

DRAFT

MINUTES OF THE NHTCOG MEETING OF January 8, 2015

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	Kent, Bruce Adams
Litchfield, Leo Paul, Jr.	Norfolk, Susan Dyer
North Canaan, Douglas Humes, Jr.	Roxbury, Barbara Henry
Salisbury, Curtis Rand	Sharon, Brent Colley
Torrington, Elinor Carbone	Warren, Craig Nelson
Washington, Mark Lyon	Winchester, Candace Bouchard
Winchester, Dale Martin	

Others in Attendance:

Mike Goman, Goman & York	Hiram Peck, Goman & York
Rob Ralson, Goman & York	Ted Bent, Greenwoods Counseling
Donna Campbell, Greenwoods Counseling	JoAnn Ryan, NW Chamber
Jason Giulietti, NW Chamber	Doug Parker
John Brantley, CTrides	Steve Silver, CL&P
Richard Lynn, NHTCOG Staff	Jocelyn Ayer, NHTCOG Staff
Darlene Krukar, NHTCOG Staff	Media Representatives

1. Call to Order, Opportunity for Public Comment. The meeting, held at the NWCT Chamber of Commerce in Torrington, was called to order by Chairman Don Stein at 10:04 a.m. Steve Silver stated that CL&P will soon be doing business under the name Eversource Energy starting February 2nd. He stated that CL&P has handouts on "stay warm" programs and that he would leave some on the table for COG members to take back to their towns.
2. Town by Town Issues and Updates by COG Members. Mark Lyon stated that he has had two employees in Washington retire as of January 2 and the town is being reminded of the value of their employees. Leo Paul stated that Litchfield has had problems with their public works employees requesting that the town pay for their CDL physicals. He asked if other towns pay for the CDL physicals for employees. Discussion followed. Don Stein stated that Barkhamsted is going live with the Nutmeg network later today. The test that was done showed it had a speed of 300 megabits, which is comparatively fast. Candace Bouchard stated that the medical building in Winchester has been approved, and the Prima Restaurant has opened its doors. Bob Valentine stated that he attended a meeting in Hartford and the municipal ethics issue is resurfacing. The state is proposing to have the state ethics commission handle all ethics complaints. He stated that this proposal is of significant concern and the issue should be a legislative priority of the COG. Elinor Carbone distributed a handout

explaining a workshop that is scheduled for January 22, 2015 regarding the Naugatuck River Greenway. All other town officials stated that they had nothing particularly new to report.

3. Introduction of Mike Goman from Goman + York, Economic Development Consultants to the NHCOC for “8-Town Shared Economic Development Services” Project. Jocelyn Ayer stated that at the December COG meeting Goman + York were approved for the 8-town Shared Economic Development Services project. She then distributed a two page scope of work for the project and introduced Mike Goman. Mike Goman gave some background on the company. He stated that his company is data driven and they do a lot of research and they are hands on in implementing their ideas. Hiram Peck and Rob Rowson, who are part of the consultant team, then provided background information on themselves. He stated that they are most comfortable working for small communities and therefore were very interested in our project. Jocelyn stated that they will be meeting with the eight towns individually to determine what priority projects they want to address. Ted Shafer stated that he has worked with Mike Goman before and that he has a great reputation and is good to work with.
4. Overview of Greenwood Counseling Referrals, Inc. Ted Bent, president of Greenwood Counseling Referrals, Inc. stated that he feels that the Greenwood Counseling Referrals Inc. is an entity that is not well known in the area. Donna Campbell distributed a handout and reviewed it. She stated they are a private non-profit organization. Last year they provided over 1,000 intake assessments and referrals which helped over 3,000 residents. They estimate that 5,000 people are receiving care through Greenwood referrals at any given time and they serve all ages. When someone calls they do an intake assessment within one day. They recommend the clients to a counselor and follow through to make sure they receive treatment. They have a multidisciplinary network of private practice therapists called GAPP (Greenwood Association of Private Providers). GAPP benefits and subsidizes support of 56 local small businesses in the NHCOC towns. They are looking for financial support; potential board members; networking with professional and business groups outside the Chamber; advocacy by employers for inclusion of providers on insurance panels; and assistance with outreach and marketing. Discussion followed.
5. Request for Endorsement of Proposed NHCOC Legislative Priorities for 2015 and Overview for January 15th Legislative Committee Meeting at UConn Torrington. Don Stein reviewed the proposed format for the legislative breakfast. Leo Paul stated that the COG’s legislative committee supports the proposed format to give the legislators more time for expressing their views. Discussion followed on the priorities. On a motion by Mark Lyon and seconded by Sue Dyer, NHCOC members unanimously endorsed the legislative priorities. Joann Ryan briefly reviewed the chamber’s priorities.
6. Overview of Scope of Work and Authorization to Execute Agreement with NWC Chamber of Commerce for Economic Development Services. Jocelyn Ayer stated the COG has authorized funds in this fiscal year to hire a grant writing consultant. She

