



MINUTES OF THE NHCOCG MEETING

4/9/2026

In-Person with remote option

Member/Representative Attendance:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barkhamsted , Meaghan Cook	<input type="checkbox"/> Harwinton , Michael Criss	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roxbury , Patrick Roy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Burlington , Doug Thompson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kent , Eric Epstein	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Salisbury , Curtis Rand
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Canaan , David Barger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Litchfield , Denise Raap	<input type="checkbox"/> Sharon , Casey Flanagan
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Colebrook , Bradley Bremer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Morris , Tom Weik	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Torrington , Molly Spino
<input type="checkbox"/> Cornwall , Gordon Ridgway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Hartford , Dan Jerram	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Warren , Greg LaCava
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Goshen , Seth Breakell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Norfolk , Henry Tirrell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington , Jim Brinton
<input type="checkbox"/> Hartland , Magi Winslow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> North Canaan , Jesse Bunce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Winchester , Todd Arcelaschi

Others in Attendance:

NHCOCG Staff: Robert Phillips, Rista Malanca, Annmarie Ryan, Erik Shortell, Leo Ghio

Others: Paul Harrington (Winchester Town Manager), Garrett Eucalitto (ConnDOT), Michael Salter (ConnDOT), Christian Murray (Lakeville Journal), Kitty Kiefer (Salisbury), Michael D’Ellia (The Kennedy Collective), Carlo Leone (ConnDOT), Howard Rosenfeld (Farmer’s Collective), Genevieve Perruccio, Jenn Pacacha (ConnDOT)

Call to Order: Chairman Jerram called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. Quorum of at least 11 members present

Public Comment: None

Motion to move the presentation item under Other Business - Commissioner of DOT - to start of meeting. ***MOTION (Raap) and 2nd (Roy) and approved unanimously***

1. CT DOT Presentation on the Agency Capital Program, the future of transportation, how to work with districts and garages, and Government Affairs Office updates – CT DOT Commissioner, Garrett Eucalitto
 - \$15B planned over a 5-year period, goal to repair/replace/refurbish infrastructure from the 1950’s & 1960’s that has reached the end of its useful life
 - Noted various contacts at District 4, as well as Mr. Salter and Mr. Leone
 - Infrastructure bill (federally funded) expiring 9/30/26, working with congressional delegation and state legislature to recoup that funding loss
 - Denise Raap asked about the amount of salt used by the state on the roads, and if they are considering a more environmentally friendly alternative due to Litchfield facing some well contamination. Commissioner Eucalitto spoke to the software contained in each plow truck that guides the mixture level, and that the amount of salt being used per lane mile has reduced. ConnDOT has an environmental unit that can come out and investigate the source of the well contamination, and if it is found that the state is at fault, can provide financial assistance to mitigate the problem.
 - Dan Jerram noted that many CEOs have not been pleased with the level of service from Gateway (i.e., phone calls not being returned). Commissioner Eucalitto asked that those facing issues reach out; he can convey issues to the lobbyist that works with Gateway, which usually gets their attention

- Denise Raap asked about hiring plan to bring on additional engineers and if they've seen success. Commissioner Eucalitto responded that they have had success, and staffing levels at DOT are at their highest level in the last 20 years. They have brought on engineers, planners, and maintenance workers
- Paul Harrington asked about speed cameras, whether the state will change the approval process for getting them installed and on greater enforcement of paying fines. Commissioner Eucalitto noted that this would have to be done within the legislature. Dan Jerram asked about safety cams in work zones. A law has been passed to allow this, and they are being tested, but the program has not gone live at this time
- Doug Thompson question on contract administration and construction inspection. Engineers providing highly variable quotes (\$500K vs. \$220K), would like some clarity around what activities truly need inspection/oversight. Commissioner Eucalitto noted that the engineering team can work with Erik to set up an education session, to provide clarity on what's needed and prevent private firms from "pulling one over" on you guys
- Seth Breakell noted that the team working on the new rotary in Goshen has been excellent to work with to ensure that oversized vehicles, such as firetrucks, can be accommodated
- Dan Jerram noted that all of the CEOs spend a significant amount of time on transportation safety plans, and many towns have specific spots that they would like to prioritize at the state level. What is the best way to do that? Commissioner Eucalitto said the best way is to work with the COG, and have the COG approach DOT with their most significant problem areas, and ConnDOT will perform road safety audits in those areas and make a plan from there
- Commissioner Eucalitto to send Erik the road resurfacing plan, which will be circulated with the CEOs

