

DRAFT

**Minutes of Special Connecticut River Assembly Meeting
May 21, 2009**

Attendance:

Members

Joseph Smith, Chairman	Wethersfield
William B. Garner	Enfield
Philip H. Benoit	Rocky Hill
Bill Flagg	South Windsor
Raul DeBrigard	MRPA

Others

Mary Ellen Kowalewski	CRCOG
Todd Andrews	Goodwin College

Lacking a quorum, Chairman Smith called the informal meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. The meeting focused on informational presentations—no actions were taken.

Goodwin College Presentation

Todd Andrews, Vice President for College Relations and Advancement, presented an overview of Goodwin College's vision to create a campus on the banks of the Connecticut River, and the substantial progress that has been made to date. The core of the campus is being built on brownfield sites that formerly housed petroleum distribution facilities (tank farms). The last of the storage tanks in the area are being dismantled on May 22nd. In addition to remediating and reclaiming brownfield properties for productive use, the College is acquiring substantial tracts of flood plain/meadows land in East Hartford and Glastonbury. This land will be permanently preserved, and incorporated into the College's expanding Environmental Studies Program. Ultimately, they hope to put in place conservation easements on 1,000 +/- acres of land along the Connecticut River, both north and south of the Administration Building site.

After further discussion of the vision for the Campus and the College's course offerings, Mr. Andrews conducted a tour of the facility. The library and other public areas provide spectacular views of the Connecticut River, and provide excellent perspective on what the riverfront looks like in the Hartford/East Hartford urban core. CRA members were impressed with the existing development, and the College's future plans for its River Campus. Mr. Andrews agreed to host a future meeting, to update the Assembly on the evolving master plan for the properties.

The CRA members thanked Mr. Andrews for his informative presentation.

Adoption of February 12, 2009 Minutes

No action could be taken on the minutes due to lack of a quorum.

Overview of CRA Conservation Zone Map Resource Project

Mary Ellen Kowalewski gave a presentation on research and mapping that had been completed on the Connecticut River Assembly Conservation Zone area. This work was done by Walter Ramsey, a University of Massachusetts student who is working on his Masters Degree in Regional Planning. Ms. Kowalewski gave a brief powerpoint presentation that showed examples of the types of mapped data available through the CRCOG geographic information mapping system (GIS). She then distributed print maps entitled "Connecticut River Assembly Special Features." These maps capture information on unique natural, historic, and recreational features that had been highlighted in the 1981 study that recommended formation of the Connecticut River Assembly. An associated matrix provides additional information on the mapped features. Ms. Kowalewski proposed that CRA members review these maps alone or with others in their communities, and recommend additions. She will also provide the narrative sections of the 1981 plan that describe the features. Feedback received from the towns can be incorporated into the map series. This information will be requested through the mail. A revised map will be created over the summer, and will be presented to the CRA at the Assembly's September 10, 2009 meeting.

The CRA also discussed whether the map series should include information on Hartford and East Hartford, since they are not members of the Connecticut River Assembly. The consensus was that this information would be helpful, as these communities are an important parts of the river corridor, and are home to Riverfont Recapture Inc.'s riverfront park system.

Discussion on these matters ended at 8:45 p.m.