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**CONNECTICUT RIVER GATEWAY COMMISSION**  
**Community Relations and Public Outreach**  
**Committee MINUTES**  
DATE: May 24, 2023

- 1) Call to Order – Chair Called the meeting to order at 4:08 pm
- 2) Roll Call: Greg Futoma, Chair; Suzanne Thompson; Judy Preston; Debbie Langdon; Hannah Stella, guest.
- 3) Communications/Marketing Assistance
  - a) Hannah Stella, of Stella Design & Marketing, introduced herself to the committee. Her firm can offer marketing assistance to the Gateway Commission. Members discussed her experience and thoughts on offering “fresh eyes” to communicate the Commission’s mission and goals. Judy Preston suggested that a description of the assistant’s duties and responsibilities be created and volunteered to draft the same.

**MOTION: to recommend to the full Gateway Commission that a marketing assistant be hired to continue the groundwork established by the Commission’s marketing initiative which is ending. Motion made by: J Preston. Seconded by: D. Langdon. In Favor: All. Opposed: None. Abstain: None. Motion passed: 4-0-0.**

- 4) Planning for CLCC Presentation of Gateway Commission Award
  - a) G Futoma has reached out to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection regarding scheduling the award presentation at Gillette’s Castle State Park. If that venue is unavailable, other locations were discussed. In addition, S. Thompson noted that the Commission will organize a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary reception on the grounds of the Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center (CT Audubon) in Old Lyme on August 3, 2023.
- 5) Sponsorship Requests
  - a) A preliminary discussion centered on evaluating requests that the Commission sponsor and financially support events within the conservation zone or organized by Commission partners. J Preston suggested that the Commission may wish to set a limit to how many consecutive years a particular event should be supported. Discussion to continue.

**MOTION: to adjourn the meeting at 5:38pm. Motion made by: J. Preston. Seconded by D. Langdon In Favor: All. Opposed: None. Abstained: None. Motion passed: 4-0-0.**