

Housatonic River Estuary Commission (HREC)

Representing the towns of Shelton, Milford, Orange, Stratford, Derby, and Ansonia, CT.

HREC Minutes

Regular meeting of the Housatonic River Estuary Commission

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

6:30 pm at the Parson's Complex in Milford, Connecticut

1. Call to Order/Pledge Allegiance

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Gesullo at 6:37 PM.

The members present were:

Bob Gesullo, Chairman - Shelton

Lori Romick, Vice-Chairman - Milford

Scott Corner, Commissioner-At-Large - Stratford

Bill Rohland – Derby

2. Public Portion (15minute limit per guest)

No one from the public spoke.

3. Approval of the January 24, 2012 Minutes

A motion was made by Bill Rohland to approve the November minutes with changes as suggested by Lori Romick. The motion was seconded by Scott Corner. All were in favor.

4. Finance Report

Bob Gesullo had no changes to report. Lori was not sure if Milford was going to continue to fund the commission as there are funds in the account.

5. Website

Bill Rohland reported that the website has been updated and includes the river clean-up announcement.

6. Commissioner's Remarks

Lori Romick

- A review of the HREC letter to DEEP regarding concerns with the Recycling Inc application for expansion and potential future use of barges in the River.
- Sacred heart Environmental Graduate program Advisory meeting was well worth attending. A tour of the lab facilities was provided with a reception with the graduate students and faculty followed by an advisory board meeting discussing the program and future plans.

Bill Rock (via e-mail)

- **Dredging...** We met at DEEP headquarters in Hartford along with members of the ACOE and DOT regarding the next steps in the Dredging the lower Housatonic. The results of the test from the ACOE from the Disposal site were reviewed. Right now we are finalizing total dredge material amounts and funding. The next step is for the ACOE to apply for a dredge permit from the DEEP. We have recently made great strides in getting to this point in the process.
- **"No wake" zone in front of Knapp's dock...** The DEEP has approved the placement of speed buoys in the area in front of the dock. The Stratford Harbormaster is assisting the owners in possibly locating buoys at no or little charge.
- **68 foot dock...** There will be a public hearing on the proposal by Mr. King for the construction of the dock just to the west of Stratford Point, directly on L.I. Sound, Light on Thursday.
- **NSB Week...** We are gearing up to observe National Safe Boating Week in cooperation with SPD , SFD and Stratford Harbormaster and USCG AUX 24-02.
- **River Clean up...** Below are some pictures , taken Monday, of the debris left in the marsh in front of my house as a result of Tropical Storm Irene. Prior to this storm this was completely clear. Hopefully the clean-up effort will at least make a dent in this. (Photos were attached in the e-mail.)

Scott Corner

River Cleanup

- Scott updated the Commission on the plans for the river clean-up.
- The Commission agreed to make the same \$500.00 annual donation for supplies. Bob will call the Town of Shelton to have the check made out to the "Housatonic River Clean-up" and sent to 1245 Stratford Avenue, Stratford, CT.
- Scott and Lori discussed the locations for the dumpster at either Caswell Cove or Village marina.
- Caswell Cove is steep and not easy to move debris up without a payload. The Town will not be able to have a payload on site during the clean-up but will send one down on Monday to remove any large debris that could not be put into the dumpster. Village marina offered to have a dumpster

put there but Scott was concerned there was no easy shore or dock access there either without a payload.

- Lori agreed to reinvestigate the sites and make a final decision.
- Scott discussed the increase in volunteers to date. Lori noted that she forwarded the information to the Milford Boy Scouts and Sea Scouts.

Bob Gesullo - Shelton

- Bob spoke to Mayor Zeoli requesting a replacement for Jason representing orange.

Bill Rohland – Derby

- No news to report

7. New Business

There is no new business.

8. Old business

The group discussed the Sacred Heart students study and the need for a parking spot in Shelton at a marina with a ramp for their aluminum boat. Lori will contact Ned Ayers and ask for a spot. The group also agreed to purchase some equipment the students may need including looking into a used 10 horse motor for their boat.

9. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn was made by Bill Rohland and seconded by Lori Romick at 8:00 PM.

All were in favor.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday May 22 at the Community Center in Shelton at 6:30 PM

The Commission then went into an Executive Session until 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Romick, Vice-chair, Milford Representative

Bob Gesullo, Chair (Shelton) bobge@sbcglobal.net , Lori Romick, Vice Chair (Milford) lromick@optonline.net, William Rock (Stratford), William Rohland (Derby), William Urban (Ansonia), Scott Corner (Member-at-large) , Vacant (Orange),