



**HOUSATONIC RIVER ESTUARY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, September 28, 2010
Craft Room 3
Shelton Community Center
Shelton, CT 06484**

REVISED

1. CALL OF THE MEETING/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Gesullo called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M.
All in attendance pledged allegiance to the flag.

ATTENDANCE

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

2. Public Portion or Guests

None

3. APPROVAL OF THE May 24, 2010 MEETING MINUTES

Vice-Chairman Romick noted that she made one change to the minutes regarding adding Commissioner Rock's safe boating press conference. Commissioner Rohland MOVED to accept the minutes from the May 24, 2010 meeting. Commissioner Rock SECONDED the motion. All were in favor, MOTION PASSED.

4. Finance Report

Chairman Gesullo checked our balance. As of today is \$4,564.63. Shelton's contribution is included in that total.

Vice-Chairman Romick said she was sent a budget report that showed the Milford contribution was transferred.

Commissioner Blake reported that Orange would be sending the \$1000 contribution.

Vice-Chairman Romick said that for the next fiscal year she would only be requesting half the amount and Commissioner Gesullo is considering dropping it. We will leave this as an action item for the next meeting for discussion.

5. Election for HREC Finance Officer

Chairman Gesullo said he put this on the agenda because he was not sure that Commissioner Blake would be continuing on the Commission. He asked him if he would like to remain as the Finance Officer and Commissioner Blake said yes, unless someone else would like the position.

All agreed they would like to have Commissioner Blake remain as the Finance Officer.

6. Web Page Report – Bill Rohland

Commissioner Rohland said it is currently up to date. The river comments have been added.

Vice-Chairman Romick reported that she has not received any emails but we are getting hits.

Commissioner Rohland has received his reimbursement for renewing the domain and the additions we agreed upon.

The Commissioners talked about photos on the website and we will add more river cleanup pictures for next year.

7. Commissioner's Remarks

Commissioner Corner commented that they are going to have a meeting next month regarding the next river cleanup.

Vice-Chairman Romick talked about after the last cleanup DEP wanted us to save some of the barrels for them to inspect them. We called them 3 times and they never got down there to look at them. Commissioner Rohland said we still have them.

Commissioner Corner commented on the big problem with downed trees along the river banks that eventually end up in the river and pose a hazard to navigation. The members reported that there were fewer plastic bottles and debris overall this year as compared to the past. The bottle bill is effective.

The Commissioners would like to go forward with a student project identifying where the debris starts and where it moves into the river.

Chairman Gesullo suggested contacting UNH and Sacred Heart as two graduate students from UNH attended one of last year's meeting and we have sent a letter of support to Sacred Heart for their new graduate program in environmental sciences. The time seems right to get this project started so the problems can be identified and we can go to the towns and find out how to get resolution.

Chairman Gesullo reported that there are no reports from Shelton to remark on.

Commissioner Blake reported that after 3 years Orange is finally making their donation to this Commission. There is a property on the eastern side of the river, just south of the Meritt Parkway where we had all that tree pileup there is a lot of dead foliage up there.

Vice-Chairman Romick said that there was plantings on the slope but they were supposed to removing the ones that didn't survive and replant. Commissioner Rohland said it didn't happen.

Vice-Chairman Romick reported that the annual report from the Long Island Sound Assembly would be published soon. If there is anything of interest that we

may not send from this group to the legislature but you want added I would be willing to bring it to the table at our next meeting. I have also joined the CT Sea Grant advisory extension board. This is part of the University of Connecticut in Groton. They do all types of scientific research, fisheries outreach education and lots of grants. One of their grants is non-point pollution sources that will be coming up in February. If we do get university students involved I will make them aware of the grant.

Commissioner Rock gave a summary of the river dredging past and present; the need to dredge further south past the end of the breakwater at the entrance of the river where it is shoaling. Commissioner Rock reported that he will be conducting a meeting at the DEP on Monday Oct 4th with members of the DEP, ACOE, and DOT for the purpose of trying to speed up the process of dredging the river. He discussed the hopper dredge "Currituck" and its use to move sands from the river to just offshore of the beaches. The river dredging proposed project has been reduced to 48,000 cubic yards at a cost of only \$400,000 thanks to a recent study conducted by the Stratford Waterfront and Harbor Management Commission with data supplied by Roberge and Associates using hydrographic surveys from ACOE.

There will be a public workshop scheduled for October 20th to voice ideas for a long-term plan to be created by SWHMC for Long Beach. Commissioner Rock reported that the SWHMC conducted several tours of the river using the boat from the Thimble Islands as part of the Stratford birding festival. He and another SWHMC commissioner took turns, each narrating half of the 14 trips that taken by 161 people. We not only talked about the birds but we also talked about the history of the river, what exists there today and what projects in which the waterfront commission is involved including dredging.

8. Meeting time and dates

Vice-Chairman Romick stated that we have to have our annual report done and approved at the next meeting in November. Do we want to meet before that? The Commissioners discussed it and determined that they would have a problem to meet more than every other month.

9. Discussion on HREC next meeting

The next meeting will be in Stratford on Tuesday, November 23, 2010 at the Stratford Coast Guard Auxiliary.

10. New Business

Chairman Gesullo talked about the importance of the annual report. Vice-Chairman Romick stated that if you look at the report from last year and what our goals were, we did not accomplish all of our goals.

The Commissioners discussed what goals we want to set for next year.

Vice-Chairman Romick will prepare a rough draft and she will forward it to all the Commissioners for their comment.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the need for "no wake" buoys in front of the gas dock at Knapps Landing. It was then decided that Commissioner

Rohland would draft a letter to the DEP Boating Division to request such markers.

11. Adjournment

Vice-Chairman Romick MOVED to adjourn. SECONDED by Commissioner Blake. All were in favor, meeting adjourned at 8:00P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Chaya
Clerk, HREC