

CONNECTICUT RIVER GATEWAY COMMISSION

Rules of Procedure Committee Meeting Minutes

July 28, 2021

Attendance: Bill Webb (Chairman), Jenny Kitsen, Raul DeBrigard, David Blatt, J H Torrance Downes, Tony Bolduc (Chair, Deep River P&Z), John Guskowski (Zoning Official, Deep River)

Call to Order

This meeting was convened using the Zoom online platform at 5:00pm. The agenda was formally posted in all eight Gateway member towns and on the CT River Gateway Commission website with information directing interested members of the public to join the meeting online.

The meeting was called to discuss a request from the Town of Deep River to have the Gateway Commission consider removing several industrially-zone properties along the Deep River/Essex border from within the Gateway Conservation Zone as the properties are blocked from view from the river by a 200 foot elevation ridgeline.

Chairman Bolduc and Zoning Official Guskowski explained the reason for the request. The properties, they feel, shouldn't be under the authority of the Gateway Commission as development on those properties cannot be seen from the river or any of its tributaries. Although no development applications are under review at this time, it has been reported in the past that potential applicants were discouraged with the requirements of the Gateway Commission (as adopted into the local zoning regulations) as they apply to development on those properties, which, for economic development reasons, are important to the Town of Deep River.

The committee, in an attempt to determine what kind of relief might be warranted, asked the Deep River representatives to develop a proposal that the committee could review and address. It seemed that the standard that was of most concern was the 35-foot height maximum required within the Gateway Conservation Zone.

The committee requested that staff draft a memorandum that would explain how the Gateway Commission reviews and processes applications for properties in the Conservation Zone and provide that to the Deep River representatives.

At such time that a proposal from Deep River was presented, the committee would reconvene to consider the request.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 5:40pm by Debrigard, which was seconded by Kitsen. The motion passed unanimously.