

CONNECTICUT RIVER GATEWAY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 27, 2017

Present/Absent: [Excused absence (E); Unexcused absence (U)]

Chester:	Margaret (Peggy) Wilson , <i>Errol Horner</i>
Deep River:	<i>Nancy Fischbach (E)</i> , Kate Cotton
East Haddam:	Harvey Thomas , Crary Brownell
<i>Essex:</i>	Claire Matthew , Jerri MacMillian (Arr. 7:40p)
<i>Fenwick:</i>	<i>Fran Adams</i> , <i>Borough Warden</i>
<i>Haddam:</i>	Susan Bement , <i>Chip Frey (E)</i>
Lyme:	J. Melvin Woody , Emily Bjornberg
Old Lyme:	Peter Cable , <i>Suzanne Thompson (E)</i>
Old Saybrook:	<i>Madge Fish (E)</i> , <i>Belinda Ahern</i>
<i>Regional Rep:</i>	Raul Debrigard
DEEP:	Sue Jacobson
Staff:	J. H. Torrance Downes
Guests:	Whitey Wilson

Call to Order

Chairman **Woody** called the regular meeting of the Connecticut River Gateway Commission to order at RiverCOG offices located at 145 Dennison Road, Essex at 7:30 pm.

Approval of 3/23/17 Regular Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion by **Wilson**, seconded by **Bement**, the 3/23/17 regular meeting minutes were approved unanimously with **Thomas** and **Cable** abstaining.

Treasurers Report

Wilson reported that Patrick Gingras has left Essex Financial to establish his own company, Breton Point, and is under the umbrella of a large Wall Street firm, Zweig DiMenna. Financial Committee will meet with EF on Monday, May 1, 2017 and on Wednesday with Gingras in Madison. Committee will report to Commission at May meeting. Funds safe at EF.

Bills: **Wilson** reported that a bill is presented for payment for March staffing in the amount of \$2,834.25. Bill includes the time spent setting up and attending the CLCC workshop on March 18, 2017. Motion by **Bement**, seconded by **Bjornberg** to approve, passed unanimously.

Items of Interest Report

Goodspeed Airport Scenic Easement/Campbell Hudson.

The DEEP continues to look for easement language clarifications through Attorney Hudson. Although a letter has been sent by Downes indicating that Gateway is satisfied with the current easement in concept, as worded and as agreed to by representatives of East Haddam, the DEEP is seeking a letter which for the its record which is more clear regarding *which* document has been "approved" by Gateway. In telephone conversations with DEEP's Allyson Clarke, it was made clear that Gateway supports the document that they are currently reviewing. Downes' solution will be to find out exactly *how* Clarke wants such a letter worded, and word it that way.

Phragmites Eradication Partnership, Lords Cove, Lyme.

The project continues to move forward. The partnership, through Rich Snarski, is looking to apply for a "grant" from the DEEP. The funds that are being sought would come from penalty fees that have been accumulated through what's known as the SEP process. As an example, if a person who violated state environmental laws is responsible for paying a fine, that money would go into the SEP fund. In that the fund isn't commonly accessed, Snarski et al are in contact with DEEP officials to find out exactly *how* to access those funds. As for cutting, Dave Sagan of USF&WS has mowed approximately 117 acres, about a half of the

entire marsh area around Lords Cove. Snarks is working with Roger Wolfe of the DEEP to clarify what is necessary for the drafting of the management plan which will allow activities *beyond* those that have historically been conducting in that marsh. Several drone flyover videos were produced in the last two weeks and are available for viewing. Editing for posting on the Gateway website is ongoing. Viewed a minute of one of the aerial videos. **Bement** said that Rob Smith of the Haddam Land Trust is using a drone to do some of that organization's work.

Middlesex County Land Trust Annual Meeting. Invitations have been sent by MxLT to all Gateway members to attend the meeting this Saturday, April 29th. The meeting goes into the afternoon and includes hiking of some of the MxLT properties. If anyone is interested in the details, I'll forward the email I had sent previously. They *would* like to get a tally, so it'd be good to email David Brown and let him know if you will or won't attend. David Brown mltooffice@att.net

CT River Conservancy. The organization formerly known as the CT River Watershed Council is now known as the "Connecticut River Conservancy". The website address is www.ctriver.org

Currents and Eddies, Newsletter of the CT River Conservancy, Spring 2017. "Launching the Future of Your River".

