

Housatonic River Estuary Commission (HREC)

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

DRAFT – HREC Minutes (4/30/15)

Regular meeting of the Housatonic River Estuary Commission (HREC)

Tuesday, April 28, 2015 - 6:30 PM , Community Center, Shelton, CT

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Bob Gesullo at 1830 hours.

Members present:

Scott Corner – Member-at-Large

Eric Tashlein – Orange

William Rohland - Derby

Lori Romick, Vice Chair - Milford

2. No one from the public was present.
3. Minutes from all previous meetings were approved unanimously.
4. Finance report - Website bill will be due in a few months. It was decided to cancel the website account before the renewal. The account balance is approximately \$5,000.00.
5. Website update –
Scott reported that Stratford had set up their own version of our website but no members could remember receiving any information from the Town of Stratford about it. Bill Rohland requested that Scott request the Town take it down.
6. Town outreach –
Milford – Lori reported that she has joined the CT Audubon Milford Coastal Point Center Board. Notifications went to all six towns regarding a municipal training seminar of illegal dumping.

Stratford – Scott reported that the Stratford River cleanup was held and about 150 people in Shelton and 200 in Stratford showed up. There was a lot of big debris due to the amount of ice damage over the winter.

Stratford has a new rescue boat and Shelton purchased the old one.

Signs need to be replaced at Wooster Island.

Orange – Eric had nothing new to report.

Shelton - Bob had nothing new to report.

Derby – Bill had nothing new to report.

7. New Business- Decision continued on the thoughts of the commissioners on continuing to participate. Bob suggested utilizing social media such as Facebook to advertise the group. Bill discussed the substantial costs involved and the time management to keep the sites updated.

Lori reported that she will be resigning from the Commission.

Eric also stated that he would be resigning.

Bob discussed the reasons to keep the commission going vs. disbanding the group.

Bill discussed action on the river or lack thereof.

Discussion continued on deciding to disband or resign from the commission.

The account balance and fate of the funds was discussed whether the funds would be returned to each respective contributing town based on the percent paid in or if Shelton would continue hold the funds if the Commission remained but without participating members? The Commission was established by State Statute. The town leaders may want to appoint new commissioners.

Bill moved to vote on each commissioner's decision to stay or resign. The motion was seconded by Lori. It was unanimous that all commissioners decided to resign.

Bob requested that a letter be drafted to each Town Mayor/First Selectman and that a six town summary letter be drafted from Bob as Chair. The summary letter will note the accomplishments since 2007.

The group discussed a letter from CT Audubon Coastal Center at Milford Point requesting a donation to be used to purchase equipment for sampling and laboratory studies by students during the Summer Camp sessions. Since no funds were donated to the River Clean-up this year and Milford had been a strong supporter of the commission since its inception, all commissioners agreed that it would be a good use of funds to go back to Milford for use educating the future stewards of the river and Long Island Sound. Bill moved to offer \$2,000.00 which was seconded by Scott. All were in favor, unanimous. Bob agreed to have a check sent.

The group further discussed the timing of resignations and it was agreed that the end of the fiscal year, on June 30, would be best for all. The website will be cancelled before the June renewal date.

Bob thanked the commissioners for all of their efforts.

A motion was made to adjourn by Bill and seconded by Lori. Meeting adjourned at 1940 hours.

Respectfully submitted: Lori Romick, Vice Chair – 4/30/15

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Eric Tashlein, Orange

William Rohland, Derby

Scott Corner, Member-at-Large

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Vacant, Ansonia,