

DRAFT

MINUTES OF THE NHCOC MEETING OF December 11, 2014

Members or Representatives in Attendance:

Barkhamsted, Donald Stein	Canaan (Falls Village), Patricia Allyn Mechare
Burlington, Ted Shafer	Colebrook, Thomas McKeon
Cornwall, Gordon Ridgway	Goshen, Robert Valentine
Hartland, Wade Cole	Harwinton, Michael Criss
Kent, Bruce Adams	Litchfield, Leo Paul, Jr.
New Hartford, Daniel Jerram	Norfolk, Susan Dyer
North Canaan, Douglas Humes, Jr.	Roxbury, Barbara Henry
Salisbury, Curtis Rand	Torrington, Elinor Carbone
Warren, Craig Nelson	Winchester, Candace Bouchard
Winchester, Dale Martin	

Others in Attendance:

Benjamin Rosen	Mike Muzynski, CCM
Doug Parker, NWCT EDC	Dan Soule, LCD
Richard Lynn, NHCOC Staff	Jocelyn Ayer, NHCOC Staff
Darlene Krukar, NHCOC Staff	Media Representatives

1. Call to Order, Opportunity for Public Comment. The meeting, held at the Cooperative Extension Meeting Room UConn Torrington, was called to order by Chairman Don Stein at 10:07 a.m. There was no public comment.
2. Overview of “Kent Presents: An Annual Ideas Festival”. Bruce Adams introduced Benjamin Rosen. Ben Rosen stated that he and his wife are bringing an ideas festival to the Town of Kent and it will bring a wide range of people to the area. It is being patterned after similar festivals that have been scheduled in other areas such as the Aspen Ideas Festival. The Kent Ideas Festival will be held in August 2015 at the Kent School and cover a wide range of topics over a 3-day period. Mr. Rosen stated that they are looking to achieve three goals. 1) to raise money for local charities, 2) to bring people from outside the area into Litchfield County, and 3) to promote Litchfield County as an intellectual center. They have forty speakers committed to attend and fourteen more that are considering attendance. They are working on promoting the conference and getting people to attend. Mr. Rosen requested COG members help get the word out and possibly house some of the speakers. They are hoping to have 250 to 500 people attend. He then listed some of the speakers and the topics that they would be covering. The event website will be KentPresents.com.
3. Town by Town Issues and Updates by COG Members. Candace reported that Winchester is working on their STEAP grant. Bruce stated Kent received a STEAP grant to purchase a piece of property and turn it into a park, but they were outbid on the property and Kent is now negotiating with the state for another way to use the money.

Gordon commented that Cornwall had the highest percentage turnout of voters in the State this year and they will be receiving a Democracy Cup. Doug asked if anyone outsources their payroll and four COG members stated that they do and it has worked well. Barkhamsted is ready to install the cable for the Nutmeg Network, and Don stated he should be able to report at the next meeting on how it works. Discussion followed. Dan reported that New Hartford had a referendum and they are doing a school roof and a bridge. Michael stated that Harwinton had a Holiday Home Town event and it was successful. The town will be having the ribbon cutting on the ambulance center on Saturday, and Harwinton received a one million dollar library grant for construction work. Pat reported that Falls Village is working on STEAP grants. Wade stated that the old Coach and Four Restaurant in Hartland has been purchased and it is being renovated and should be opening up in the spring. Tom said the Colebrook Store is reopening on Saturday. Bob commented that Goshen has reapplied for the third time for a STEAP grant for the same project. Bob then asked if there are any other towns that would be interested in joining Litchfield, Goshen, and Torrington in finding a way to help fund a new animal control facility in the event the COG's RPI grant request is not approved by OPM. Discussion followed. Elinor stated that Torrington had a \$52 million referendum for a water treatment upgrade approved. She stated that Torrington is having trouble with the upkeep on sidewalks, and discussion occurred regarding the use of pavers as opposed to concrete. Ted commented that Burlington is working on many projects, one of which is an expansion of their GIS system.

