



MINUTES OF THE NHCOCG ANNUAL MEETING
6/11/2026
In Person at The Raymond Family Farm

Member/Representative Attendance:

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

Others in Attendance:

NHCOCG Staff: Robert Phillips, Rista Malanca, Annmarie Ryan, Erik Shortell, Leo Ghio, Grace Rennison, Natalia Altimari (Sustainable CT Fellow)

Others: Paul Harrington (Town Mngr - Winchester), Kitty Kiefer (Selectperson - Salisbury), Ellen Graham (US Sen Blumenthal aid), Jenn Pacacha (CTDOT) and Mike Salter (CTDOT)

Call to Order: Chairman Jerram called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM, quorum of at least 11 members present

Public Comment: Ellen Graham, Senator Blumthal’s office, introduced herself and offered services of letters of support for grant applications

BUSINESS MEETING

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

- Approval of NHCOCG Regular Meeting Minutes for May 14, 2026

MOTION TO APPROVE (ROY), 2nd (BUNCE) to approve, unanimous.

- Approval of Monthly Financial Statement – year to date through April and Investment Update.

Closing out CDs at TSB and moving to STIF account for higher interest rates; will be completed by end of June; still in discussion about Sweep account

MOTION TO APPROVE (WEIK), 2nd (BUNCE) to approve, unanimous.

- Addition to agenda to modify Bylaws.

MOTION TO ADD TO AGENDA (BARGER), 2nd (RAAP), unanimous.

Article 5 section 2 - sentence to add in bold underline “...nominations made at the May **OR JUNE** meeting...”

MOTION TO APPROVE (BUNCE), 2nd (ROY), unanimous.

- Election of Officers and At-large members for the FY26-27 Executive Committee.

FLOOR NOMINATION “JUNE SLATE” (RAAP): Ridgeway for Chair, Rapp for Vice Chair, LaCava for Secretary, Roy for Treasurer, Flanagan for At-Large & Brinton for At-Large, 2nd (RAND).

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MAY SLATE: 2 votes in favor (Harrington, Thompson). Motion failed.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE JUNE SLATE: 12 votes in favor. Motion approved.

- Authorize the Secretary to endorse the “Statement of Work” for the FY 2026-2027 Regional Service Grant (RSG).

MOTION TO APPROVE (BARGER), 2nd (BUNCE), unanimous.

- Approve the FY 2026-2027 NHCOG Annual Budget as recommended by the Executive Committee.

MOTION (THOMPSON) to approve the budget with the following modifications: Reduce Executive Director salary adjustment to 0%, increase other NHCOG staff by 2%, reduce member dues by 50% (take funds from surplus to offset reduction along with salary adjustments), 2nd (HARRINGTON) for discussion.

Criss - asked if the reduction would be for one year only; mentioned it wouldn't move his mill rate. Thompson - investment interest should cover reduction in dues. Harrington – reduction in salary COLA will also cover reduction in dues; also asked about changes in benefits. Thompson - stated that the board wasn't informed of budget meetings. Criss - stated that throughout his time as CEO the EC has always been the decision maker of the preliminary budget to present to the council for vote as a whole. Weik - would like employee contribution to health benefits increased.

Thompson in favor, all others opposed. Motion failed.

MOTION (RAAP), 2nd (HARRINGTON) to call a special meeting to table the budget and operate under the existing budget until approved.

Four members in favor. Motion failed.

MOTION (WEIK), 2nd (ROY) to approve the budget as presented and endorsed by the Executive Committee.

Discussion: Thompson contested based on lack of adequate notice (Article IV, section 5) for budget meetings.

Spino, Harrington and Thompson were opposed. Raap and Jerram abstain. Criss left the meeting. All others in favor. Motion passed.

- Approve relocating the office to the entire third floor of the EdAdvance building under the current lease terms through June 30, 2028, and authorize the Executive Director to negotiate an extension of up to five years at the same per-square-foot rate as the current lease, subject to the same 2% annual increases beginning July 1, 2028.

MOTION TO APPROVE (RAND), 2nd (RIDGEWAY) to approve.

Discussion: Harrington asked if there was a cost associated with the move? No cost to move. Question was asked if building would be on the market in the future (previously on the market). No indications from EdAdvance leadership that it would be a problem.

Motion passed. Thompson abstained

- Appointment of 5 new members to the BPPRC; to serve annually. Effective July 1st.

MOTION TO APPOINT: Raap, Rand, Weik, Barger, Breakell. Made by (BUNCE), 2nd (LACAVA), unanimous.

