



CT River Gateway Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
Meeting Tuesday, July 30, 2024, 6:00 PM
via Zoom

Present: Chester: Misha Semënov-Leiva (arrived at 6:32pm); Tom Brelsford (Alternate – Seated); **Deep River:** Jerry Roberts; **East Haddam:** Debbie Langdon (Alternate – Seated arrived at 6:36pm); **Haddam:** Erin Ortega (Alternate - seated); **Old Lyme:** Suzanne Thompson (Chair), Greg Futoma (Alternate); **Old Saybrook:** William Webb (Vice Chair), Diane Stober (Treasurer); **RiverCOG North:** Raul de Brigard, Alan Ponanski (Alternate); **RiverCOG South:** Dr. Clayton Penniman; **CT DEEP:** Kathleen Perzanowski; **Ex Officio:** Melvin Woody

Absent: Essex: Peter Fleischer, Jim Hiller (Alternate); **East Haddam:** Crary Brownell, Debbie Langdon; **Haddam:** Mike Farina (Secretary); **Fenwick:** Newt Brainard; **Lyme:** Susan Fox

Staff support present: Susie Beckman (RiverCOG)

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:09 PM.
2. **Roll Call:** S. Beckman did a roll call.
3. **Seating of Alternates:** Alternates were seated during roll call. A quorum was present.
4. **Approval of the Agenda**
Chair noted that the agenda cannot be changed because this is a special meeting and called for a vote to approve the published agenda as is. The agenda was unanimously approved.

Voting in favor: Tom Brelsford (Alternate – Seated); **Deep River:** Jerry Roberts; **Haddam:** Erin Ortega (Alternate - seated); **Old Lyme:** Suzanne Thompson (Chair); **Old Saybrook:** William Webb (Vice Chair); **RiverCOG North:** Raul de Brigard; **RiverCOG South:** Dr. Clayton Penniman; **CT DEEP:** Kathleen Perzanowski; **Opposed:** 0; **Abstaining:** 0. The motion **passed** unanimously, 8-0-0.

5. **New Business** – Executive Session – Discuss ZBA Decisions and Potential Litigation
A motion was made by C. Penniman and seconded by A. Ponanski to enter Executive Session.

Voting in favor: Tom Brelsford (Alternate – Seated); **Deep River:** Jerry Roberts; **Haddam:** Erin Ortega (Alternate - seated); **Old Lyme:** Suzanne Thompson (Chair); **Old Saybrook:** William Webb (Vice Chair); **RiverCOG North:** Raul de Brigard; **RiverCOG South:** Dr. Clayton Penniman; **CT DEEP:** Kathleen Perzanowski; **Opposed:** 0; **Abstaining:** 0. The motion **passed** unanimously, 8-0-0.

CRGC entered Executive Session at 6:12pm.
CRGC exited Executive Session at 7:04pm

6. **Possible Vote of Decisions on Appealing ZBA Variances:**

A Ponanski moved to vote to appeal Old Saybrook ZBA decision regarding 201 North Cove Rd, Old Saybrook and to authorize Attorney Matt Willis to prepare the documents. J Roberts seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

Voting in favor: Tom Brelsford (Alternate – Seated); **Deep River:** Jerry Roberts; **East Haddam:** Debbie Langdon (Alternate -seated for Crary Brownell); **Haddam:** Erin Ortega (Alternate - seated); **Old Lyme:** Suzanne Thompson (Chair); **Old Saybrook:** William Webb (Vice Chair); **RiverCOG North:** Raul de Brigard; **RiverCOG South:** Dr. Clayton Penniman; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** CT **DEEP:** Kathleen Perzanowski. The motion **passed**, 8-1-0.

B Webb moved that the Commission send another letter to the Old Saybrook ZBA restating its opposition to the 55 Sheffield application for a new pavilion subject to advice by attorney Matt Willis. R deBrigard seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

Voting in favor: Tom Brelsford (Alternate – Seated); **Deep River:** Jerry Roberts; **East Haddam:** Debbie Langdon (Alternate -seated for Crary Brownell); **Haddam:** Erin Ortega (Alternate - seated); **Old Lyme:** Suzanne Thompson (Chair); **Old Saybrook:** William Webb (Vice Chair); **RiverCOG North:** Raul de Brigard; **RiverCOG South:** Dr. Clayton Penniman; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** CT **DEEP:** Kathleen Perzanowski. The motion **passed**, 8-1-0.

7. **Adjournment:**

B Webb moved to adjourn the meeting. T Brelsford seconded the motion.

Voting in favor: Tom Brelsford (Alternate – Seated); **Deep River:** Jerry Roberts; **East Haddam:** Debbie Langdon (Alternate -seated for Crary Brownell); **Haddam:** Erin Ortega (Alternate - seated); **Old Lyme:** Suzanne Thompson (Chair); **Old Saybrook:** William Webb (Vice Chair); **RiverCOG North:** Raul de Brigard; **RiverCOG South:** Dr. Clayton Penniman; **CT DEEP:** Kathleen Perzanowski; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None. The motion **passed**, 9-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susie Beckman, Regional Planner, RiverCOG
Staff to CRGC

The next regular meeting of the Gateway Commission is scheduled for Thursday, August 22, 2024, at 7:00 PM.

Minutes are posted in compliance with Connecticut’s Freedom of Information Act. Please note that edits may be made to these minutes prior to their acceptance by the Commission at its next meeting. Any changes will be included within the next meeting’s minutes.