2. Administrative Items – Staff

- Approval of NHCOC Regular Meeting Minutes for March 12, 2026.
MOTION (Weik) and 2nd (Barger) and approved. Burlington abstained.
- Approval of Monthly Financial Statement – year to date through February, Annmarie Ryan.
MOTION (Criss) and 2nd (Weik) and approved unanimously
 - Note: Council would like to see more funds moved into higher interest-bearing accounts, noted CD3 at TSB and the savings account for PWEC
- Correspondence – CTDOT TRIP Grant – NHCOC Support Letters: Harwinton/Kent/Morris/North Canaan/Washington
MOTION (Barger) and 2nd (LaCava) to accept and approve the letters, approved unanimously
- Correspondence – Lake Waramaug Lake Association – Section 319 Watershed Management Plan Support Letter.
MOTION (Barger) and 2nd (LaCava) to accept and approve the letter, approved unanimously

3. Report of the Executive Director - Rob Phillips

- Monthly Meeting Activity Report:
- Zoning Regulation Review and Revisions for Housing Bill Compliance
 - Deadline July 1st, however, there may be an extension in the works through the legislative process. Rob is primary resource of assistance at NHCOC, Rista when available, and may retain some consultants for assistance depending on level of interest
- Health Benefits/Insurance Costs – “Lunch and Learn” via Teams April 21st at 11:30AM

- Annual CAMA/GIS Data Deliverables due May 1st
 - Next HHW collection event – Saturday, June 20th at Canaan/Falls Village Town Garage from 9AM to 12PM. EVENTBRITE digital registration only – Leo Ghio
 - Executive Comm Meeting – Budget Review and Recommendation - April 24th 11AM via Teams
4. **Economic and Community Development – Rista Malanca**
- NW CT Farming Collaborative (Howard Rosenfeld, Chair)
 - Next meeting is April 28th
5. **Transportation Planning – Erik Shortell**
- Third Round of TRIP Funding Opportunity
 - PWEC/Road Supervisor Meeting Recap
 - Approval of FY26-27 PWEC Equipment Rate Schedule
MOTION (Tirrell) and 2nd (Barger) to approve
 - After discussion, decided to defer vote until next month when the CEOs can have time to review the specific line-item changes as the document was mistakenly left off the distribution list associated with the agenda.
MOTION (Tirrell) and 2nd (Barger) to rescind motion, and revisit next month
 - Vialytics, LLC has been selected as consultant for AI Roadway Classification and Capital Planning Software Services.
6. **Legislative Committee Update – Mike Criss, Chair – 15 MINS**
- Senate Bill 151 – opposed
 - House Bill 5002 – main financial impact to Towns this year
 - School cell phone ban, suspects it will fail
 - 5031 and 5032 budget implementer bills - will decide how ECS funding will be calculated going forward, may adjust Pequot and Town Aid Road
 - Homeschooling bills, planning to push forward
 - State income tax structure (5133) – adjustments to property tax base?
 - Senate Bill 104 – capital gains surcharge
 - Environmental committee – 5156 – creating a climate superfund site
 - Energy regulation – 426 – long term energy cost impacts to municipalities
 - Labor changes – going to increase unemployment rates
 - Workforce labor expansion – increased labor costs, reduced flexibility in negotiation with the unions
 - Volunteer firefighter tax credit – to increase benefit, regulations are making it difficult for volunteer fire departments to operate
 - Homelessness bill – to allow homeless people to sleep in any open area with no ramifications/municipal interference. Municipalities would have to add outdoor shower areas for these individuals
 - Senate Bill 388 – restoring Pequot money to towns
 - Senate Bill 2 – extra 1% that restaurants now collect as sales tax, 50% for tourism and 50% for municipalities
7. **DEMHS update, Chris Bernier, R5 Coordinator - 5 MINS**

- Report to be distributed post meeting

OTHER BUSINESS

8. Optional tour of current NHCOCG office space and potential space available on the 3rd floor of the EdAdvance Building.

About a half dozen members took the opportunity to review the space.

9. Meeting adjournment

MOTION (Thompson) and 2nd (LaCava) to adjourn at 11:49AM, unanimously approved