discovered that the Chamber of Commerce recently hired a new employee that could be used for this service. The COG would pay an hourly rate for the new Chamber staff, Jason Giulietti, to carry out the specific tasks described in the proposal letter from JoAnn Ryan included in the COG agenda packets up to \$30,000. Jocelyn would oversee this work. Jason Giulietti gave some background on himself and is looking forward to working with the Chamber and the NHCOC. Discussion followed. On a motion by Leo Paul and seconded by Doug Humes, COG members approved entering into a contract with the Chamber for Jason Giulietti to address specific tasks as defined by the COG. Doug Parker distributed a handout on the NWCT EDC RPI grant request for a Northwest Connecticut Career & Workforce Training Services Coalition and asked that the towns consider acting on a resolution of endorsement.

7. Overview of Scope of Work and Authorization to Execute Consultant Agreement for Regional Transportation Planning Services. Rick Lynn stated that the preparation of a Regional Transportation Plan is part of our work program with ConnDOT and a new plan is needed for the 21 town region. He stated that an RFP was sent out and we received one proposal. The proposal was submitted by the consultant team of Francis Pickering and Holly Parker and they are very qualified to undertake this work. Ted Shafer stated that he has worked with Francis Pickering when he was employed by the CCRPA and he does a great job. On a motion by Pat Mechare and seconded by Bruce Adams, NHCOC members unanimously authorized Rick Lynn to enter into a consultant agreement with Francis Pickering and Holly Parker for the RTP.

8. Administrative Items.

a. On a motion by Craig Nelson and seconded by Tom McKeon, the NWCCOG treasurer's report for 11/2014 was unanimously approved.

b. On a motion by Leo Paul and seconded by Wade Cole, the LHCEO financial statements for 11/2014 and 12/2014 were unanimously approved.

c. On a motion by Curtis Rand and seconded by Doug Humes, the NHCOC minutes from 12/11/2014 regular meeting and the financial statement for 11/2014 were unanimously approved.

d. On a motion by Wade Cole and seconded by Bob Valentine, the NHCOC members approved the resolution authorizing the NHCOC to serve as successor entity to the NWCCOG for the purposes of completing the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan updates.

e. On a motion by Pat Mechare and seconded by Craig Nelson the NHCOC members received the NHCOC 2013-2014 audit. Rick Lynn stated that Darlene and Lois have agreed to develop an accounting manual which is recommended by the auditors.

f. Don Stein stated that the executive committee is meeting with Mark Greenburg after this meeting about the lack of progress on our office space. Bob Valentine suggested that a hard deadline be given to him to have the office space available for moving into.

9. Committee Updates.

Don Stein stated that all the towns have now received their recycling rebate checks from MIRA (formerly CRRA).

10. Other Business as Raised by Members and Adjournment. On a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.