

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL NHCOG MEETING OF February 1, 2018

Members or Representatives in Attendance:

Barkhamsted, Don Stein	Burlington, Ted Shafer
Canaan, Henry Todd	Goshen, Bob Valentine
Hartland, Wade Cole	Harwinton, Michael Criss
Kent, Bruce Adams	Litchfield, Leo Paul
New Hartford, Dan Jerram	Norfolk, Matt Riiska
Roxbury, Barbara Henry	Salisbury, Curtis Rand
Torrington, Elinor Carbone	Warren, Craig Nelson
Washington, Mark Lyon	Winchester, Bob Geiger

Area Legislators in Attendance

Senator Kevin Witkos	Senator Craig Miner
Rep. John Piscopo	Rep. Michelle Cook
Rep. Bill Simanski	Rep. Brian Ohler
Rep. Jay Case	Rep. David Wilson

Others in Attendance:

Jeffrey Kitching, EdAdvance; Kathryn Dube, COST; Michael Rooke, NWCT Community College; JoAnn Ryan, Northwest CT Chamber of Commerce; Tim Waldron, Chamber Government Relations Committee Chairman; Marshall Collins, Chamber Lobbyist; Rick Lynn, NHCOG staff; Business representatives, General public, and media representatives.

Call to Order

The meeting, held at EdAdvance in Litchfield, was called to order by NHCOG Chairman Mark Lyon.

Welcoming Remarks. Dr. Jeffrey Kitching, EdAdvance Executive Director.

Dr. Kitching welcomed those in attendance to EdAdvance and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to be coordinating with the Chamber and the COG.

Summary of NWC Chamber's 2018 Legislative Agenda.

JoAnn Ryan and Marshall Collins summarized the Chamber's Legislative Priorities for 2018. Printed copies of the Chamber's Priorities were made available to those in attendance

Overview of NHCOG Legislative Priorities.

Michael Criss, NHCOG Legislative Committee Chairman, summarized the COG's Legislative Priorities for 2018. Printed copies of the COG's Priorities were made available to those in attendance.

Comments by Area Legislators on the Upcoming Session.

Each legislator in attendance spoke about their priorities for the upcoming session and their areas of particular interest or concern.

Sen. Miner stated that the State budget will once again be the priority this legislative session and that he will work to maintain town aid. Sen. Witkos agreed and stated that a mantra this session will be "Let's fix Connecticut and do no harm". Rep. Simanski urged those in attendance to continue to raise their issues of concern, even if they are familiar themes, so that legislators will stay on point. Rep. Wilson stated that local official presence in Hartford made a big difference last session and he urged continuation of that practice. Rep. Piscopo urged local officials not to panic over the projected insolvency of the Special Transportation Fund as there are means of addressing this issue. Rep. Ohler spoke about the need for better decision making at the state level, providing as an example ConnDOT's ill-advised purchase of 46 new plow trucks recently rather than making Town Aid Road a funding priority. Rep. Case also urged the continued presence of local officials in Hartford this session and spoke about

concerns with the proposed tolls on the state highway network. Rep. Cook stated she is encouraged by the recent increased level of bi-partisan collaboration in Hartford.

Question and Answer Period.

Topics raised during the Question and Answer Period included the proposed increase in the gas tax and tolls, additional voluntary regionalization initiatives, and changes in Vo-Tech administration.

Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.