

CONNECTICUT RIVER GATEWAY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 26, 2006

Present/Absent:	CHESTER	Margaret Wilson, Christine Nelson
	DEEP RIVER	Irwin Wilcox, Nancy Fischbach
	EAST HADDAM	<i>Robert Boulware, Logan Clarke</i>
	ESSEX	Fred Vollono, Ed Marlowe
	FENWICK	Chuck Chadwick
	HADDAM	<i>Scott Thompson, Susan Bement</i>
	LYME	<i>Kevin Mazer, J. Melvin Woody</i>
	OLD LYME	Rudi Besier, Ted Crosby
	OLD SAYBROOK	Madge Fish, David LeMay
	CRERPA	<i>Alan Bayreuther, Doris Sanstrom</i>
	MIDSTATE RPA	Raul De Brigard, Stasia DeMichele
	DEP	David Blatt
	STAFF	Linda Krause, Dorothy Papp, Judy Preston

Call to Order

Chairman Fred Vollono called the regular meeting of the Gateway Commission to order at 7:30 pm in the CRERPA meeting room. Upon request **Logan Clarke moved to change the order of the agenda to accommodate Judy Preston's conflicting Inland Wetlands Meeting in Old Saybrook.** Ed Marlowe seconded. All were in favor.

Approval of Minutes

Rupe Wilcox moved to approve the minutes of December 1, 2005. Nancy Fischbach seconded. All were in favor.

Correspondence/Staff Report

Linda Krause reported on the following correspondence:

- Gateway received a copy of a letter of resignation from Irwin (Rupe) Wilcox after 30 years of participation on the Gateway Commission. Chairman Vollono noted that the letter was "accepted with a great deal of regret."
- There was an editorial in the Hartford Courant in support of the Gateway Commission's appeal of Chester's ZBA decision.

- Cynthia Matthew, organizer of the group to protect the Haagenson Preserve, e-mailed an update from the Attorney General's office stating that there is a clear legal case to be made if CT Audobon does not respect the contributing property owner's intent for preservation.
- About a dozen Haddam residents expressed concern for the proposed placement of a telecommunication tower in the GW zone with a letter to Haddam's First Selectman. Raul discussed the situation with the First Selectman who said there will be a town meeting prior to any action and promised to keep the Gateway Commission informed. Linda will respond to the residents thanking them for keeping the Gateway informed and explaining the Gateway's mission to protect the natural scene from the river itself.
- Robert Smith wrote again to express interest in buying Gateway property for the purpose of restoration to historic levels. Linda will respond that no policies for such action are yet in place.
- The Gateway received a copy of the Final Draft of the Old Saybrook amendment to the Plan of Conservation of Open Space.
- A group called "Teaming with Wild Life" is requesting a letter of endorsement from the Gateway for protection of wild life through out the State. **Raul de Brigard moved to make an endorsement.** Nancy Fischbach seconded. The vote met with silence and it was decided that David Blatt will research the group further through DEP.

Treasurer's Report

Peggy Wilson noted progress in Gateway's investments over the past calendar year and reported 5 bills to be paid:
 \$369.60 to Andrews, Young & Geraghty for work on the Chester ZBA Appeal
 \$609.08 to CRERPA for November staff services
 \$541.66 to CRERPA for December staff services
 \$1478.40 to CRERPA for November Tidewater Services
 \$2032.80 to CRERPA for December Tidewater Services. This is the last payment authorized to Tidewater at this time.

Logan Clarke moved to pay the bills. Nancy Fischbach seconded. All were in favor.

Referrals

Linda reported that there were several referrals without significant impact since December's meeting.

In addition, there is an application from a private individual to change the subdivision regulations in East Haddam to extend the maximum length of a cul de sac. The public hearing is scheduled for February 28 so the Gateway Commission has time until their next meeting to further research the impacts of such a change and still respond in a timely fashion. Commission members were wary of the possible impacts of such a change and asked Linda to commence research.

The Old Saybrook Zoning Commission is proposing to improve their Residence AAA District to further mandate cluster housing. It would appear that there will be no significant impacts to the Gateway Zone but there will still be time to comment after the proposal is made.

Other/New Business

The Chester ZBA Appeal is being supported by the State's Attorney General's office who has drafted the necessary paperwork to intervene on behalf of DEP.

The DEP Commissioner has officially announced that the Office of Long Island Sound Programs will be amalgamated into the Water Bureau at DEP. David Blatt said that OLISP Director Charlie Evans has announced his retirement somewhat earlier than expected resulting in the somewhat surprise timing of the move. Linda noted that her first job as a planner was as an intern at OLISP and that this move marked the end of an era.

Ed Marlowe asked about the status of the gabion wall in Old Saybrook. David Blatt reported that the applicant's lawyer originally called DEP but has since dropped the ball. There is reason to believe that an enforcement order to remove the wall may be in the DEP pipeline.

Nancy Fischbach brought up the importance of getting back to tree cutting/landscaping regulations in the Gateway. Switchback driveways are a particular concern.

Guests

DEP Fellow, Terry Yasoko Ogawa attended the meeting and reported that she had found much of the evening's discussion helpful in her work to study and develop visual impact methodology in the Gateway Zone.

Dave Kozak, from the DEP, gave a PowerPoint presentation on Coastal Land Assessment Methodology (CLAM) and the results of an attempt to inventory and prioritize significant properties still available for possible conservation in Connecticut's coastal area. Limited land availability, scarce funding, and lack of inventory all contribute to making this work of significant importance to the Gateway in particular.

Tidewater Institute

Judy Preston reported that she has recently applied to the EPA for a "ground truthing" grant in the Gateway region. Her full report is attached to these minutes along with her request for further funding from the Gateway in the amount of 8 hours a week at \$35/hour through June, 2006. Peggy Wilson asked that Judy provide a monthly timesheet detailing her time spent on Gateway matters. **Logan Clarke moved to continue paying Judy for 8 hours/week not to exceed \$7000 through June, 2006.** Nancy Fischbach seconded. All were in favor.

Logan Clarke moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Dorothy Papp.

The next meeting of the Gateway Commission is Thursday, February 26, 2006