



MINUTES OF THE NHCOCG MEETING

12/12/2024

In-Person-The Village Restaurant, Litchfield

Member/Representative Attendance:

<input type="checkbox"/> Barkhamsted , Nick Lukiwsky	<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 , Marty Lindenmayer	<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 , Elinor Carbone
<input checked="" 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 , Todd Carusillo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Norfolk , Matt Riiska	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington , Jim Brinton
<input type="checkbox"/> Hartland , Magi Winslow	<input type="checkbox"/> North Canaan , Brian Ohler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Winchester , Todd Arcelaschi

Others in Attendance:

NHCOG Staff: Sarah Better, Kathryn Faraci, Leo Ghio, Rista Malanca, Rob Phillips.

Guests: Jen Pacacha - CT DOT

Call to Order: Chairman Jerram called the meeting to order at 10:05AM.

Public Comment: None.

Report of Executive Director: Executive Director Phillips provided his report which included short updates on the status of the MSW issue in the region, an update on the status of the financial audit for the FY23-24 period, the coming rollout of the new NHCOG website, the domain change for NHCOG staff from .org to .gov and the drop of the next quarterly newsletter - *The Quarterly Compass*.

Also, there is a planned Annual Legislative Breakfast scheduled for January 6th at EdAdvance. However, the response from the Legislators in our region has not been sufficient to date and the meeting may need to be postponed.

Economic Development: Director Malanca provided a quick update on the PROMISE program (Main St Assessments) and detailed the opportunity available to members to participate in an upcoming Economic Development Training Course. Local staff, local leadership and others are all eligible and encouraged to attend. This would be a teaser to a fully accredited course in Economic Development for the IEDC accreditation. The full accreditation allows one access to all Economic Development course offerings thereafter.

Transportation Planning: Directors Malanca and Faraci provided background information on the Naugatuck River Greenway and the need to close a gap through Harwinton. Due to changing resources in Harwinton, NHCOG was encouraged to take over the grant, particularly due to its nature as a regional trail completion initiative. It is also a task and eligible project in our current CT DOT transportation Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) subject to in-kind matching with staff time.

Director Faraci plans to give an update on Corridor Solicitation at the next NHCOG meeting.

Executive Director Phillips mentioned that the TRIP program solicitation is still open. DOT Liaison.

Pacacha may provide an update at the next NHCOCG meeting. Mr. Phillips also announced that payments for the RITS program will be going out to the vendors shortly in the event anyone has any interest in that. There are still delays in the process that have been difficult to sort out between providers and CT DOT.

Chairman Jerram asked Ms. Pacacha about the signalization issues in the region and software problems associated with that. She said she would follow up with Traffic Engineering on the issue.

MOTION (Weik) and second (Lindenmayer) to approve the recommended resolution for NHCOCG to accept Recreational Trails Grant from the state of CT for Planning and Design for the Naugatuck River Greenway section in the Town of Harwinton, and approved unanimously.

DEMHS Update: John Field was not in attendance to give a report. Sarah Better announced that she will be attending the CT DEMHS Hazard Mitigation group meeting for additional funding and planning for the Hazard Mitigation Plan update that will be needed.

Executive Director Phillips mentioned again that we have expanded our fiduciary responsibilities involving the Incident Management Team (IMT) now on a state-wide basis.

Administrative Items:

- a) **MOTION (Brinton) and second (LaCava) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for the meeting on November 14, 2024,** and approved unanimously.
- b) **MOTION (Thompson) and second (Carusillo) to approve the Financial Statements for October,** and approved unanimously.
- c) **MOTION (Lindenmayer) and second (Barger) to endorse previously drafted** letters of support for The American Mural Project for a Community Investment Fund application, and the Town of Kent and the Town of Sharon for state Open Space and Watershed Grant applications.

An historic tour of The Abner Hotel was then completed with discussion about the successes and challenges of its revitalization led by Carol Bramley of the Litchfield PZC and Theresa Callaghan the GM of Salt Hotels.

MOTION by to adjourn meeting at 12PM. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

NHCOCG staff