

CONNECTICUT RIVER GATEWAY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 23, 2006

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

Call to Order

Treasurer Peggy Wilson called the regular meeting of the Gateway Commission to order at 7:35 pm in the CRERPA meeting room.

Approval of Minutes

Nancy Fischbach moved to approve the minutes of February 23, 2006. Logan Clarke seconded. All were in favor.

Chairman Fred Vollono arrived at 7:40 and assumed the chair.

Guests

The Commission welcomed Joan Hoelzel from the Office of Long Island Sound Programs as an interested observer.

Correspondence/Staff Report

Linda Krause showed the Commission a copy of a picture of the CT River in the Gateway Region to be framed as a certificate for Rupe Wilcox in appreciation for his years of dedication and service on the Gateway Commission.

In addition she reported on the following correspondence:

- A registration form for a Conservation of Wildlife Conference;
- A letter from Chester regarding wastewater;
- A letter from the Silvio Conte Trust to support funding for property along the Salmon River but not in the Gateway Zone;
- A notice of DEP certification of consistency for work on the CT River RR Bridge;

- A CT River Watershed Council Newsletter with an interesting article about the use of the name “pumpkin flood” for designation of a typically annual occurrence.

Treasurer’s Report

Peggy Wilson reported there were four bills to be paid:

- \$2244.75 to CRERPA for February staff services
- \$1120.00 to CRERPA for February Tidewater services
- \$1091.06 to Atty. Paul Geraghty for work on the Chester Appeal in February
- \$1229.88 to Atty. Paul Geraghty for work on the Chester Appeal in March

Logan Clarke moved accept the Treasurer’s Report and pay the bills.

Nancy Fischbach seconded. All were in favor.

Referrals

Linda reported that there were two referrals in the last month.

One from Haddam, using a new form that is considerably easier to read, was an application to renovate and move a 15’x18’ garage within 100’ of the shore. The longer side will be turned to the river but the riparian buffer will be increased from 59’ to 75’. Linda believed the application would reduce the non-compliance of the existing structure. The Commission concurred.

There was another application from Deep River which, on closer inspection did not appear to be in the Gateway Zone.

Tidewater Institute

Judy Preston was not able to attend the meeting due to her mother’s hospitalization. Copies of her time sheet for the last month were distributed.

Status of New Standards

Linda reported that letters have been sent to all eight Gateway towns explaining that text regarding “developed areas” was inadvertently omitted from the new standards verbiage. Deep River responded and Nancy Fischbach concurred that they are working on a definition. Chester has also appointed a subcommittee to develop a “developed area” definition. The other six towns have not responded to date. Linda will follow up.

Logan Clarke wondered if it might be time to talk to someone on P&Z or a selectman in East Haddam about passing the standards.

Linda noted that Bill Reichenbach from Essex has expressed eagerness to help with passing the standards in Essex.

Chester Appeal Status

Linda reported that she, Jean and Torrance went to Chester last week to discuss the Plan of Conservation and Development with their zoning commission. Besides appointing a “waterfront committee” the Chester commission said they are looking for viable education sessions for their ZBA.

The subject of Gateway's appeal of the Chester ZBA Barnick variance was not directly discussed. Linda felt that the appeal situation might resolve itself.

Other/New Business

David Blatt reported that the DEP has issued a removal order for the gabion wall on the Sams' property in Old Saybrook. The Gateway Commission should receive a copy of the order shortly. Should the applicants wish to contest the order, they will do so in front of the DEP Board of Adjudication where the Gateway Commission may intervene and appear in favor of the order to remove the structure if they so desire. **Nancy Fischbach moved to intervene.** Logan Clarke seconded. Fred Vollono expressed interest in the process. David said staff or a Gateway member could represent the Gateway and that intervenor status is gained by filling out a standard form for the Office of Adjudications. He will send a copy of the form to the office. All were in favor of the motion, with one abstention from David Blatt.

Logan Clarke moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Papp

The next meeting of the Gateway Commission is Thursday, April 27, 2006