

HOUSATONIC RIVER ESTUARY COMMISSION (HREC)

Regular meeting of the Housatonic River Estuary Commission Tuesday March 29, 2011 meeting 6:30 pm at Flotilla 24-2 CGAUX Base Stratford Ct.

1) Call to order/Pledge Allegiance

A. Chairman Gesullo called the meeting to order at 6:37pm.

B. Attendance:

Bob Gesullo, Chairman Shelton

Lori Romick, Vice-Chairman Milford

Scott Corner, Commissioner-At-Large, Stratford

Bill Rohland, Commissioner Derby

Jason Blake, Commissioner Orange

Bill Rock, Commissioner Stratford

Scott Corner, Commissioner-At-Large Stratford

2) Public portion / guest (15min limit)

No one from the public was present.

3) Motion to approve or make correction to the minutes form the Nov 23 and Jan 26 meeting

Motion to approve the November 23, 2010 and the January 2011 minutes as written was made by Bill Rohland. The motion was seconded by Lori Romick. All were in favor.

4) Finance report (Jason Blake) discussion of the 2011 budget (attached)

Jason Blake reported that the account balance is \$5,465.00.

The clerk's expenses were discussed.

Web page report Bill

The last two submissions that Bob Gesullo asked to be put on the web page have been put on the web page.

The minutes will be changed to PDF and posted on the web site now that they are approved.

5) Commissioner's remarks, meeting and or outreach effort from each town.

Street Sweeping Brochure

Lori Romick: A street sweeping brochure will be E-mailed out to the local mayors and first selectmen reminding them to reclaim the sand so that it will not end up in culverts and eventually in the Housatonic River and Long Island Sound. The unclaimed sand contributes to the sedimentation in the waterways.

Jason Blake suggested that this brochure also be sent to the respective towns' public works departments.

There was discussion about how much the street sand actually contributed to sedimentation.

All were in favor of sending the brochure.

Snow Being Dumped into Waterways

Bill Rock sent out a letter on behalf of the Stratford Waterfront and Harbor Management Commission, of which he is chair, to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) about snow being dumped

HOUSATONIC RIVER ESTUARY COMMISSION (HREC)

Into waterways. It was pointed out in the letter that this practice was not part of the BEST practices that the State should be using.

There was discussion on whether HREC wants to send recommendations about this to the DEP for next year in case we get heavy snow again.

Notice of Special Meetings

The Town of Milford would like proper notice of any special meetings (at least 24 hours before the meeting is to take place).

Long Island Sound Assembly Report

The Long Island Sound Assembly Report is available

Lead Remediation at Stratford Point

Bill Rock spoke with a representative from Sporting Goods Properties a subsidiary of the DuPont Corporation and informed them that they must appear before the SWHMC in order to discuss the lead remediation issue at their Stratford Point (Lordship) property, formally known as Remington Arms Gun Club.

Study Project

A letter was sent to Connecticut Audubon and copied to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service concerning the Sacred Heart Debris Study Project based at Stratford Point.

Stratford “No Wake Zone”

Bill Rock reported that the subcommittee set up to look into the possible “No Wake Zone” has discussed that the recommendations from the DEP would be the best course of action. If approved, it will be recommended that Knapps fuel dock post a “No Wake Zone” on the water indicating the no wake area near the dock at their cost. HREC doesn’t wish to pay any monies towards this. The Stratford WHMC will offer assistance with the paperwork involved in this process. This issue will be decided at the next meeting of the commission in about two weeks.

6) New Business: River Cleanup day, HVA River Celebration

Sacred Heart

There was a meeting between HREC and Sacred Heart University for the purpose of discussing working together on the study of debris in the Housatonic River and possible future projects. HREC doesn’t wish to be an income source for Sacred Heart but is willing to help out in other ways such as information, the use of a boat, and possibly some needed research items such as a GPS or binoculars. Helping to fund a summer research technician(s) was also discussed. Sacred Heart would like to start the project soon.

Graduate interns could possibly be made available for other river related projects. Lori Romick is to be the liaison between Sacred Heart University and the Housatonic River Estuary Commission.

Log Jam

O & G is removing a log jam that is located above the Moses Wheeler Bridge, near the Boardwalk Marina.

River Clean up

The river cleanup is May 7, 2011. There will be only two places to drop off the refuse: Sunnyside and the Coast Guard Station. They are working this problem. There was discussion about the possibility of acquiring another landing craft or a barge for the cleanup.

Information about the cleanup can be found on the town/city web sites and HREC’s web site.

HOUSATONIC RIVER ESTUARY COMMISSION (HREC)

The donations are ok for this year as far as the number of donations but the amount of some of the donations is down from last year.

Forty new, reusable signs have been ordered for the event. Not all of the signs came back from last year. All the signs need to come back to Scott this year. All buckets also need to be returned.

A motion was made by Bill Rohland to give \$500.00 to the river cleanup. The motion was seconded by Jason Blake. All were in favor. Scott will find out if they would rather have a check or gift cards from a hardware store.

Town Funding

There was some discussion about the types of programs that HREC should be spending money on. There was also discussion about which towns/cities had funded or were going to give money to HREC. Bob Gesullo will meet with town/city leadership to discuss funding.

Housatonic Valley Association River Celebration

There will be a canoe/kayak trip starting in Massachusetts and ending ten days later at Short Beach in Stratford, Connecticut. There will be a celebration in Stratford on May 12, 2011. It was unclear whether the celebration was to take place at Short Beach or at the Coast Guard Station. Permit has been filled by HVA with the Coast Guard. Bob Gesullo will clarify with HVA as to what is actually being planned.

Proposed State Boat Tax

There was discussion about the proposed State boat tax. How the State may intend to implement the tax and how it could affect people and businesses were part of the discussion.

7) Old business

No old business was discussed.

8) Discussion on HREC next meeting place

The next meeting will be on May 31, 2011 in Milford, Connecticut. It will be held Milford City Hall in the upstairs conference room, room B.

9) Adjournment

Bill Rohland made a motion to adjourn at 7:45pm. Lori Romick seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Anglace, HREC Clerk