

CONNECTICUT RIVER GATEWAY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

September 28, 2006

Present/Absent:	CHESTER	Margaret Wilson, Christine Nelson
	<i>DEEP RIVER</i>	<i>Amy Petrone, Nancy Fischbach</i>
	EAST HADDAM	Logan Clarke, Robert Boulware
	ESSEX	<i>Fred Vollono, Ed Marlowe</i>
	<i>FENWICK</i>	<i>Chuck Chadwick</i>
	HADDAM	<i>Scott Thompson, Susan Bement</i>
	LYME	<i>Kevin Mazer, J. Melvin Woody</i>
	OLD LYME	Rudi Besier (8:15), Ted Crosby (8:45)
	OLD SAYBROOK	<i>Madge Fish, David LeMay</i>
	<i>CRERPA</i>	<i>Steve Williams</i>
	MIDSTATE RPA	<i>Raul De Brigard, Stasia DeMichele</i>
	DEP	David Blatt
	STAFF	Linda Krause, Dorothy Papp
	TIDEWATER	Judy Preston

Call to Order

Treasurer, Peggy Wilson, called the regular meeting of the Gateway Commission to order at 7:34 pm in the CRERPA meeting room.

Approval of Minutes

Ed Marlowe moved to approve the minutes of July 27, 2006. Logan Clarke seconded with the correction that his name be removed as author of investment guidelines for Charter Oak, as it had been a group effort. All were in favor of approving the minutes as corrected.

Guests

Centerbrook Architects were expected to attend this month's meeting but did not arrive.

Staff Report

Linda Krause reported receipt of a letter from Cynthia Matthews regarding the Haagenson Preserve and encouraging letters to the State AG so they do not let the matter ride. Peggy voiced a consensus of the commission to write a letter from the Gateway Commission.

Gateway staff forgot to prepare the rules change to allow board members from the RPAs to represent their home towns to make up a quorum. It will be addressed at October's meeting.

Natalie Williams, CRERPA's Treasurer, passed away in August after a car accident. Donations in her memory were made to the CT River Land Trust, as the closest non-profit to CRERPA. \$1476 has been received to date. A letter of

thanks will be sent to her family members. Linda asked the Board to consider a particular project for the money that could honor Natalie in a special way.

Notice was received of the Fall Marine Educators Conference to be held at Avery Point.

Treasurer's Report

Peggy Wilson, reported that work is progressing in the realignment of equities and bond distributions as mandated by the Commission's newly adopted Investment Guidelines. After meeting with Merrill Lynch, the finance committee proposed moving the non-mutual fund part of the Commission's investments, currently totaling around \$600,000, to a managed account. Providing more professional oversight of these funds better equips the Commission to meet its fiduciary responsibilities over the long term. Current charges for the mutual funds are 1.2%; the managed account funds will be charged closer to 1.7% but will decrease as the investments grow. Ed Marlowe stressed the importance of regular monitoring of the investments' activity and suggested establishing a benchmark. Logan Clarke said an appropriate benchmark might be the S&P500 but did not want to force a particular yield. Logan suggested the Commission be brought up to date two to three times a year. **Ed Marlowe moved to activate a managed account as proposed.** Susan Bement seconded. All were in favor.

Six bills were incurred for July and August services: July CRERPA staffing for \$2124.85, August CRERPA staffing for \$550.95, July Tidewater staffing for \$1120, August Tidewater staffing for \$1120, July legal services to Paul Geraghty for \$200.00, and \$3800 to Joe Wollack for the 2006 audit. **Logan Clarke moved to approve payment of all bills.** Ed Marlowe seconded. All were in favor.

Peggy Wilson distributed copies of the audit for the year ending June 30, 2006, noting that the cost was significantly less than last year's. **Logan Clarke moved to accept the audit as written.** Susan Bement seconded. All were in favor.

Referrals

Linda reported that staff responded to three referrals which were determined to have no impact on the Gateway viewshed.

Peggy Wilson noted the construction of a gabion wall in Chester. The owners of the property were under the impression from Chester's Parks and Rec Director that no permits were needed. CRERPA staff is urging the town zoning officer to request a coastal site plan for the upland aspects of the project. DEP is looking into the need for a permit from the State.

Tidewater

Judy Preston presented her August and September timesheet and report.

Status of New Standards / Other Development Issues

Old Saybrook has officially passed the Gateway Standards.

Fed Vollono was not present to report on his progress to encourage Essex to get the standards on their agenda in the near future.

Torrance Downes has agreed to bring the Standards up in Old Lyme as a new face carrying no political baggage.

East Haddam reports that it is ready to pass the Standards when it goes to public hearing with other zoning changes but there has been no word on their progress in that regard.

Atty. Campbell Hudson called regarding the history of the Gateway Standards in Fenwick. It would seem that Fenwick was simply thought to be part of Old Saybrook in 1973 so was not listed as a separate entity. The Borough is nonetheless being encouraged to adopt the Standards.

Chester Appeal Status

Oral argument regarding the Barnick Property has been scheduled for December 12, 2006.

Other Development Issues

Linda reported that Bill Spicer of Spicer's Marina in Noank is coming to speak to the region's selectmen regarding repeal of the Ambro Amendment having to deal with dumping in Long Island Sound.

Other/New Business

Linda went over the member vacancies on the Gateway Commission. Chester and CRERPA each have only one designated member. East Haddam, Haddam, Lyme, and Old Saybrook all have members who do not participate on a regular basis. It is a continuing stress on the ability to achieve a quorum each month.

Logan Clarke moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:5pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Papp

The next meeting of the Gateway Commission is Thursday, October 26, 2006