



MINUTES OF THE NHCOCG MEETING

4/10/2025

Hybrid

Member/Representative Attendance:

<input type="checkbox"/> Barkhamsted , Nick Lukiwsky	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Harwinton , Michael Criss	<input type="checkbox"/> REMOTE - Roxbury , Patrick Roy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Burlington , Doug Thompson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kent , Marty Lindenmayer	<input type="checkbox"/> REMOTE - Salisbury , Curtis Rand
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Canaan , David Barger	<input type="checkbox"/> Litchfield , Denise Raap	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REMOTE - Sharon , Casey Flanagan
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Colebrook , Bradley Bremer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Morris , Tom Weik	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REMOTE - Torrington , Elinor Carbone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REMOTE - Cornwall , Gordon Ridgway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Hartford , Dan Jerram	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Warren , Greg LaCava
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Goshen , Todd Carusillo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REMOTE - Norfolk , Matt Riiska	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REMOTE - Washington , Jim Brinton
<input type="checkbox"/> Hartland , Magi Winslow	<input type="checkbox"/> REMOTE - North Canaan , Brian Ohler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REMOTE - Winchester , Todd Arcelaschi

Others in Attendance:

NHCOCG Staff: Rob Phillips, Rista Malanca, Leo Ghio, Annmarie Ryan, Kathryn Faraci, Sarah Better (late due to meeting conflict)

Others: Henry Paszczuk (Remote), Eugene (Alec) Linden (Remote), David Keeling (The Cylinder Collective), Jen Pacacha (Remote), Ellen Graham (Remote), Kim O'Rourke (The Cylinder Collective) (Remote), Bob Kenny (Remote), Tim Waldron, Bridget Moriarty (CTDOT) (Remote)

Call to Order: Chairman Jerram called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM

Public Comment: None.

Report of Executive Director: Mr. Phillips referenced his monthly report for meetings and other activities of the Executive Director since the last board meeting. In addition, he provided the following updates:

- Introduced new Grant Financial Manager - Annmarie Ryan
- Status of the 2023-2024 audit: report will be filed by the end of April
- CAMA/GIS grant - structured as a grant going to the COGs, municipalities to determine their needs and dollars to be allocated with priority to towns with most incomplete data.
 - State has approved work plan
 - In an effort to not exclude Towns that have been diligent in updating their data, send Rob proposals and he can appeal to the state
 - Jerram wants the allocation method to be reconsidered - as a Level 1 MS4 town, New Hartford has more needs than others
- Household Hazardous Waste - new vendor is MXI, sent out dates for the next two years to all parties involved
 - Next event is June 21st in Canaan/Falls Village
 - Flyers will come out in early May
 - Going to institute EventBrite process again
 - Morris would like to opt out of using EventBrite

- Marty Lindenmayer - working on a food waste collection program, up to 43 tons of food waste alone this year
 - Wants to work on regionalization of the process
 - \$350K from MMI grant - last round
- NW Chamber Celebration of Success - NHCOC receiving "Quality of Life" award
 - June 18th at the Torrington Country Club
 - Chamber inquired if NHCOC is interested in restarting donations/sponsorships
 - Previously done through EDA, now would have to be done through reserves
 - Jerram suggested proposing an annual donation in the budget
- Annual Meeting (June) - Sunset Meadow Vineyards in Goshen

Introduction - David Williams, Program Development Leader, Federal Highway Administration CT Division - 5 mins

- David Williams could not attend due to a meeting conflict

Litchfield Walk Audit - Bridget Moriarty, Safe Routes to School Coordinator, CTDOT - 5 mins

- Walk Bike Roll To School Day - May 7th
- \$5K microgrant available to municipalities to purchase bikes and helmets

Gas Cylinder EPR Program in CT and Opportunities to Offer Free Residential Collection Services, Kim O'Rourke, State Program Coordinator, The Cylinder Collective - 10 mins

- In the beginning stages of developing their program, seeking feedback from municipalities on how they could be of service

Potential Benefits of Cooperative IT Services among Municipalities, David Fiorillo, Twin Lakes LLC - 15 mins

- Business continuity
- Dan Jerram conducted a brief survey - all municipalities are using third party IT other than Torrington

Legislative Committee Update: Legislative Committee Chairman Criss provided a detailed analysis of the status of many grants still being considered in this legislative session.

