

CONNECTICUT RIVER GATEWAY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 27, 2006

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

Call to Order

Vice Chairman Melvin Woody called the regular meeting of the Gateway Commission to order at 7:37 pm in the CRERPA meeting room.

Approval of Minutes

Peggy Wilson moved to approve the minutes of March 23, 2006.
Logan Clarke seconded. All were in favor.

Staff Report

Melvin Woody welcomed newly appointed Deep River Alternate Amy Petrone.

Guests

DEP Fellow Terry Yasoko Ogawa attended to ask the Commission for ideas on case study focus sites in the Gateway Region. She wants to use GIS methodology to provide baseline information and assistance to local commissions in preserving views from the river to the adjacent ridgeline. Ted Crosby thought that Torrance Downes' Dock Study maps might be helpful in identifying areas of potential development. Raul De Brigard noted that East Haddam's ridgeline was both famous and in jeopardy of being lost to development. Further discussion specifically identified the area around the bridge in East Haddam and River Road in Essex compared to the corresponding riverfront in Lyme.

Terry was concerned that there was limited data in East Haddam and was happy to learn from Susan Bement and Stasia DeMichelle that East Haddam has

already mapped the entire town for GIS information along the river. Terry brought with her a copy of a Long Island Sound environmental study from 1975 entitled *People And The Sound* that provided a baseline list of significant scenic vistas and maps that seems to have been forgotten in the intervening years. She thanked the Commission for its input and is excited about getting her work underway.

Tidewater Institute

Judy Preston reported on Tidewater's continuing work as part of the staff report since she was not able to stay for the full meeting. The riparian buffers work is proving to be the next step to tree cutting standards as it will identify "hot spots" along the river and will tie extensive baseline photographs with the GIS dataset for use by land commissions and other interested parties. Judy has developed a PowerPoint update on the riparian buffers project that she would like to present to the Commission in May or June.

Word on the Groundtruthing grant application is expected in May. Whether or not Tidewater receives that grant will have an effect on the monies Tidewater Institute requests from the Gateway Commission for the coming fiscal year. Judy will provide specific numbers for the Commission's consideration for next month's meeting.

Tidewater is continuing its "Walks and Talks" programs, and has set up a "River Processes" workshop for May. Judy is interested in developing an "on the road program" about the Gateway Area/Commission that she could use for community education.

Correspondence

Dorothy Papp reported that Linda regretted that she could not attend the meeting as she was at the final dinner meeting for the 8 Mile River Wild and Scenic Advisory Committee. The application for Wild and Scenic River status is complete and ready to be submitted to the U.S. Congress.

Dorothy acknowledged the following correspondence for April:

- A letter from the CT Office of Adjudications noting receipt of Gateway's Petition to Intervene on the matter regarding the Gabion wall in Old Saybrook. A ruling will be made sometime in May. A public status conference has been scheduled in Hartford for May 4, 2006. Torrance Downes and Dorothy Papp will attend the meeting on behalf of the Gateway Commission. Madge Fish reported that the Old Saybrook Land Use Commission also submitted a Petition to Intervene in this matter and will be sending legal counsel to the meeting on May fourth. Ted Crosby noted that the owners of the property are not related in any way to the Copper Beach Restaurant and Inn, as was erroneously reported at last month's meeting.
- A letter from Nancy Thompson, a resident of Haddam, who is concerned about the future of the sandpit on Ruddy Ferry Road, and requesting

notification should the property get on the agenda for any Gateway meeting in the future. **Raul de Brigard moved to notify the Thompsons of any discussion regarding the property.** Peggy Wilson seconded. All were in favor.

- Notice from Atty. Paul Geraghty announcing a move into private practice with Michael Bonnano.
- Gateway booklets were sent to an attorney and architects' firms in Centerbrook who will be representing an application for a home over 4000 square feet in Haddam.

Treasurer's Report

Peggy Wilson reported that the ad hoc finance committee (Peggy, Logan Clarke and Nancy Fischbach) met twice over the last month with Liz David and Wayne Devoe from Merrill Lynch. They are working on a spending policy for the Commission and considering whether the Commission should move to a managed account which would cost more in fees but hopefully produce more income as well. They will have more to report next month.

Related to a spending policy is a budget for the coming fiscal year. It was noted that legal fees should be an ongoing line item. A proposed '07 Budget will be presented at May's meeting.

Regarding appointment of an auditor for the fiscal year ending June 30, Peggy recommended that the Commission continue with Joe Wollack because he gives the Commission a non-profit discount, is familiar with the State regulations, and has no potential conflict due to the straightforwardness of the Commission's books. **Peggy Wilson moved to appoint Joe Wollack to audit the Gateway Commission's books for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006.** Madge Fish seconded. All were in favor.

Peggy reported there were three bills to be paid:

- \$793.24 to CRERPA for March staff services
- \$1120.00 to CRERPA for March Tidewater services
- \$549.50 to Atty. Paul Geraghty for work on the Chester Appeal.

Logan Clarke moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the bills. Susan Bement seconded. All were in favor.

Referrals

Though there were no referrals per se, CRERPA staff Torrance Downes was asked to review an application for a house measuring 6600 square feet in Chester's Gateway Zone. Dorothy explained that there were three major concerns regarding the application to date:

- The 100 foot set back was not accurately measured so the current siting of the house would require a variance.
- As currently sited, the height measurement once fill was brought in to meet flood standards was unclear.

- There was no mention of the 50 foot riparian buffer on the application.

Ted Crsoby moved to send a letter indicating concern regarding all three points. Raul de Brigard seconded. All were in favor.

Status of New Standards

Madge Fish reported that Old Saybrook is ready to set a public hearing date for passage of the new Gateway standards. Madge was pleased that many of the standards being proposed in Old Saybrook are stricter than the Gateway's minimum.

Old Lyme would like CRERPA to present the standards to the land use commission once again after the town meeting in May regarding a new Stormwater Ordinance.

East Haddam is waiting to bring the Gateway standards to public hearing along with some other regulation changes that they are still working on.

Chester Appeal Status

There is nothing new to report on the Chester appeal.

Other/New Business

There being no new business, **Logan Clarke moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Papp

The next meeting of the Gateway Commission is Thursday, May 25, 2006