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CONNECTICUT RIVER GATEWAY COMMISSION
Community Relations and Public Outreach
Committee MINUTES
DATE: July 20, 2023

- 1) Call to Order – Chair called the meeting to order at 4:34 pm
- 2) Roll Call: Greg Futoma, Chair; Michael Farina, Debbie Langdon, Kathleen Perzanowski, Judy Preston; Jerry Roberts, Suzanne Thompson, Melvin Woody, Susie Beckman, staff
- 3) Communications/Marketing Budget
 - a) The recommended communications budget for FY 23-24 was discussed in terms of possible future activity and website maintenance/development. Cloud storage of web files and other information was discussed, without a decision being made. A contract will be drafted to outline the duties of and payment to Hannah Stella as a marketing assistant. Payment of Ms. Stella's initial invoice was recommended by the chair.
- 4) August 3rd 50th Anniversary Reception
 - a) Planning for a 50th anniversary reception on the grounds of the Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center (CT Audubon) in Old Lyme on August 3, 2023 was discussed. A possible invitation list was considered. A representative of The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection will speak and present a proclamation.
- 5) Marketing Program Planning
 - a) A request for the Commission to participate in the Eightmile RiverFest 2023 this October was received. Members were in favor of staffing a booth at the event, and the Chair will communicate with the event organizers.
 - b) Various future marketing initiatives were discussed, including specific outreach to realtors, motor boaters and marinas, kayak clubs and developers.

MOTION: to adjourn the meeting at 5:29 pm. Motion made by: G. Futoma. Seconded by J. Preston. In Favor: All. Opposed: None. Abstained: None. Motion passed: 8-0-0.