CONNECTICUT RIVER GATEWAY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

July 28, 2005

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Melvin Woody at 7:40 pm in the CRERPA meeting room.

Approval of Minutes

Ed Marlowe moved and Madge Fish seconded a motion to approve the minutes of June 24, 2005 as submitted. All voted in favor.

Correspondence/Staff Report

Ted Crosby sent a picture taken June 29, 2005 of a property along the Connecticut River in Old Lyme showing disregard for a riparian buffer. Old Lyme zoning has had some issues with the revised buffer standard and this photo can serve as a good example in favor of the new standards.

Linda Krause reported that the CRVCEO lunch hosted guest speakers from both sides of the Broadwater application for a buoy based liquefied natural gas terminal in Long Island Sound. Information from each side was available for distribution.

AAA Journeys Magazine featured “Connecticut River Views” in its latest issue.

Treasurer’s Report

In Peggy Wilson’s absence, Dorothy Papp asked that two bills be paid this month: one from CRERPA for $702, and one from the Tidewater Institute for $1214.40. **Logan Clarke moved and Nancy Fischbach seconded a motion to pay the bills**. The motion was approved unanimously.

Referrals

There were no referrals last month.

Status of Gateway Standards

Lyme, Haddam Deep River, and Chester have passed the new standards. Old Saybrook, East Haddam, and Fenwick are in process. Only Old Lyme and Essex have made no move to accept the standards to date.

Other/New Business

Linda gave a status report on Gateway's appeal of Chester ZBA's granting of a variance of the 100' setback requirement for property at the end of Castle View Drive (Barnick) last month. Attorney Paul Geraghty has been retained on behalf of the Gateway Commission. Among many points made in the citation are two procedural defects of the decision to grant a variance on the Barnick property. Only one variance was sought regarding the setback of the structure though the application also impinges on the minimum riparian buffer required in the area. In addition, no referral was made to the town's Conservation Commission as required by statute.

Bob Boulware updated the Commission on Connecticut Audubon's attempts to sell the Haagenson Preserve, including a copy of the letter written by Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal requesting postponement of any transfer of the property until his Office could examine the propriety of the action. Sue Bement reported that the property is still actively marketed with a listing agent. **Nancy Fischbach moved that a letter be sent to Attorney General Blumenthal expressing appreciation for taking an interest in the matter and asking that his Office keep the Gateway Commission informed as the matter progresses. In addition, the letter should remark on the oddity of the fact that Owl Properties has only one principal who is President of Connecticut Audubon, Richard Martinez. It would appear that Martinez' firm has received payments from Audubon in the past. The motion authorized further letters as warranted.** Logan Clarke seconded. All were in favor.

Tidewater Institute

Judy Preston presented a folder of aerial photos created by Margot Burns of about 1000 individualized land parcels in the Gateway Region, which will be used in conjunction with a handheld computer to complete the Riparian Buffers Grant. The study will establish the condition of existing vegetative buffers as well as basic identification of areas of invasive species. An educational brochure will be published along with recommendations for ecological restoration in the area. The work is both complementary and supplemental to the region's GIS related dock study.

Judy also reported on the completion of her Tools for Intelligent Tinkering grant. The resource guide is specific to the Connecticut River but will be shared

with 10 other watershed areas in Connecticut. The grant report can be read online at crerpa.org with the resource guide soon to follow.

Finally, Judy reported that Tidewater has invested in its own digital camera and PowerPoint projector.

It was decided to cancel the August meeting unless a specific referral warrants discussion.

There being no further business, Ed Marlowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Papp