

CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY COUNCIL OF ELECTED OFFICIALS
MINUTES
October 27, 2010

Attending:

Tom Marsh, Chairman, Chester
Laura Francis, Durham
Mark Walter East Haddam
Phil Miller, Essex
Catherine Iino, Killingworth
Tim Griswold, Old Lyme
Susan Bransfield, Portland
Noel Bishop, Westbrook

Guests: Liz Glidden, Haddam
Roy Piper, DEMHS
Toni McCabe, Executive Director, East Haddam Youth and Family Services
Gail Onofrio, Exec. Director, Tri-Town Youth Services
Cheryl Chandler, Exec. Director, Youth and Family Service of Haddam
Jeff Rhoades, Matt Ward, Gerry Taylor, and Sgt. Gilman, CT State Troopers

CRERPA Staff: Linda Krause, Jean Davies, Torrance Downes, Pat Anthony

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Marsh at 12:35 p.m. at CRERPA Headquarters in Old Saybrook, CT.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Cathy Iino made the motion to approve the September minutes. Noel Bishop seconded the motion. All were in favor.
3. **Speaker:** Cheryl Chandler, Executive Director, Youth & Family Services:
Cheryl made a Power Point presentation outlining the Party Patrols Program. She said it started with a grant of \$55,000 3 years ago.
The three initiatives were for a public relations campaign, parent education and CT State Police involvement. Workshops were held. Counselors from the Youth and Family Services met with the troopers to design a program that would prevent teenage drinking. After establishing guidelines for the program, creating training modules, Party Patrols was established.
Jeff Rhoades and Matt Ward, CT State Troopers, explained the troopers' responsibility in getting the towns together to establish the random party patrols whose goal is to reduce underage drinking. There is a hot line established whereby residents alert the troopers of intended parties. The Youth Counselors go out with the troopers to intercept the parties and to counsel the teens about the ramifications of underage drinking. They rotate between six different towns. All patrols are activity specific.

The first patrol was in January 2009, and the program has been outstandingly successful. The only drawback is the lack of troopers. Coordination of effort is the key component.

A follow up letter is sent to the parents of the youths involved with the suggestion that the parents contact the trooper. If a response isn't received by the trooper within a certain time frame, then the trooper visits the parents. The teenagers involved range in age from 13 to 19, and the potential for this service is clearly apparent.

The Party Patrol officers were asked to speak at a national convention this year, and several of the selectmen inquired about how to establish a Party Patrol module in their communities.

The troopers receive approximately two tips a month, and the teens are aware of the ramifications of underage drinking. The troopers suggested funding for other area towns may be part of the police department budget. If any town is interested in forming a Party Patrol, it was suggested they contact Toni McCabe or Cheryl Chandler.

4. Legislative Report: None

5. Regional Activities:

Linda said she spoke with Brian O'Connor regarding the DECD's proposed Economic Development Districts. Brian said he'd talk with Larry McHugh of the Middlesex Chamber and get back to Linda.

6. Other Business:

Laura said there will be a bidding meeting coming up and asked if anyone else was interested. She said she would email the selectmen about the upcoming meeting.

The National Red Cross will no longer be providing transportation for the elderly and disabled. Laura said she would get more information about this prior to the next meeting.

Tom said regionalism is one of the key issues after the current election. The selectmen said they appreciated the fine job Tom has done on behalf of the towns. He noted that what's killing the economy is uncertainty.

Roy Piper, DEMHS, said that Regional 2 Planning Team meeting is coming up on Monday, November 15, at 9:30 at the Guilford Fire House. He noted that Region 2 Incident Management Team is moving ahead and is hoping for 60 participants overall. The IMT assist the scene commanders.

Region 2 is the only region that has submitted all their MOUs.

8. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Cathy Iino and seconded by Phil Miller. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Anthony, Clerk

