



MINUTES OF THE NHCOCG REGULAR MEETING

3/12/2026

Fully Remote via Zoom

Member/Representative Attendance:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Barkhamsted , Meaghan Cook	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Harwinton , Michael Criss	<input type="checkbox"/>	Roxbury , Patrick Roy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Burlington , Doug Thompson	<input 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cornwall , Gordon Ridgway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New Hartford , Dan Jerram	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Warren , Greg LaCava
<input type="checkbox"/>	Goshen , Seth Breakell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Norfolk , Henry Tirrell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Washington , Jim Brinton
<input checked="" 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, Sarah Better

Others: Steve Sullivan (Eversource), Kitty Kiefer (Salisbury), Jeff Pugliese, Tim Waldron (Eversource), Joyce Kearns (Kent), Eddie Velazquez, Riley Klein, Jen Pacacha (CTDOT), Paul Harrington (Winchester), John Arsego, Genevieve Perruccio (US Sen Blumenthal), and other unidentified members of the public.

Call to Order: Chairman Jerram called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM, with a quorum of at least 11 members present.

Public Comment: None

1. Economic and Community Development – **Rista Malanca**

- BAR Grant – Revitalization Along Main Street Study, Winsted – Consultant Selection. After RFP/RFQ scoring and interviews, recommend awarding contract to Haley Ward

MOTION (Arcelaschi) and 2nd (Cook) and unanimously approved – to authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with Haley Ward for performance of the Winsted BAR Grant

2. Report of the Executive Director - **Rob Phillips**

- Monthly Meeting Activity Report was given to all members.
- Proposed FY26-27 Member Dues: The Executive Committee reviewed the dues structure along with anticipated overall revenues and expenses and recommended that the dues rate remain unchanged.

MOTION (Barger) and 2nd (Harrington) and unanimously approved – to accept the proposed per capita rate as \$0.80, resulting in no change in rate from last year

- Regional Planner progress. Update provided.
- Road Salt in the region and future planning was discussed.
- PWEC Meeting rescheduled to April 1st due to weather conflicts earlier in March.
- Potential lease of entire 3rd floor at EdAdvance for NHCOCG staff offices. Details were discussed and the consensus was for this to be carried over to the April meeting where

board members would have the opportunity to walk through the space.

3. Administrative Items:

- Approval of NHCOG Regular Meeting Minutes for February 12, 2026

MOTION (Raap) and 2nd (Barger) to approve the minutes as presented; unanimously approved

- Approval of Monthly Financial Statement – year to date through January, **Anmarie Ryan**

MOTION (Raap) and 2nd (Barger) to approve the monthly financial statement; unanimously approved

- Acceptance of FY25 Independent Financial Audit. No findings or material weaknesses.

MOTION (Raap) and 2nd (Rand) to accept the FY25 Audit; unanimously approved

- Appointment of Nominating Committee (3 members including a chairman) for board officers (Chair, Vice-chair, Treasurer, Secretary) to be presented at the May Meeting for consideration in accordance with NHCOG Bylaws Article V – Officers - **Dan Jerram**

MOTION (Weik) and 2nd (Cook) to appoint Jim Brinton, Dan Jerram (as Chair), and Denise Raap; unanimously approved. Proposed slate of officers to be presented at the May Regular Meeting.

- Correspondence – CT Tree Warden Association Information. Noted by members.
- Correspondence – Request from City of Torrington for a letter of support 100 Franklin Drive Brownfield Remediation Grant. Will allow Penrose to add over 100 affordable housing units

MOTION (Raap) and 2nd (Rand) to add this correspondence to agenda; unanimously approved

MOTION (Weik) and 2nd (Rand) to provide a letter of support; unanimously approved

4. Transportation Planning – Erik Shortell

- NEVI Emergency TIP Amendment. Phase 1 does not impact rural COGs, but Phase 2 will begin to do so.

MOTION (Barger) and 2nd (Raap) to approve the TIP Amendment; unanimously approved

- Third Round of TRIP Funding Opportunity. Applications are due to the COG by 4/27/26. Note that towns can still apply if they have received TRIP funding in previous rounds. For projects between \$300K and \$2M

5. Rural Health Resources – Leo Ghio

- Regional Opioid Response Fund – Uprooting Addiction film screening at Bantam

Cinema on March 31st – Flyer in agenda package.

- United Way, Community Impact Grant Opportunity - Letter of Inquiry for a regional rapid response fund.

MOTION (Cook) and 2nd (Raap) to support the initiative; unanimously approved

6. **Legislative Committee Update – Mike Criss, Chair**

- HB5044 – opens the door to mandate certain vaccines – testified against
- Gun bills – the two bills opened the door to make handguns illegal – testified against
- Homeschoolers – creates another level of reporting and staffing at schools, making them responsible for tracking homeschooled students and reporting to DCF – testified against
- Bill banning gas powered leaf blowers – testified against
- Several other Bills of interest were covered, including SB151; a bill concerning lot size requirements for properties with water and sewer access.
- NHCOC Legislative Committee continues to meet bi-weekly to be best prepared to respond to changing legislative needs during the session.

7. **DEMHS update, Chris Bernier, R5 Coordinator**

- Chris Bernier had a meeting conflict, a report will be provided to council members post meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

8. **Energy Generation, Delivery and Distribution System Informational and Q&A – Steve Sullivan, Eversource**

- The structure and framework of energy delivery from supplier to consumer was discussed in detail including infrastructure information and constraints, along with the pricing breakout of each sector as it relates to a typical monthly bill for the consumer.

9. Meeting adjournment:

MOTION (LaCava) and 2nd (Raap) to adjourn the meeting at 11:48AM; unanimously approved. Next regular meeting Thursday, April 9th, 2026 – location TBD.