

**Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency
October 3, 2005**

Attendance:

Chester:

Clinton:

Deep River:

Essex:

Killingworth: Jere Adametz

Lyme: Ning Rich

Old Lyme: Jane Marsh, Alan Bayreuther

Old Saybrook: Karen Jo Marcolini

Westbrook: Bill Neale

Staff: Linda Krause, J.H.Torrance Downes, Jean Davies, 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. **Regional Plan of Conservation and Development**

Secretary Neale introduced Tina West of Lyme and invited her to share her ideas about what constitutes community.

Tina noted that Community is both socio-economic and geographical.

She gave examples of Community in Lyme. Her church is seeking a new pastor because the previous one failed to participate in the community.

She sees the activity with CRERPA as part of Community.

Doing favors for one another--recognizing whom one can trust—who will do an errand for you is part of Community.

Creating a fundraising calendar of nude men was a community equalizer. It caused people to talk to one another. It not only raised money for affordable housing, it increased awareness of a non-governmental organization, the affordable housing agency.

A church pot luck supper involved six town leaders who agreed that there is a need for Affordable Housing.

Ms. West mentioned the need for “third spaces” such as the dump, the Ashlawn Farm coffee shop, the library and fund-raising boat trips. Such places allow people to mingle in small groups and get to know one another. She does not see the Hadlyme Fair as abetting Community. Whereas it allows “old timers” to feel a sense of continuity, it is too large and too busy to encourage new friendships.

Ms. West sees a need to make more explicit the implicit deal that makes Lyme work. Everyone must volunteer! She sees a need for a Lyme newsletter.

To increase the sense of Community, Ms. West would urge a town or group to consciously increase the number of people that can be trusted to get something done and to increase the number of people that can be relied upon as intellectual resources.

Jane Marsh suggested that Community is being a “member”- having something in common with others.

Ning Rich commented that seeing the same person in two or more groups creates an affinity.

Tina cited that the lack of factions makes a closer community.

Linda Krause suggested that an outside threat can make a group more cohesive.

Torrance Downes asked Tina what defines a village in Africa.

Tina replied that villages are self- defined and vary greatly in size from a few hundred people to 100,000. Within the fifty three countries in Africa, a village is usually the people who can gather together on market day. Locally, Tina cited the Lyme Youth Services Neighborhood Parties as an excellent opportunity for building Community. Pot luck parties are arranged by neighborhood.

Alan Bayreuther noted that PEOPLE make communities. He noted that he had found New Hampshire exceptionally friendly.

Turning to the Plan of Development, Linda mentioned that the classic method is to define the trends and make projections. She does not feel that this method is still applicable. Trends are changing very rapidly. New approaches are needed. Jane Marsh asked the board to consider,” How is CRERPA different from other regions?”

Karen Jo Marcolini suggested that rejecting sewers and finding alternative measures had united people from Old Saybrook, Westbrook and Old Lyme.

Tina suggested that that one reason CRE is different is that it can afford to turn down development. There is a sense of Stewardship. Jane added that the towns within the Region do not have diversely different economic interests.

Tina suggested that there is a need for a package for new comers. Ms. West was thanked for her observations.

III. Minutes

Jane Marsh moved that the minutes of the September 12, 2005 meeting be approved as circulated. The motion was seconded by Karen Jo Marcolini and unanimously approved.

IV. Correspondence

Linda Krause circulated a copy of the announcement of the proposed no-discharge area for boat sewage. She explained that CRERPA received six copies from EPA.

V. Treasurers Report

Linda reported that CRERPA has not yet received the FY 2005-06 dues from Clinton. This is the only outstanding assessment. The OPM money has arrived.

Linda mentioned that CRERPA cannot afford to continue to subsidize a Tidewater salary after December.

Judy Preston is attending the Yale School of Forestry. She may continue to offer classes with Pace staff in other areas of the state. The sessions will probably be coordinated from here and Tidewater is welcome to continue to use CRERPA as its headquarters.

Linda announced that Ralph Eno agreed to shepherd the HHW (Household Hazardous Waste) facility for one year. Nearly two years later, he has left the project to spend time on personal interests. Janice Ehle-Meyer of Essex will continue the supervision of the HHW project.

Linda reported that Amy Cabaniss, who was hired to educate the populace about the need for recycling and was given the added responsibility of coordinating the construction of the HHW facility, has accepted a full time position as Environmental Coordinator for Connecticut College. Amy is also completing her PhD and will continue to be affiliated with CRERPA while she writes her thesis on the collection of Household Hazardous Waste. Janice Ehle-Meyer will also assume the recycling duties.

