

DRAFT

MINUTES OF THE NHCOG MEETING OF July 9, 2015

Members or Representatives in Attendance:

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| Barkhamsted, Donald Stein | Canaan (Falls Village), Patricia Allyn Mechare |
| Burlington, Theodore Shafer | Colebrook, Thomas McKeon |
| Cornwall, Gordon Ridgway | Goshen, Robert Valentine |
| Hartland, Wade Cole | Litchfield, Leo Paul, Jr. |
| New Hartford, Daniel Jerram | Norfolk, Susan Dyer |
| North Canaan, Doug Humes | Roxbury, Barbara Henry |
| Salisbury, Curtis Rand | Sharon, Brent Colley |
| Torrington, Elinor Carbone | Washington, Mark Lyon |
| Harwinton, Mike Criss | Morris, Barbara Bongiolatti |
| Winchester, Candace Bouchard | Warren, Craig Nelson |
| Kent, Bruce Adams | |

Others in Attendance:

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| Lt. William Baldwin, Troop B Commander | JoAnn Ryan, NWC Chamber |
| Senator Kevin Witkos | Jocelyn Ayer, NHCOG Staff |
| Representative Jay Case | Mike Muszynski, CCM |
| Dale Martin, Town Manager, Winchester | Jason Giulietti, NWC Chamber |
| Joanna Wozniak-Brown, NHCOG Staff | Mark Greenberg |
| Jim Hart, Manager, RRDD #1 | Richard Lynn, NHCOG Staff |
| Media Representatives | Other members of public |

Call to Order, Opportunity for Public Comment. The meeting, held at the Northwest Hills Council of Government's office, was called to order at 10:22 a.m. following a ribbon cutting event at the new NHCOG offices.

Town by Town Issues and Updates by COG Members

Bob Valentine reported that Goshen has a new Tax Collector and Public Works Director. Pat Mechare reported that they finished their sidewalk project on time and she has before/after photos if anyone is interested. Their new Emergency Service Center project is on-going with bids due by July 29. Bruce Adams reported on new tribal recognition regulations in the works that will hopefully address local concerns. Elinor Carbone noted that they have 9 acres of riverfront property now available, the downtown streetscape project is progressing slowly, and that the first Main Street Marketplace opens tonight. Dan Jerram inquired if there could be some efficiency in towns sharing building and land use office staff. He also noted that the New Hartford summer concert series has started. Barbara Bongiolatti noted that Paletsky Farm is hosting events. Mike Criss noted that they may at some point also be in need of building/land use staff and he would be interested in the concept of sharing. Their summer concert/movie series is going well. They've also been replacing poles with LED lights. Ted Shafer suggested that the COG might wish to consider hiring a shared regional land use person to help meet local needs. Burlington

finished the Farmington rails to trails project. Curtis Rand reported that Salisbury is pulling the Amesville Bridge out for replacement and the town signed onto broad-band CEN fiber optic. Tom McKeon reported that Colebrook is getting its first wind turbine farm to be constructed in September and operational by December. Sue Dyer reported that the State BOE approved the consolidation plan for Norfolk and Colebrook schools and a town referendum will take place in September. Leo Paul reported on their summer events include the farmers' market every Saturday and the concert on the green every Wednesday. Barbara Henry reported that the legislature just approved Shepaug's agri-science STEM program. Eversource is replacing poles in town. Candace Bouchard reported that they are interviewing economic development consultants. They are also replacing plows and mowers. Craig Nelson reported that Rabbit Hill has been paved and they are looking for a part time secretary possibly shared with another town. Wade Cole reported that Hartland's only restaurant is re-opening. Brent Colley noted trouble with gravel washing out on scenic roads and is reaching out to a consultant for maintenance guidance. Gordon Ridgway offered thanks to neighboring towns for assistance in the recent emergency. He reported they are working with Goman & York for economic development. Don Stein reported that they are starting a housing committee and had David Fink and Jocelyn Ayer out to meet with the new group.

Guest Speaker: Lt. William Baldwin, Troop B Commander. Topic: Update on Services at State Police Troop B. Lt. Baldwin introduced himself and said that he is hoping to meet individually with all of the 1st Selectmen. He understands the problems for public safety in the region including the drug issue. He said he is "very accessible" and wants to address local issues/needs. He noted that dispatch is going back to Troop B barracks. Discussion followed. Leo Paul applauded the DESPP Commissioner for listening to local concerns and correcting the dispatch issues at Troop B.

