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Chester
Deep River
East Haddam
Essex
Haddam
Lyme
Old Lyme
Old Saybrook

CONNECTICUT RIVER GATEWAY COMMISSION ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 22, 2026

Present: Chester: Misha Semënov-Leiva; **Deep River**: Jerry Roberts, John Cunningham (Alternate); **Essex:** Peter Fleischer, James Hiller (Alternate); **Haddam:** Mike Farina (Secretary); **Lyme:** Lisa Wadge; **Old Lyme:** Suzanne Thompson (Chair), Greg Futoma (Alternate); **Old Saybrook:** William Webb (Vice Chair), Ellen FitzGerald (Alternate); **RiverCOG North:** Raul de Brigard, Alan Ponanski (Alternate); **RiverCOG South**: Gail Reynolds; **CT DEEP:** Kathleen Perzanowski. **Ex Officio**: Melvin Woody.

Absent: Chester: Tom Brelsford (Alternate); **Fenwick:** Newt Brainard; **East Haddam:** Debbie Langdon, Philip Barlow (Alternate); **Haddam:** Erin Ortega (Treasurer and Alternate); **Lyme:** Ray Fusco (Alternate); **RiverCOG South**: Anne Redfield (Alternate)

Staff support present: Sarah Makowicki, RiverCOG Staff

1. Call to Order: Chair Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

2. Roll Call

3. Seating of Alternates: None

4. Approval of Agenda

A **motion** was made by G. Futoma, seconded by A. Ponanski, to **APPROVE** the agenda.

Voting in favor: M. Semënov-Leiva, J. Roberts, P. Fleischer, M. Farina, L. Wadge, S. Thompson, W. Webb, R. de Brigard, G. Reynolds, K. Perzanowski; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None. The motion passed, 10-0-0.

5. Public Comment: No public comments.

6. Approval of 2027 Meeting Dates

A **motion** was made by R. de Brigard, seconded by L. Wadge, to **APPROVE** the 2027 regular monthly meeting dates, the fourth Thursday of January through October and the first Thursday of December 2027, with Annual Meeting before the Regular Meeting.

Voting in favor: M. Semënov-Leiva, J. Roberts, P. Fleischer, M. Farina, L. Wadge, S. Thompson, W. Webb, R. de Brigard, G. Reynolds, K. Perzanowski; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None. The motion passed, 10-0-0.

7. Chairman's Report: Chair Thompson reviewed the past year's activities, including the accomplishments of the committees. Chair Thompson also acknowledged the new Commissioners and thanked everyone for their hard work and expressed appreciation for their accomplishments. Commissioners were encouraged to actively serve on at least one committee and participate in regular meetings, with a particular emphasis on needing more members for the Finance Committee.

8. Officer Elections

The Temporary Chair Greg Futoma explained that nominations would be made from the floor, that no

second is required for a nomination, and that each nominee must be willing to serve. Offices were filled in this order: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer.

Chairman

- Nominations opened; Suzanne Thompson nominated by A. Ponanski. She was the only nominee.
- Nominee accepted the nomination.
- Nominations called for twice more; none received.
- Motion to close nominations by J. Roberts, seconded by J. Hiller. Carried.
- Motion to elect Suzanne Thompson by acclamation by A. Ponanski, seconded by R. de Brigard. Carried.

- **Result: Suzanne Thompson elected Chairman by acclamation.**

Vice Chairman

- Nominations opened; William Webb nominated by L. Wadge; W. Webb declined the nomination. James Hiller nominated by W. Webb.
- Nominee accepted the nomination.
- Nominations called for twice more; none received.
- Motion to close nominations by W. Webb, seconded by R. de Brigard. Carried.
- Motion to elect James Hiller by acclamation by J. Roberts, seconded by A. Ponanski. Carried.
- **Result: James Hiller elected Vice Chairman by acclamation.**

Secretary

- Nominations opened; Mike Farina nominated by W. Webb. He was the only nominee.
- Nominee accepted the nomination.
- Nominations called for twice more; none received.
- Motion to close nominations by W. Webb, seconded by A. Ponanski. Carried.
- Motion to elect Mike Farina by acclamation by S. Thompson, seconded by L. Wadge. Carried.
- **Result: Mike Farina elected Secretary by acclamation.**

Treasurer

- Nominations opened; Raul de Brigard nominated by W. Webb. He was the only nominee.
- Nominee accepted the nomination.
- Nominations called for twice more; none received.
- Motion to close nominations by W. Webb, seconded by J. Roberts. Carried.
- Motion to elect Raul de Brigard by acclamation by J. Roberts, seconded by W. Webb. Carried.
- **Result: Raul de Brigard elected Treasurer by acclamation.**

9. Conflict of Interest (COI) Statements: Chair Thompson asked Commissioners to give their statements to Ms. Makowicki.

10. Adjournment

A **motion** was made by J. Hiller, seconded by L. Wadge, to **Adjourn**.

Voting in favor: M. Semënov-Leiva, J. Roberts, P. Fleischer, M. Farina, L. Wadge, S. Thompson, W. Webb, R. de Brigard, G. Reynolds, K. Perzanowski; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None. The motion passed, 10-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Makowicki, CRGC Staff

The next regular meeting of the Gateway Commission is scheduled for

Thursday, December 3, 2026 at 7pm