

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 22, 2012

6:30 pm at the USGC Auxiliary in 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

Bill Rohland – Derby

2. Public Portion (15minute limit per guest)

No one from the public spoke.

3. Approval of the March 27, 2012 Minutes

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

4. Finance Report

Bob Gesullo reported that a \$500.00 donation was made (voted and approved at the March 27th meeting) to the Housatonic River Clean-up. Lori reported that Milford did approve funding for 2012-2013. Bob inquired as to the status of a boat motor to be loaned to Sacred Heart that was approved via an e-mail vote. Lori stated that she is awaiting approval from the professors and will check back with them.

5. Website

Bill Rohland reported that the website has been updated except for the vacancy for Orange. Lori will forward the river clean-up photos to him as soon as they are posted to the River Clean-up Facebook page.

6. River Clean-up Discussion

Lori reported that three Sacred Heart graduate students spent the good part of the day with her along the west bank just north of I-95. The students took GPS readings, photos and assessed the types and amounts of debris. Both Doc Gunther and Congressman Shays attended the clean-up. It was very successful and Scott will update the total amounts of debris removed.

7. Commissioner's Reports

Bill Rock - Stratford

Bill gave a summary of the mouth of the harbor dredging which was bonded for. He also discussed with Bill Rohland the USCGA Open House and related PR.

Bob Gesullo - Shelton

Bob did speak to Mayor Zeoli requesting a replacement for Jason representing Orange but has not heard back yet.

Bill Rohland – Derby

Bill reported that Shelton does have a Fire Rescue boat that may be able to assist with the patrol of Wooster Island if asked.

Bill discussed the need for "no wake" signs in front of the small island across from Caswell Cove and the power plant to reduce the erosion of the banks from boats travelling too fast and the wakes deteriorating the marsh banks. The sediment is contributing to the filling in of the channel.

Bill also discussed with Bill Rock that DEEP approved "no wake" buoys in front of Knapp's Landing but that the owner will need assistance getting them put out.

(Lori reminded the group that DEEP was contacted and signs were also requested for Wooster Island)

Lori Romick – Milford

Lori discussed the Milford Living magazine article on Milford's rivers which mentions the HREC and Sacred Heart river study. She will forward a copy to the commission once it is online.

8. Shelton Life magazine article

Bob summarized a call from the Shelton Life magazine requesting information on HREC and a photo. Bob had his friend Walter come to take a few photos during the meeting to submit for the article.

9. Next meeting – Tuesday, July 31, 2012 at 6:30 at the USCGA Birdseye boat ramp in Stratford.

10. New business - None

11. Old Business – None (see Commissioner’s report section.)

12. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn was made by Bill Rohland and seconded by Bill Rock at 7:27 PM (1927 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)