently been elected Secretary of Tidewater Institute Board of Directors. Tidewater now has been

incorporated. It has its own board of directors and officers. Judy Preston is the Executive Director.

#### **IV. Reports**

##### **A. Treasurer**

Linda reported that the audit is now in progress. Copies of the cash flow for FY 2006-2007 were distributed. Linda explained that both the town and state contributions have been received. Most additional funding will be earned on a reimbursable basis.

Jane Marsh moved that the Treasurer's report be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Ning Rich and unanimously approved.

##### **B. Transportation**

Linda reported that DOT has new requirements that involve a process entitled Quality Based Selection for Engineering Consultants. Regional CEOs would like to

Recommend a small grant threshold whereby municipal projects of \$1,000,000 or \$2,000,000 could be exempted from the two to three year Selection process.

The RPO directors recently met with DOT Commissioner Carpenter. He may consider the suggestion.

##### **C. Referrals**

###### **1. Old Saybrook**

The Old Saybrook Zoning Commission proposes to add flood area to the restrictions subtracted to determine usable land for a PRD. It should not pose an inter-municipal concern.

###### **2. Essex**

Essex proposes a "clarification of language" that would eliminate the double negative in listing permitted activities. Jane Marsh pointed out that the seemingly awkward phrasing allows for the practice of not allowing any activity that is not specifically allowed.

###### **3. Essex**

Essex Meadows is requesting an increase in unit density and a reduction of the setback from the railroad. Torrance demonstrated that the only land in Old Saybrook within 500' of the project is wetlands; therefore, the proposed change should not adversely affect Old Saybrook.

###### **4. Essex**

Essex Glen proposes that Active Adult Communities be allowed in the RLC section. Jane noted that Active Adult Communities allow higher density than the usual development. The proposed change could impact traffic on Bokum Road in Old Saybrook.

Jane Marsh moved that the board concur with the staff assessment that the first three requests pose no inter-municipal concern but that the fourth one (Essex Glen) does pose an inter-municipal concern. The motion was seconded by Bill Neale and unanimously approved.

Carla Feroni asked if Planning Commission members could be copied with comments sent to Essex. As a commission member she is left out of the loop.

C. Gateway

The Barnick case challenging the variance of the required 100' setback in Chester will be argued in court on December 12. The Sams case, involving an order to remove a Gabion Wall built on the Connecticut River waterfront in Old Saybrook without a permit is in the midst of an administrative hearing.

Old Saybrook has adopted the revised Gateway Standards.

V. **Old Business**

There was no Old Business.

VI. **New Business**

There was no New Business.

VII. **Other Business**

Jane commented that after years of negotiations, the attempt to lure a pharmacy to Deep River is succeeding. The problem is that businesses no longer come in small packages. Prescriptions will be a small detail in the proposed store. The dinky, small structures that many people find appealing are outmoded. She asked CRERPA to address the issue and try to find answers.

Linda suggested that scale is a key factor. She suggested that disguising the bulk of structures might help.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Neale, Secretary