Guest Speaker: Jim Hart, Manager, Regional Refuse Disposal District #1. Topic: Potential Hazards in Municipal Waste Oil Disposal and Opportunities for Minimizing Liability Exposure. Mr. Hart spoke about PCBs that were discovered in oil that was delivered to District 1, which serves three towns. Unfortunately the PCB contamination was not found until the oil was hauled to another site where it was combined with other oil thereby causing a bigger contamination and liability problem than if it was detected initially at RRDD #1. The type of test they use at RRDD #1 to detect PCB contamination was not able to detect this level of PCBs. EPA is overseeing an investigation and remediation. Remediation at the District facility is estimated to cost \$40k. CIRMA insurance may not cover this cost. RRDD #1 will now scrutinize incoming oil more carefully, and will look for firsthand knowledge of the source of the oil. Any questionable deliveries will be refused and directed to a HHW Day. Mr. Hart is pursuing a more effective solution involving CIRMA/CCM to better define testing standards and liability. Discussion followed. Don Stein presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Jim for his many years of service.

Regional Transportation Planning

- a. Request for Authorization to Purchase Back-up Catch Basin Cleaner with Balance of RPI Grant. Rick Lynn reported that the region's existing Catch Basin Cleaner is heavily used and the Public Works Equipment Cooperative is in need of a second

unit. Since new units cost in the neighborhood of \$300,000, he suggested the purchase of a used unit from Darien which is available for about \$50,000. Bob Lizotte from Torrington has inspected the unit and reported favorably on its condition. Unspent funds from a RPI grant are available to cover the cost. On a motion by Mark Lyon, seconded Barbara Henry, the COG unanimously authorized the purchase.

- b. Local Match Options for Purchase of Third Street Sweeper for Public Works Equipment Cooperative. Rick reported that the Equipment Cooperative's sweepers are also being heavily used and there is a recognized need for a 3rd sweeper. Warren agreed to serve as the lead town in applying for a grant under OPM's ICE program to purchase a third sweeper for the Equipment Cooperative. The grant was awarded and requires a 50% match. Rick suggested using \$50,000 of unspent funds from last fiscal year to pay for a portion of the local match with the balance paid from the Equipment Cooperative's capital replacement account. On a motion by Bob Valentine, and seconded by Wade Cole, the COG unanimously authorized this suggested funding approach.
- c. Vendor Proposals for Road Deicing Salt. Three proposals were received in response to the NHCOC's bid request. Proposals were received from American Rock Salt, Cargill, and Morton. Morton is the low-bidder for regular salt. Cargill is the low bidder for treated salt. Towns have individual choice for purchase and are not required to go with the low bidder. Barbara Henry expressed concern about whether treated salt is having an adverse impact on motor vehicles, particularly with regard to premature rusting. General discussion followed. Dan Jerram stated that New Hartford continues to use a blend of salt and sand, and the town is increasing their storage capacity with construction of another storage shed.
- d. Authorization for Executive Committee to Act on Consultant Proposals for Preparation of Regional Transportation Plan (proposals due 7/15/15). Rick reported that this work is a major component of our Regional Transportation Planning Work Program for this year. On a motion by Mark Lyon, seconded by Ted Shafer, the NHCOC unanimously voted to authorize the Executive Committee to serve as the Selection Committee and hire a consultant for this work based on the proposals received.

Update on Progress by Economic Development Initiatives: 8-town Shared Services, Food Hub Feasibility Study, and CEDS Implementation. Jason Giuliatti, NWC Chamber of Commerce and Jocelyn Ayer, NHCOC. Jocelyn reported that she has a handout available listing the food hub feasibility study committee members and believes it is an impressive and representative group that will help advise this study. A successful food hub study kick off meeting was held in June. The study team is conducting surveys and interviews of local producers and consumers in July & August. There will be a big summit meeting in September to report on results. Jocelyn asked for additions to her list of farms in the 21 towns. On the 8-town shared ED project, Jocelyn noted that they were 6 months into a 2 year project with Goman & York. She provided a hand-out summarizing the activities that have occurred to date.

Administrative Items.

- a. On a motion by Leo Paul and seconded by Craig Nelson, the NHCOC minutes from the June 11, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved.
- b. On a motion by Tom McKeon and seconded by Mike Criss, the NHCOC financial statement for 5/2015 was unanimously approved.

Committee Updates.

- a. Legislative Committee. Update from Barbara Henry and Leo Paul. Mike Muszynski from CCM stated that it was not a great legislative session this year, and CCM is putting together an annual report on the session. CCM is trying to enhance outreach to member towns and Mike has been designated to be the liaison to the NHCOC. He is hoping to meet with each town in the coming months. Bob Valentine expressed strong opposition to the new mandate for regional election monitors. He expressed interest in forming a coalition to change the law. General discussion followed.
- b. Recycling Advisory Committee. Update from Sue Dyer. Sue reported that the next HHW Collection Day is scheduled for September 26th from 9am to 2 pm at the Torrington Water Pollution Control Plant.
- c. Public Works Equipment Cooperative. Update from Wade Cole. Wade reported that the Cooperative is working smoothly and he is particularly pleased about the plans to purchase a third sweeper because it is much needed.

Jocelyn mentioned that there is remaining office equipment at Warren, including desks and a B&W copier. COG members were asked to contact her if they are interested in this equipment.

Other Business as Raised by Members and Adjournment. On a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 11:49 am.