CLCC Thank You. For sponsorship of the CLCC land trust workshops this past March. A thank you is also sent along for making a presentation.

Pollution Prevention View. Newsletter of the CT DEEP. Various articles of interest.

East Haddam Land Trust. Letter expressing thanks for the \$100 donation provided for the EHLT's annual calendar.

Check, \$24.60 for pro-rata share of the Net Settlement Fund in Pfizer, Inc. Securities Litigation

Regulation Review

Old Lyme, Aquifer Protection District Regulations. Members discussed the proposed regulations concerning aquifer protection. Cable offered that aquifer protection in Old Lyme is locally overseen. The proposed regulations provide more protection of subsurface aquifers through prohibiting additional uses beyond those included in the existing aquifer regulations, uses that could cause or contribute to subsurface water pollution. The regulations are also seen to be more fair in terms of the challenges aquifer protection causes to property owners. Members found that the proposed regulations and accompanying map were consistent with the Gateway mission of protection and therefore *approved* the petition pursuant to Section 25-102g CGS.

Staff Review of Variances

Essex, 175 Saybrook Road, Michael Picard. Downes informed the Commission that minor modifications were made to the site layout for this residential demolition and rebuild that previously reviewed in March. The dwelling width (facing South Cove) was shortened slightly, moving the southern edge away from the southerly property line. In addition, the detached garage on the north side was moved approximately 6 feet south away from the northerly property line. Not only are the modifications minor, a slight improvement in visual impact may be realized. Downes sent a letter stating as such to the ZBA. Members concurred.

Committee Reports

Land Committee **Wilson** reported that things are quiet as David Brown of MxLT has been preparing for that organization's Annual Meeting, scheduled for Saturday, April 29, 2017. **Bement** informed members that the Fitzgie property was acquired by USF&WS. Fitzgie is the property on the west (river) side of Injun Hollow Road in close proximity to the entrance of the CT Yankee site. The site, which has river frontage, would presumably allow waterborne access to the Brainerd Quarry Preserve site in the east side of Injun Hollow Road, also to be owned by USF&WS as a part of the Salmon River Preserve effort.

Outreach Committee

Downes reported that the Commission needed to make a decision on whether or not the annual boat trip would be conducted this year. The dates of June 1, 2017 and June 15, 2017 – the first and third Thursdays – were reserved with RiverQuest. Members chose to hold the trip on Thursday, June 15, 2017. Members briefly discussed whether to hold an event such as a Saturday workshop. **Thomas** suggested that such an endeavor should be discussed in the fall for consideration next June as there wasn't enough time to plan this for June of 2017. Members recalled a suggestion of **Thompson** to invite engineers, architects and real estate agents. As such the decision was made to invite P&Z and ZBA members, and representatives of the suggested groups so as to guide a different set of Gateway "constituents" this time around. The consensus was to follow this suggested path. Downes is to confirm the third Thursday of June with RiverQuest. Details regarding who will be responsible for refreshments will be discussed at the

May Gateway meeting.

Thomas asked about the issue of moving forward on the hiring of a public relations contractor to help Gateway with press releases and general promotion. Members were informed that details of that effort would be forthcoming at Gateway's May meeting.

Governance Committee

No report on standards. The standards process will move forward between now and the May Gateway meeting.

Old Business . None.

New Business. **Debrigard** spoke about Haddam's effort to draft an update to the town's Plan of Conservation & Development. He wondered if Gateway had been contacted, which Downes said it had, but through more general email notifications. Downes indicated that he had, on behalf of Gateway, recently reviewed the proposed East Haddam PoCD. **Debrigard** noted that the PoCD committee had brought up an issue saying that too *much* tree cover was becoming evident and that Gateway protections prevented tree removal which would allow for the enjoyment of river views. A short discussion of standards and how tree cutting is currently handled occurred. **Matthews** commented about tree removal that has occurred on South Cove in Essex and how that has changed the view of the South Cove shoreline from the river for the worse. She also noted that with trees removed, sound carries to a greater degree which carries the sound of boats, etc. further inland. Downes asked if he should contact the committee. **Debrigard** said that contact with Town Planner Liz Glidden might be warranted, which Downes agreed to do.

Adjournment. Upon motion by **Bement** and **Bjornberg**, the meeting adjourned at 8:40p.