Linda noted that CRERPA is cutting back on expenses.

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

VI. Transportation Matters

Jean Davies reported that the Regional Transportation Plan used to be presented to and approved by CRERPA. After the 2000 Census the Connecticut River Estuary was declared a Metropolitan Region and it became necessary to form CREMPO (Connecticut River Estuary Metropolitan Planning Organization). The First Selectmen of the region elected to designate themselves as the official members of CREMPO. Bruce Edgerton sits on the CREMPO board as the representative of CRERPA. The draft version of the 2005 update is available for review by any interested CRERPA members. It does contain land use recommendations. The document will be presented to the CREMPO on Wednesday morning, October 12.

Jane Marsh asked if the Selectmen would be interested in ceding the power back to CRERPA. It is unlikely. The CREMPO also has to make decisions on how to prioritize the spending of federal highway money in the region.

The plan can be viewed by visiting the CRERPA website at CRERPA.org.

VII. Staff Report

A. Staff Positions

Linda reported that the staff changes were covered as part of the Treasurer's report.

B. Authorization for Linda Krause to sign certain grants

Linda announced that there has been a change in the format of certification of authority to sign certain grants.

The grants for Homeland Security now only require that she attest that she is authorized to sign them. She would appreciate a motion attesting to her authorization.

The Homeland Security Grant to formulate a plan for dealing with household pets was initiated long before the New Orleans experience made it dramatically clear that planning for the care of pets is an integral part of persuading occupants to leave their homes.

The second grant is a flat \$15,000 to each of the fifteen Regional Planning Organizations. OPM Undersecretary W. David Levasseur has been very diligent in his efforts to keep the Homeland Security regions homogenous with the fifteen regions. Only two regions, Midstate and the Connecticut River Estuary, failed to maintain the correlation. The northern towns of Midstate, including Middletown, have established a relationship with the emergency

Managers of the Capitol Region. In the CRE, the Emergency Managers of Lyme and Old Lyme prefer to maintain their affiliation with Millstone emergency planning and the New London area.

Jane Marsh moved that Linda Krause be authorized to sign the grants and accept the funding on behalf of the region. The motion was seconded by Ning Rich and unanimously approved.

VIII. Committees

A. Referrals

Torrance reported that Deep River is amending the section on Additional Standards and Old Saybrook is seeking to adopt two more sections of the updated Plan of Conservation and Development.

1. Deep River

a. An addition to the Additional Standards “shall not allow the expansion of a non-conforming use”.

b. Due to a change in the statutes, the approval of sites for motor vehicle establishments is now the responsibility of the Planning and Zoning Commission. Torrance finds no potential inter-municipal conflict.

2. Old Saybrook

The Old Saybrook Planning commission is ready to adopt the updated sections on Open Space and Economic Development.

The Economic Development section recommends the formation of an Economic Development Corporation, similar to the example set by New London.

Torrance explained that, as of October 1, there are statutory changes affecting referrals to Regional Planning Agencies.

Referrals must be made 35 before the scheduled hearing.

The Old Saybrook referral was made at the end of last week. It is less than 35 days. It is also prior to October 1. He will request that they please hold the hearing open to allow the Agency time to review the proposed sections.

Jane Marsh moved that the staff comments be approved and forwarded to the appropriate parties. The motion was seconded by Ning Rich and unanimously approved.

B. Liaisons

1. Gateway

Linda reported that after much study, the East Haddam Zoning Commission has proposed a Village district that would allow taller buildings for live theatre performances. Gateway is considering adopting it as an additional Gateway standard. A public hearing will be held in October. Since he will be out of the country in October, Stan Greimann appeared at the September meeting to voice his objections to amending the Gateway Standards.

2. ETD

Ning Rich reported that henceforth the Transit District will run the busses without subcontracting with Dattco. She is optimistic that the level of service will improve.

IX. Old Business

A statutory change, effective July 1, 2005, requires that Regional Plans of Development shall be updated at least every ten years. Specifications for plan contents are included.

X. New Business

David Blatt of the Long Island sound division of the Department of Environmental Protection visited recently and introduced the DEP VIVA Fellow, funded by NOAA who will spend two years in Connecticut studying Visual Impact and Visual Assessment. She is particularly interested in the Gateway area since it is a rare example of legislation to protect the visual aspects of the property.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Neale, Secretary