- Correspondence – Support Letter for CIF Grant – Torrington

MOTION TO SUPPORT (WEIK), 2nd (RIDGEWAY), unanimous.

- Correspondence – Support Letter for SS4A Grant Application – Torrington

MOTION TO SUPPORT (THOMPSON), 2nd (BREAKELL), unanimous.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

- Introduction of SustainableCT Fellow – Natalia Altimari and Regional Planner – Grace Rennison
- Monthly Meeting ED Activity Report
- NHCOG honored by the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) with the “Regional Achievement Award” for the success of our regional health service initiatives.
- NHCOG honored for CT Chapter of the American Planning Association (CCAPA) “Outstanding Group Effort Award” for the cross-COG collaboration on digesting PA25-1.
- Reminder: Next HHW collection event – Saturday, June 20th at Canaan/Falls Village Town Garage from 9AM to 12PM. EVENTBRITE digital registration only for participating towns only.
- Land Use Training for Staff and Commissioners on PA25-1 – Video is Available
- NHMP grant update and reduced local matching requirements due to reduced federal award.

MOTION (WEIK), 2nd (RAND) to authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with IMEG for development of the region’s next POCD utilizing funds set aside in the FY26 and FY27 Regional Service Grant (RSG), unanimous.

MOTION (RIDGEWAY), 2nd (BARGER) to authorize the Executive Director to enter into an updated agreement with Zabel Schellenberg Attorneys at Law for continues legal services, as needed, not to exceed funds appropriated in each fiscal year budget or approved grant budget, unanimous.

Thompson had asked if all costs were covered by Grants, Rista and Annmarie confirmed that they are.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATES:

- Moved into Phase 2 of work with CCMC, keep an eye on your inboxes.
- Discover Litchfield Hills regional marketing efforts – goal to support local businesses, launching rebranding.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING:

MOTION TO APPROVE (THOMPSON), 2ND (BARGER): STIP Amendment: 0162-0163NHS - Bridge improvements for Bridge No. 00971 carrying U.S. Route 44 and Route 183 over Still River in Winchester, unanimous.

MOTION TO APPROVE (RAND), 2ND (RAAP): STIP Amendment: 0174-0492 - Funding is required to replace traffic control signals to meet current standards at various locations in District 4. PE estimate includes a PD/FD split. Project is eligible for 100% Federal funding. Torrington: KENNEDY DRIVE AT WINSTED ROAD, - Barkhamstead: (Flashing Beacon) US ROUTE 44 (NEW HARTFORD ROAD) AT RTE 318 (RIPLEY HILL RD), unanimous.

MOTION TO APPROVE (THOMPSON), 2ND (RAAP): Consultation and Cooperation with Local Officials in Non-Metropolitan Areas, unanimous.

- Vialytics Road Condition and Capital Planning Software Update – 2 in-person trainings coming in the next couple of months
- SS4A Safety Action Plan, first CT grant approved by FHA, RFP is posted
- July 24th speed enforcement lunch and learn at NHTCOG

RURAL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES:

- Awarded \$24,000 from Northwest United Way to establish a Rapid Response Fund to address one time emergency expenses for ALICE households. Funds are available to 16 towns in the NHTCOG region: *Barkhamsted, Canaan/Falls Village, Colebrook, Cornwall, Goshen, Hartland, Harwinton, Litchfield, Morris, New Hartford, Norfolk, North Canaan, Salisbury, Sharon, Torrington and Winsted.*

DEMHS UPDATE:

- Hot weather activation protocol
- Torrington Intermediate High School regional shelter simulation event with Red Cross (EMDs invited) Saturday, June 20th 9:00-2:00
- Lime Rock Park Nascar Race July 9-11
- State Emergency response commission exercise in Danbury on August 28th, transportation & materials related exercise
- CT Military department cyber security review for municipalities, opportunity continuing through August
- EMPG grant window closes July 30th, building infrastructure in communities/flooding improvement grants coming out soon. DEMHS still having open office hours to ask questions about grants, Mondays

OTHER BUSINESS

PRESENTATION: Overview of new early childhood local governance partnerships, **Michelle Anderson - EdAdvance**

- Early Start Connecticut
- January 2027 – there will be an RFP for schools to apply for funding (some families have to fall in a certain income threshold) to implement programs

MOTION TO ADJOURN (BARGER), 2nd (BUNCE) at 11:49AM, unanimous.