

# CONNECTICUT RIVER GATEWAY COMMISSION

## Regular Meeting Minutes

**April 28, 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>FENWICK</b>	<b>Chuck Chadwick</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

**Nancy Fischbach moved to accept the minutes for the meeting of March 24, 2005.** Logan Clarke seconded. All were in favor.

### GUESTS

**Frank Wolcott, Liz David, and Jared Watson from Merrill Lynch** presented the Commission's Quarterly Performance Portfolio Review. Jared Watson, a portfolio manager for the Separate Accounts Division, presented options for socially responsive investing. There is a \$250,000 minimum investment to craft a custom portfolio from the Domini 400 carrying an annual management fee ranging from 1.5 to 1.75%. The Commission agreed to discuss its options at a future meeting.

**East Haddam Planner, Jim Ventres,** presented an overview of East Haddam's newly created Village District located along the Connecticut River in the Gateway Zone. Though the district allows heights above the current Gateway Standard, to specifically accommodate a live performance theater, the district regulations are well grounded in historic tradition, aesthetic orientation, and contains adequate development safeguards. Linda Krause noted that the proposed standards are more detailed than the Gateway Standards for the 8 towns in general and suggested that the East Haddam Village District might reasonably become its own Gateway Standard. It was noted also that Essex Village might benefit from a similarly styled district.

**Executive Director of the Connecticut River Museum, Stuart Parnes**, presented plans for a variance application to build a connector building between the museum's boathouse and main building. Although the set back from the water is only 28' where the standard requires 50', the new structure will accomplish three goals:

- To get rid of an existing outdoor oil tank and outdated oil burner
- To eliminate two stainless steel stacks, replacing them with one historic looking chimney
- To provide indoor access between the main building and the boat house which acts as the museum's education facility.

In addition, the museum is working closely with Essex sanitarian, Carol Speer, to update and improve the site's antique septic system. **Melvin Woody moved to write a letter in support of the variance based on the need to renovate the property to enhance public health and safety.** Nancy Fischbach seconded. All were in favor.

## **CORRESPONDENCE - STAFF REPORT**

Linda reported that the Gabion wall built with no permissions of any kind in Old Saybrook has become a matter for DEP enforcement. Madge Fish said that the Old Saybrook Zoning Commission is looking for diminishment in the size of the wall itself or at least massive landscaping to hide it.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Peggy Wilson reported that the Commission received its annual Appointment of Auditor Notification from the State. On her recommendation, **Nancy Fischbach moved to appoint Joseph Wollack of Lewitz, Balosie, Wollack, Rayner & Giroux.** Ed Marlowe seconded. All were in favor.

Ed Marlowe asked that the Treasurer's Report be adjusted to reflect the change in the Commission's investments more realistically. Peggy will work with staff, Dorothy Papp, to clarify the monthly report.

This month's bills were for March staffing services to CRERPA for \$678.34, and Tidewater Institute for \$1396.56. **Logan Clarke moved to pay the bills.** Nancy Fischbach seconded. All were favor.

**Nancy Fischbach moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.** Ed Marlowe seconded. All were in favor.

## **REFERRALS**

There were three referrals meriting comment from the Gateway Commission:

- The application for a variance in **Essex** was discussed under the Guests portion of these minutes.
- In **Fenwick**, there is an application for a variance to put an in ground swimming pool very close to wetlands within the riparian buffer zone. **Logan Clarke moved to write a letter objecting to the application because of its creation of unnecessary impervious**

**surface area so close to wetlands.** Ted Crosby seconded. All were in favor.

- In **Old Saybrook**, there is an application for a text amendment to the zoning regulations to allow the erection of tents as an accessory use to marinas for special events serving over 25 people as often as once a week. The Commission wondered if the tents would be treated as permanent structures and expressed concern that the regulation would allow each marina to have a tent within the setback area virtually all summer long. **Nancy Fishbach moved to write a letter expressing concern over the potential visual impact on the traditional and natural river scene, and requesting that any regulation treat tents as permanent structures.** Logan Clarke seconded. Madge Fish abstained. Nine were in favor.

## **TIDEWATER INSTITUTE**

Judy Preston was not present, but Tidewater projects are moving forward as planned.

## **OTHER / NEW BUSINESS**

Linda handed out copies of the “Candlewood Lake Buffer Guidelines” received from Raul as a possible reference tool toward specification of the Gateway Standards. Further discussion will be held on the topic at a future meeting.

Lyme’s regulations are finished and ready for public hearing. They include the new Gateway Standards.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Logan Clarke moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the Gateway Commission at 10:00 PM.** Nancy Fischbach seconded. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorothy H. Papp, CRERPA

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

**Thursday, May 26, 2005 at 7:30 PM**