

# CONNECTICUT RIVER GATEWAY COMMISSION

## Regular Meeting Minutes

**January 27, 2005**

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

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fred Vollono called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM at the CRERPA office.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Ed Marlowe moved to accept the minutes for the meeting of December 2, 2004.** Madege Fish seconded. All were in favor.

### GUESTS

Fenwick zoning officer Dick Leighton attended to answer questions on the ZBA application of the Hepburn house in Fenwick Borough. The Gateway Commission was appreciative of Fenwick's interest in the Gateway's input. After discussion, **Nancy Fischbach moved not to appeal the action of Fenwick's ZBA because 1) the house is of particular historic value within a designated historic district; 2) the house as it stands poses potential health and safety problems; 3) the alternative to increasing the height of the house is to raze the historic structure; 4) the roof peak as designed in the application remains lower than many of the neighboring structures; and 5) the new design will have minimal affect on the view from the river creating no adverse impact to the natural and traditional river scene.** Melvin Woody seconded. All were in favor.

It was further agreed that the Gateway Commission will invite Fenwick Borough to appoint an ad hoc member to attend Gateway meetings.

## **CORRESPONDENCE - STAFF REPORT**

Linda Krause noted that the Gateway Commission was copied on a letter from Old Saybrook's legal counsel concerning the cease and desist order issued on the gabion wall erected without permission along the river in Old Saybrook. The letter was written to the property owner stating that the time frame to appeal the cease and desist had passed and warning that documents to bring suit are being assembled.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Peggy Wilson reported that Gateway's Fidelity funds have been liquidated in the amount of \$292,104 and sent to Frank Wolcott at Merrill Lynch for investment. She will schedule Frank to make a presentation to the Commission this spring.

This month's bills are for November and December to CRERPA for \$1041.93, and Tidewater Institute for \$2368.08.

**Ed Marlowe moved to accept the Treasure's Report and pay the bills.** Nancy Fischbach seconded. All were favor.

## **REFERRALS**

Haddam sent its changes to Day Care Center zoning regulations. They require no response from the Gateway.

Essex reported 4 variances last month. Linda reported that only one was questionable and it was determined that it was being built behind another structure so that none of the four variances had any visual impact on the river.

## **TIDEWATER INSTITUTE**

Judy Preston reported on the following items:

- The RiverQuest river trip, began in the fog but was a success nonetheless. Ed Marlowe suggested that a similar trip be scheduled three times a year. Nancy Fishbach expressed disappointment that she was not aware of the trip's date since she missed the last Gateway meeting.
- The Land Use Leadership Training Program is at a point of choosing 35 participants for the LULA Workshops.
- The Riparian Buffers Grant is moving forward and will have several benefits to the Gateway including determination of parcels along the river that contribute to river pollution with or without natural buffers; production of an educational brochure for landowners; production of quality aerial photos of the lower river; and a basic identification of areas threatened by invasive species along the river.
- Tidewater Institute expects to own its own non-profit component by June of this year.

## **OTHER / NEW BUSINESS**

Linda reported that Haddam, Chester, and Deep River have adopted the new Gateway Standards; Fenwick, Lyme, and Old Saybrook are ready to go to public hearing; Old Lyme has received a draft of the new standards to fit their current regulations; and East Haddam seems willing to go to public hearing though no date has been set.

East Haddam's zoning officer Jim Ventris has rescheduled his meeting with the Gateway Commission to February to discuss the special permit regulations designed to allow expansion of the Goodspeed Opera House.

Madge Fish reported that Christine Nelson has requested help in developing a cutting plan for Old Saybrook in response to some recent clearcutting in the town. Discussion followed. **Melvin Woody moved to send a letter to the Old Saybrook enforcement officer in support of full enforcement of the town's existing regulations.** Nancy Fischbach seconded. All were in favor.

Nancy Fischbach suggested that a Demolition Delay Ordinance might be an idea for a future Gateway standard revision.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Melvin Woody moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the Gateway Commission at 9:40 PM.** Nancy Fischbach seconded. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted for Madge Fish,  
Dorothy H. Papp

The next regular meeting of the **Gateway Commission** is at CRERPA on

**Thursday, February 24, 2005 at 7:30 PM**