



**HOUSATONIC RIVER ESTUARY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, November 20, 2008

***Parson's Government Center-Conference Room B
70 W. River St, Milford CT 06460***

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

Robert Gesullo, Chairman, Shelton
Lori Romick, Vice-Chairman, Milford
Bill Rock, Commissioner, Stratford
Jason Blake, Commissioner, Orange
Phil Marcucio, Commissioner, Derby
Bill Urban, Commissioner, Ansonia (arrived at 7:25 P.M.)

Also in attendance:

Marianne Chaya, Clerk, HREC

2. PUBLIC PORTION OR GUEST

None

3. APPROVAL OF THE July 24, 2008 and September 25, 2008 MEETING MINUTES

Vice-Chairman Romick MOVED to approve the July 24, 2008 meeting minutes.
SECONDED by Commissioner Blake. All were in favor, MOTION PASSED.

Commissioner Rock MOVED to approve the September 25, 2008 meeting minutes. SECONDED by Vice-Chairman Romick. All were in favor, MOTION PASSED.

4. FINANCE REPORT

After working out the details of the invoices with Marianne, Commissioner Blake reported that as of today we have \$2005.72.

So far Ansonia and Orange have not made the \$1000 contribution to the Commission's fund. Chairman Gesullo reported that Commissioner Urban said he spoke with the Mayor a few days ago who said it was just an oversight and they would send a check.

Commissioner Blake said he would address the issue in his own town and Chairman Gesullo offered his help if needed.

5. COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS – REMARKS AND/OR OUTREACH EFFORTS

Vice-Chairman Romick reported that the CT DEP office for the Long Island Sound program has a new process for structures, dredging, fill and wetlands applications. They essentially have streamlined the process. Instead of an 18-month process this should take 6 months. Once you put in your application for dredging, it goes to DEP for a quick review. Then it goes to the State bureau of aquaculture, shellfish, and water management commission in the town. They review it and make their comments, and then it goes back to the applicant where it is up to them to make any applicable changes before it is submitted to DEP. DEP then reviews it and if it is not consistent it goes back to the applicant to start all over again. Once it is submitted it takes 30 days for them to make their decision. If necessary it would then go to a public notice.

They plan to have an update meeting next summer.

Chairman Gesullo commented that he and Commissioner Rock attended the CT Maritime Commission meeting yesterday and they addressed that new process at the meeting.

Vice-Chairman Romick also reported that she contacted Milford Inland Wetlands regarding the trees that were cut (off the Route 15 bridge by Sikorsky, along the riverbank on Old Oronoque Rd). They commented that the activity was not done in accordance with the plan. The landscaper the homeowners association hired was caught and had to make reparations and to stop the project. I suggest that we may send a letter from this Commission on the situation. There was no evidence of sediment and erosion controls. The plan was that the trees were supposed to be "thinned". The town instructed them to start the mitigation plantings in the spring plus putting the filter fabric on the slope. They have to do the sediment controls and stabilization.

Commissioner Rock mentioned the issue with the DOT regarding the trees next to Route 95, where they are going to build a retention pond at the staging area where they will be working on the Moses Wheeler bridge. They did agree to keep a good portion of the trees.

Commissioner Rock suggested that if anyone gets wind of any type of anything that might be thought about in regards to development you need to take a preemptive approach.

The Commissioners discussed this same type of issue that happened in Shelton (along Route 110 and the Housatonic river) a few years ago.

Vice-Chairman Romick discussed the problems with Milford enforcement of sedimentation issues.

The Commissioners decided the best course of action from the Commission is for Vice-Chairman Romick to send a letter to the homeowners association, the P&Z Commission, Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission, the Mayor, and the other towns as well. The letter should state what occurred in Milford, that it has occurred elsewhere, and it is our recommendation that they be vigilant that it doesn't happen to other communities, specifically on the Housatonic River.

Vice-Chairman Romick also mentioned that she would be doing some work with youth groups on doing storm drain stenciling program. DEP has the storm drain

stencils. While they are there they will be looking for odors, sewage, oils, debris, etc., make note and then report it back to the health dept.

She commented that it was in newspaper that they are changing the harbor front regulations and she has not been able to get a copy at this time.

Commissioner Rock noted one thing he knows they are looking to change is that you can't leave your boat unattended by Charles Island. If you park your boat at the town dock to go into town and they want to charge you by the hour.

Commissioner Blake said that he has nothing to report for the town of Orange.

Commissioner Marcucio said that Derby is working on a Brownfield project that should be completed in a few months. This is being done at Sullivan's Island and it will be turned into a park.

Commissioner Rock reported that in Stratford the residents voted to sell Long Beach West to the Fish & Wildlife. We are moving forward with our plans for a commercial dock added at Birdseye St. We have a grant from the aquaculture dept. through the agriculture dept. for a feasibility study for 4 proposed docks. We are working on a final drawing and have applied for another grant for the permits. There is maintenance dredging going on at Pootatuck. Commissioner Rock discussed a maintenance dredging project at Breakwater key.

He also commented on the new DEP dredging application process.

Vice-Chairman Romick asked if in the dredging projects in Stratford, do they notify the shellfish commission so that the oyster-men can get in there first and remove the oysters before the dredging? Commissioner Rock responded that it is part of the process the way it exists now with the DEP doing it. With the new lean system it is supposed to go to them and us simultaneously. We've had more dialog now with the shellfish people because of the fact we are building them a dock. He also mentioned the situation with the clam fishermen.

Commissioner Urban reported that in terms of development it is quiet in Ansonia. He also discussed the problems with obtaining the \$1000 contribution from his town.

The Commissioners spent some time discussion permit issues with the Commissions in each of the towns.

Chairman Gesullo reported that in Shelton there is the ongoing issue of the canal with McCallum Enterprises and FERC. He explained about McCallum having a fence erected to close of the public access to a fishing area. A letter was sent to Senator Dodd and DeLauro to see if they could intervene and request a re-hearing. I also wrote to FERC and didn't hear from anyone. This morning I got an email that the DEP leaned on FERC. FERC has now schedule a new hearing. The Conservation Commission was leading this front to get this done and contacted me asking for our input as well.

Chairman Gesullo commented that he and Commissioner Rock went to the CT Maritime Commission meeting. One of their main focuses is dredging. He mentioned that there is going to be about 142K cu. yards of dredging material that is going to have to be capped. He discussed where the material is going to come from to do this capping. The disposal will be in the Long Island Sound. Commissioner Rock and the Commissioners discussed Stratford's involvement with the dredging of the lower Housatonic and all the issues involved. There was discussion of the dredging of Caswell Cove along with the reconfiguration of the marina.

Chairman Gesullo mentioned that he went to a planking ceremony at Greenwich marina. While he was there he found out that the building is the same type that will be built at Beacon Point marina in Shelton. He said it was extraordinary.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2009 Meeting Schedule

Commissioner Blake MOVED to approve the following schedule of meetings for 2009:

The Commission will hold their regular meetings every other month on the fourth Thursday. The meetings will be hosted by one of the participating towns.

January 22

March 26

May 21

July 23

September 24

November 19 (Third Thursday)

SECONDED by Vice-Chairman Romick. All were in favor, MOTION PASSED.

Tape 1, Side B

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Chaya
Clerk, HREC