

**Minutes for the
Regular meeting of the Housatonic River Estuary Commission
Tuesday, September 27, 2011
6:30 pm at the Shelton Community Center**

1) Call to order/Pledge Allegiance

A. Chairman Gesullo called the meeting to order at 6:36PM.

B. Attendance:

Bob Gesullo, Chairman Shelton
Lori Romick, Vice-Chairman Milford
Scott Corner, Commissioner-At-Large, Stratford
Bill Rohland, Commissioner Derby

2) Public portion / guest (15min limit)

No one from the public was present.

3) Approval of May Minutes

A motion to approve the May minutes as written was made by Bill Rohland and seconded by Lori Romick. All were in favor.

4) Finance report (Jason Blake)

No report.

Clerk to get copy of end-of-month report for chairman.

5) Web page report Bill Rohland

There have been more hits on the web site.

6) Commissioner's remarks, meeting and or out reach effort from each town.

Scott Corner

There will be a meeting in October to discuss next year's clean-up. Fairfield University and Sacred Heart University would like to be involved in next year's clean-up.

There was discussion about what could be done in order to get the towns along the Housatonic River to get people that live along the river to store firewood above the flood area or at least to move it before storms.

The river dredging project is moving forward. There needs to be some resurveying done because there has been some shifting of the sand in the river as a result of the heavy runoffs from storms and high winds from Irene. The Army Corps is to drop the dredged sand at Long Beach in front of the cottages.

Bob Gesullo

Bob Gesullo would like the commission to consider an election for the HREC Commissioner spot for next year.

Bill Rohland

It may be possible to get the Army Reserve National Guard to help with the river clean-up in order to provide needed equipment. The Milford Sea Scouts could also be contacted for help.

There is a “no wake” buoy in the wrong place as a result of the storm. Scott Corner will make sure that it is moved back to where it belongs.

With the Milford boat ramp shut down and the great weather this summer the Stratford boat ramp has been busy. They have sold the most boat ramp stickers this year than ever before.

Lori Romick

There will be a new mayor in a couple of months.

Sacred Heart would like to set up a boat trip so that they can get the GIS Topography Study started. Bill Rohland will be able to take the people from Sacred Heart up the river on Tuesday, October 4th at 2:00PM. HREC would like a video of the trip.

The Sacred Heart study will be a comprehensive debris study of the Housatonic River. It will map hot spots for debris. It will include current mapping. The GIS mapping will be done over the winter. The field work will start in the spring.

7) New Business

Clean-up E-mail

An E-mail was forwarded to Bob Gesullo concerning having another river clean-up. The E-mail was sent by Stratford resident Donna Rae Caporaso. The idea was discussed but was found to be not physically feasible to conduct another river clean-up at this time. Bob Gesullo will write a letter in response. The end-of-year report is due in November.

Wooster Island

There exists a speed problem in Shelton near Wooster Island. Wooster Island has become a popular destination. The Coast Guard and the Stratford Boat have been responding to calls in this area. The Shelton Fire Department has responded to accidents in this area. There isn't any Shelton Police presence on the water.

Bob Gesullo will meet with Shelton town officials in order to make them aware of the situation and to try and work out a possible solution. The Coast Guard will provide free training for the Shelton Police officers if town officials decide to get a police boat.

The State DEEP needs to be notified about the lack of signage near Wooster Island. The signs that were there are either gone or so badly damaged that they are illegible. A letter will be sent (similar to the Stratford letter) to notify them of this situation

End-of-Year Report

Lori Romick will draft the report for the next meeting. The next meeting will be held either in person or via E-mail.

8) Old business

9) Discussion on HREC next meeting place

The next meeting is scheduled for November 29, 2011 at the Milford Parsons Building in Milford, Connecticut.

10) Adjournment

At 7:29PM Bill Rohland made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Scott Corner seconded the motion. All were in favor.

