

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, May 28, 2013

6:30 PM, Stratford Town Hall, Stratford, 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

Bill Rock - Stratford

Scott Corner – Member-at-Large

Bill Rohland - Derby

2. Public Portion (15 minute limit per guest)

No one from the public spoke.

3. Approval of the March 26, 2013 Minutes amended with Bill Rock's additions.

A motion was made by Bill Rock to approve the January minutes as presented and the motion was seconded by Bill Rohland. All were in favor.

4. Finance Report

Bob Gesullo reported that there was approximately \$5,000.00 in the account. He gave Bill Rohland a check for \$58.00 for the website posting. Bill Rohland will recheck the amount for accuracy.

5. Website

Bill Rohland agreed to update the website removing old information and adding in the river clean-up summary and the Sacred Heart University Stratford Point Study report.

6. River Clean-up Discussion

Scott reported there was 30 tons of debris collected in Stratford with 220 people volunteering.

There was two 30-yard dumpsters filled in Shelton with 168 people volunteering. This was a record number

for Shelton. Bob offered to organize the clean-up for Shelton clean up next year. Milford did not report the amounts collected in the two dumpsters supplied. Milford also did not pay for the two dumpsters as previously agreed. The Caswell Cove dumpster was only half full. Latella agreed to donate the cost of one of the dumpsters. The group further discussed the organization of the river clean-up and the donation for next year and the need for a viable organization to send the money.

7. Membership replacements

Bob has not heard back from Orange or Ansonia for member replacements. Bill Rohland requested that Bob contact Mayor Staffieri of Derby to officially swear him in as the appointed member. Scott stated that Eric Tashlein from Orange was still interested.

8. Commissioner's Reports

Bob Gesullo - Shelton

Bob had nothing to report from Shelton.

Bill Rohland – Derby

Bill had nothing to report for Derby.

Bill Rock - Stratford

Bill contacted the Bridgeport Regional Aquaculture School Principal, John Curtis, to request student assistance to continue with the river debris study. He is currently corresponding with one of the teachers there to work on the project. Bill recapped the dock replacement plan at \$300,000 for the damage incurred from Storm Sandy including floating docks and Bond's Dock and that this did not include the CGA dock/catwalk. The CGA dock would be covered under FEMA and the permit process was underway. The CT DEEP approved the maintenance dredging application for Brewer's Marina. (Note: All members except Bill Urban received the DEEP permit via e-mail to review and comment). Bill is still trying to get more maintenance dredging for the Housatonic as the recent dredging project did not adequately remove enough from all areas and the river has filled in significantly in certain areas. Bill also recapped the previous dredging project.

Scott Corner – Member-At-Large

Scott discussed the River Clean-up summary and plans for next year.

Lori Romick – Milford

Sacred Heart will no longer be conducting any work on the debris study and has no report to provide to the group. The Sacred Heart Study at Stratford Point has been completed and was provided to the members for review. Milford has a newly formed Wepawaug River Watershed Alliance.

9. New Business -

Ayers' landing in Shelton is tentatively approved to install a travel lift and riprap stream bank stabilization.

The "no wake" signs are missing from south and north end of Nell's Island and another sign at the north end of the island is falling into the water. Stratford now has overnight moorings that may be utilized by hunters in the winter.

10. Old Business – Discussion continued regarding the patrolling of Wooster Island by DEEP EnCon for summer 2013. DEEP did have a vessel in that area during 2012. Some of the members felt that EnCon should be more conspicuous.

11. Next meeting – Tuesday, July 30, 2012 at 6:30 was voted to be cancelled due to vacations.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be in Milford on Tuesday September 24, 2013 at 6:30 in conference room B on the 2nd floor.

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Bill Rock and seconded by Bill Rohland at 7:37 PM (1937 hours).

All were in favor.

*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)