

Lower Connecticut River Valley Selectmen's Association
March 8, 2006
Minutes

Attendance

Chester:	Tom Marsh
Clinton:	Willie Fritz
Deep River:	Dick Smith
Essex:	Phil Miller
Killingworth:	
Lyme:	
Old Lyme:	
Old Saybrook:	Mike Pace
Westbrook:	
DOT:	Kasey Faraci
Staff:	Linda Krause, Jean Davies, Janice Ehle-Meyer, Wini Olson
Guests:	Jim Rode, John Forbis, Mitzi Eilts, Betty Wagner

I. Chairman Mike Pace called the meeting to order in the CRERPA conference space at 455 Boston Post Road, Old Saybrook, at 8:35 AM

II. Minutes

Phil Miller moved that the minutes of the February 8, 2006 meeting be approved as circulated. The motion was seconded by Dick Smith and unanimously approved.

III. HHW Update

Janice Ehle-Meyer reported that she has sent out press-releases advertising the April reopening of the facility. She has contacted the Realtors Associations to alert people who are moving that the best way to dispose of HHW is to use the facility. She has talked to the Tax Collectors on a town by town basis and has come to the conclusion that including flyers with the bills is not feasible. She will continue to distribute information through the schools.

Janice reported that the wheels have been installed on the fence.

Ralph Eno has volunteered to take the re-certification course so he can continue to serve as the alternate person to contact in an emergency.

Phil Miller asked if Janice now has a coordinator for each town and are the coordinators prepared to move the portable signs around town to gain attention. She does and they are.

IV. New Business

A. ESC

Mitzi Eilts thanked the Selectman for their continued support of the Estuary Council of Seniors and for their willingness to participate in the national Meals on

Wheels on March 22. She noted that there are further opportunities for participation that day such as packing lunches in the morning and joining the seniors for lunch at the meal site café. Mitzi urged each Selectman to have their town participate in the Buy a Brick program at \$500 per brick to be installed in a path. Phil Miller mentioned that he was constrained by a municipal policy not to participate in capital campaigns. She assured him that the money will not actually go toward the construction of the path but would be used for operations. This sparked a philosophical discussion where most Selectman agreed that they would prefer to have the assessment raised rather than contribute an extra \$500 as an additional donation.

Mitzi asked to be placed on the April agenda so she can talk to the selectmen about the nutrition program and some changes in the Older Americans Act.

V. Other Business

A. Regional Health District

Chairman Pace reminded members that now, as they are working on their budgets, is a good time to keep the proposed Regional Health District in mind. He proposed that the members issue a coordinated public statement. He will draft a statement and seek input by E -Mailing to other members. He suggested that Linda Krause write an op-ed piece in cooperation with Pamela Kilby-Fox. She agreed to do so and related that she and Pamela have a long history of cooperation. Dick Smith asked that such publicity be delayed until he has had a chance to discuss the issue further in his town.

Dick Smith stated that he is concerned about the things that are required by the Public Health Code but are not being done in Deep River and many other towns.

Chairman Pace reported only Deep River, Essex, Haddam, Old Saybrook and Clinton are currently committed to the Health District. He questioned whether those towns are enough for the critical mass and envisioned inviting other towns to participate.

With the possible loss of Chester as a participant, central office space is needed. Dick Smith reported that Walt Mislick is reserving space in his business park. It is appropriately located close to the HHW center.

B Elderly Tax Relief

Chairman Pace reported that Guilford has established elderly tax relief for anyone over 65 with an income under \$92,000 per year. He does not consider this to be fair to young people trying to support children on much less money.

Phil Miller mentioned that Essex has linked a tax relief program to the state circuit breaker program that recognizes an annual income of \$32,000. Sixty properties owners participate. The state decides who qualifies. Essex adds the age of the person and how long they have lived in town to determine a percentage of relief.

C. Water Assets

Chairman Pace suggested that the LVSLA pay attention to drinkable water as a potential asset.

Linda Krause mentioned that there is a Regional Water Supply Plan. The problem is that the plan stays with the Health Department and the water companies.

D. Property Revaluation

Chairman Pace brought up some of the problems various towns are having with

mandatory revaluation. Old Saybrook has been given a quote of \$400,000. He wondered if it can be done on a regional basis. He asked CRERPA to make a schedule of when each town is due for which type of revaluation. .

E. Mutual Gateways

Chairman Pace suggested that towns along I-95 ask CT DOT to supply electronic boards on exits that could give direction in case of emergencies. He believes that each computer controlled sign is about \$20,000.

F. Electric Power

Chairman Pace mentioned that CL&P and ISO are seeking large volume users defined as 100,000 KW per day that would willing and able to off line and self generate as needed. He believes that Old Saybrook town hall qualifies and is considering joining the program.

Phil Miller announced that Essex has joined the Smart Power program.

Chairman Pace noted that CRRA provides "Smart Power" and that it can be purchased through CCM.

G. Pump Out Facility

Phil Miller asked if Old Saybrook is satisfied with the documentation provided for the pump out program.

Mike Pace believes that Old Saybrook has not received a copy of the insurance policy, the hold harmless clause or the audit.

H. Evacuation Plans

Linda Krause mentioned that Jean Davies is serving on the Regional Two Evacuation Planning Team as a transportation planner. Jean explained that there are new federal requirements for mass evacuation and shelter planning following the Gulf hurricanes. CRERPA is part of a Regional Evacuation Planning Team.

Three types of emergencies are being considered: a major incident in New York, a category 4 or 5 hurricane, or a nuclear incident. The state plan had to be submitted by January 17, 2006.

Jean noted that some churches are doing their own disaster preparedness planning. Wini Olson noted that several churches in Essex are in better locations to serve as shelters than the existing shelters in public buildings.

Jean reported that she presented the CRE Natural Hazard Mitigation plan to a public informational meeting on Monday night. The Old Lyme and Westbrook Beach associations were well represented.

1. Legislation

Betty Wagner had no report from Rep. Simmons. She came to enhance her awareness of issues that concern the towns.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Winifred T. Olson, Clerk