4. Concerns with Accommodating the Uniform Charts of Accounts (UCOA) Requirements in Small Towns. Bob Valentine stated that there is still much uncertainty regarding how UCOA will work, and he is concerned about the long term financial impact on municipalities. He stated that he was told that year one and year two of the program, with high level and mid-level mapping respectively, would not require any changes to the municipal chart of accounts. He is very concerned however that year three, which requires detail level mapping, is going to require a new chart of accounts or else someone to perform data entry in order to input the required detail. He believes that the COG, CCM, and COST should try to get a repeal of this legislation or else the elimination of the year three detail level mapping. He urged this to be included on the NHCOC list of legislative priorities. Dale Martin stated that the CT Town Managers Association is also fighting this.
5. Revised Procedures for Auctioning Used State Vehicles and Equipment to Municipalities. Doug Humes stated that the State is taking a new approach to auctioning off vehicles. They now go to an outside vendor to auction off the vehicles and the quality of vehicles appears to have diminished. Discussion followed. Rick was asked to research and report on this new process to COG members.
6. Request for NHCOC Endorsement of Proposed "Local Telecommunications Coverage Assessments" by CT Siting Council. Jocelyn Ayer stated that the lack of cell phone coverage in some of our towns has been an economic development problem. Many towns have been concerned about the siting of new towers. The memo she wrote about this issue and the proposal for requesting the coverage assessments was included in the

agenda package. Discussion followed, and it was the consensus of the COG members to request a coverage assessment by the Siting Council for all 21 member towns.

7. Administrative Items.

a. On a motion by Barbara Henry and seconded by Michael Criss, the NWCCOG treasurer's report for 10/2014 was unanimously approved.

b. On a motion by Sue Dyer and seconded by Tom McKeon, the LHCEO financial statement for 10/2014 was unanimously approved.

c. On a motion by Michael Criss and seconded by Craig Nelson, the NHCOC minutes from the 11/13/2014 regular meeting and the financial statement for 10/2014 were unanimously approved. Leo Paul abstained.

d. Mayor Carbone distributed a map showing where the proposed Naugatuck River Greenway trail is to be located and commented on the importance of this greenway. She stated that the two bids that were received came in higher than the funds allocated for this project. Rick Lynn explained that the LHCEO had done a greenway assessment of the Naugatuck River which encouraged greenway enhancement and additional trail development. The NHCOC had previously allocated \$30,000 of available SGIA funds for the trail design in this section of the river corridor, and the low bid came in at \$40,300. On a motion by Elinor Carbone and seconded by Bob Valentine, the NHCOC members unanimously authorized a budget amendment to accommodate the \$40,300 low bid for the Naugatuck River Greenway Project.

e. On a motion by Leo Paul and seconded by Ted Shafer the NHCOC members unanimously endorsed the Selection Committee's recommendation to hire Goman & York as the Consultant for the 8-town Shared Economic Development Services Project. Dan Jerram suggested that the consultant attend the next meeting of the COG to introduce the firm to the COG.

f. Doug Parker distributed a handout and stated that the NWCT Economic Development Corporation would like to apply for a RPI grant to enhance workforce development opportunities in the region as recommended in the CEDS. After discussion, on a motion by Curtis Rand and seconded by Pat Mechare, the NHCOC members unanimously approved writing a letter of support for the proposed RPI application. Dan Jerram abstained.

g. On a motion by Leo Paul and seconded by Barbara Henry, the NHCOC members unanimously approved the authorizing resolution and incumbency certificate for the Geer administered State Matching Grant Program for Elderly and Disabled Transportation.

h. On a motion by Pat Mechare and seconded by Doug Humes, the former NWCCOG members unanimously accepted the NWCCOG 2013-2014 Audit.

8. Committee Updates.

a. Legislative Committee. Barbara Henry and Leo Paul stated that the COG's Legislative Committee would be meeting on Monday to develop a proposed list of legislative priorities for the 2015 session. They also commented that there is a DEEP hearing on the proposed storm water regulations on Wednesday December 17, and they encouraged COG members to attend and express their opposition to the proposed regulations.

Recycling Advisory Committee. Sue Dyer stated that June 6th and September 28th are set for next year's HHW collection days. Sue stated that mattress recycling is coming soon. Don stated that DEEP is looking at battery and tire recycling for future ventures. *c. Emergency Management and Follow-up on LCD Funding Issue.* Dan Soule stated that the comment session will be open until March and that LCD will meet after the first of the year to develop their comments. He stated that the proposed formula does not give any credit for Police Department calls and that it should be included.

9. Other Business as Raised by Members and Adjournment. On a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.