

**Lower Connecticut River Valley Selectmen's Association  
February 9, 2005  
Minutes**

**Attendance:**

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Chester:      | Martin Heft  |
| Clinton:      | James McCusker   |
| Deep River:   | Dick Smith   |
| Essex:        | Phil Miller  |
| Killingworth: | David Denvir   |
| Lyme:         | Bill Koch  |
| Old Lyme:     |  |
| Old Saybrook: | Mike Pace  |
| Westbrook:    | Tony Palermo   |
| Guest:        | Rep. James Spallone  |
| Staff:        | Linda Krause, Jean Davies, Amy Cabaniss, Ralph Eno, Wini Olson |

I. Chairman Mike Pace called the meeting to order in the CRERPA conference space at 455 Boston Post Road when a quorum was established at 8:20 AM.

II. **Legislation**

A. Representative Spallone

In deference to Rep. Spallone and his time commitment at the Legislature, Chairman Pace recognized him immediately. He asked him to speak to his colleagues and ask when they might be able meet with the Association.

Issues addressed by Rep. Spallone included:

1. Probate

Rep Spallone is the vice Chairman of the Judiciary Committee. He is not sure how the Probate restructuring will be handled. The Lawlor legislative package does not include the "big plan" that he has previously demanded.

Rep. Spallone is submitting a bill that can serve as a repository for Probate improvements such as health care and the fee system.

2. Bonding

Rep. Spallone has introduced a bill to allow state bonding for the acquisition of The Preserve.

3. Open Space

Phil Miller asked about conveyance taxes for Open space. Rep. Spallone replied that there is a Public Hearing Tuesday for HB6393. The tax is by local option. It may vary from 0 to 1% and is paid by the buyer. The money must go into a special fund for open space, recreation, Brownfield remediation, and farmland, access to water or affordable housing. Rep.

Spallone noted that the extra categories can attract additional votes. Support of the bill is needed. Speaking at the public hearing would help.

4. Waste Water Management

Chairman Pace asked Rep. Spallone to maintain an awareness of any attempts to weaken the acceptance of new technology for waste water management.

5. CRRA

Chairman Pace mentioned that CRRA has won arbitration with the MDC. He mentioned to pieces of legislation proposed by Rep. O'Rourke of Portland that would restrict ONLY the CRRA. He asked Rep. Spallone to be aware of the situation.

6. State Plan of Conservation and Development

Linda Krause asked about the potential approval of the State Plan of Conservation and Development.

Rep. Spallone announced that he no longer serves on the Planning and Development Committee. He now serves on the Environment Committee instead.

7. Bottle Bill

Chairman Pace asked Rep. Spallone to support the proposed disposition of the escheats. It is proposed that 20% would go to DOT to clean up old garage sites, 20% would go to DEP to maintain parks and 60% would go to CRRA to reduce the local TIP fees.

Chairman Pace added that CRRA is closing the Hartford landfill and is considering possible locations to establish a new landfill.

8. Voting Machines

Chairman Pace asked about the proposal by the Secretary of State to switch to electronic voting machines. A discussion followed.

9. Dial-a-Ride

Jean Davies called attention to HB 6338 that would provide money to fund Dial-a-Ride services for the elderly and for people with disabilities.

Representative Spallone was excused to attend the session in Hartford.

B. Representative Simmons

Betty Wagner reported on behalf of Representative Simmons.

1. Marine One

Ms. Wagner distributed copies of a letter sent by the CT delegation to the Secretary of the Navy.

2. Amtrak

Ms. Wagner assured members that Rep. Simmons is supporting Amtrak rail service.

3. Education

Rep. Simmons is attempting to introduce more flexibility into the No Child Left Behind initiative.

- C. Dick Smith suggested that the region hire a lobbyist to represent regional interests. The suggestion is being considered.

The meeting was suspended at 9:20 AM for consideration of CREMPO issues.

The meeting was resumed at 9:50 AM

### **III. New Business**

#### **A. ECSI**

Chairman Pace announced that the Small Cities that was applied for on behalf of the ECSI has been received. It is held in a separate account. Sel. Pace is in contact with Larry Wagner on the matter.

#### **B. Host Town Fee**

Amy Cabaniss reported that it is her understanding that Essex be paid \$30,000 for 2004-2005, as has been done in the past. David Denvir asked about the concerns expressed previously by Tim Griswold. It was agreed that Tim is willing to have the previous amount paid this year and that the payment be recalculated prior to future payments. Tony Palermo moved that Essex be paid a \$30,000 Host Town Benefit for FY 2004-2005. The motion was seconded by Martin Heft and unanimously approved.

#### **C. Consumer Electronics**

Amy mentioned that the Consumer Electronics Collection tentatively scheduled for April 23 has been postponed. It may be rescheduled in May.

#### **D. Killingworth Satellite collection**

Amy announced that the site has been confirmed for the Killingworth Satellite collection of HHW.

David Denvir noted that since the CRRA site in Essex is closing for Good Friday, Killingworth cannot be open on both Thursday and Saturday.

Chairman Pace noted that union contracts must be honored.

#### **E. "Sandwich Board" signs**

Ralph Eno asked that all sandwich board signs be returned to have the information updated prior to the new season.

#### **F. Health District**

Linda Krause announced that Director of Local Office Health Administration for the State Health Department is Pamela Fox and is interested in speaking to the group about forming a Health District. She has a conflicting meeting on the second Wednesday morning. It was agreed that a special meeting could be called.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Wini Olson, Clerk