Highlights:

- Bill alive to remove MV tax
- Legal notices bill dead, but slipped into another bill
- Every town is going to see a significant tax increase this year to fund revenue loss and unfunded mandates

Economic Development Update: Rista Malanca discussed the PROMISE program and several EcDev status updates.

PROMISE: Partnership with CT Main Street Center Phase II Workshops: (*Attachment F*)

- i. NW Hills Regional Main Street Program: How your Community Can Get Involved - April 24, 2025 9-10am Virtual
- ii. Sharing your Community's Main Street Vision - May 29, 2025 6-8pm in-person, location TBD

- iii. From Vision to Action: Strategic Planning for your Main Street – June 26, 2025
6-8pm, in person, location TBD
- DECD – May 8th to discuss Brownfield grants
- Advance CT – June 10th, learn what they do
- Upcoming webinar to support manufacturing businesses – date TBD
- Rista will send an email later today to collect some needed MSW information

Transportation Planning:

TABLED ACTION: Motion to approve STIP amendment 170-3640 for Service Plaza Mainline Sign and Support project CON cost increase. Federally funded project CON cost increase. (*Attachment G*)

- Cost increase due to higher than anticipated supply costs

MOTION (Dan Jerram) and 2nd (Marty Lindenmayer) and approved unanimously to reject the STIP amendment as proposed on the basis of cost.

DEMHS Update: Henry Paszczuk and/or Bob Kenny

- 4 remaining emergency management coordinators will cover region 5 until John Field's position can be backfilled/rebuilt
 - Cell number is still in service and will be forwarded to the covering coordinator
 - Email address is covered by all coordinators
 - Subject to state hiring freeze, hoping to work around
- Post University May 1st – "Hurricanes Mean Business" workshop
- Saw highest Region 5 participation in 2024 EMPG applications
- Dan Jerram thanked John (not present) for his many years of service to the region

Administrative Items:

- b. **ACTION** - FY25-26 Recommended NHCOC Member Dues (*Attachment to be sent separate*)
 - i. **MOTION (Mike Criss), 2nd (Marty Lindenmayer) and approved unanimously to keep rate flat this year and reassess next year**
- c. **ACTION** - Approval of Meeting Minutes for March 13th, 2025 and Legislative Breakfast Minutes for March 19th, 2025 (*Attachment H and I*)
 - i. **MOTION (Mike Criss), 2nd (Marty Lindenmayer) and approved unanimously to approve the meeting minutes as presented**
- d. **ACTION** - Approval of Monthly Financial Statement for February
 - i. **MOTION (Mike Criss), 2nd (Marty Lindenmayer) and approved the February MFS. Abstentions - Dan Jerram, Mike Criss**
- e. **ACTION** - Appointment of Nominating Committee for NHCOC Officers and Executive Committee for FY 2025-2026, **Dan Jerram**
 - i. **MOTION (Mike Criss), 2nd (Marty Lindenmayer) and approved unanimously to appoint Dan Jerram, Tom Weik, Todd Carusillo and Mike Criss to the nominating committee.**
- f. Correspondence – State DRS 2025 CT Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) Program (*Attachment J*)
 - i. Rob to follow up to find more learning resources on NAA

- g. Correspondence - Charlotte Hungerford Hospital 2025 Golf Classic - play and sponsorship opportunities (*Attachment K*)
 - i. **MOTION (Todd Carusillo), 2nd (Doug Thompson) and approved unanimously to provide a sponsorship amount of \$500 out of NHCOG reserves.**

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:10PM. **MOTION (Todd Carusillo) and 2nd (Mike Criss)** and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

NHCOG staff